

It's Sea Turtle Nesting Season Again



Sea turtle nesting and hatching season runs from March 1 to October 31 in St. Lucie County. Federal and state laws protect all five species of sea turtles found in Florida. During this time, female sea turtles come ashore to nest and lay eggs. This process may take three hours and usually occurs at night. The eggs incubate on the beaches for approximately two months. When the turtles hatch, they are around two inches in length and instinctively head for the ocean.

Artificial lighting may disturb female turtles and cause them to return to the sea without nesting. It may also disorient hatchlings and cause them to move away from the ocean where they may die from exposure or be killed by cars.

In an effort to reduce these problems, the lights along South Ocean Drive have "Turtle Friendly Fixtures." The fixtures have a flat refractor with an amber shield, which prevents the lights from confusing the turtles.

The turtle friendly fixtures are installed on over 50 streetlights that are not blocked by a permanent structure. If you live on or near the beach, help us protect sea turtles by turning off or minimizing your outdoor lighting, too.