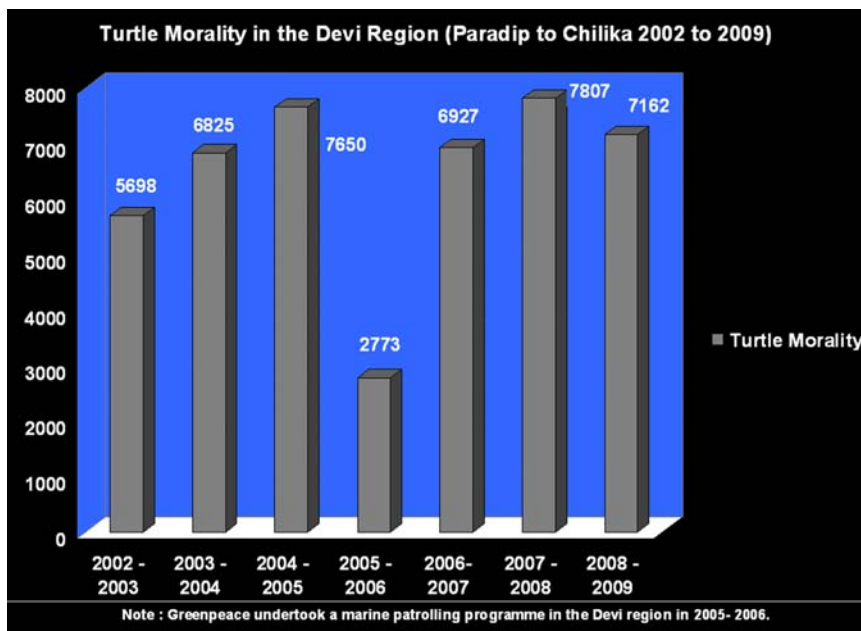


Annexure I - Analysis of the Turtle Season 2008 - 2009

In November 2008, the Greenpeace report “Orissa- Turning Seas of trouble into Seas of plenty” highlighted the measures needed to be taken by the Government of Orissa to safeguard and secure the livelihoods of over 100,000 traditional fishermen of the state, while conserving and managing Orissa’s marine resources sustainably.

Following the Greenpeace recommendations, the Government of Orissa initiated some institutional mechanisms to address the issue. Greenpeace has analysed the trends in turtle mortalities and instance of violations by mechanised fisheries (of OMFRA and the CEC directives) in the November 2008 to May 2009 season. This analysis clearly suggests that while some policy changes and institutional mechanisms have been operationalised the positive impacts of this are not yet making a difference in the field.



In comparison to the previous year (2007-2008), **turtle mortality in the Devi region has reduced by a marginal 8%**. However, in comparison to the mean average of turtle mortality of 6,280 from 2002 – 2008 (6 turtle seasons), **there has been increase in turtle mortality by approximately 14%**.

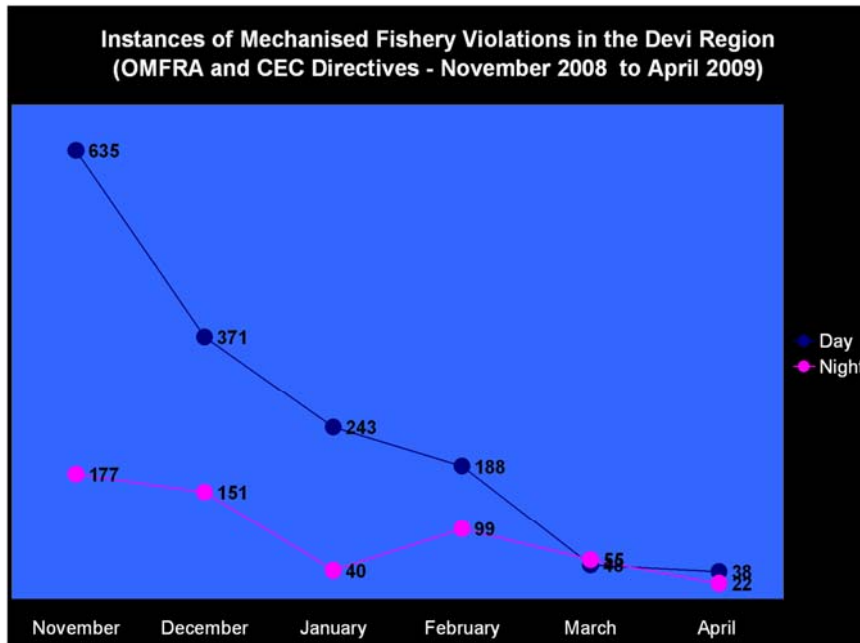
Turtle mortalities are essentially due to illegal mechanised fisheries, especially Trawling, in the “No Trawling Zones” as specified by the Orissa Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (OMFRA) and the Central Empowered Committee’s

Directives.

There continue to be **violations of existing legal instruments, OMFRA and the CEC directives**, on a consistent and ongoing basis.

Critically, these violations are unchecked and significant in the **key phase of the turtle season (November to February), thereby resulting in large scale mortalities** (Refer to Graph).

The **critical phase of the turtle season (November to February 2008-2009) also coincided with a mean monthly average of around 473 instances of violations** of the above laws. While the number of violations reduced in March and April, the reasons for these are attributed to weather conditions and the conclusion of the fishing season, and not as a result of marine patrolling and enforcement.



It is essential that marine patrolling in this region is regularized, to protect the livelihoods of traditional fishermen in the Devi region. Strict implementation of the OMFRA and CEC directives would by default also result in a substantial drop in turtle mortalities in the region.

Further, the Government is yet to make progress on its commitments regarding the commencement of an effective alternative livelihood/income generation model for traditional fishing communities in the Gahirmatha, Devi and

Rushikulya regions who have been impacted by conservation measures.

As part of its ongoing campaign to ensure the implementation of conservation and management strategies to conserve sea turtles, promote sustainable use of Orissa's marine resources and protect the interests of traditional fisher communities, Greenpeace will continue to monitor the situation. Further, Greenpeace calls upon:

- 1. The Department of Forests, Wildlife, Government of Orissa**, to act on its commitment to include independent observers (local organisations) in the process of monitoring turtle mortalities along Orissa's coastline, to ensure transparency and greater accuracy. In this regard, Greenpeace calls on the Department to make a public disclosure of the organisations nominated by the Forest Department that will be involved in this joint mortality census programme for the oncoming 2009-2010 turtle season.
- 2. And to complement the above by committing to progressively reducing the annual turtle mortality** over the next five seasons
- 3. The Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Orissa**, to ensure consistent and effective marine patrolling, to enforce provisions of OMFRA, which would safeguard the fishing grounds of traditional fisher communities, and build a process of sustainable utilisation of Orissa's Marine resources, and by default result in a significant drop in turtle mortalities.
- 4. The Government of Orissa, and Shri. Naveen Patnaik, Honourable Chief Minister of Orissa**, to ensure the implementation of an alternative livelihood programme for traditional fishermen, impacted by conservation measures, in the Gahirmatha, Devi and Rushikulya regions, as per commitments made by the Government of Orissa, with effect from the 2009 – 2010 turtle season.