
Alligator season in Southwest Florida is a significant time for both the alligators and residents. Here's what you need to know:

- **Mating Season:** Alligator mating season typically occurs between **May and June**. During this period, alligators become more active and are often seen moving around in search of mates.
- **Nesting Season:** Female alligators build nests made of soil, vegetation, and debris, where they lay an average of **32 to 46 eggs** in late June to early July.
- **Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn**, so plan accordingly to reduce the chances of running into them.
- **Safety Tips:** With increased alligator activity during mating season, it's crucial to stay cautious. The [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) advises:
 - **keeping a safe distance from alligators**
 - **never feeding them**
 - **keeping pets on a leash to avoid them being mistaken for prey**

Remember, alligators are a protected species in Florida, and any interaction with them should be done with respect for their natural behavior and habitat. If you encounter an alligator, it's best to admire it from a distance and allow it to go about its business undisturbed.

Stay safe and enjoy the unique wildlife of Southwest Florida!