

SEA TURTLE REPORT

Three Green Sea Turtles Nested in July

By Maria Lamb

For the last week of July, 2026, Jeanene and Robert Jewett, part of the Collier County Sea Turtle Monitoring Team for Marco Island, encountered two green sea turtle nests on Marco Island. Earlier in the month, the first green sea turtle also nested on Marco’s Beach. This is a rare occurrence for Marco Island during the sea turtle nesting season. According to FWC, their nesting activity is less common compared to other species like loggerhead sea turtles, which are more prevalent in the region.

- Fun Facts about the green sea turtles:
- The green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) has been designated as endangered in Florida since 1978 and federally designated as endangered.
 - They are the largest of the sea turtles found in Florida, growing up to 500 pounds and measuring around three feet in length.
 - You are what you eat and for green sea turtles – this is very true. Feeding on seagrass and algae gives them a distinctive green body fat.
 - The fat is not something you see as it’s between their organ and shell.
 - Female **green** sea turtles return to the beach where they were born (or a nearby beach) to lay their own eggs. This usually occurs once they reach maturity, at about 20 to 35 years of age.



Photo by J. Jewett
Looking like proud parents - Jeanene and Robert Jewett, Collier County Sea Turtle Monitors for Marco, in front of the third green sea turtle nest on Marco Island!

- Easily recognized by their unique heart-shaped carapace (shell), which varies in color from olive green to dark brown.



A Green sea turtle's nest cavity is distinctive; it is typically deep and bowl-shaped.

Sea Turtle Activity July 27 - August 2, 2026

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	244	299	255	263	92	83	7
Delnor Wiggins	61	64	63	99	32	32	0
Vanderbilt	203	274	228	205	72	98	9
Parkshore	239	212	182	272	72	89	14
City of Naples	313	267	288	224	95	85	10
Keewaydin Is.	626	544	635	737	180	142	0
Sea Oat Island	36	19	36	23	4	2	0
Marco Island	166	117	250	310	48	20	4
Kice and Cape Romano	181	188	305	215	46	10	0
10,000 Islands	138	153	165	171	49	40	0
Collier County Totals	2207	2137	2407	2519	690	601	44

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

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