

TURTLE REPORT

Why Sea Turtle Nests Are Covered with Cages



By Maria Lamb

In areas known for high depredation, such as Sand Dollar Island beach and on the main beaches of Marco Island, protected screens or cages are used to protect sea turtle nests, according to the Collier County Sea Turtle Protection Plan. It involves securing a three-foot square wire mesh screen over the clutch with metal tent stakes. The two-by-four-inch screen opening are large enough to allow the natural escape of hatchlings but small enough to prevent most mammalian depredation. This method prevents predators from digging under the screen.

This week there were 42 False Crawls recorded (12 false crawls last year, same period) and the scarp/berm at Sand Dollar Island was about 35" this week at its highest.

Photo by Maria Lamb
Scarp at Sand Dollar Island contributing to the record false crawls this week (42).



First of two caged sea turtle nests on Marco's main beach. Photo by Jeanene Jewett

Sea Turtle Activity Update May 13 - 19, 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	32	27	25	19	0	0	0
Delnor Wiggins	8	7	9	1	0	0	0
Vanderbilt	32	39	21	37	0	0	0
Parkshore	24	20	34	19	0	0	0
City of Naples	18	32	32	36	0	0	0
Keewaydin Is.	68	52	43	60	0	0	0
Sea Oat Island	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Marco Island	7	9	42	15	0	0	0
Kice and Cape Romano	11	21	17	25	0	0	0
10,000 Islands	20	21	23	16	0	0	0
Collier County Totals	220	229	246	229	0	0	0

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