

# Sea Turtle Nesting Season

**Sea Turtles are protected under Federal and State Law**



The Town of Melbourne Beach, as well as Brevard County, has a Lights Out for Sea Turtles Ordinance effective **March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>** that requires all lights visible from the beach to be either covered, blocked, moved, or turned off after 9:00 p.m.

This includes **flashlights, cellphones, and red lights.**

The Brevard County Coast is the largest nesting area in the United States for Loggerhead and Green Sea Turtles. Sea Turtles are protected by Federal and State Laws.

1. It is against the law to touch or disturb nesting sea turtles, hatchlings or their nests. To report a dead or injured sea turtle, call 888-404-3922.
2. If you see a sea turtle on the beach, you must:
  - a. keep lights off
  - b. stay back
  - c. be quiet
2. If she is disturbed, she may return to the ocean without laying eggs, or may leave before covering her nest completely.
3. Allow hatchlings to crawl on their own to the ocean. Turtles imprint on the beach that they hatch on and picking them up could interfere with this natural process. Do not remove hatchlings or eggs from a nest.
4. Fill in holes and knock down sand castles to make the beach safe for sea turtles.
5. Make sure to remove all items, such as beach chairs and trash, from the beach at night.