

SEA TURTLE REPORT

# Red Tone Lights Best for Sea Turtles

By Maria Lamb

As we prepare to celebrate July 4th and the 250th anniversary of America's Independence, we symbolize our celebration with the colors red, white and blue! Red stands for courage, blue for perseverance, and white for innocence.

Sea Turtles have shown great resilience and survived for over 100 million years. We can also attribute the color red for their instinct to survive, blue for navigating a harsh ocean environment, and white for their calm and gentle nature.

In terms of their preferred color choices, according to experts, the best color light for sea turtles is red. It is deemed the least disruptive to their natural nesting and hatching behavior. Reds are less likely to disorient hatchlings away from the ocean or deter females from coming

ashore to nest. FWC also recommends using bulbs or lamps that produce only long-wave light (560 nanometers or greater), which is red, amber, or orange.

Here on Marco Island, we have a Sea Turtle Lighting Protection Ordinance which is intended to provide additional protection to sea turtles and designed to minimize the impact of artificial lighting on them. The ordinance also incorporates the FWC's recommendations on lighting for both indoors and outdoors.

During the nesting season, Marco Island is vigilant in enforcing beachfront lighting compliance. The following list of nine sea turtle protection violations is scheduled to be heard by the Code Enforcement Magistrate on June 30, 2026.



Photos by Maria Lamb

Remember to pack up all the kids toys. Hatchlings can get caught in the small toy buckets!



As we celebrate July 4th, let's leave the beach clean. Pack all trash - even small litter or food scraps that can attract predators or entangle sea turtles.

## Sea Turtle Activity June 22-22, 2026

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	177	220	198	214	0	1	0
Delnor Wiggins	49	55	48	71	0	0	0
Vanderbilt	147	219	179	164	0	4	0
Parkshore	178	161	151	227	0	0	0
City of Naples	210	198	204	186	0	0	0
Keewaydin Is.	431	407	644	580	0	1	0
Sea Oat Island	19	13	23	15	0	0	0
<b>Marco Island</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Kice and Cape Romano	130	128	234	187	0	0	0
10,000 Islands	106	112	135	129	0	0	0
Collier County Totals	1566	1579	2009	1987	1	6	0

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



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