

## WHERE TO SEE A TURTLE

Should you come across an adult turtle on the beach, please DO NOT approach her. Turtles can easily be deterred from nesting by movement, noise, and light (such as the light from a flashlight, camera flash, or cell phone). Stay behind the turtle and out of her line of sight. It's best to avoid walking on the beach at night during the March 1 - October 31 sea turtle nesting season. If you would like to see a sea turtle, please visit one of these organizations.

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center  
Juno Beach  
561.627.8280

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park  
North Palm Beach  
561.624.6952

Gumbo Limbo Nature Center  
Boca Raton  
561.338.1473



## DARK SKIES SAVE SEA TURTLES' LIVES

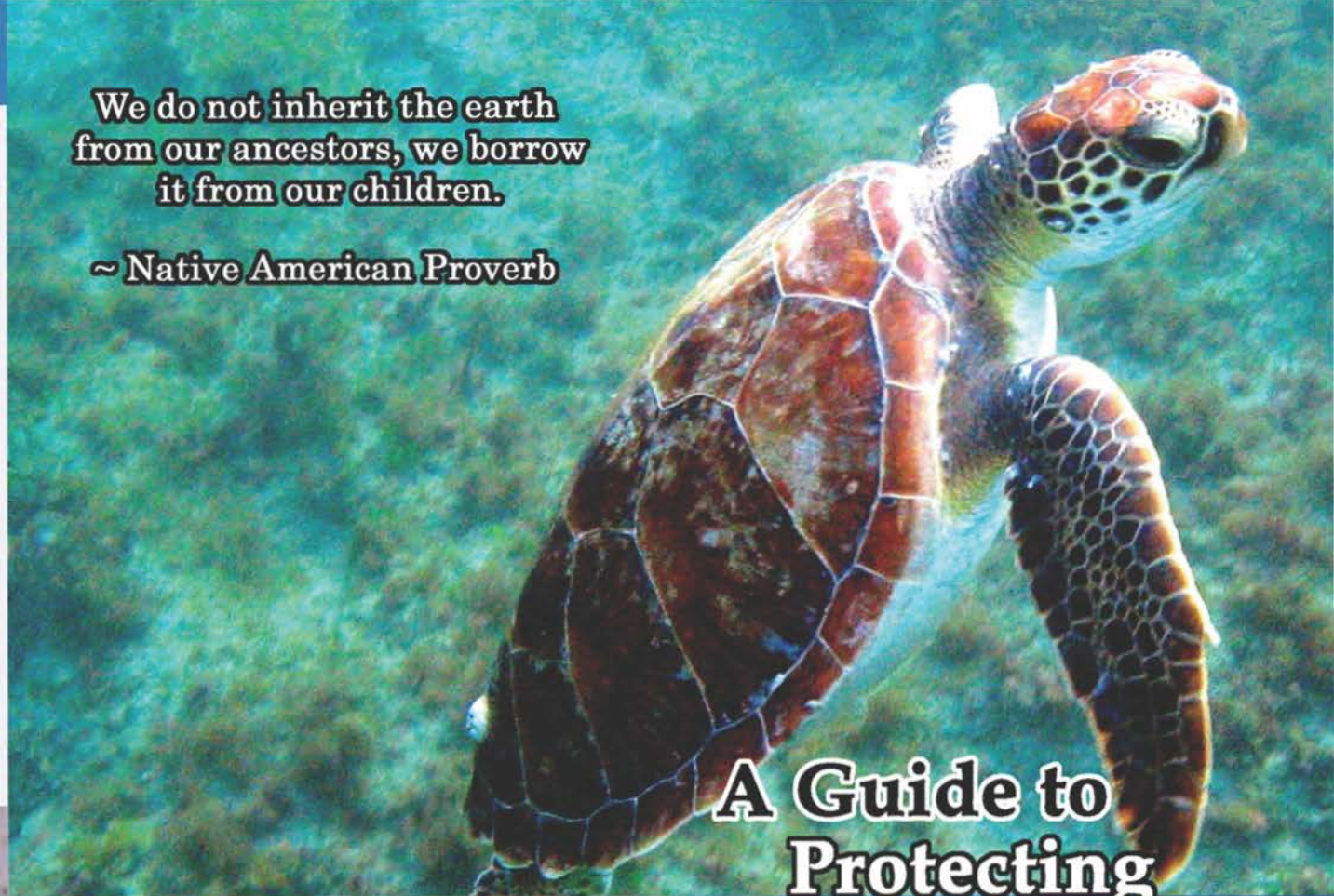
LIGHTS OUT MARCH 1 - OCTOBER 31

Photographs courtesy of:

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Michelle Scharer, Alan F. Rees / ARCHELON  
Marco Giuliano, Palm Beach County Staff

