Everyone has a Role to Play in the Survival of Endangered Caribbean Sea Turtles!

- Don’t frighten or harass turtles at sea or on land: approach quietly, be respectful, touch gently
- Don’t shine lights at turtles, overturn or ride turtles, disturb nests, or collect eggs or hatchlings
- Don’t purchase turtle products (menu items, jewelry, leather, cosmetics), and remember that international law prevents the transport of sea turtle parts and products across national borders
- Check fishing nets frequently to ensure that turtles are not accidentally caught and drowned
- Sea turtles must surface to breathe -- watch for them, they can be struck and killed by propeller-driven vessels, sail boats, and personal thrill-craft
- Because lighting can disorient egg-bearing females and their young, leading them inland and away from the sea, please turn off, shield or redirect lights so they don’t shine on the beach
- Avoid driving on beaches: incubating eggs can be crushed and tire ruts trap newborn hatchlings
- Don’t leave lounge chairs, sailboats, and other obstructions on nesting beaches at night
- Safeguard natural vegetation – it stabilizes sandy beaches, helps to protect the shoreline from erosion, and provides sheltered nesting sites
- Protect feeding areas by not discarding plastic or other waste at sea; never anchor on coral reefs or seagrass, or touch living coral when diving
- Don’t litter! Discarded cans and bottles are unsightly and can cause injury to nesting and hatching sea turtles . . . and plastic bags, mistaken for jellyfish, can make turtles sick
- Support management based on best practices, including maximum size limits, seasonal closures that fully encompass breeding periods, and moratoria when necessary

- Support sustainable non-consumptive alternatives to harvest, again based on best practices
- Support sea turtle conservation, basic research, and long-term population monitoring
- Report violations of regulations that protect turtles, their eggs and young, and the habitats they depend upon for survival
- Please share this information with your friends and family!

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