

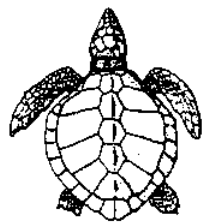
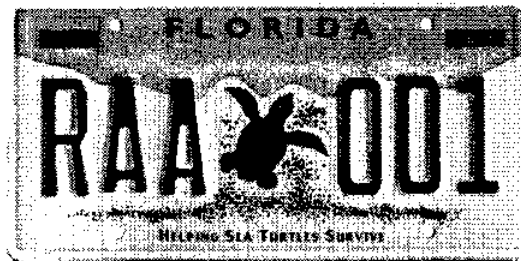
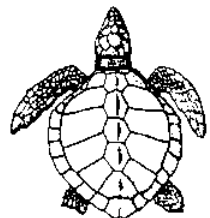
LOAN COPY ONLY

**Sea Turtle Nesting Season
May 1- October 31**








Be a Friend to a Sea Turtle, Simple Ways You Can Help

- During sea turtle nesting season shut off or shield lights that shine or are visible from the beach. Close the curtains at night.
- Reduce noise and activity on beaches that may disturb females from nesting. If you encounter a nesting sea turtle at night, avoid shining lights on or around her and remain behind the turtle so she cannot see you.
- Stack or remove beach chairs, umbrellas, and boats from beaches that may obstruct sea turtles from nesting.
- Pick up balloons, plastic bags, and beach litter that may be mistaken for food by the turtles. Place these items in proper waste receptacles or bring your own garbage bag.
- Keep pets on a leash away from the sea turtles and their nests.
- Fill in holes and smooth out sandcastles which can become death traps for hatchlings.
- If you find a hatchling or see a dead, sick, or injured sea turtle:
Call the Florida Marine Patrol at: 1-800-DIAL-FMP

You Can Show Your Support by Purchasing a Sea Turtle License Plate at Your Local Tag Agency



Did you Know?

-  Only 1 out of 100 hatchlings will reach maturity.
-  Adult loggerhead sea turtles can weigh between 250-400 pounds.
-  The sex of a sea turtle is temperature-dependent of the nest. Colder temperatures produce more males and warmer temperatures produce more females.
-  Female sea turtles on average lay 3-4 nests per season.
-  The incubation for sea turtle eggs is about 2 months.
-  Female loggerhead sea turtles lay between 80-130 leathery, ping-pong ball sized eggs.
-  Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department has sea turtle programs that you can participate in by calling 305-947-3526 or 305-361-5421.

Laws Protect Sea Turtles

The Florida Law Chapter 370 and the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973 states
“No person may take, harass, possess, hunt, shoot, kill, sell, or capture any marine turtle nest or eggs.
Violation of these laws is a federal offense punishable by imprisonment and /or fines up to \$25,000.”



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