

Be on the Lookout for Stinging Jellyfish!

Cautious! Be on the lookout for a floating mass of jelly that has an umbrella-like shape, transparent in color and, numerous long tentacles. If you have seen something like this then you have seen a jellyfish. Jellyfish are about 95% water, and move by jet propulsion. They have existed on earth for about 650 million years.

Portuguese Man-of-War (*Physalia physalis*) and the Moon Jelly (*Aurelia aurita*) are two common jellyfish species of Florida, Bahamas, and the Caribbean. They float on the surface of the water propelled by the wind, often over reefs. Jellyfish are commonly seen during the summer months on Florida's shores. Jellyfish are drifters and can't hide from predators; some are transparent which keeps them hidden from hungry leatherback sea turtles and ocean sunfish.

