

Dear Sea Turtle Friends and Supporters,

We hope this finds you all well and ready for the new season to begin. Our total nest count in 2021 was slightly below our 10 year average of 72 but much higher than our overall average of 46.

- 65 nests (64 loggerheads, 1 green)
- 5,508 hatched eggs (all nests evaluated)
- 52 false crawls (aborted nesting attempts)
- 2 unproductive nests (submersion)

The nests fared quite well in general. None were lost to storms, and there were no major predation or vandalism events.

We only recorded one nest emergence disorientation event but all of the babies made it to the water eventually. We also documented 3 adult nesting disorientations but all 3 nested successfully.

A disorientation event occurs when the turtle is influenced to travel in the wrong direction (away from the ocean) by any kind of artificial light source. This includes lights on homes/buildings, in parking lots & landscaping, flashlights and camera flashes.

To learn more about dangers from artificial lights please visit the FWC resource at bit.ly/FWC-lights

We did record a higher than usual number of Obstructed Nesting Attempts. Seven mama turtles encountered some type of man-made obstruction (sand fence, dune walkover, etc.) and 5 of them were able to eventually deposit eggs. One of these was our sole green turtle, who became stuck under the Davis St. walkover and needed our assistance to extricate herself. Greens dig very deep nests and throw a huge amount of sand, so the more she dug and threw, the tighter she was wedged under the boards. She was freed with the help of three BSTP volunteers and a bystander.



Yes, there's a large turtle under there!



Digging her out



Finally free

In other work, our community outreach programs and fundraising efforts were again limited by the pandemic, but the second annual Clean Dark Flat campaign was very successful. The lighting awareness campaign, spearheaded by our partners at Beaches Energy Services, is an educational program for residents and visitors regarding the detrimental effects of artificial lights on nesting and hatching sea turtles. The program also raises funds for our conservation efforts through donations for

limited-edition heavy duty mugs at partner coffee shops. We would like to thank these shops for their enthusiastic participation, and look forward to working with them again: Bold Bean, Breezy Coffee Shop, Cup of Job, Jax Beach Brunch Haus and Round Bird Coffee Shop. The 2022 campaign will kick off on World Sea Turtle Day (June 16) with an awesome new design. Watch the BSTP and Beaches Energy pages for more info as details are confirmed. These mugs are wildly popular and sell out quickly. Stay tuned for the exciting new design!

2020 design



2021 design



Statewide Report

Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) records for 2021 include 96,666 loggerhead nests (slightly lower than 2020); 32,680 green turtle nests (higher than 2020) and 1,390 leatherback nests (lower than 2020).

2020 Hatchling production (2021 data still being analyzed)
 Loggerheads 5,025,170
 Greens 1,470,117
 Leatherbacks 60,548

Leatherback nesting has already started in south FL and continues moving northward, although they haven't yet reached our general region as of this writing. Even some loggerheads have already been recorded. The earliest documented loggerhead nest was on March 15.

For additional statewide nesting information visit FWC's research section at bit.ly/FWC-nesting

2022 Calendar of Events

We will be adding more events as they are confirmed. Please check our online calendars for updates.

- Apr. 2,** 10-1. Educational exhibit, Springing the Blooms, Beaches Museum.
- May 1** Official start of nesting season.
- May 21** Educational exhibit, Dancing In The Street
- June 16** World Sea Turtle Day & Clean Dark Flat kick off
- July 5,** 7-9 am. Annual 5th of July beach cleanup. Beach & Atlantic Blvds.
- Sept. 17,** 7-9 am. Annual International Coastal Clean Up Day.
- Oct. 31** Official end of nesting season.

Check bstp.net and Facebook page for more details and new events.

Dates are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

On The Horizon

As you may recall, in 2021 we marked our 30th year as a 501(c)3. Although we are only 30 years old as a registered nonprofit, we have actually been monitoring nesting activity for 34 years and we are still going strong, with help from supporters like you! (See data below.) Because of the pandemic we were not able to hold an official event but we are working on a delayed celebration later this year. Once the details are finalized they'll be posted online and we hope to see many of you there.

In closing, we sincerely thank all of you. We would not have made it through 30+ years without your continued support and advocacy. Your donations provide the protections that are so vital to keeping these wondrous creatures alive for future generations. All donations are tax deductible (receipt provided upon request), and many employers have implemented matching donation programs. Please also consider purchasing a state-issued sea turtle license tag. It is the second-most popular Florida tag and the proceeds are used to fund research projects, provide educational materials and promote sea turtle conservation throughout the state.

See you on the beach!

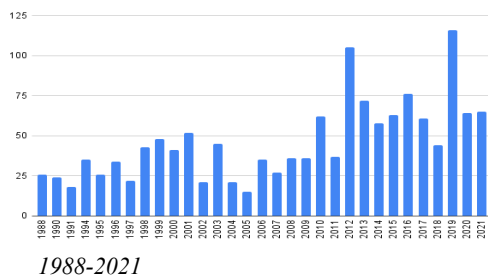
BSTP Directors

BSTP, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code. We are a 100% volunteer organization and receive no direct government funding.

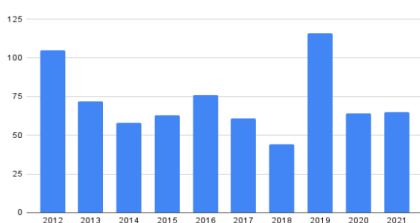
All conservation activities are approved by FWC under Marine Turtle Permit #111.

NESTING DATA

Number of years recorded	34 (Data n/a for '89, '92, '93)
Overall total nests (1988-2021)	1,428 (AB, NB, JB only)
Overall annual average	46
10 Year total nests (2012-2021)	724
10 Year average	72



1988-2021



2012-2021

Reference Links

BSTP Online

- bstp.net
- facebook.com/beachesseaturtlepatrol
- youtube.com/user/bstpJax
- instagram.com/bstpjax
- linkedin.com/in/bstp

Clean Dark Flat Campaign

beachesenergy.com/protect-sea-turtles

Local Lighting Ordinances

- Atlantic Beach: bit.ly/AB-ordinance
- Neptune Beach: bit.ly/NB-ordinance
- Jax Beach: bit.ly/JB-ordinance

How your donations are used

- Utility vehicles, maintenance, gasoline
- Nest protection materials
- Office supplies and administrative infrastructure
- Educational materials (activity books, exhibits, brochures)
- Volunteer support (training materials, work shirts)

BSTP is the only FWC-permitted turtle patrol in Atlantic, Neptune and Jax Beaches.

Our name is clearly visible on our work shirts and ATVs. If you observe anyone touching a turtle or a nest that is NOT identifiable as a BSTP volunteer, please notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency immediately. Similarly, there are no other groups who are authorized to accept donations or sell items on behalf of BSTP.

You can help protect the turtles just by keeping the beach Clean, Dark and Flat!

Pick up trash, keep lights off, fill in holes, knock down sandcastles.

Nest watching or "nest-sitting" violates FWC protocol as it is highly illegal to interfere in any way with a nest or the turtles themselves. Please report any human disturbances immediately to the local police department and FL Wildlife Alert line at 1-888-404-3922, or #FWC from cell phone.

