



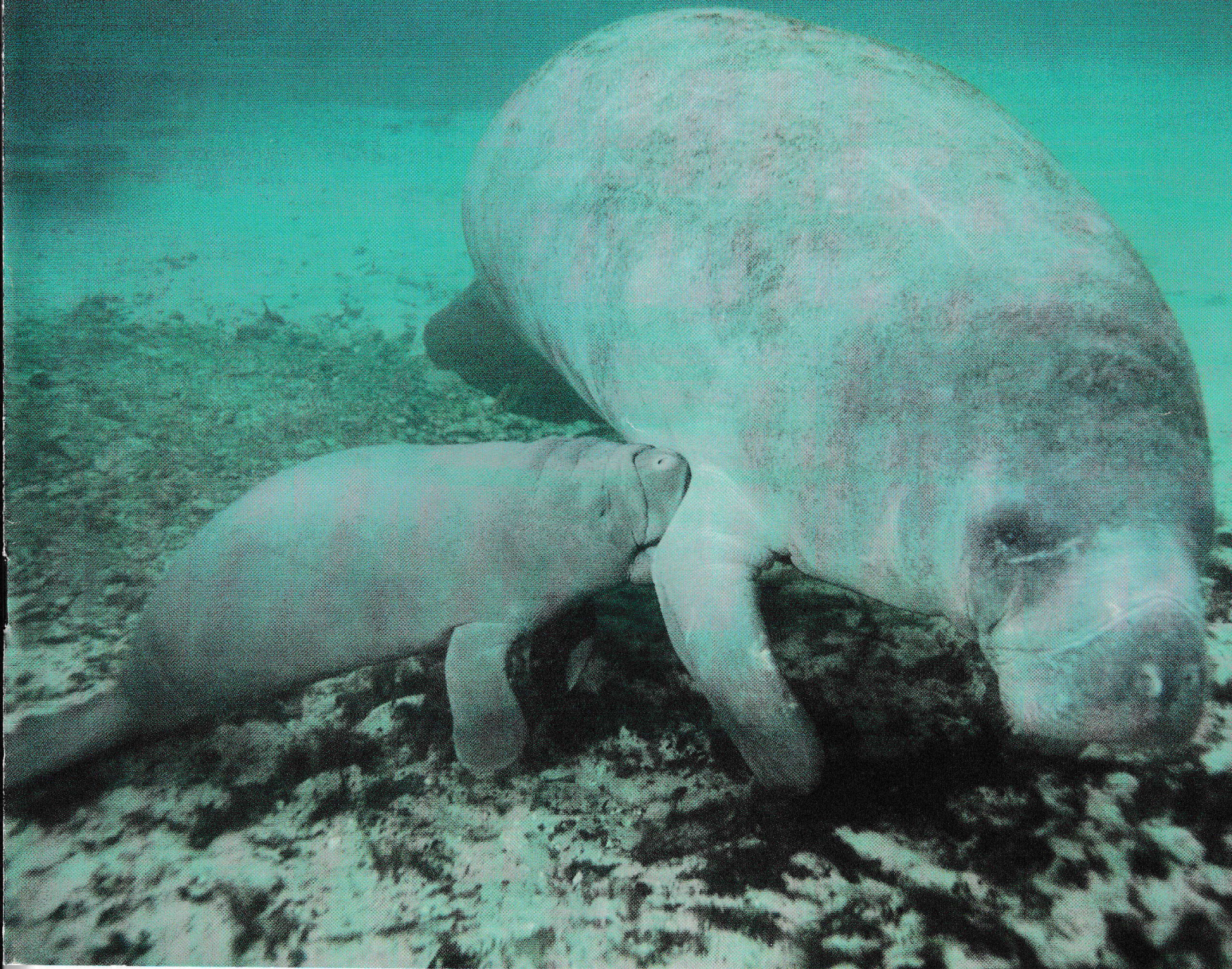
Save the Manatee® Club

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

"By educating ourselves and others, by doing our part to minimize our use and waste of resources, by becoming more active politically and demanding change - in these ways and many others, each one of us can make a difference."

