

2019 Sea Turtle Nesting Season Update

BOCC Meeting June 18th, 2019

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Photo by:
Joe Rimkus Jr

March 1st to October 31st



Daily Nesting Surveys

Photo by:
Joe Rimkus Jr

3 Species of Nesting Sea Turtles in IRC



Leatherback



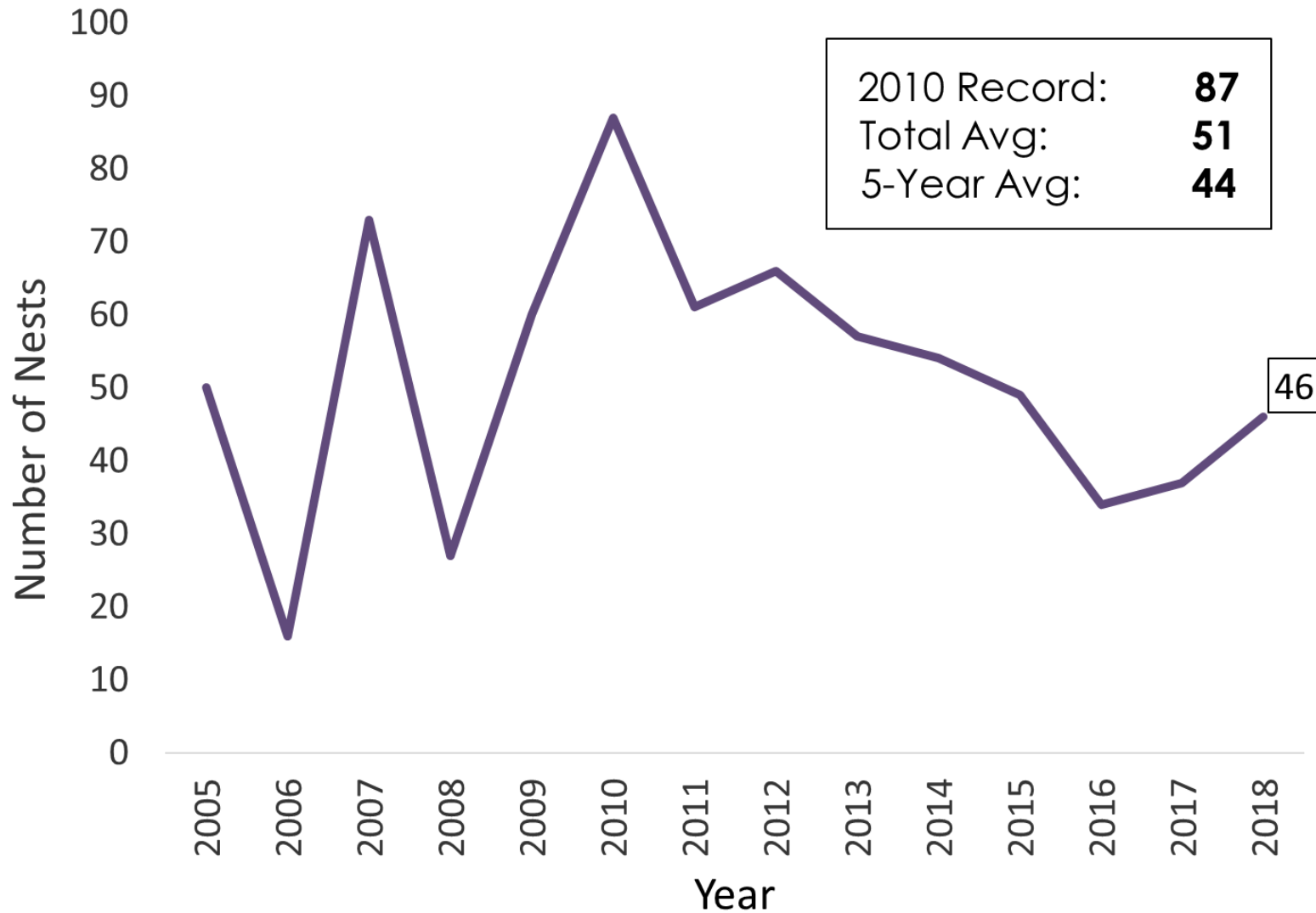
Loggerhead



Green

Leatherback

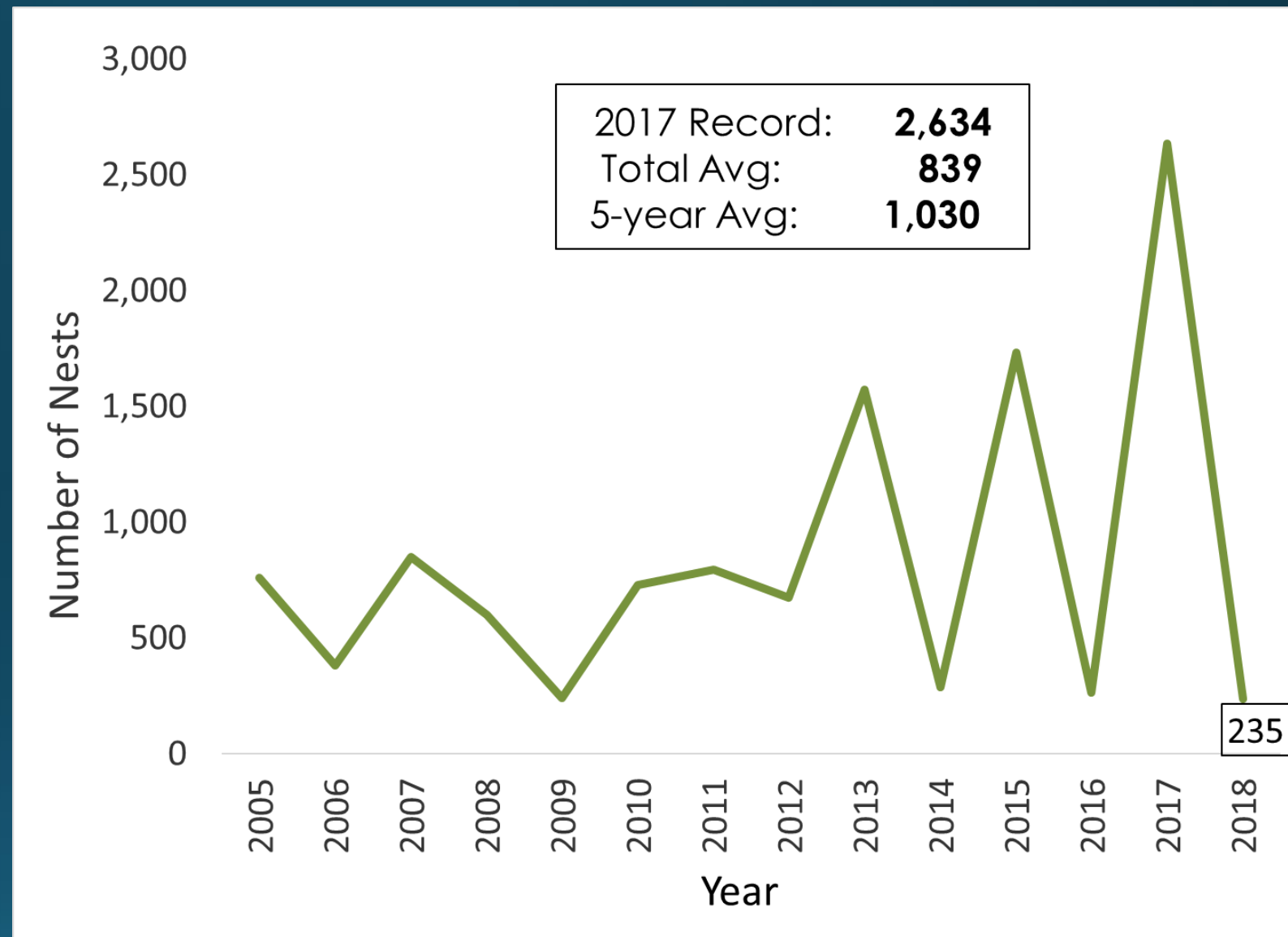
- Largest sea turtle in the world
- Least common visitor to IRC beaches
- Generally nests April to July



