

SEA TURTLE REPORT

False Crawls Continue on Marco

By Maria Lamb

From this week’s sea turtle activity report, Marco Island has 19% more false crawls compared to all the Collier County beaches. It seems that the most striking feature difference between last season and this season is the Sand Dollar Island berm. This year, apparently the sea turtles did not like the berm, even after it was graded after completion. Whether the gradient on the berm was too steep, or they didn’t like the feel of the sand when they got to the top – we wish we could ask the sea turtles!

Marco Island also has the highest frequency of disoriented nests (19%) compared to the average of the other County beaches (13%). In 2024, according to the Collier County Sea Turtle Protection Plan, objects left on the beach could be obstacles to nesting and hatchling sea turtles, such as beach umbrellas and furniture left on the beach overnight. Another big issue causing disorientation is the presence of artificial lights from beach-facing condos and the presence of human activities on the beach at night using bright lights from cell phones.



Photos by Maria Lamb
Taken on August 24, 2025, a view of a series of water rivulets causing erosion on the berm, which was completed in April 2025.



Sea turtle monitors assessing a possible nest on top of the berm in June 2025. The berm was re-graded to make it more sea turtle friendly for nesting loggerheads coming ashore.

Sea Turtle Activity Update August 12 - 18 , 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	300	222	270	187	194	83	34
Delnor Wiggins	65	55	99	75	53	21	0
Vanderbilt	274	221	205	198	199	107	30
Parkshore	217	213	272	188	147	64	46
City of Naples	268	244	224	277	178	69	43
Keewaydin Is.	554	419	736	658	294	142	0
Sea Oat Island	19	10	24	17	7	0	0
Marco Island	118	97	310	231	52	32	10
Kice and Cape Romano	187	135	216	190	41	31	0
10,000 Islands	155	129	171	134	86	44	0
Collier County Totals	2157	1745	2527	2155	1251	593	163

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

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