

U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coast Sea Turtle Habitat Areas - Nesting Beaches



Of the seven species of sea turtles, six are found in U.S. waters: green, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, loggerhead, and olive ridley. All sea turtles require sandy upland habitat for nesting, and individual females lay multiple clutches of eggs during a single nesting season. However, females do not necessarily lay eggs every year; some turtles return 1-3 years later to lay eggs on the same nesting beaches on which they themselves were born. Nesting season generally runs from March through October. This map depicts nesting beaches in relation to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil wellhead.

This map is preliminary, for informational purposes only.

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