



May 15, 2019

First Sea Turtle Nests of 2019 Discovered on Madeira Beach

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – This season’s first sea turtle nests have been discovered on Madeira Beach. The two nests were discovered before dawn by volunteers who walk the beach before sunrise. The nests are clearly identified with signs warning beachgoers not to disturb them as well as stakes and rope surrounding the area.

The Madeira Beach Commission recently approved on first reading an update to the city’s sea turtle protection ordinance. The current ordinance (Sec. 110-506) requires lighting restrictions beginning at 10 p.m. The revised ordinance mandates the lighting restriction begin at sunset and end at sunrise.

Other tips to help protect sea turtles include:

- Knock down sand castles and fill in holes. Fill in all holes made in the sand so hatchlings and female turtles don’t get stuck in them.
- Avoid the attraction of unwanted pests. Leaving food, wrappers or food containers behind attracts animals that will dig up and eat the eggs out of a sea turtle nest.
- Program the phone number for the local wildlife stranding hotline into your cell phone.
 - FWC – 888-404-3922
 - Clearwater Marine Aquarium Stranding Hotline – 727-441-1790 Ext. 1
- Don’t interfere with the nesting or hatching process. It is illegal to touch sea turtles under both federal and state laws.
- Don’t place beach furniture too close to a marked nest. Furniture can mislead turtles during the hatching process and also entrap them.



City Manager Jonathan Evans inspects the first sea turtle nest found on Madeira Beach in 2019

For more information contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov.

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