—Vice President Al Gore
"Earth in the Balance"

Photo © Kim Walker Stanberry



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DIRECTORS**

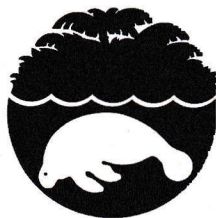
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Save the Manatee Club

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Biologist

Dear Club Member:

Because of your continuing support, we have been able to accomplish a great deal for our manatee friends. When we first started back in 1981, we had only a few members and practically no resources. We were primarily concerned with raising public awareness, and that was literally all we had the means to do. Today, thanks to you, we are providing free waterway signs and educational boat decals, producing press packets and radio and television public service announcements, and printing and distributing free educator's guides and other educational information. With your help we have *continued to expand* our programs so that now we are also supporting manatee research and rescue and rehabilitation efforts, and advocating at all levels of government. Thanks to you, we are now able to take legal action when inappropriate coastal development threatens manatees and their habitat. None of this work would have been possible without you!

Psychologist Carl Jung once said, "We reach backward to our parents and forward to our children and through their children to a future we will never see, but about which we need to care." Every bit of work we do for manatees today helps ensure the future of the entire species. We are committed to working for the strongest possible protection for the manatee — not just for the present, but for long into that future we care about.

Many thanks for your faith and support.

Best Wishes,

Jimmy Buffett
Co-Founder and Co-Chairman,
SMC Board of Directors

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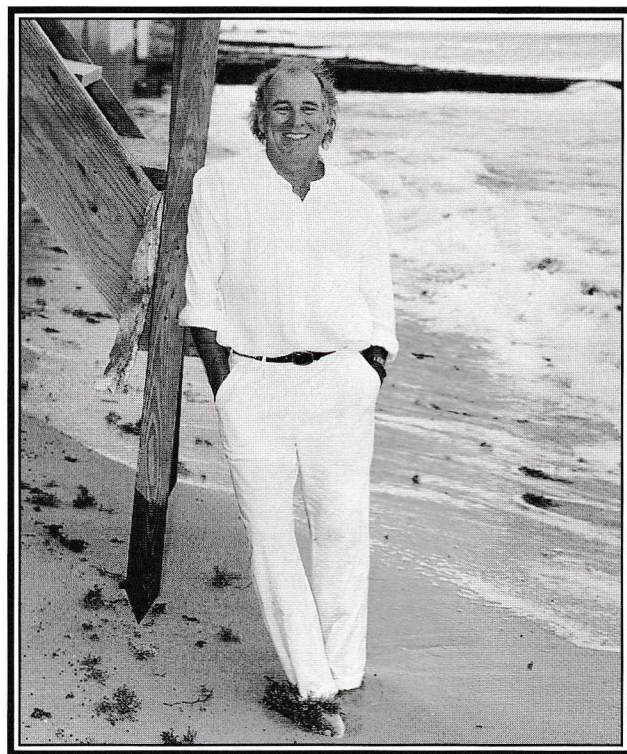


