

Short communication:

**REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF THE OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE
AT PHRA THONG ISLAND, ANDAMAN SEA, THAILAND**

Monica Aureggi¹ and Supot Chantrapornsyl²

¹*Naucrates, Onlus, Via Corbetta, 11–22063 Cantu' (CO), Italy*

²*Phuket Marine Biological Center, P.O.Box 60, Phuket, 83000, Thailand*

ABSTRACT: Phra Thong Island, located in Phangnga Province, was chosen as a base for a Sea Turtle Project (STP) because of its central geographical position along the Andaman Sea coast. The STP started in 1996 and focused on three different aspects: scientific research and conservation, an educational program in the local schools and development of awareness among tourists. The paper focuses on one of the three nesting turtle species on the island: olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). Data collected over seven years of activities of the STP concerning the reproductive biology of the olive ridley turtle are illustrated and an update of conservation aspects of the nesting population in the area is presented.
