



SEA TURTLES HAVE MORE FUN IN THE DARK... REDUCED LIGHTING SAVES SEA TURTLES

St Lucie County's Sea Turtle Nesting Season is March 1 - November 15th. Nests are being laid and hatchlings are emerging and heading to the Atlantic Ocean along our 21 miles of beaches. Three species of marine turtles that nest here annually — green, loggerhead and leatherback — are listed as endangered or threatened species.

What You Can Do to Help:

- **Turn Off the Lights** – Turn off any light sources (from buildings or flashlights) that are directly visible from the beach or seaward of the primary dune between sunset and sunrise.
- **Put Your Stuff Away** – Remove all unattended beach furniture and other items from the beach at night. Marine turtle adults and hatchlings have died from entanglement in beach furniture.
- **Tear Down the Sandcastles and Fill in the Holes** – Sandcastles are fun to build, but can become deadly traps for marine turtle hatchlings. Be sure to tear them down and fill in any holes before leaving the beach.
- **Mind Your Pets** – Be aware of pet restrictions on the beaches you visit. Don't let your pets dig up sea turtle nests.
- **Leave Them Be** – Please do not handle marine turtles, their hatchlings or their eggs. Disturbing marine turtles or their nests is a violation of State and Federal laws and carries criminal penalties.

To report marine turtle nest poaching, hatchling disorientations, harassment or dead marine turtles, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC.

For more information on sea turtle friendly beaches, visit

<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu>

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