



PROTECT SEA TURTLES FROM ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING

Turtle nesting season takes place from May 1st to October 31st and during this time, residents and visitors are asked to remain cognizant of activities that are harmful to nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, artificial lighting is a significant issue for sea turtle conservation in Florida.

Artificial lighting can cause disorientation to nesting mothers and their hatchlings and can lead to false crawls, exhaustion, dehydration and even death from predators.

As a reminder, the County has a beach lighting Ordinance in place to safeguard nesting mothers and their hatchlings. Failure to comply can result in a fine. Here's some friendly reminders that can help you to remain in compliance while protecting our sea turtle population:

- Keep beachfront lighting turned off, particularly lighting used for decorative purposes
- Keep pool and cabana lights off
- Reduce light reaching the beach by lowering shielding, recessing or redirecting light sources
- Outdoor light fixtures should have yellow, amber or red bulbs
- Place security lighting on motion-sensitive switches to keep them off when not needed
- Apply dark window tenting to make windows less visible from the beach or draw curtains and blinds after dark
- When walking on the beach at night, avoid using flashlights that emit white or those with short wavelength light. Use turtle friendly flashlights or red filters when walking on the beach at night. Be sure to avoid use of cellphones, flash photography and video equipment on the beach at night too.

To learn more about sea turtle species found on Amelia Island and ways you can help protect our sea turtle population, visit the Amelia Island Sea Turtle Watch's webpage at www.ameliaislandseaturtlewatch.com.