

DENR releases turtles back to sea in Zambo Sur

SunStar Zamboanga

PERSONNEL of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur, have released an adult Olive Ridley turtle and 10 newly-hatched Hawksbill Sea turtle back to the natural habitat.

Rosevirico Tan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional spokesman, said Thursday, August 10, that the adult and turtle hatchlings were freed last week in the coastal waters of Sto. Niño village in Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur.

The adult Olive Ridley turtle was retrieved in the coast waters of Tagulo village in Tukuran by Nestor Boloron, who saw the marine specie entangled in a fishnet.

Boloron informed about his find to the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of Tukuran who immediately reported to the CENRO-Ramon Magsaysay.

The Olive Ridley turtle was measured at 56 centimeters in length, 60 centimeters in width, and weighing 30 kilograms on average.

Tan said the turtle, which has slight injury on its flipper, was given first-aid treatment, tagged and released back into the sea.

Meanwhile, the CENRO-Ramon Magsaysay team retrieved 10 Hawksbill Sea turtle hatchlings from Abusama Camido, a fisherman, in Sto. Niño, Tukuran.

Camido immediately placed the hatchlings in a bowl of sand for protection after he have seen them emerge from the sand near their home and reported his find to the Tukuran MENRO.

Tan said the hatchlings were examined and found to be in good condition thus, they were then released back into the sea.

Based on records of the DENR regional office, Sto. Niño village in Tukuran town is a nesting region for some types of sea turtles.