

Key Biscayne Marine Turtle Lighting Protection, Florida

regulatory permitting



Coastal Systems worked with the Village of Key Biscayne through the development and adoption of a Marine Turtle Protection Ordinance, based on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Model Lighting Ordinance (Ch. 62B-55, F.A.C.) and recent permitting experience.

In an effort to prepare a Marine Turtle Protection Ordinance that approximately met the needs of the Village, Coastal Systems evaluated marine turtle nesting data for the island, conducted discussions with FWC staff and the local marine turtle permit holder, reviewed draft ordinance language for other oceanfront municipalities within Southeast Florida, and met with Village staff to identify their unique requirements and goals. Coastal Systems also provided assistance in the preparation and presentation of the draft Marine Turtle Protection Ordinance at public workshops held by the Village to obtain public support and input.

Once adopted, the Marine Turtle Protection Ordinance will provide a framework for the installation and retrofitting of potentially harmful light sources that may impact marine turtle nesting habitat and outline new lighting control standards, while maintaining human life safety code requirements.



In Situ Turtle Nest



Hatchling Turtles



Mature Adult

Client: Village of Key Biscayne

Location: Key Biscayne, Florida

Date of Completion: 2009

Construction Cost: N/A