As of May 30th there are **22** nests in IRC

Green

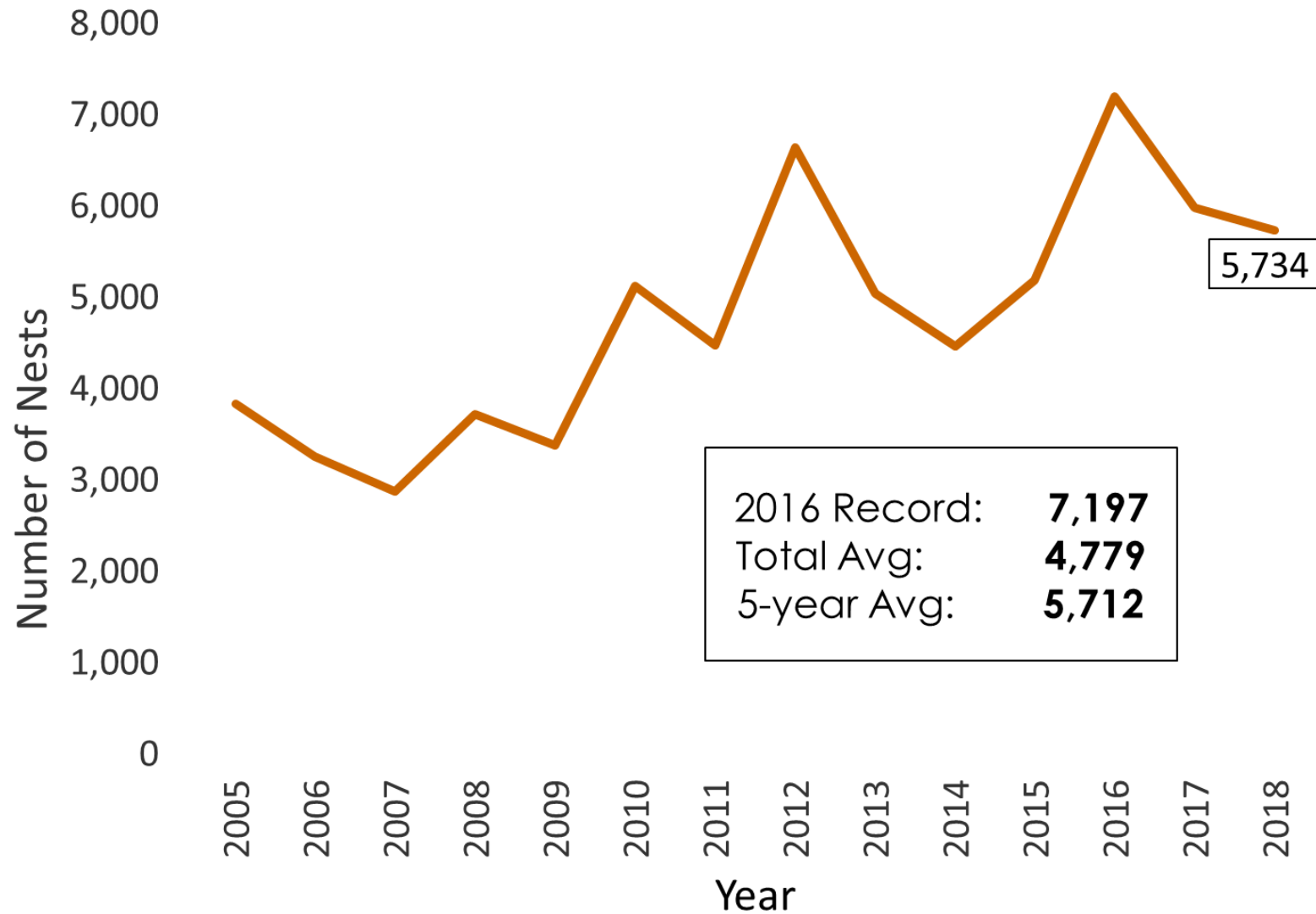
- Consumes sea grass
- Fairly common visitor to IRC beaches
- Cyclical nesting pattern
- Generally nests June to October



As of May 30th there are **94** nests in IRC

Loggerhead

- Most common visitor to IRC beaches
- Generally nests April to September
- Marking every 20th nest



As of May 30th there are **2,005** nests in IRC

Turtle Friendly Beach Behavior

- Be mindful of umbrellas and digging
- We can't mark every nest
- Enjoy wild animals from a safe distance



