



How many pythons have been captured in Everglades National Park?

The sighting or capture dates, locations and sizes of more than 250 pythons have been documented within Everglades National Park. The smallest python was less than 2 feet long, and the largest was 14 feet long. The size variation and the discovery of three pregnant females indicate a breeding population.

What months do sea turtles nest? What do I do if I see a sea turtle nesting?

The main sea turtle nesting months are May through October, but there are many exceptions. Leatherback sea turtles have been known to start as early as February, and depending on water temperature, hatchlings emerge well into the following winter months.

Female sea turtles nest every two to three years, laying several nests on sandy beaches. After digging a hole and depositing about 80–120 eggs, the females fill in the hole with sand and

camouflage the nest before returning to the sea.

Five species of sea turtles annually lay between 40,000 and 84,000 nests on Florida’s beaches.

Follow these guidelines if you see a sea turtle nesting along the beach:

- Stay behind her at a distance and remain quiet.
- Don’t use any lights, including flashlights, flash photography or video equipment.
- Don’t put your hands on or near the turtle. Any distractions may frighten and disorient her, causing her to return to the ocean before completely covering and camouflaging her nest.

For more information about sea turtles, visit MyFWC.com/seaturtle/.

What kinds of shad live in Florida?

Several kinds of shad live in Florida. Gizzard shad and threadfin shad are members of the genus *Dorosoma* and are statewide, year-round residents of fresh and brackish waters. These are common prey items for predatory fish in many Florida lakes and rivers.

American shad, hickory shad and blueback herring — all members of the genus *Alosa* — live in the Atlantic Ocean and enter the St. John’s and St. Mary’s rivers in Northeast Florida in winter and spring to spawn. Alabama shad and skipjack herring, also members of the genus *Alosa*, occur in Gulf Coast rivers; skipjack herring are limited to the Panhandle, and Alabama shad occur as far east as the Suwannee River.

There is a dead alligator in a body of water. Who do I contact? Who will remove it? What should I do?

The FWC does not remove dead wildlife, other than panthers or bears, unless it is causing a road-safety hazard. It is acceptable to dispose of wildlife by burial. Sanitation practices should be followed after burying any dead wildlife. Otherwise, just let nature take its course. Turtles will dispose of a dead alligator quite quickly in fresh water. In salt or brackish, crabs will do the job.

Where can I find up-to-date information about the summer camp program in the Ocala National Forest?

Information on the Ocala Outdoor Adventure Camp is available on the Web at www.ocalaadventurecamp.com or you can call (352) 625-2804. For more summer camp opportunities, visit MyFWC.com/camps.

Is a permit or license required to collect bugs?

Schaus swallowtail and the Miami blue butterflies are listed as imperiled species and harvest is prohibited. Most other insects and arthropods are unprotected and a collecting permit is not required if they are collected on private land with permission of the owner. An FWC scientific collecting permit is required to collect on wildlife management areas. The collecting permit application is on the FWC Web site: MyFWC.com. National and state parks also require a permit for collecting. Always contact park officials before collecting on park lands.

Am I required to wear a life jacket while kayaking?

You are not required to wear a life jacket while kayaking, but you must have one in the kayak with you.