**We do not inherit the earth  
from our ancestors, we borrow  
it from our children.**

**~ Native American Proverb**



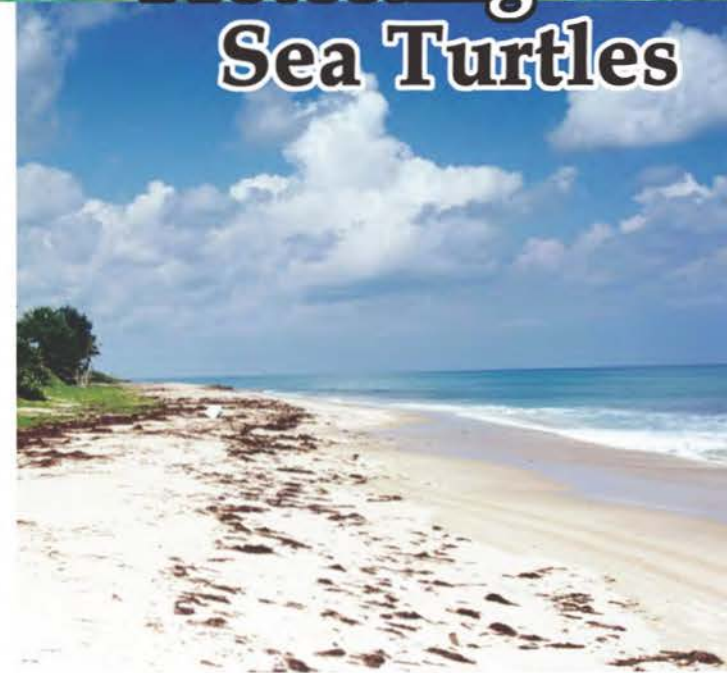
## A Guide to Protecting Sea Turtles



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Department of Environmental Resources Management  
2300 North Jog Road, 4th Floor  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411 - 2743  
561.233.2400  
[www.pbcgov.org/erm](http://www.pbcgov.org/erm)

In accordance with ADA provisions, this brochure  
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# SEA TURTLES

Palm Beach County's beaches and nearshore reef system provide critical nesting, foraging, and developmental habitat for four species of threatened and endangered sea turtles. Let's meet the sea turtles of Palm Beach County (PBC)...



## Loggerhead

Weight - 250 to 350 pounds  
Diet - shellfish  
Annual Nesting -  
12,000 PBC • 61,000 FL

Did you know the loggerhead sea turtle has very powerful jaw muscles that are capable of crushing conch shells, crabs, and sea urchins?

## Green



Weight - 300 to 400 pounds  
Diet - sea grass and algae  
Annual Nesting -  
1,200 PBC • 6,000 FL

Did you know the green sea turtle gets its name from the color of its body fat?

## Leatherback



Weight - 550 to 1,545 pounds  
Diet - jellyfish  
Annual Nesting -  
250 PBC • 700 FL

Did you know the leatherback sea turtle can dive over 3,500 feet deep and can hold its breath for more than 1 hour?

## Hawksbill



Weight - 100 to 150 pounds  
Diet - sponges  
Annual Nesting -  
few in PBC or FL

Did you know the hawksbill sea turtle can eat species of sponges that are toxic to other animals?

Utilization of Palm Beach County's beaches and nearshore reef system is crucial to the survival of these magnificent reptiles.

# THREATS

Artificial light visible from the beach may deter sea turtles from nesting or disorient sea turtle hatchlings. Each year approximately 11,000 sea turtle hatchlings in Palm Beach County are disoriented. County regulations require light fixtures to be designed and positioned so that they do not cause illumination visible from the beach. Open fires on the beach are also prohibited during the March 1 to October 31 sea turtle nesting season.



Sky glow, the brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas, can also disorient adult and hatchling sea turtles. Help reduce sky glow in your area by turning off unnecessary lighting and directing fixtures to keep light where it is needed and out of the night sky. Even if you live miles from the beach, reducing lighting on your property can help minimize the effects of sky glow on sea turtles.



# THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP



## SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON MARCH 1 - OCTOBER 31

You can help protect sea turtles by following these simple steps during the sea turtle nesting season....



## DARK SKIES SAVE SEA TURTLES' LIVES (AND YOUR WALLET)

Help reduce sea turtle disorientation by turning off all unnecessary lights. By replacing bulbs with energy efficient amber LEDs, you can save money and sea turtles.



## BE CAREFUL WHEN DIGGING ON THE BEACH

Most sea turtle eggs are deposited 18 inches below the surface of the sand above the high tide line. To avoid disturbing sea turtle nests, please dig holes and sandcastles below the high tide line and place umbrellas with care.



## CLEAR THE BEACH

Beach furniture can be an entanglement hazard for nesting sea turtles and can block access to the nesting beach. County regulations require that all beach furniture, boats, and similar items be removed from the beach at night or stored at the toe of the dune.



## REDUCE LITTER

To prevent and reduce beach litter, dispose of unwanted material in trash cans located on the beach or take it with you. Remember to recycle all plastics and fishing line.