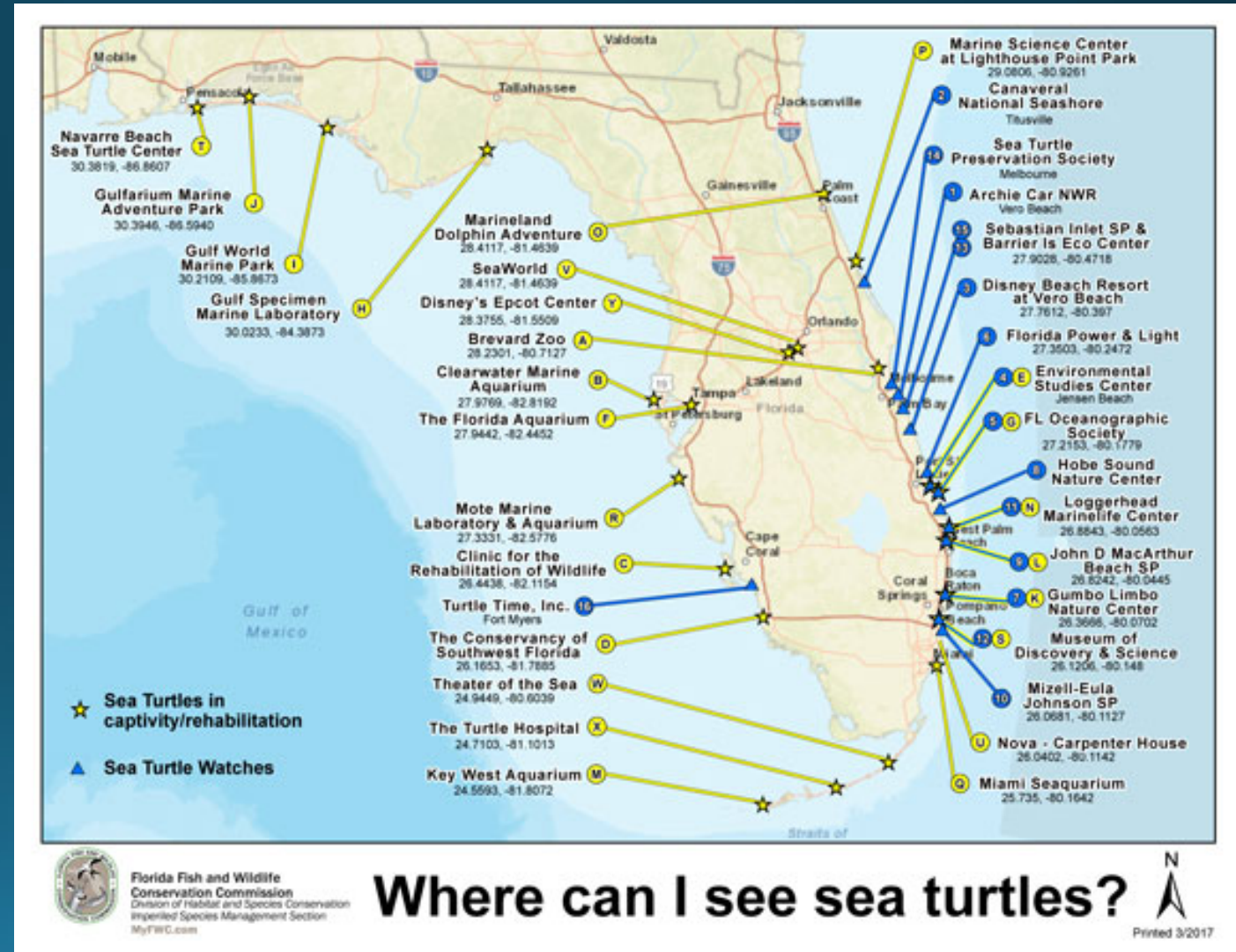
Go on a Turtle Walk

- Watch a turtle deposit a nest during the night
- Many non-profits host these events, with a donation
- Educational presentation

Dates: June and July

Sign-up started in May

FWC Website: [Where to view sea turtles](http://www.fwc.com)



