

Island Review September 2022 Article and photos submitted by: Valerie Rohrig

As each season begins on May 1st, there seems to be endless and exciting days ahead for beach walkers looking for tracks, nest trenchings to prepare for successful trips to the ocean for our hatchlings and nest sitting to watch for these cute little fighters to emerge and scurry to the water. Yet, as you read this article, the 2022 Season is entering its final weeks.

We have 30 nests and counting as of this writing. We could very well have gotten more nests between the writing and the reading of this article (our website <http://www.eiseaturtlepatrol.org/> and our Facebook page have the up-to-date-count... Emerald Isle Sea Sea Turtle Patrol). The final weeks of the season could have been extended by nests that arrived before the end of August. Considering only one in a 1000 hatchlings make it to adulthood, the more the merrier for hatchlings making it safely thru the surf and on their way to the Gulf Stream.

Our Director Dale Baquer is responsible for providing data to State and Federal agencies. In addition to nest numbers and locations, she is in contact about nest issues or problems we might encounter. She also supplies a report for each nest that gives specifics about number of eggs in the nest, how many hatchlings emerged, how many hatchlings needed to receive further care and how many hatchlings/eggs didn't survive. A nest success rate percentage is figured for each nest. As of this writing, we have excavated 4 nests and the nests in Emerald Isle have an overall success rate percentage of 78.5%.

People often ask where nests are and when nests will hatch or be excavated. For the safety of our hatchlings, we NEVER supply that information. If you are walking on the beach and see a group of volunteers sitting at a nest (we're easy to spot in our brightly colored volunteer shirts) please feel free to join us. We are happy to answer general questions about sea turtles. You may sit by the nest and perhaps be there when hatchlings emerge.

The Emerald Isle Sea Turtle Patrol has been lucky to have some great local companies that support our program specifically, but also conservation in general. This month we'd like to highlight the efforts of the Turtley Sweet shop. Owners Arlin and Eli Patino (who also own the Sweet Spot shop) try to use several environmentally friendly items in Turtley Sweet. They try hard to implement eco friendly products like biodegradable corn plastic, paper bags, cups, wooden sample spoons and straws. These efforts help limit some of the items sea turtles encounter in the ocean. At the Turtley Sweet shop, near the cash register, they have a binder with information about sea turtles. Shoppers are welcome to look thru the binder. Also by the register is a donation collection container that they initiated. Money donated there is given to our program at the end of each season. We certainly appreciate all their support efforts!

Finally, a reminder to PLEASE leave nothing behind but your footprints when you leave the beach!