

**INFORMATION ABOUT SEA TURTLES, BEACH LIGHTING
AND HOW TO REMEDY PROBLEM LIGHTS
(Revised May 2012)**

In general: for turtle friendly beach lighting, keep it:

LOW - mount the fixture as low as possible to minimize light trespass, and use the lowest amount of light needed for the task

SHIELDED – fully shield the light so bulbs and/or glowing lenses are not visible to minimize light trespass

LONG - long wavelength light sources (ambers and reds) in the appropriate lighting fixtures

Sea Turtle Conservancy

<http://www.conserveturtles.org/florida.php?page=lighting>

Sea Turtles, Nesting, and Beach Lighting Ordinances, and Beach Cleaning Practices

<http://www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/sea-turtles/>

Wildlife Lighting Concerns and Information

<http://www.myfwc.com/conservation/vou-conserve/lighting/>

The following information was obtained from:

[http://www.bstp.net/PDFs/Light Pollution \(FWC\).pdf](http://www.bstp.net/PDFs/Light%20Pollution%20(FWC).pdf) (copy into browser to access)

Light-Pollution Affecting Sea Turtles

There are ways that beach front property owners can modify their lights to prevent them from being seen from the beach. The following is a list of suggestions (**these solutions may need to be used in conjunction with one another in order to prevent sea turtle disorientation**).

- **Turn off unnecessary lights.** Don't use decorative lighting (such as runner lights or uplighting of vegetation) in areas that are visible from the beach and permanently remove, disable, or turn off fixtures that cannot be modified in any other way.
- For lights that can be repositioned, face them away from the beach so that the light source is no longer visible.
- **Shield the light source.** Materials such as aluminum flashing can be used as a shield to direct light and keep it off the beach. When shielding lights, it is important to make sure they are shielded from all areas on the beach (including from either side and on top), and not just from the beach directly in front of the light. Black oven paint may be used as a temporary solution.
- Light sockets with an exposed light source (such as plain bulbs) should be replaced with fixtures that are specially made to recess and/or the light source should be shielded.

- Replace fixtures that scatter light in all directions (such as globe lights or carriage lights) with directional fixtures that point down and away from the beach.
- Replace lights on poles with low profile, low-level lamps so that the light source and reflected light are not visible from the beach.
- **Replace incandescent, fluorescent, and high intensity lighting with the lowest wattage low-pressure sodium vapor lighting or replace white incandescent bulbs with the yellow "bug" light variety of 50 watts or less.**
- Plant or improve vegetation buffers (such as sea grapes and other native beach vegetation) between the light source and the beach to screen light from the beach.
- Use shielded motion detector lights for lighting, and set them on the shortest time setting.
- To reduce spillover from indoor lighting move light fixtures away from windows, apply window tint to your windows that meets the 45% inside to outside transmittance standards for tinted glass (you'll save on air conditioning costs too!), or use window treatments (blinds, curtains) to shield interior lights from the beach.

Please support your local organization: Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol, Inc. / BSTP.net

Additional information about sea turtles, sea turtle nesting, and beach lighting can be obtained by contacting Clearwater Marine Aquarium staff.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium - General Number/Information: 727-441-1790

Mike Anderson
Director of Sea Turtle Nesting
Clearwater Marine Aquarium
727/441-1790 x224. manderson@cmaquarium.org