Photo credit: John Haynsworth

Guide to the Save the Manatee® Club Membership Handbook

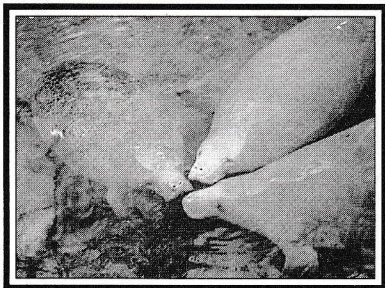


Photo credit: Wayne Hartley, FDEP

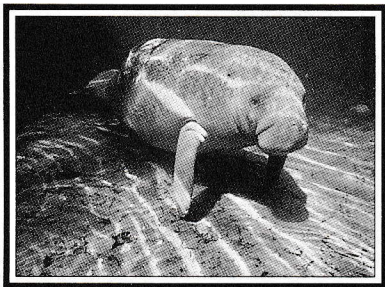


Photo credit: Patrick M. Rose, SMC

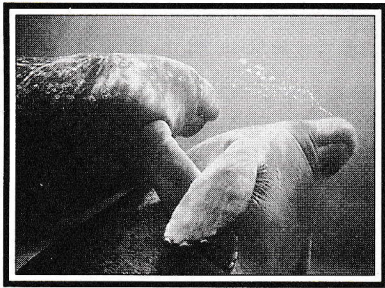


Photo credit: U.S. Geological Survey, Sirenia Project

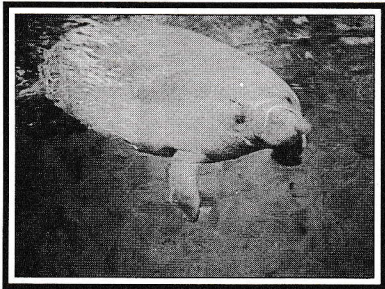


Photo credit: Wayne Hartley, FDEP

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Save the Manatee® Club History, Member Information & Resources

Club History

Save the Manatee Club was established in 1981 by former Florida Governor Bob Graham (now a senior U.S. Senator) and singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett. The Club was started so the public could participate in conservation efforts to save manatees from extinction.

The Adopt-A-Manatee® program was started in 1984 as a means of raising funds to support SMC's efforts. Currently, there are about 40,000 SMC members from Florida, across the U.S. and abroad. The Club is primarily membership-funded. Club members are encouraged to volunteer by speaking at school and community group programs; staffing festival and event display booths; participating in a manatee sighting network; and writing letters or making telephone calls on manatee protection issues. At present, there are over 400 SMC volunteers in Florida and across the U.S. All SMC materials are printed on recycled paper, and SMC maintains an in-office recycling program.

SMC Member Information and Resources

Save the Manatee Club, Inc.
500 N. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
Phone: (407) 539-0990 or 1-800-432-JOIN (5646)
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Connie Graham, Asst. to Executive Director
Kevin Little, Volunteer Coordinator
Patrick Rose, Director, Government Relations
Nancy Sadusky, Communications Director
Patti Thompson, Staff Biologist
Judith Vallee, Executive Director

- The Club newsletter is sent via third class mail. If you move, please send us your address change as third class address corrections are not always forwarded to us by the U.S. Post Office.
- You'll be pleased to know that the Club does not sell or share its membership mailing list.
- When calling or writing about your membership, please include your membership number. Your membership number and expiration date are located on the top line of the mailing label on your newsletter, above your name and address.
- Memberships are renewable each year. You'll receive a notice just prior to your expiration date, or you can call us to renew. When you renew, you can continue your current adoption or choose another manatee. A second and third reminder notice is mailed if no response is received.
You can save the Club printing and postage costs by responding to the first notice.
- Club donations and membership dues are tax-deductible. The Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- "Save the Manatee" and "Adopt-A-Manatee" are trademarked names and prior authorization must be obtained for their use.
- All gift catalog items are made in America.

Materials for Educators

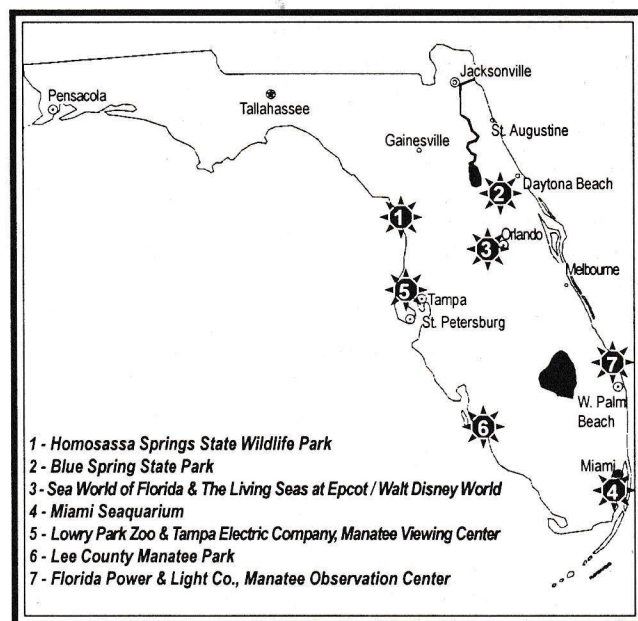
- "Manatees: An Educator's Guide (5th Ed.), a 30-page guide accompanied by a four-color poster, is available at no cost to educators. Educators may receive a free copy by sending their request on school letterhead and a self-addressed 9 X 12" envelope that has \$1.70 in postage on it.
- Manatees: Florida's Gentle Giants," a coloring and activity book is available free to elementary school educators. Teachers can receive the coloring book and an educator's guide (see above) by sending their request on school letterhead and a self-addressed 9 X 12" envelope that has \$1.93 in postage on it.
- School groups or classes can adopt a manatee for a special discounted rate of \$10.00.
- Free manatee information is available to K-12 or college-level students doing school projects or reports. Write SMC and request the student "education pack." Be sure to give your grade level.
- Write SMC's Volunteer Coordinator if you would like to have an SMC volunteer speaker visit your class or community event.

