

what to do

if you find

SEA TURTLE NESTING ACTIVITY

See something that looks a bit like tire tracks on your beach stroll? Here's what to look for and what to do if you see signs of sea turtle nesting.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

NESTING FEMALES

- Tracks emerging from and returning to the ocean
- At least 2.5 feet wide or larger, depending on species
- Areas of disturbance in or near the vegetation or above the high water mark

HATCHLINGS

- Multiple small tracks emerging from one location
 - Typically leading straight to the water
- Tracks are about 2 inches wide

DISTURBED OR DEPREDATED NESTS

- Egg shells (leathery and around the size of a ping pong ball)
- Deceased hatchlings at the surface
- Obvious tampering of nest protection equipment on a known nest

WHAT TO DO

All species of sea turtles and their nests are federally protected. Any disturbance to a nesting female, hatchling, or nest is a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

- Without disturbing the track, take photographs from multiple angles encompassing the entirety of the crawl area
- **Contact the Sea Turtle Program Coordinator at 760.470.8995 or vinpturtles@friendsvinp.org.**

