

Shorebird breeding season: According to FWC, the breeding season varies in Collier County, but it is usually from February 15th – September 1st, and several species of shorebirds nest along the beaches of Marco Island.

Being conscientious of the wildlife that shares our beach is a matter of their survival. The average weight of a sea turtle hatchling - 30-40 grams and the average weight of nesting shorebirds like the laughing gull, black skimmers, royal terns or least terns is about nine ounces. It is important to give the birds space.

Avoid flushing or forcing them to fly off. And keep pets at home – only service dogs are allowed on Marco beaches.

The City of Marco Island has the following Beach Regulations:

Section 54-61 is cited as “City of Marco Island Vehicles on the Beach Regulation” – with the intent and purpose “to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of the public at large, including residents and visitors to the city by providing reasonable regulations of vehicles that may be allowed to operate on the beach, including limitations and restrictions during sea turtle nesting season.”



A Collier County Beach Park sign at the entrance to Marco’s South Beach for Ordinance No. 76-48 stating no wheeled vehicles on the beach, among other restrictions.

Section 54-81 - Exemptions: City, sheriff, state, and federal public safety vehicles are exempt from permits required by this Ordinance and may be operated as long as they are operated by officers



A City of Marco Island Beach Laws sign at the South Beach, Winterberry Beach, and the Maple Avenue Beach Entrances.

in the normal course of their duties. Vehicles used for emergency, environmental cleaning, and turtle monitoring are also exempt. Baby buggies, toy vehicles, toy wagons, wheelchairs or similar devised to aid in mobility or non-ambulatory persons shall be exempt.

Section 54-82 - Vehicles requiring permits: Beach vendor operations, construction operations, property maintenance operations must obtain permits and such permits shall be prominently displayed on the windshield to such vehicles.

Section 54-83 – Application for a Permit - if you want to operate a “beach buggy” or a wheeled vehicle on Marco’s beach, you may fill out an application providing a written justification of the necessity of the vehicle on the beach and City shall issue a permit if it determines a lawful and necessary purpose will be served and all conditions are met. A schedule of permit fees will be established by the City Council by resolution.



In the morning, sea turtle monitors have given the “all clear” to beach vendors to set up their umbrellas and chairs - below is staff from the Marco Island Watersports driving a permitted ATV.

Sea Turtle Activity Update July 29 - August 4, 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	299	222	280	185	121	83	21
Delnor Wiggins	65	55	99	75	42	21	0
Vanderbilt	174	220	205	198	128	104	21
Parkshore	215	211	188	188	112	52	38
City of Naples	267	244	224	277	118	62	26
Keewaydin Is.	546	418	719	649	202	107	0
Sea Oat Island	19	10	24	17	4	0	0
Marco Island	117	96	310	230	25	23	5
Kice and Cape Romano	188	136	217	190	16	28	0
10,000 Islands	154	127	171	134	50	43	0
Collier County Totals	2044	1739	2437	2143	818	523	111

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

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