

SUNSET BEACH TURTLE PROGRAM

OUR MISSION:

**TO PROTECT NESTING AND HATCHING SEA TURTLES
FROM ENDANGERMENT AND HARASSMENT
WITH A MINIMAL OF INTERVENTION IN THE NATURAL
PROCESS**

OUR PURPOSE:

**GATHER DATA FOR THE NC ENDANGERED SPECIES
PROGRAM**

WHAT WE ARE PERMITTED TO DO:

- 1] IDENTIFY AND MARK NESTS**
- 2] 72 HOURS AFTER MAJOR HATCHING,
EXCAVATE THE NEST, COUNT HATCHED AND
UNHATCHED EGGS**

OUR DILEMMA

**THE EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL
THE OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN THE AWARENESS OF
THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

AND

**RECRUIT PROTECTORS OF OUR FRAGILE
ENVIRONMENT**

&

**THE RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL
THE DESIRE TO SHARE THIS SPECIAL EXPERIENCE
WITH FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND TOURIST**

VS

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO:
THE TURTLES**

&

THE STATE GUIDELINES

**TURTLES-ON-DEMAND
IS
NOT OUR JOB**

“TURLING” PRACTICES

THE CARDINAL RULES

**1] NEVER TOUCH A TURTLE
OR TURTLE EGG**

**2] KEEP YOUR HANDS
OUT OF THE NEST**

EXCEPTIONS:

- * WHEN VERIFYING OR MOVING A NEST**
- * WHEN EXCAVATING A NEST AT
PRESCRIBED TIME**
- * WHEN HATCHLING IS STRAYING
BEYOND BOUNDS OF SAFETY**
- * WHEN COLD TEMPERATURES SUGGEST
TRANSPORT TO WARM OCEAN**

LAYING SEASON:

**1] IT IS BETTER TO VERIFY
THAN TO WONDER LATER**

2] REASONS TO MOVE A NEST:

*** IT WILL BE FLOODED REPEATEDLY BY
NORMAL HIGH TIDES (TWO OR
THREE ABNORMALLY HIGH
TIDE OVERWASHES ARE
ACCEPTABLE)**

*** IT IS IN THE WAY OF MAJOR TRAFFIC,
SUCH AS GARBAGE TRUCK OR
THE MIDDLE OF A WALKWAY**

*** THE NEST IS SO SHALLOW THAT EGGS
ARE EXPOSED**

NESTING SEASON :

- 1] THERE MUST BE ONE PERSON IN CHARGE AT EACH NEST**
- 2] THE PERSON IN CHARGE IS :
THE COORDINATOR,
THE ALTERNATE,
OR THEIR DESIGNEE**
- 3] ASSIST THE "TURLER IN CHARGE" AS REQUESTED**
- 4] NO FLASH CAMERAS UNDER ANY CONDITION**
- 5] FLASH LIGHTS AT AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM**

THE PERFECT HATCHING

ASSIGNMENTS

NEST GUARDER / DIGGER

PROTECTOR AND COUNTER OF THE EGGS AND SHELLS
THIS IS WHY WE HAVE THE PERMIT

TRENCH DIGGER / CLEANER

SHOVEL, SIDE SCRAP, FRONT DRAG, V CUT

QUESTION ANSWERER

COUNTER

CROWD MOVER

WATCHER OF THE TRENCH

MESSAGE CARRIER

ASSIGNOR OF WAYFARING TURTLES TO HELPFUL
WATCHERS

CONTROLLER OF THE WET SAND

LIGHT IN THE WATER HOLDER

TURTLE MUSINGS

WHY ARE WE SITTING AT THIS NEST TONIGHT?

THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN GATHERING OUT TOGETHER ON THE
BEACH AT NIGHT IN THE LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL,
GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

WE NEED TO KEEP THE TOURIST FROM TRAMPLING THE TURTLES

WE REALLY SHOULD HAVE SOME IDEA WHEN IT HATCHED, AND ABOUT
HOW MANY, SO WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE OUGHT TO DIG IT

THE TAO OF TURLING

LAYING SEASON
MORNING - INDEPENDENCE

HATCHING SEASON
NIGHT - COOPERATION

ANCIENT SUNSET BEACH PROVERB

HE WHO SITS AND STAYS AT THE NEST IS IN CHARGE