

## GUIDELINES FOR WATCHING FEMALE SEA TURTLES DURING NESTING

Female sea turtles are quite nervous when coming ashore.

They are easily scared back to sea by any movement, noise or light on the beach. Therefore:

- Do not use flashlights at the beach or shine a light in the sea turtle's face! The light can cause the female to abort the nesting process and other sea turtles nearby may be discouraged from nesting.
- Do not take pictures using flash!
- Move slowly and keep the noise level down as sea turtles are very sensitive to movement and sounds.
- Keep your distance! Stay out of sight of the turtle at least until she begins laying eggs, otherwise you may scare her back into the sea.
- For your own safety, only approach from behind and stay away from the turtle's head. Sea turtles, especially Loggerheads, have very strong jaws and can harm you if provoked.
- Do not handle the eggs!
- Do not handle the sea turtle! You may injure the turtle or cause her to leave without finishing nesting.
- Show the necessary respect for these amazing ancient animals and be an example for others, especially children.
- Enjoy this amazing experience and remember it for the rest of your life!