SEA TURTLE REPORT

Bright Lights Biggest Threats to Sea Turtles

By Maria Lamb

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) emphasizes the importance of using low, shielded, and long-range lighting to protect sea turtles during nesting season. These guidelines aim to minimize artificial light's negative impact on turtle behavior and nesting success. To mitigate these negative effects of artificial lights on sea turtles, Marco Island is actively enforcing Ordinance 54-144/145 to reduce visible light during nesting season, which runs from May 1 to October 31.

Twelve Sea Turtle Lighting Violation Before the August 25 Code Magistrate – Nine are repeat violations:

- Case No. 26-1307 - 960 Cape Marco DR (Cozumel Condominium Association); Date of violation: 5/13/26; second violation.
- Case No. 26-1308 - 900 S Collier Blvd (The Apollo Condominium Association); Date of violation: 5/13/26; second violation.
- Case No. 26-1309 - 940 Cape Marco DR (Veracruz at Cape Marco Condominium Association) Date of violation: 5/13/26; second violation.
- Case No. 26-1365 - 940 Cape Marco DR (Veracruz at Cape Marco Condominium Association) Date of violation: 5/25/26.
- Case No. 26-1313 - 400 S Collier Blvd (JW Marriott) Section 54-151(3); Date of violation: 5/19/26; "Manmade moveable objects shall not obstruct sea turtle nesting, habitat during nesting season," second violation.
- Case No. 26-1335 - 780 S Collier Blvd (The Somerset of Marco Island Condominium) – Date of violation: 5/20/26; second violation.
- Case No. 26-1414 - 780 S Collier Blvd (The Somerset of Marco Island Condominium); Date of violation: 5/26/26; third violation.
- Case No. 26-1513 - 780 S Collier Blvd (The Somerset of Marco Island Condominium) – Date of violation; 6/2/26; fourth violation.
- Case No. 26-1556 - 780 S Collier Blvd (The Somerset of Marco Island Condominium) – Date of violation; 6/9/26; fifth violation.
- Case No. 26-1367 - 58 N Collier Blvd (Gulfview Condominiums of Marco) – Date of violation: 5/25/26.
- Case No. 26-1368 - 850 S Collier Blvd (Sandpiper Condominium); Date of violation: 5/24/26.
- Case No. 26-1518 - 300 S Collier Blvd (Royal Seafarer Condominium Association) Date of violation: 6/3/26; second violation.





Photo by J. Jewett

This loggerhead hatchling was "born" on a Marco Island beach and on its way to the big ocean. In some 30-35 years, we hope she will be back to nest and start the next generation.

Sea Turtle Activity August 17-23, 2026

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	247	300	257	270	172	194	12
Delnor Wiggins	61	65	63	99	50	53	2
Vanderbilt	204	274	228	205	127	199	21
Parkshore	240	217	184	272	155	147	40
City of Naples	316	268	190	224	177	178	26
Keewaydin Is.	627	554	849	736	341	294	0
Sea Oat Island	37	19	36	24	17	7	0
Marco Island	168	118	251	310	77	52	11
Kice and Cape Romano	183	187	305	216	96	41	0
10,000 Islands	138	155	165	171	82	86	0
Collier County Totals	2221	2157	2529	2527	1294	1251	118

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



CELEBRATE
NATIONAL BEACH DAY

Join our expert naturalist for a morning shelling experience on Marco Island's beautiful shoreline. Discover local shells, learn about marine life, and experience the beach at its most magical time of day.

Sunday, August 30 | 8:30 am
Resort Beach
Complimentary Self-Parking

SCAN TO RESERVE
Complimentary for Marriott Bonvoy members with no cost to join.

400 South Collier Boulevard Marco Island, FL 34145

