SEA TURTLE REPORT

It was Green Sea Turtle Week

Submitted

On Marco Island, four green sea turtles nested, but one nest did not hatch as it was below the escarpment. Last week, two nests hatched, according to Marco's Sea Turtle Monitoring Team, and one more is "TBD" (to be determined); they are hopeful it will hatch. This was a rare occurrence for Marco Island. They are less common compared to other species like the loggerhead sea turtles, which are more prevalent in this region, according to FWC.

For the August 2026 sea turtle count, according to FWC, green sea turtles continue to keep things interesting with 50,815 nests documented statewide. Their nesting numbers can vary widely from year to year, and 2026 is shaping up to be another strong season.

Here are some facts about green sea turtles:

- Federally and state-designated as a Threatened Species.
- Green sea turtles get their name from the fat under their shell.
- They are very OLD, with the oldest example of a fossil record back to 120 million years ago.
- From the time they leave the nest to the time they come back to reproduce is short of a miracle of nature.
- Long-distance travelers from hatching to maturity.
- It's still a deep mystery on how they find their way home.
- They live a long time – to around 70 years or more.
- As adults, their only predators are the larger tigers and bull sharks.

Sea Turtle Activity September 21-27, 2026

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	247	300	257	280	199	256	13
Delnor Wiggins	61	65	63	99	59	63	3
Vanderbilt	204	274	228	205	165	236	26
Parkshore	240	217	182	272	189	188	49
City of Naples	316	268	291	224	245	229	31
Keewaydin Is.	632	558	851	735	504	435	0
Sea Oat Island	37	19	36	24	24	12	0
Marco Island	170	118	251	310	120	77	17
Kice and Cape Romano	183	187	305	216	137	63	0
10,000 Islands	137	155	165	171	97	113	0
Collier County Totals	2227	2161	2629	2536	1739	1690	139

To report dead, injured or disoriented sea turtles on Marco call 239-289-9736 or 239-289-9687



Preliminary numbers for Sea Turtle Nesting Season. Photo from FWC



Photo by J Jewett

Marco sea turtle monitors Rosa Crespo and Robert Jewett excavating a hatched nest by hand 72 hours (three days) after the first sign of emergence.