Where to Visit "Your" Manatee

Now that you are a member and adoptive parent of one of the manatees at Blue Spring State Park or Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park, you probably want to go visit them. The information on the next few pages will tell you how to do that and points out other areas where you might see manatees, too.

Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park

9225 W. Fishbowl Drive
Homosassa, FL 34448
(352) 628-5343



Directions: Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park is located 75 miles north of Tampa/St. Petersburg. The entrance to the park is located on U.S. 19 in Homosassa, Florida.

Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park serves as a rehabilitation center and refuge for manatees who have been orphaned or injured. The five manatees in the Club's Adopt-A-Manatee[®] program are not considered releasable (because of injuries, for example) and call the park their home. Manatees at the park can be observed along the nature walks or from a special underwater room called "The Fish Bowl." A manatee education program is offered daily, sometimes by Ranger Betsy Dearth or Wildlife Specialist Sally Lieb, who write updates on the adoptees for the SMC newsletter.

- ❖ *The isolation pool and manatee care building at the park were purchased with Club funds from members like you!*
- ❖ *You'll be proud to note that the Club contributed more than \$7,000 toward the new Manatee Interpretation Center located at Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park.*

Here's some things you might want to remember when you visit Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park:

- ❖ Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park (HSSWP) is open every day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., year-round. The ticket counter closes at 4:00 p.m. Contact the park for current admission rates.
 - ❖ Included in your adoption package should be a coupon for 20% off the park admission charge for you and your party of up to eight people.
 - ❖ Park rangers present excellent manatee education programs three times daily. Contact the park for program times. The bleachers for the programs are next to the main spring.
 - ❖ Visiting The Fish Bowl at HSSWP is a great way to see manatees in their natural environment.
 - ❖ You can discover even more about manatees by visiting the park's museum and education center.
 - ❖ Be sure to check out "The Green Line," at the end of the walkway to the underwater viewing room.
- You can adopt a manatee right at the park!

A NOTE TO CHESSIE'S ADOPTIVE PARENTS: Individual manatees often return to the same wintering area year after year. However, unlike the Blue Spring adoptees, Chessie has not shown a tendency to spend a lot of time in any one area. Although we can tell you he travels along the east coast of Florida, it is not possible to pinpoint a certain area where he might 'hang out' during winter months where you might visit him. As long as Chessie wears his tag, we will be able to let you know what he is up to through updates provided by the Sirenia Project in the SMC newsletter. You can still go to see manatees in the winter at Blue Spring State Park and year-round at Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park.

(Turn page for Blue Spring State Park)

