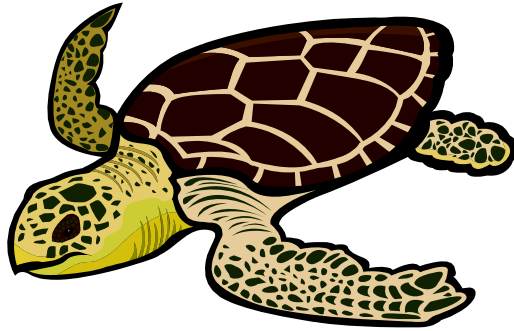


LIGHTS OUT FOR SEA TURTLES



Welcome to the beautiful emerald waters and sugar white sands of the Beaches of Walton County. Our 26 miles of coastline is home to several species of endangered or threatened nesting sea turtles.

During the sea turtle nesting season, May 1 through October 31, female turtles come ashore to lay their eggs in the dry sands above the tide line. About 2 months later the hatchlings emerge from their nest. Their natural instinct draws them to the lighter, open view of the ocean and away from the darker dune profile. Lights adjacent to the beach confuse hatchlings, often leading them away from the ocean and toward a certain death.

Please help us reduce this risk and comply with local lighting regulations. Keep balcony and porch lights turned off. Close blinds and draperies in oceanfront rooms. Avoid using torches, lanterns, flash photography or flashlights while on the beach at night. These few simple steps will greatly increase the chance that hatchlings will safely reach the ocean this summer.

A single light left on can misdirect and kill hundreds of hatchlings.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.