

## LOGGERHEAD FACTS

- MATURE SEA TURTLES WEIGH OVER 200 POUNDS
- ADULT LOGGERHEADS ARE REDDISH BROWN ABOVE & CREAMY GOLD BELOW
- 40 OR MORE NESTS ARE FOUND ON OUR BEACHES EACH YEAR
- EACH NEST AVERAGES 120 PING-PONG BALL SIZED EGGS
- HATCHING OCCURS FROM 45 TO 65 DAYS LATER
- FEMALES CAN NEST AS MANY AS 6 TIMES EACH SEASON
- NESTING FEMALES AVOID LIGHTED BEACHES
- HATCHLING TURTLES ARE ATTRACTED TO LIGHT AND OFTEN GO THE WRONG WAY

THOUGH OTHER SPECIES VISIT, THEY RARELY NEST HERE. ONLY LOGGERHEADS REGULARLY NEST HERE.

IF YOU SEE TURTLE TRACKS, A WOUNDED TURTLE OR A DEAD SEA TURTLE PLEASE IMMEDIATELY CALL:

Mary Pringle 697-8733

Barbara Bergwerf 693-4418

Bev Ballow 696-6422



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources discourages the public from attempting to observe a nest when hatchlings are emerging. To see this happening, go to [www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/turtles/observe.htm](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/turtles/observe.htm)

For more information email:  
[mbp57@bellsouth.net](mailto:mbp57@bellsouth.net)

## How You Can Help Protect Threatened Loggerhead Turtles



Follow the season's nesting activity on the internet at:

[www.bergwerfgraphics.com](http://www.bergwerfgraphics.com)

Join our Facebook turtle page at:  
Island Turtle Team IOP & SI  
South Carolina

# NESTING FEMALES

If you see a Loggerhead Turtle crawling up the beach take care not to disturb her as she digs her nest.



Once she has dug the nest, you may watch quietly from behind, as she drops the eggs into the nest and covers them.

Any movement, light or sound may send her back to the ocean without nesting. She may return later or she may drop her eggs in the sea.

Please - NO Lights or Flash Photography

**ALLOW HER TO RETURN TO THE OCEAN UNDISTURBED**

## **NEST PROTECTION**

Many volunteers walk our beaches each morning looking for tracks. They will note the area and call an authorized person to locate and mark the nest.

Some nests have to be moved to a safer location. Each nest is marked with a bright orange sign.

# LIGHTS OUT FOR TURTLES

Artificial lights affect the nesting and hatchling sea turtles. Nesting takes place at night in order to evade predators.



Brightly lit beaches are avoided by nesting females. Tiny hatchlings emerge at night and are drawn to the reflected moonlight on the surface of the ocean and the white of the surf.

Instead of the safety of the night time sea, streetlights, car headlights, interior or porch lights and flashlights can misdirect them. If they fail to find the sea, they will die in the morning sun from dehydration or be found by predators.

## **INJURED OR DEAD TURTLES**

Sea turtles in the ocean are at many risks including fish or shrimp nets and boat propellers. If you see an injured or dead sea turtle, please:

### **DO NOT MOVE IT OR TOUCH ANY TAGS**

### **CALL A NUMBER ON THE BACK OF THIS BROCHURE TO REPORT THE STRANDING**

A stranded turtle with paint on it has already been reported and documented.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## **LIGHTS OUT AT DUSK**

Local ordinances forbid lights that can be seen from the beach at night. Use motion sensor security lights and draw blinds or drapes on beach facing windows at night.

## **STAY AWAY FROM NESTS**

Walking on the nest can crush the eggs below. Keep pets away also.

## **NEVER MOVE THE EGGS**

Tiny turtles inside can be dislodged from their attachment to their shells. **TURTLE EGGS and HATCHLINGS** are protected by **FEDERAL and LOCAL LAWS.**

## **FILL IN HOLES**

Baby turtles can navigate a footprint or two, but large moats around sand castles etc. can trap them.

## **DON'T PICK UP HATCHLINGS**

Crawling to the surf on their own helps them to "recognize" their beach so when the females mature in 25 years they will return to nest there.

Volunteers are directed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

