

Green Sea Turtle False Crawl on Marco Beach

By Maria Lamb

On July 3rd, a green sea turtle crawled up in a remote non-renourished area of Marco’s beach and left two empty nest cavities, according to J. Jewett, a sea turtle monitor. For some reason, she changed her mind and abandoned her nesting attempt. According to FWC, green sea turtle tracks are symmetrical from parallel flipper marks with a central tail drag mark, which helped sea turtle monitors identify her as a green sea turtle.

Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are not as common nesters on Marco Island

as loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*). In 2024, Collier County recorded three confirmed green sea turtle nests and one false crawl, according to FWC’s 2024 Statewide Nesting Totals for Florida. Florida hosts one of the largest groupings of green turtle nests in the western Atlantic; nesting primarily starts from June through late September.

According to FWC, green sea turtles are named for the green-colored body fat attached to their lower shell, the key ingredient of once-popular green turtle soup. The name can be confusing as the

False Crawl continued on A/24



Photo by FWC

According to FWC 2024 Statewide Nesting Totals for Florida, three green sea turtles were recorded as having nested in Collier County with one false crawl. Their name can be confusing as the top portion of their shell (carapace) is not green – it’s the body fat under their lower shell that is green.



A green sea turtle left two empty nest cavities on Marco.

Photo by J. Jewett

Sea Turtle Activity Update July 1 - 7, 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	244	190	245	163	4	15	0
Delnor Wiggins	60	47	84	63	2	0	0
Vanderbilt	244	201	184	181	10	10	1
Parkshore	183	176	249	155	3	4	1
City of Naples	226	216	202	250	0	4	0
Keewaydin Is.	464	353	663	554	1	5	0
Sea Oat Island	14	9	15	17	0	0	0
Marco Island	85	85	276	214	0	2	0
Kice and Cape Romano	145	107	193	161	0	2	0
10,000 Islands	125	108	145	123	3	8	0
Collier County Totals	1790	1492	2256	1881	23	50	2

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



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