SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON
MARCH 01 TO OCTOBER 31, 2022

There are seven species of sea turtles, three of which nest along south Florida beaches (loggerheads, leatherbacks and green sea turtles). All three species are listed as threatened or endangered. Nearly 90 percent of sea turtle nests in the United States occur along Florida beaches. Sea turtle nesting season in south Florida runs from March 1 through October 31. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) monitors all nesting activity on Florida’s coasts every year.

2021 SEA TURTLE NESTING DATA

Bal Harbour Village was home to 54 sea turtle nests during the 2021 nesting season, most of which were laid between May and June. Most of the nests were laid by loggerhead sea turtles. A green sea turtle and leatherback sea turtle laid one nest each in 2021 along Bal Harbor’s beaches. These nests are protected by federal law until they hatch in the fall, when over 100 sea turtle hatchlings per nest make their way to the ocean by moonlight. Only one in 1,000 hatchlings will survive to become a reproductive adult between the ages of 12 to 50 years old. The data received from FWC was included in the Village of Bal Harbour GIS Database (Attachment below). The data shows that the northern end of the Village beach, by the jetty, was not used often during the 2021 nesting season. Most of the nests were located between FDEP survey monument R-27 and R-31.

The data also shows that numerous false crawl attempts along the beach near 9703 and 9601 Collins Avenue. False crawls are a “U” shape pattern left in the sand when a female sea turtle comes up the beach and then crawls back to the water without digging a nest and laying eggs. False crawls can occur for many reasons including being disturbed during its crawl by human presence or being unable to locate a suitable nesting site which can include obstructions and presence of artificial light. The data indicate a need for educating Village residents and visitors about the importance of not approaching sea turtles as this may encourage the females to return to the ocean without nesting. Several false crawls can result in a female having to deposit her eggs in the water where they will not survive. Since female turtles only nest every two to three years it is a significant loss to the turtle population if a female cannot lay her eggs.
Legend:

- Coastal Range Monument
- False Crawl (Loggerhead)
- Sea Turtle Nest

Species, Percent Hatched:

- Loggerhead, 50-75%
- Leatherback, 75-90%
- Loggerhead, 75-90%
- Loggerhead, 70-100%

Notes:

1. Background Imagery Source (Date): State of Florida (1/23/2021)
2. Drone Imagery Source (Date): Cummins Cederberg Inc. (10/29/2021)
3. 2021 sea turtle nesting data provided by FWC on 2/9/2022.

Map Scale: 1:1,500

0-100-200 Feet

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Village of Bal Harbour

Coastal Management Program

BAL HARBOUR
VILLAGE