

Loggerhead Sea Turtle on Edisto Beach

Contact Information

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources: (SCDNR)

Website: www.seaturtle.org

If you see an injured or dead sea turtle, please call the 24-hour Hotline (1-800-922-5431)

Edisto Beach Loggerhead Turtle Project (EBLTP)

PO Box 204

Edisto Beach, SC 29438-0204

www.edistobeachseaturtles.com

On Edisto Town Beach, our Turtle Patrol consisting of permitted volunteers walks daily (May-October) between beach access 1 through beach access 37 which spans from the Atlantic Ocean to the mouth of the South Edisto River. We cannot do our job without the help of the public. Please report any unauthorized activities, disturbance of nests, or harassment of nesting females to the proper authorities, Edisto Police Department using the Non-Emergency number (843-549-2211).

General Description

The adult loggerhead sea turtle has a rich reddish-brown carapace and yellow plastron. The loggerhead's large skull provides for the attachment of strong jaw muscles for crushing conchs, horseshoe crabs and other crustaceans. Loggerhead literally means "disproportionately large head." A loggerhead reaches maturity around 30 years old and can live to be over a 100. The major nesting area for the loggerhead is in the western Atlantic in the southeastern United States. The sea turtle season runs from May 1st through October 31st, with the nest portion from mid-May to mid-August and hatching portion from July to October.

Interesting Facts

- Loggerhead sea turtles are a federally and state protected species as their conservation status is vulnerable.
- Female turtles lay an average of 3-5 nests per season but not every year (every 2-3 years).
- Each nest has an average of 120 eggs.
- On average the incubation time for each nest is 45-70 days.
- Only 1 in 1,000 hatchlings will make it to adulthood (30 years).



Photo by Ken Tingman

How You Can Help

1. Keep dogs on a leash from May 1st - October 31st. Unattended family pets can destroy nests.
2. Fill in your holes after your day at the beach. These prove to be barriers for nesting turtles and obstacles for small hatchlings.
3. Pick up ALL your items each day, including tents, chairs, beach toys, and all your trash. Leave No Trace!
4. Use red lights! White lights can disorientate turtles and hatchlings.
5. DO NOT DISTURB nesting. If you happen upon a nesting turtle, step out of the line of sight, stay quiet, and enjoy the miracle. NO lights, red or white, and NO flash photography.
6. Please DO NOT pick up baby turtles (hatchlings). If you see hatchlings, please let them crawl to the ocean. They may be small, but this will help build their strength for the long journey ahead.

Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources <https://dnr.sc.gov> (2025)