

We have alligators and many other types of wildlife living in our lagoons. Read this fact sheet to learn more about Alligators and remember to use caution near all bodies of water.



## THE AMERICAN ALLIGATOR



Alligators are fascinating creatures and should by all means be enjoyed as part of the natural beauty of our region. According to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), alligator attacks are exceedingly rare and the animals are usually afraid of people. Still, they are large carnivorous predators and should be respected as such. A few precautions on our part can help both humans and alligators coexist safely.



## DESCRIPTION

The average size for an adult American alligator is between 8.2 feet 11.2 feet. Baby Alligators are known to have bright yellow stripes on the tail. Female alligators usually prefer to remain in a small area, but males prefer to occupy areas larger than two square miles. Both males and females are willing to travel farther during the courting and breeding season.



## AGGRESSIVE ALLIGATOR?

If you encounter an unusually aggressive alligator or witness a person feeding/harassing an alligator, contact Shipyard Security at (843) 785-4776.

## SAFETY TIPS

There are many concerns about encounters with alligators. Alligators don't become aggressive unless bothered or trained to approach humans. It is important to:

**Do not feed alligators.** When alligators start associating people with food, they will be more likely to approach. **DO NOT** feed ducks, turtles, fish, or any other animals inhabiting water either.

**Be aware of your surroundings.** When walking, running, or using the many trails within Shipyard be mindful of your environment. Especially by bodies of water.

**Keep your distance.** If you encounter an alligator, walk backwards and back away from it. A safe distance is about 60 feet. If the alligator hisses or lunges at you, you are too close.

**Keep your pets and children away from alligators.** Alligators do not recognize the difference between pets and food sources. Alligators act on their hunting instinct. Do not allow pets or children to swim, drink, or play at the edge of waters. To an alligator, any splash potentially means dinner time.

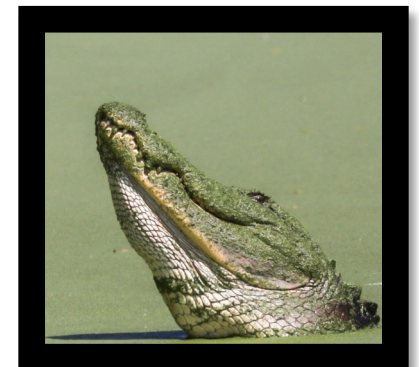
## S.C. STATE LAW

Alligators tend go out of their way to avoid people. But once they become too familiar, alligators lose their fear of humans, necessitating their removal for the safety of everyone concerned. **All removed alligators are exterminated per South Carolina State Law.** Relocation is illegal due to an alligator's strong homing instincts.

**DO NOT FEED ALLIGATORS.**

**DO NOT FEED ANY WILDLIFE IN SHIPYARD.**

**FEEDING ALLIGATORS IS ILLEGAL IN SOUTH CAROLINA.**



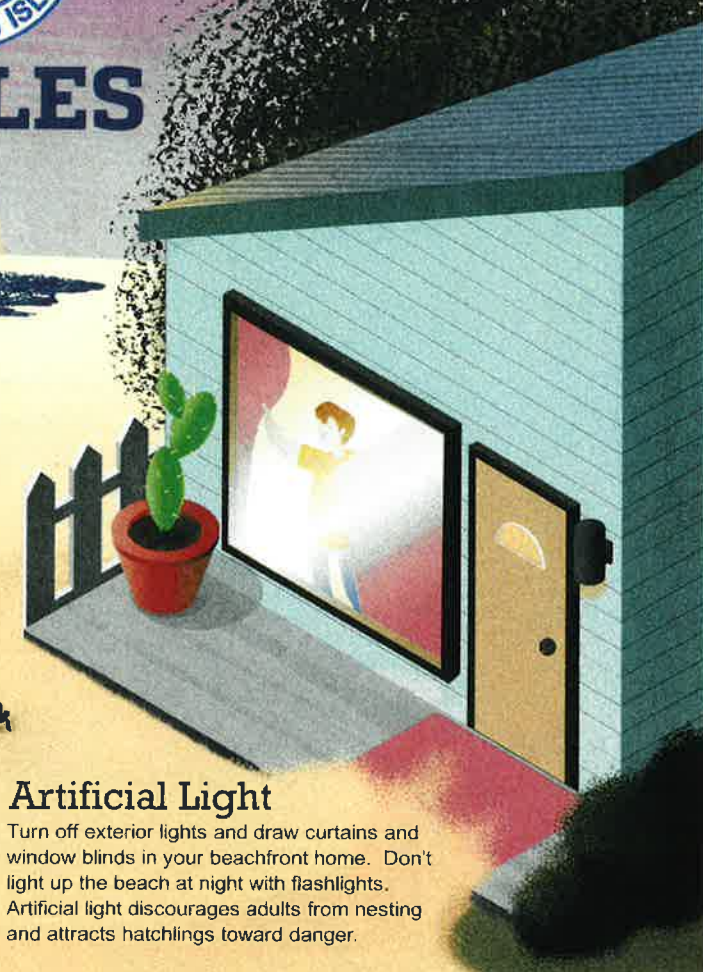


# As the sun sets... **GIVE SEA TURTLES A SAFE PATH**

**Here's what you can do to help:**

## Mind Your Pets

Be aware of pet restrictions. Don't let your pets dig up sea turtle nests.



## Artificial Light

Turn off exterior lights and draw curtains and window blinds in your beachfront home. Don't light up the beach at night with flashlights. Artificial light discourages adults from nesting and attracts hatchlings toward danger.

## Leave Them Be

Do not handle sea turtles, their hatchlings or their eggs. Disturbing sea turtles or their nests is a violation of state and federal law with criminal penalties. If you see sea turtle nest barriers, leave the stakes in the ground.



## Take Down Sandcastles and Fill in Holes

Sandcastles are fun to build, but they can create deadly obstacles and traps for tiny hatchlings.



All sea turtles are listed as endangered. The Loggerhead is the most common sea turtle species nesting on Hilton Head beaches. Only 1 in 1,000 will make it to adulthood. You can help them survive by leaving only your footprints in the sand.

## Put Your Stuff Away

Remove unattended beach furniture and other items from the beach at night. Mother turtles and hatchlings have died from entanglement in beach furniture.

## Loggerhead



Nesting season is May – October and is a critical time for sea turtles. Nesting and hatching mostly occur at night, and this is when sea turtles are most impacted by humans. Artificial lights, beach furniture and other obstructions reduce nesting success and the ability for hatchlings to reach the sea. To report marine turtle nest poaching, hatchling disorientations, harassment or injured or dead sea turtles, please call 800-922-5431 SCDNR.

Learn more by going to [seaturtlepatrolhhi.org](http://seaturtlepatrolhhi.org)



**SAVING SEA TURTLES**

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