Of Batangas Bay  

Luzon Island, Philippines

Chevron operates a fuel terminal in San Pascual, Batangas, situated at the southern tip of Luzon Island in the Philippines. The terminal property includes three kilometers of coastline on Batangas Bay, the only beachfront in the waters of San Pascual. Employees from the terminal have regularly helped remove marine debris from the beach area since 2007.

They were identified as Olive Ridley turtles, a species listed as “vulnerable” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. In January 2012, Chevron workers observed female sea turtles coming ashore and nesting on the terminal’s sandy beachfront. Sea turtles play an important role in marine ecosystems as they:

- Serve as host and transport mechanism for other marine organisms
- Facilitate nutrient cycling between land and water
- Help balance marine food webs as both predator and prey

Provided protection and monitoring of nests and recording of hatchlings return to the beach where they were born to lay their eggs. They lay eggs 1-3 times per year in clutches of about 100 eggs. Incubation period between 45-70 days depending on weather conditions.

Major threats include:

- Birds, mammals and reptiles that prey on the eggs and hatchlings
- Humans that harvest the eggs and capture adults for food
- Fishing and marine transport threats such as boat strikes and entrapment in fishing lines or nets
- Marine debris and pollution
- Loss of nesting habitat from beach erosion due to development, natural disaster and sea level rise

Olive Ridley sea turtles are named for the olive green hue of their top shell or carapace. The origin of the word “ridley” is unknown. One of the world’s two smallest sea turtles, they can also eat seaweed and algae, if necessary. Their diet consists of:

- Sea urchins
- Mollusks
- Crabs
- Shrimp
- Jellyfish
- Rock lobsters
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Results

We observed six nesting sites from October 2018 to March 2019, an increase of 300% from the previous year. Since 2016, employees and Chevron business and community partners have removed between 1.5 and 2.5 tons of marine debris yearly from the San Pascual coastline. At one of these nesting sites, 77 hatchlings emerged from a clutch of about 100 eggs. Olive Ridley sea turtles are found primarily in the tropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.