

IDENTIFICATION: Seven species of sea turtles exist worldwide. They vary in size and weight with the leatherback being the largest – reaching lengths of 4 to 8 feet and weights of 500 to 2000 pounds. Three (loggerhead, Kemp’s ridley, and green) of the seven species of sea turtles that exist worldwide are known to [nest at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Baldwin and Mobile counties. Loggerheads are the most common sea turtle found nesting on Alabama beaches. Sea turtles come ashore May - August to lay eggs that will hatch July - October.

FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS: Forestry activities should not impact sea turtle populations or habitat. Baby sea turtles may be disoriented by light when hatching.

DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY: Gulf coast beaches located in Baldwin and Mobile counties.



Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) hatchling at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Baldwin and Mobile counties, Alabama



Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) with transmitter attached.

Photo Credits: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This information is provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission

For more information, please visit: www.forestry.alabama.gov



Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)



Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)