



## Florida Sea Turtle Grants Program Fact Sheet

In 1995, a statewide effort was initiated by Sea Turtle Conservancy to establish a Florida Sea Turtle Specialty License Plate to provide a permanent source of funding for the state's Marine Turtle Protection Program, as well as for the creation of a Sea Turtle Grants Program. STC partnered with sea turtle groups across Florida, and in 1997 the Florida Legislature authorized the creation of the Sea Turtle Specialty License Plate to promote the conservation and protection of Florida's sea turtles. The specialty plate was first offered for sale in February 1998 and quickly became one of the most popular specialty plates in Florida, raising more than \$1 million annually. At just \$23.00 per tag, the turtle plate is also one of the more moderately priced specialty plates in Florida.

Approximately 70% of the funding generated by sales of the tag goes to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Turtle Protection Program to support research and management activities related to sea turtles. Approximately 30% is distributed to the Sea Turtle Grants Program, which distributes money back to the local level for turtle conservation projects. Administered by Sea Turtle Conservancy, funding is awarded through a competitive application process that is open to coastal county governments, educational institutions and Florida-based nonprofit groups for projects involving research, education and conservation benefiting Florida sea turtles.



During the 2010-2011 cycle, grants totaling more than \$307,000 were awarded to 15 different organizations and local governments.

To learn more about the Sea Turtle Grants Program and the “Helping Sea Turtles Survive” specialty license plate, please visit [www.helpingseaturtles.org](http://www.helpingseaturtles.org).