



## SEABROOK ISLAND BEACH USE IT, ENJOY IT, BUT DON'T DESTROY IT



### HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR DAY AT THE BEACH DOESN'T HARM THE FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM

- 1. Enjoy the beach but leave only your footprints.** Pick up your trash and dispose of it properly. Personal Property may not remain on the beach overnight. Sea turtles use our beach at night and have been harmed by items left behind. Anyone digging a hole in the sand must restore the surface to its natural condition before vacating the beach.
- 2. Stay off the dunes and areas marked as wildlife habitat.** All persons and dogs must stay off the dunes. Dunes are the shoreline's first defense. They protect our island from tides and storms, serve as sea turtle nest sites, and are a refuge for wildlife. They are also SC Department of Natural Resources and US Army Corps of Engineers designated protected habitat. As such, the beach and dunes are inspected regularly for compliance with no-trespassing requirements. We are proud of our role as stewards of vital habitat. Please help us protect it. Obey all beach signs and use the marked paths and boardwalks when crossing the dunes.
- 3. Leash all dogs and clean up after them.**  
From May 1 – October 31, dogs must be leashed at all times.  
From November 1 – April 30, dogs may be off-leash in designated areas.  
The designated area is located approximately 300 yards east of Boardwalk #1 and continues for approximately 550 yards. All dogs must remain below the high-water mark and subject to voice control. No person shall permit any excrement from any animal under the person's control to remain on the beach, but shall dispose of same in a sanitary manner. (Town of Seabrook Island Code Title V, Chapter 7 – Beachfront Management)
- 4. Avoid breeding areas along the beach.** Our beaches provide nesting areas for many birds and sea turtles. Avoid sea turtle nests. They are protected by law. If you are attacked by flying birds or detect loud, agitated calls nearby, you are probably nearing a nesting area. Your disturbance leaves nests unprotected and leads to increased predation or mortality of young even if it is not obvious to you. If you come upon flocks of seabirds on the beach, walk around them to try to keep them from taking flight. These birds are on the beach resting, feeding or interacting and do not need to be disturbed.
- 5. Do not pick plants, especially sea oats.** They stabilize dunes with their roots. They are protected under South Carolina law. Fines are up to \$200 or thirty days in jail.

6. **Do not collect living sand dollars and starfish.** How can you tell the difference? Live sand dollars are still in the water or buried in the sand and are brown and bristly. Dead ones are smooth, white and found on the shore. Starfish can be recognized by their tube feet when they are alive and generally lose their feet when they begin to dry out. If the washed up critters are moving, throw them back in the water.
7. **Food and drinks must be in plastic containers.** Glass and cans can become hazardous to others and wildlife. Cans are especially harmful to animals when washed into the water. Plastic six-pack holders can, and do, entangle birds, fish and turtles.
8. **Don't toss old fishing lines, bait containers or Styrofoam containers in the water.** These objects can choke or tangle wildlife. For example, clear plastic bags look like jellyfish and have clogged fish and turtles intestines. Dolphins are particularly vulnerable to discarded fishing gear as they swim near the shore.
9. **Fireworks.** They are illegal on our island.
10. **Permits for beach bonfires must be obtained from the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association.** Bonfires generate light that can distract nesting sea turtles and hinder turtles traveling to the water. Fires also can be dangerous if too close to dune vegetation, especially in dry periods. If you have a fire, please clean up the remains at the end of the evening. Permit applications are available at the Security gate or on the SIPOA website.
11. **Be careful when in a kayak or on power skis.** Watch for fellow beach goers in the waves as well as sea turtles and manatees.