

Florida Brewery Unveils 6-Pack Rings That Feed Sea Turtles Instead of Killing Them

Source: [Nola](#) by way of [Real Farmacy.com](#)

By [Tristan Baurick](#)

You've probably seen the heart-wrenching photos of the damage plastic six-pack rings can do to marine life. They tangle the wings of sea birds, choke seals and warp the shells of growing sea turtles.





A Florida brewery has a solution: six-pack rings that can either biodegrade or serve as a snack for wildlife. After years of research and development, the rings – made of wheat and barley – are now popping up in south Florida stores.



[Saltwater Brewery](#), a craft microbrewery in Delray Beach, developed the rings with a

startup called [E6PR](#). Troubleshooting and manufacturing the rings was expensive. E6PR hopes other breweries – both small and large – will buy into the new rings and help bring costs down.

Plastic pollution is a big issue for the Gulf of Mexico. According to recent research by Louisiana State University, the [Gulf has one of the world's highest concentrations of marine plastic](#). Each net or bottle dipped into the Gulf by LSU researchers came up laden with plastic.

“We found it every time,” LSU’s Mark Benfield told NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune in August.

Last year, a volunteer [beach cleanup on three miles of Elmer’s Island](#) gathered more than 170 plastic six-pack rings, along with 4,000 pounds of other trash.

According to [Craftbeer.com](#), E6PR is testing the rings with “a select group of craft breweries” but the company wasn’t ready to discuss specifics. Time will tell if any Louisiana breweries incorporate the rings.