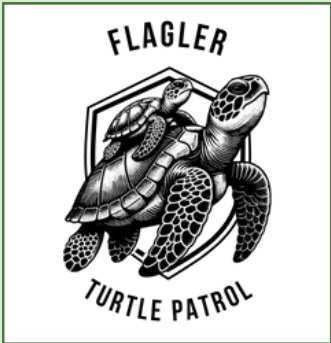




## HAPPY NEW YEAR, TURTLE ENTHUSIASTS!



Happy New Year from all of us at Flagler Turtle Patrol!

As we step into 2025, we're thrilled to share the very first edition of this year's newsletter with you, filled with updates on our conservation efforts and the incredible impact your support continues to make.

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we have had a successful off-season

setting up educational booths at various markets around the county. Your passion for raising awareness and funds has been inspiring, and it's made a real difference in preparing for the busy nesting season ahead.

We also want to highlight an unexpected challenge we've faced this winter. The recent cold snap brought unprecedented cold shock conditions to some of Flagler County's sea turtles. While heartbreaking, these moments remind us how vital our work is—and how much we rely on your dedication to respond swiftly when these turtles need us most.

Thank you for your ongoing support in protecting our sea turtles and their habitats. We look forward to working with you this year to make even greater strides in conservation!

*Nic Poorte*

Nic Poorte, Chief Operating Officer

*If you find a sick or injured sea turtle, please do not place it back in the water. It may need medical assistance.*

*Call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC (888-404-3922) or, from your cell phone, dial #FWC or \*FWC.*



2024 Flagler county nest totals  
(by species.)

**562**

*Loggerhead*

**68**

*Green*

**6**

*Leatherback*





## VOLUNTEER(S) SPOTLIGHT!

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible volunteers for their dedication to manning our informational booths throughout the off-season. From the Charming Sister Holiday Craft Fair to the Country Market at the Florida Agricultural Museum and the weekly Flagler Farmer's Market, your efforts have been nothing short of inspiring. Rain or shine, and even in the cold, you've been out there educating the community about sea turtle conservation and collecting much-needed donations to support our mission. Your hard work and passion make a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful for everything you do to protect and preserve our nesting sea turtles.



## TURTLE SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH:

### Understanding Cold Shock in Sea Turtles

As temperatures drop during the winter months, sea turtles in Flagler County face a serious threat: cold shock. Sea turtles are cold-blooded reptiles, which means their body temperature is influenced by their surroundings. When water temperatures fall below 50°F, turtles can become cold-stunned—a condition that slows their metabolism, leaving them lethargic and unable to swim or feed. In extreme cases, cold shock can even be fatal.

Recently, Flagler County experienced an unprecedented cold snap, resulting in an increase in cold-stunned turtles washing ashore. These turtles often appear motionless, floating at the surface or stranded on beaches, which can be alarming to witness. Without immediate care, cold-stunned turtles are at risk of further complications like dehydration, predation, or even death. Fortunately, with quick action and proper care, many cold-stunned turtles can recover and return to the ocean.



### How Can You Help?

If you encounter a sea turtle on the beach that appears to be non-responsive, it's critical to act swiftly. Do not attempt to move the turtle yourself—cold-stunned turtles need specialized care. Instead, immediately contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or use their free wildlife alert app. Your call could save a life and help these incredible creatures find their way back to the sea.

Thank you for helping protect Florida's sea turtles this winter!

For more information, please click here: [Learn More](#)