

Community participation in the release of a leatherback turtle in south Kerala

The capture of a large turtle in shore seine on 11.12.02 at about 07.00 hrs at Pallithura, 10 km south of Vizhinjam, was reported in a local newspaper. One of the authors visited Pallithura at 08.30 hrs to collect information about the turtle. The turtle was a male leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), measuring 200 cm in total length. The turtle was released back into the sea by 10.00 hrs by the local community.

Source: S. Krishna Pillai*, C. Unnikrishnan, K.K. Velayudhan, T.T. and Ajith Kumar
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Leatherback turtle meat used as food in south Kerala

A female leatherback turtle, accidentally caught and landed on September 30, 2002, was sold in the Kattakada fish market, as food. The turtle, which was landed at Vizhinjam, Kerala, was sold at the site for Rs. 500.00. The turtle was then butchered and packed in bamboo baskets with ice. It was transported to the Kattakkada fish market, 20 km west of Vizhinjam, on October 3, 2002 and sold at Rs. 20 per kg. Undeveloped eggs of the turtle were also sold. Fleshy parts of the head were also cut into pieces and sold. The carapace and plastron were discarded in Vizhinjam and were later retrieved by a local diver for CMFRI. The carapace measured 141 cm in length and 106 cm in width.

Source: S. Krishna Pillai, *Fishing Chimes* 23 (3): 46-47 (2003).

Marine Turtle Newsletter

ONLINE - The *Marine Turtle Newsletter* and *Noticiero de Tortugas Marinas* are both available at the MTN web site <<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn>> and <<http://www.seaturtle.org/ntm>>

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