



Photos by Maria Lamb

A sea turtle monitor's county ATV at the bottom of the scarp. A blue bucket marks a false crawl and shows the new sloped scarp that was regraded by Humiston and Moore on June 5th.



Another view of the scarp showing markings of a false crawl with the county's ATV at the bottom. At the top, a county's sea turtle monitor is measuring the distance the sea turtle travelled during the false crawl.

Nesting Sea Turtles Vertical Challenge on Sand Dollar

By Maria Lamb

On June 5th, Sand Dollar's south berm was regraded from a vertical 90-degree wall into a gentler slope of 45 degrees, more or less. This was triggered by the high number of sea turtle false crawls in this area since the start of the nesting season (May 1, 2025). The ratio of false crawls to actual nests is much higher in Marco compared to other areas being monitored. FWC reached out to the project contractor, Humiston and Moore, to provide relief for the nesting sea turtles.

As part of the permit, a pre-sea turtle season escarpment survey and a berm inspection report were conducted by Turrell Hall and Associates. In early January, 2025, Dabees stated, "Once the project is done, Turrell Hall and his team will do the bird monitoring and they will advise him of any additional environmental condi-

tions that need to be met prior to May 1st (sea turtle season)."

On January 19, 2025, according to Mary Toro of the Collier County Sea Turtle Program, "They are supposed to grade the berm down when they finish, and we will check that they do when the project is complete. However, this does not mean that this will ensure another scarp won't form when summer storms come this season."

On February 18, 2025, at the close of the berm project, I had contacted Mary Toro on the issue of escarpment regrading prior to sea turtle season, and she replied that she had met with Mohamed Dabees and "They will be grading over the next few days." According to Toro, "the Collier County Sea Turtle Program has no regulatory abilities and they can only make suggestions," and Toro had provided the contact person for FWC.

Sea Turtle Activity Update May 27 - June 2, 2025

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	119	99	136	96	0	0	0
Delnor Wiggins	36	24	44	27	0	0	0
Vanderbilt	121	122	85	111	0	0	0
Parkshore	112	77	134	84	0	0	0
City of Naples	102	113	105	156	0	0	0
Keewaydin Is.	227	202	333	290	0	0	0
Sea Oat Island	6	6	3	7	0	0	0
Marco Island	31	37	136	121	0	0	0
Kice and Cape Romano	57	56	69	103	0	0	0
10,000 Islands	64	59	66	77	0	0	0
Collier County Totals	875	795	1111	1072	0	0	0

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

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