

Operation Olivia 2014. As the nesting period stretches over six months, the Indian Coast Guard undertakes the Olive Ridely Turtle protection program under the code name 'Operation Olivia' every year. Coast Guard District No. 7 (Odisha) commenced Operation Olivia 2014 on 08 Nov 2014 under the coordination and control of Commander Coast Guard Region (North East).

As part of the operation, fishing boats found close to marine reserve area were regularly checked by ship's boarding party for confirming the usage of turtle excluder devices (TEDs). Offenders were warned and reported to the Assistant Director Fisheries. A close coordination was maintained with the fisheries and forest departments during the entire operation.

This year, the conservation efforts were augmented with a dedicated operation from 21-22 Mar 15 and resulted in the apprehension of five boats with 39 crew for violation of the Odisha marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1982. The apprehended boats along with crew were handed over to Gahirmatha Range Forest officials for further legal action.

At the close of operation Olivia 2014 on 02 Jun 15, the Indian Coast Guard's ship efforts and aircraft deployment for season stood at 236 ship days and 79 aircraft hours.

Enduring protection. The Coast Guard's cumulative operation efforts over the past fifteen years amount to a staggering 3081 ship days and 994 aircraft hours exclusively devoted to the protection of the Olive Ridley turtles. The apprehension of 296 violating boats in the course of the operations reflects the enduring success of the turtle protection program. The gradual drop in numbers of violating boats over time despite sustained patrols by the Coast Guard is perhaps proof that relentless action by the Indian coast and other enforcement agencies are ensuring that human activities will not endanger the Olive Ridley's in Indian waters.