

## Loggerhead Marinelife Center

Loggerhead Marinelife Center, a non-profit organization, is committed to the conservation of Florida's coastal ecosystems through public education, research and rehabilitation with a focus on threatened and endangered sea turtles. The center features an on-site hospital, learning exhibits and aquariums.

Headquartered about two miles from Loggerhead Marinelife Center, FPL has long been a strong supporter of Loggerhead Marinelife Center. The FPL Turtle Yard at Loggerhead Marinelife Center houses the center's sea turtle patients, and FPL employees often donate their free time to help out at the center alongside staff and other community volunteers. For hours of operation and other information, visit [www.marinelife.org](http://www.marinelife.org).



Sea turtles build tens of thousands of nests in Florida every year, which makes our state the most important nesting area in the United States. The types of sea turtles most commonly seen in Florida are loggerheads, greens and leatherbacks.

## How can you help?

- » Never approach or harass sea turtles that are nesting or emerging from the sea
- » Do not disturb or remove eggs from sea turtle nests
- » Be careful while boating to avoid collisions with turtles
- » Never throw trash in the water or on the beach
- » Read our "Keep Sea Turtles in the Dark" brochure
- » If you find an injured or dead turtle in Florida, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert Hotline at (888) 404-FWCC or (888) 404-3922
- » Purchase a "Helping Sea Turtles Survive" Florida license plate\*



\* Proceeds generated by sales of the turtle plate go to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Turtle Protection Program to support research and management activities related to Florida's sea turtles. In addition, a portion of the revenue is distributed to Sea Turtle Conservancy, which then redistributes the funding through the competitive Sea Turtle Grant Program to support turtle projects in the areas of research, education and conservation that benefit Florida sea turtles.

## Sea turtle resources

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:  
[www.fws.gov/northflorida/SeaTurtles/seaturtle-info.htm](http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/SeaTurtles/seaturtle-info.htm)

National Marine Fisheries Service:  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles)

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission:  
[www.myfwc.com/seaturtle](http://www.myfwc.com/seaturtle)

## Our environmental promise

At FPL, we understand that caring for the environment is just as important as providing customers with affordable, reliable power, now and in the future.

This is reflected in our efforts to protect the air we breathe, the water and land we use and the plants and animals that share our planet. As a clean-energy company, we're committed and dedicated to minimizing our impact on the environment and the place we all call home.

FPL and the NextEra Energy family of companies embrace an environmental policy that is part of a company-wide Code of Business Conduct & Ethics. Every year, company officers and managers reaffirm this pledge in writing.

## Our promise in action

Our passion for protecting the environment is very personal. After all, we live here too. That's why we work closely with federal, state and community organizations to help minimize impacts on natural resources and protect the Sunshine State's wild treasures.

In addition, we're constantly working to improve our standards by building cleaner power plants.

Through our environmental programs, we're helping to minimize habitat loss from construction and reduce water use. We work every day to make Florida a better place for all of us, including our wild treasures like Florida's sea turtles.

For more information on Florida's sea turtles and other Florida wildlife, please visit [www.FPL.com/seaturtles](http://www.FPL.com/seaturtles)



## Sea Turtles

Changing the way  
we can all help protect  
Florida's wild treasures



CHANGING THE CURRENT... FPL.



FPL.

## Florida: Home to thousands of sea turtles

Of the seven species of sea turtles worldwide, five can be found nesting in Florida: loggerhead, green, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley and leatherback.

### Females nest on sandy beaches

Female sea turtles can travel hundreds or thousands of miles to nest. They lay their eggs on sandy beaches and will usually make several nests during one season. They may nest every two to three years. Nesting is a difficult process that can take up to three hours. A turtle must drag her great weight ashore, dig a nest with her back flippers, deposit about one hundred eggs, and cover and conceal the nest before returning to the sea. The eggs incubate in the warm sand and the female never visits her nest again.

### Hatchlings fend for themselves

After incubating for about two months, the two-inch-long turtles hatch, erupt as a group from their nest in the cool of the night, and scurry down the beach to the sea. Many hatchlings swim offshore to live for several years in floating seaweed drifting along the edges of ocean currents. Eventually, the young turtles take up residence in coastal waters.



## HAWKSBILL

- » A relatively small turtle, the endangered hawksbill has been hunted to the brink of extinction for its beautiful shell.
- » Once relatively common in Florida, these turtles now nest here rarely.
- » Hawksbills feed on sponges and other invertebrates and tend to nest on small isolated beaches.

The hawksbill sea turtle gets its name from its distinct beak-like mouth.

## LOGGERHEAD

- » The loggerhead turtle is the most common nesting turtle in Florida, but it is still considered a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- » It has powerful jaws to crush the clams, crabs and other hard-shelled invertebrate animals on which it feeds.
- » Tens of thousands of loggerhead nests are recorded in Florida annually.



The east coast of Florida is one of the two most important places in the world for loggerhead nesting.

## LEATHERBACK

- » The endangered leatherback turtle is the largest and most active of the sea turtles.
- » Up to eight feet in length, these huge turtles have a rubbery, dark shell marked by seven narrow ridges that extend the length of the back.
- » Leatherbacks feed on jellyfish and soft-bodied animals that would appear to provide very little nutrition for such huge animals.
- » Between 700 to more than 1,700 leatherback nests are recorded in Florida each year.



Leatherbacks are the only sea turtle species that lack scales and a hard shell.

## GREEN

Scientists suspect that green turtles may live up to 100 years.

- » The green turtle, named for the greenish color of its body fat, is listed as endangered in Florida. Roughly 4,500 to 15,000 nests are recorded in Florida each year.
- » Green turtles have been hunted for centuries for their meat and gelatinous "calipee" that is made into soup.
- » Green turtles are the only sea turtles that eat plants. They graze on the vast beds of seagrasses found throughout the tropics.



Green turtles sometimes play host to remoras.

## KEMP'S RIDLEY



Kemp's ridleys are the only sea turtles to nest during the day.

- » The rarest and smallest of all the sea turtles, the endangered Kemp's ridley feeds on crabs and shrimp in the coastal waters off of Florida.
- » Most Kemp's ridleys nest on a single stretch of beach on the Gulf Coast of Mexico.
- » The Kemp's ridley is only one of two species of sea turtles that nest in *arribadas*, a term used to describe large groups of females gathering and nesting all at the same time.