



Important Facts About Diamondback Terrapins...

- Diamondback Terrapins Turtles nest between late May and mid-July.
- They are the only turtles that live in the brackish water of the marsh.
- Before coastal development, they laid their eggs in the dunes by the ocean...now they lay them anywhere they can – even in people's yards.
- Diamondback Terrapins lay 8-12 eggs and may come out to nest up to 3 times in one season.
- Their eggs hatch 8-12 weeks later, and while some hatchlings emerge in the late summer or early Fall, many hibernate and don't emerge until the following Spring.
- Only 3 eggs out of 3000 survive to become mature adults...so they need our help!
- Vehicles cause approximately 500 terrapin deaths in this area each nesting season.
- Other dangers to Diamondback Terrapins include boats and crab traps without Terrapin Excluders. Trap Excluders can be obtained at any bait store and are easily attached to traps.

Please drive slowly and be on the look-out for Diamondback Terrapin Turtles as they cross our busy roads in search of nesting spots! If you see a Diamondback Terrapin crossing the street, help her go in the direction she is headed if you are able – BUT ALWAYS THINK “SAFETY FIRST” and use caution whenever you step into the street.

Please don't stand over turtles taking photos while they are nesting...this may frighten them and they'll walk away.

If you see an injured turtle, please call Susan or Steve Ahern, of Sea Isle Terrapin Rescue, at 609-263-7358. If the Aherns are not available, please follow the instructions on their answering machine.