



NOTICE

SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON

As you may be aware, sea turtle early nesting season officially began March 1, as Leatherback sea turtles begin to come ashore in March to lay their eggs, and the beach and Port lighting restrictions take effect May 1st. To prevent sea turtle hatchling disorientation, port tenants are reminded that all indoor and exterior lights that are not safety or security essential should be extinguished between approximately sunset and sunrise during the season, which lasts through October 31. Lights that are visible from the beach should be shielded, repositioned, replaced, or turned off during this time.

Thousands of endangered and threatened sea turtles, mostly Green and Loggerhead, nest on Brevard County's beaches each year. Toward the end of June, hatchlings begin to emerge from their nests and orient themselves toward the brightest visible horizon in an attempt to find the sea. Lights from structures or facilities that shine or reflect onto the beach disrupt this instinctive process and can disorient the hatchlings, causing them to crawl toward artificial light sources instead of toward the sea. Additional information may be found at: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/sea-turtle/?redirect=seaturtle>.

Additionally, the Port has adopted an Exterior Light Management Plan (ELMP) that governs light sources on Canaveral Port Authority property. All new construction, modifications, or repairs to existing facilities port-owned and/or leased need to conform to the ELMP.

To report an injured, deceased, or harassed sea turtle call Wildlife Alert 888-404-FWCC (3922) or *FWC or #FWC on your mobile phone, text Tip@MyFWC.com, or submit online at <https://public.myfwc.com/LE/WildlifeAlert/Default.aspx> or call the Sea Turtle Preservation Society Hotline # 321-206-0646 to report a sick, injured, or dead sea turtle.

We appreciate your cooperation! Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 321-394-3256 or email at RMusser@portcanaveral.com.

Sincerely,

Canaveral Port Authority

Robert Musser, Jr., Sr. Director, Port Environmental