Public Turtle Digs

Photos by:
Joe Rimkus Jr



- Evaluation of the success of the nest
- Located at Sexton Plaza
 - (Beachland Blvd. meets the sea)
- FREE to the public
- Sporadically in July and August

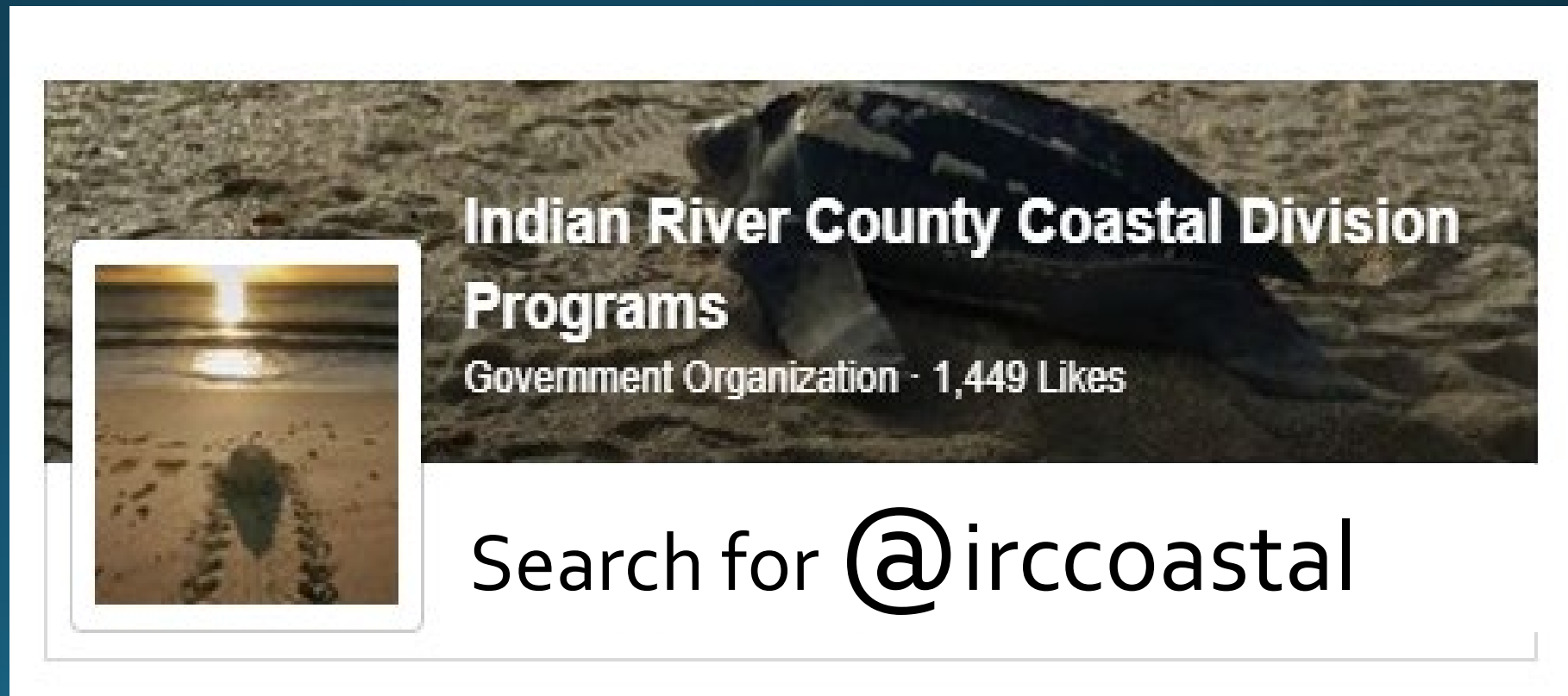
Turtle Releases

- Occasionally witness the release of a rehabilitated turtle
- Educational presentation and FREE to the public



How do I learn about these County opportunities?

- Follow and like our Facebook Page!
- Share updates about turtles and other Coastal programs.



How can you help?

- Report dead or injured turtles to the FWC hotline.

1-888-404-3922 (FWCC)

- Please follow the lighting ordinances.
- Artificial lights on a nesting beach have negative impacts.
 - Adults are less likely to lay a nest.
 - Hatchlings become disorientated on their way to the sea.



Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers!

