SEA TURTLE REPORT

Sea Turtle Eggs are Protected

By Maria Lamb

The 2025 Sea turtle season is winding down and the monitors are encountering less sea turtle related activity on the beach. Still, you might encounter hatchlings on their way to the water, or on a rare occasion, you might come across sea turtle eggs exposed or washed away. And you might be tempted to pick them up.

Leave it alone! Sea turtles lay many eggs with an average clutch of 100 eggs. They are the size of ping pong balls and soft. Storms occasionally wash away nests bringing the eggs to the surface. According to experts, if you see exposed eggs on the beach, leave them where they are; note their location and call Marco Island Code Enforcement, who will get in touch with the sea turtle monitor.

Sea turtle nests and eggs are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, and Florida's Marine Turtle Protection Act. Florida State law provides protection against taking, possessing, disturbing, mutilating, destroying, or causing to be destroyed, selling or offering for sale, transferring, molesting, or harassing any marine turtle or its nest or eggs at any time. Federal law provides even greater protection to sea turtles, also realizing that the life in the eggs should be given the same level of protection.



Sea turtles, their nests and eggs are protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and Florida's Marine Turtle Protection Act. Both laws provide protection to sea turtle eggs realizing that the life in the eggs should be given the same level of protection.

Photos by FWC

Sea turtle eggs are the size of a ping pong ball and are soft.

Sea Turtle Activity Update September 16 - 22, 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	300	222	280	187	255	108	35
Delnor Wiggins	65	55	99	75	63	21	0
Vanderbilt	274	221	205	199	235	120	38
Parkshore	217	213	272	188	186	78	56
City of Naples	268	244	224	277	228	74	56
Keewaydin Island	558	421	735	658	433	185	0
Sea Oat & Cannon Island	19	10	24	17	11	0	0
Marco Island	118	97	310	231	77	38	13
Kice & Cape Romano	188	135	216	190	62	35	0
10,000 Islands	155	129	171	134	112	61	0
Collier County Totals	2162	1747	2536	2156	1662	720	198

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

Collier from A/1

Conservation Collier budget instead of fully funding it for FY2026. "The only way I knew to fully fund our budget, without raising taxes, was to be creative with some of the accounts. I am not the Conservation Collier Boogeyman; I don't care what the paper or the news says. I have some fiscal common sense." He went on, "We have three choices to fund the budget: Creativity, cuts, and spending. Or we can do a combination. Who doesn't want a county to remain beautiful and to conserve what is good about it? I want and support that. I am here because it is beautiful. I am in office because I care. I am fiscally responsible, and I am responsible with the taxpayers' money." He told residents that if the program wasn't fully funded for one year, developers would not come in. "That is not enough time for developers to come in and take over. I'm going to be creative with some money that is available, to balance our budget and not cost the taxpayers money to satisfy the trivial few who love their program."

Commissioner Bill McDaniel commented that he does not believe you can cut your way to prosperity. Going on to say that he wants to remain millage neutral and step on Resource X (a proposal that county consultants are working on for cost-cutting moves).

District One Commissioner Rick LoCastro said, "I want to see some real savings from Resource X before making too big of a muscle movement." LoCastro also noted, "Conservation Collier's mission is a lot more complicated than 'let's just buy land and make it into a park,'" and also commented that some of the land purchased through

Collier continued on A/14

