

Frequently Asked Questions on Sea Turtles

By Maria Lamb

The beach seems a natural and safe place for a nesting sea turtle, but it is often filled with manmade hazards. Beach furniture, children’s toys, trash, unfilled holes, and towels left on the beach can all act as barriers to nesting sea turtles. A sea turtle coming ashore may attempt to climb over or try to move around a beach towel or sand sculpture mound. On land, sea turtles are less agile and unstable, which also increases their risk of flipping over on the beach.

Here are some common questions asked about sea turtles:

Can sea turtles right themselves if they flip over?

According to experts, most sea turtles have the ability to right themselves; it all depends on the size, age and type of sur-

face. A beach with loose sand makes it harder for their flippers to gain traction.

How long can a sea turtle survive on its back?

A sea turtle on its back is a dire situation, according to experts, and the position puts pressure on the internal organs causing potential damage; dehydration, predators, and the morning sun bring heat and new threats.

Do sea turtles get stuck in holes on the beach?

Yes, and particularly hatchlings who can easily get stuck in unfilled holes. The smooth sides of the holes make it difficult to climb out, and they become trapped, dehydrated, and vulnerable to predators, ending their journey before it begins.

On Marco, hatchlings are starting to come out of their sandy nest mostly at

night and as they all race to the water, they face a gauntlet of obstacles on the beach. Let us all give them better odds of survival.

Note: If you encounter hatchlings or eggs on the beach, and while it’s natural to want to help them, according to FWC, please don’t pick up hatchlings crawling towards the ocean or collect exposed sea turtle eggs. Please call your local Code Enforcement Number, who will in turn call County Sea Turtle monitors: 239-398-5060.

Photo by Anthony Filippini

Based on the Sea Turtle Weekly Activity for July 15-21, 2025, Marco has the most false crawls among reported sites in Collier County. Resident Anthony Filippini took this photo of a Sea Turtle false crawl and beach towels during his early morning walk on Friday, July 18th.



Photo by J. Jewett

A big hole left unfilled was found by a sea turtle monitor. Hatchlings can easily get stuck and trapped in these holes.

Sea Turtle Activity Update July 15 - 21, 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	287	215	263	181	36	40	6
Delnor Wiggins	63	55	97	73	14	12	0
Vanderbilt	268	212	200	191	36	48	7
Parkshore	204	207	266	174	34	26	17
City of Naples	253	242	212	273	29	33	9
Keewaydin Is.	521	385	710	628	63	42	0
Sea Oat Island	18	10	23	17	0	0	0
Marco Island	111	93	303	228	5	10	0
Kice and Cape Romano	179	127	207	182	2	10	0
10,000 Islands	142	123	168	133	14	22	0
Collier County Totals	2046	1669	2449	2080	233	243	39

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

SEASON TIME AVAILABLE!!!



harborview
rentals

Your Marco Island and Naples Property Specialists for 30+ Years and Running!!!

FEATURED LISTINGS



1656 Villa Ct.

Exquisite Waterfront 3 bed plus den home, built in 2021.
Heated pool and hot tub.



Sandpiper #1204

Beachfront 3 bed 2.5 bath.
Recently Renovated, Gulf Views



Ville de Marco F2

On Marco River, 1 bed 1 bath.
Updated Throughout

NOW BOOKING 2026 Season

RENTALS: www.rentmarco.com • SALES: www.4salemarco.com

CALL STEPHEN PAHR, RENTAL MANAGER
239.642.9200 | 800.377.9299
steve@rentmarco.com

291 South Collier Blvd.
Marco Island, FL 34145

THE SPEAK EASY

Where Chicago Style Meets Marco Island Flair



OPEN Wed. - Mon. 11am - 9pm Serving Lunch & Dinner
Tiki Bar & Outdoor Seating on the Water

\$7.00 Happy Hour appetizers

Daily from 2-6 pm!

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

Thursday thru Sunday. 20% Off Food 4-6 pm.
Not to be used with any other special. Dine in only

SPECIALS

Lobster Tail Special on Monday and Wednesday

\$5.00 Margaritas all day Thursday

Mister Crab Cake Specials Friday

Baby Back Ribs Saturday Night

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

6-9 pm

Weather Permitting - Call for Details

Thursdays: Karaoke

Saturdays: Johnny Fusco

Happy Hour

Daily 2-6 pm

Dine-In & Carry Out

SPEAK EASY ... BUT TELL EVERYONE!

1106 N COLLIER BLVD • MARCO ISLAND

239-970-2929 • SpeakEasyMarco.com