

From: [Robert Weber](#)
To: tim.boulton1@gmail.com
Cc: dbeco@bellsouth.net; [Kirk Blouin](#); [Paul Brazil](#)
Subject: FW: Tractor Activity-2022 Sea Turtle Nesting Season
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 11:19:00 AM

Mr. Boulton,

Good morning. Town Manager Kirk Blouin asked me to reach out to you in response to your email regarding tractors on the beach and to provide you with the most up to date information available. Embedded in this email and within the email chain below are some recent responses provided by both FWC (July 14) and our sea turtle nesting monitor (July 13) following an inquiry from another resident regarding a similar concern:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) appreciates your dedication to protecting the turtles and other beach wildlife. FWC staff will be working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on the issues you are reporting related to beach cleaning, including the deep tire tracks.

It is always an amazing experience to observe hatchlings on the beach, and I am glad you and others were able to do so. It is not clear from your correspondence if you may have already done the following, but in the future, if you observe marine turtles in distress on the beach, including trapped or disoriented hatchlings, please contact the Town of Palm Beach Police Department at 561-838-5454. They will contact the FWC Marine Turtle Permit Holder who is authorized to respond to such incidents in this area. Marine Turtle Permit Holders have years of training on how to handle the animals or their nests and when it is appropriate to release hatchlings, day or nighttime, or transport them to a rehabilitation facility. This ensures marine turtles, their hatchlings, and nests are handled consistent with state and federal law and incidents are reported through the appropriate channels to FWC so we can investigate and respond.

In addition, FWC staff are available to provide technical assistance to local communities to find ways to make their beaches a safe place for threatened and endangered marine turtles.

Thank you again for reaching out with your concerns.

Robbin N. Trindell, Ph.D.
Biological Administrator
Imperiled Species Management
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

I hope this information is helpful.

Best regards,

Robert Weber

Coastal Program Manager

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From: dbeco@bellsouth.net <dbeco@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 3:13 PM
To: Robert Weber <RWeber@TownofPalmBeach.com>
Subject: RE: Tractor Activity-2022 Sea Turtle Nesting Season

*****Note: This email was sent from a source external to the Town of Palm Beach. Links or attachments should not be accessed unless expected from a trusted source. Additionally, all requests for information or changes to Town records should be verified for authenticity.*****

Hi Rob

It is very heartening that Town residents are concerned for sea turtles on the Town's beaches.

I have spoken to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff about each of the incidents previously, as all of them had been previously reported with the exception of the 7/12 beach cleaning ruts from yesterday. I contacted the beach cleaner directly yesterday morning while he was on the beach and he took action to correct the ruts he caused. As always I have informed FWC about that as well.

Some of the photos are not tractor tracks but are ATV or UTV tracks. There are several entities that are operating those types of vehicles on the beach but those tracks should not be confused with the beach cleaner tractor tracks.

Again, any activity that we observe that has the potential to cause impacts to sea turtles are reported to the appropriate FWC staff. We have not recorded any injuries to sea turtles from beach cleaning activities this season. We will stay diligent in recording all activities observed that have the potential to impact sea turtles.

I saw on the video several people handling hatchling sea turtles at the water line. It would be best if residents contacted the police who would in turn contact me so that we could respond. As a reminder it is imperative that hatchling sea turtles are allowed to spend time crawling on natal beaches prior to them entering the water and it is best that these protected species are not touched by anyone not authorized to handle them. People often feel the need to intervene and that may actually be more harmful to the hatchlings.

Thank you
Chris

Christine Perretta

DB Ecological Services, Inc.