Nesting Sea Turtles and Florida Rainy Season

By Maria Lamb

June is the start of the rainy season in Florida, and in the last week alone, Marco has had its share of heavy afternoon rain and thunderstorms. Sea turtle season (May-October) overlaps with Florida's hurricane season (June through November). Hurricane season can wreak havoc on sea turtle habitats and nests according to Maia McGuire, UF/IFAS, but other factors raise even greater concerns for the loggerheads such as coastal development.

According to Maia McGuire, UF/IFAS, the female turtles lay their nests high up on the beach, above the high tide mark. This usually means that the nest will not flood at the high tide mark. However, hurricanes and storms can impact these nests in two ways: storms may push sea water higher up on the beach than normal, or strong wave action can also cause beaches to erode, washing sand away, exposing sea turtle eggs, leaving them prone to drying out or predation. They can also destroy the nests, completely washing the eggs into the sea where they will drown.

The newly completed berm project on Sand Dollar Island is one such project that is presenting challenges to nesting sea turtles. On a recent visit to the Sand Dollar berm, I observed several sea turtle nests located at the bottom of the berm and some nests on top of the berm. Other nests were precariously located on the steep slope, and there was a false crawl on top of the berm.



Photo by Arseno Nunez

Nest number 38 sits precariously on top of the berm and straddles a deep water channel/fissure caused by heavy rainfall. It is unclear whether the eggs have been affected.



Photo by Maria Lamb

Weekend tracks of a nesting female loggerhead up the berm to the top, only to turn back to the water without nesting.

Sea Turtle Activity Update May 27 - June 2, 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	193	144	196	115	0	0	0
Delnor Wiggins	51	38	68	36	0	0	0
Vanderbilt	187	159	144	136	1	0	0
Parkshore	145	126	199	94	0	0	0
City of Naples	166	165	170	211	0	0	0
Keewaydin Is.	347	283	497	391	0	0	0
Sea Oat Island	8	7	8	8	0	0	0
Marco Island	55	62	187	160	0	0	0
Kice and Cape Romano	94	79	119	132	0	0	0
10,000 Islands	97	78	103	97	0	0	0
Collier County Totals	1343	1141	1691	1380	1	0	0

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

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