

# **Emerald Isle is a Sea Turtle Sanctuary.**

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We currently have 300 plus dedicated volunteers in our Emerald Isle Sea Turtle Patrol program . These people give generously of their time and concern to protect the sea turtle population. In addition to Emerald Isle, there are devoted volunteers up and down the entire length of our beloved Bogue Banks. Together, we are a formidable army looking out for these threatened sea creatures.

Thankfully, in the last few year MANY businesses have joined us in the efforts to protect the sea turtles and other ocean animals. This season we, in the Emerald Isle program, want to highlight efforts being made by local businesses and groups.

**Sound of the Sea** installed turtle friendly lights in all the beach facing areas on their property last year.

**Flipperz** and **Trading Post** stopped giving out plastic straws unless they are requested.

**Publicx** recently had a contest to sell reusable bags in an effort to reduce the use of plastic bags. Since 2007 they've saved over 6.3 BILLION paper and plastic bags! **Bogue Banks Surf Riders** organize beach clean ups a couple times a year.

**Muttigans** gives a discount if you bring in your refillable cup! They also have buckets that, if you fill their bucket by cleaning up the beach, you get a free coffee when you bring the bucket back in!

**Emerald Isle Reality** helps to protect sea turtles in multiple ways. They provide information to all their vacation renters. They distribute "Lights Out" labels to remind guests to turn off the outside beachside lights. They give out cloth reusable grocery bags as well.

**Emerald Isle Beach & Pool Club** converted to biodegradable straws and containers. **Not specific to a business**, but I've noticed customers in local restaurants bring and using their own metal straws! These metal straws can be easily bought online.

Many of you remember Pam Minnick. Pam was our fearless Director for many years. Our hearts were broken when she passed away last year. To honor of her memory, a stranded sea turtle, rescued by Nest Response Team members Cheryl Balthrop and Susan Smith, has been named "Minnick" by the great folks at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. "Minnick" will be well cared for there until such a time as she can be released back into the ocean. It is comforting to know there is still a Minnick in North Carolina.

## **KIDS KORNER Fun Facts**

\*Did you know that sometimes it looks like sea turtles are crying? Don't worry, they aren't sad... the turtles are just getting rid of the sea salt they absorb from the ocean!

\*Did you also know that sea turtles can't pull their heads into their shells for protection? Be an environmentalist by picking up trash on the beach!

For more information, kids book titles and activities, to comment or to donate to our awesome organization...visit us at: [eiseaturtlepatrol.org](http://eiseaturtlepatrol.org).

**Remember...Don't leave anything behind on the beach but your footprints!**