



FWC FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATEWIDE NESTING BEACH SURVEY (SNBS) PROTOCOL

1. **Survey Period:** Ideally, SNBS nest surveys should capture all nesting activity on a particular beach. Suggested minimum start/stop dates are as follows:

County Range	Suggested Latest Daily Nesting Survey Start Date	Suggested Earliest Daily Nesting Survey End Date
Nassau County through Flagler County	15 April	30 September
Volusia County through Miami-Dade County	1 March	31 October
Monroe County	15 April	31 August (30 September in portions of the county where green turtles nest)
Collier County through Pinellas County	15 April	30 September
Franklin County through Escambia County	1 May	31 August

2. **Survey Time:** Surveys must be conducted in the early morning hours, preferably beginning at dawn, in order to optimize crawl interpretation.
3. **Survey Frequency:** Most Statewide nesting beach surveys are conducted seven days a week, but some beaches, particularly remote ones, are surveyed on a less frequent basis. Ideally, survey frequency should remain constant. All crawls should be marked or “erased” daily to avoid duplicate counts on subsequent survey days. If surveys are not conducted seven days/wk, the strategy for counting tracks when the survey resumes (count all vs count only the new tracks) should remain the same throughout the season.
4. **Survey Boundaries:** Survey boundaries should remain the same from year to year. If changes are necessary, please contact FWC/FWRI well before the nesting season begins. Boundaries should be permanent physical features.
5. **Crawl Identification:** **ALL** fresh crawls (ABOVE and BELOW the recent high tide) are identified to species and as either nests or false crawls based on visible crawl characteristics.
6. **Data Reporting:** Data are reported on annual report forms supplied by FWC/FWRI. The deadline for filing this report is 30 November. **Please submit annual SNBS report directly to FWRI, do not upload them to the FWC online permit system.**
7. **Significant Events:** If significant events occur that may affect turtles or their nests, please let FWC/FWRI know about them. Significant events include habitat alterations such as beach nourishment, the placement of armoring or beach-access ramps, or erosion due to storms. Indicate date(s) and type of event in the comments section of the data form.
8. **Assistance:** Should questions arise or problems occur, contact Beth Mongiovi (Brost) at 727-502-4738, Beth.Mongiovi@MyFWC.com; or Simona Ceriani at 727-892-4119, Simona.Ceriani@MyFWC.com.

YOUR EFFORTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!