SAVE THE MANATEE CLUB

Blue Spring State Park

2100 West French Ave.
Orange City, FL 32763
(904) 775-3663

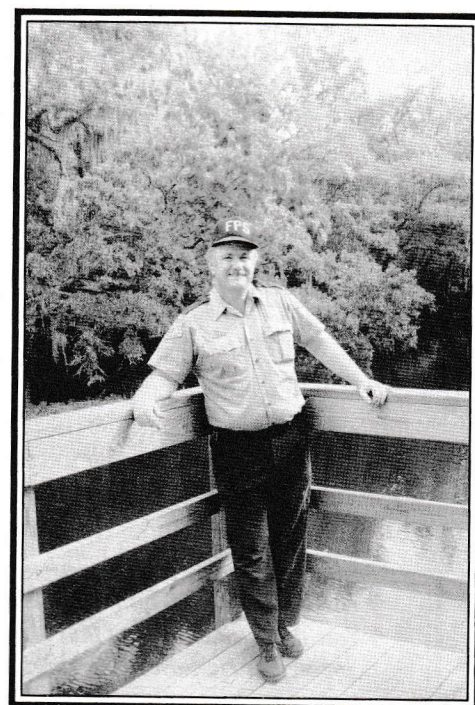
❖ *Recently, SMC - purchased diving equipment and a computer for Ranger Wayne to aid in his important manatee research work.*

Directions: Blue Spring State Park is located west of SR 17-92 in Orange City, Florida. The park is about 30 miles north of Orlando.

Blue Spring State Park plays a vital role in the survival of manatees. During the winter, usually November through March, manatees leave the St. Johns River for the warm waters of Blue Spring, which maintains a constant 72°F temperature. Twenty-two of the manatees in the Adopt-A-Manatee® program call Blue Spring their winter home.

If you arrive early at the park, you might even see Ranger Wayne Hartley taking "roll call" from the research canoe purchased by the Club. He supplies research information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and SMC — watch for his exciting adoption updates in each issue of the Club newsletter. Ranger Wayne has been awarded the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Sustained Exemplary Performance Award, one of the highest honors an FDEP employee can achieve. Although his dedication, skills and knowledge of park operations would qualify him as an assistant manager or manager at other parks, Ranger Wayne has chosen to remain at Blue Spring. When asked what his favorite part of the job is, he replies, "Manatees, anything to do with them."

Enjoy Blue Spring State Park's pristine beauty. A boardwalk and nature trail along the length of the spring run provide good views of the manatees. Ranger Wayne, or any of the other park rangers can help you identify your adopted manatee.



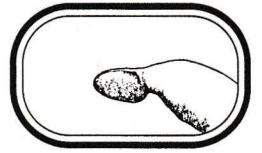
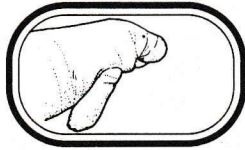
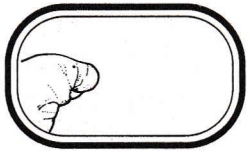
Ranger Wayne Hartley

Here's some things you might want to remember when you visit Blue Spring:

- ❖ Manatees normally move into the spring in late November and remain until February or early March, depending on the temperature.
- ❖ While most of the adoptees usually winter at Blue Spring regularly, there is no guarantee that a particular animal will be in any place at any time. Some come late and leave early and occasionally certain manatees skip a season. Please keep in mind that your adoptee is a wild animal with individual behavior.
- ❖ During the winter months, staff at the park provide an excellent interpretive program about manatees. It is a good introduction to your visit and is highly recommended. You can contact Blue Spring State Park directly for scheduled times.
- ❖ Manatees are most active during the morning hours when they move in and out of the spring run to feed. During the afternoons, they often rest along the bottom, surfacing to breathe and occasionally swimming along the run.
- ❖ Blue Spring State Park is open from 8:00 a.m. until sundown. Call the park for current admission rates.

In 1997, SMC donated over \$7000 to Blue Spring State Park to purchase multimedia equipment for the park's manatee interpretive program.

Other Places to See Manatees



To see manatees living in captivity:

Sea World of Florida

Orlando, Florida (407) 351-3600

Sea World of Florida has a two-level manatee exhibit and is licensed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to rescue and medically treat manatees. Ask for the Animal Lover's tour. You will be able to observe manatees in different stages of rehabilitation year-round. *Entry fee.*

The Living Seas at Epcot/Walt Disney World

Orlando, Florida (407) 560-7688

The Living Seas at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center features a two-level manatee exhibit where manatees can be observed year-round. Guests can speak with an animal care staff member about the plight of the manatee. *Entry fee.*

Miami Seaquarium

Miami, Florida (305) 361-5705

Miami Seaquarium has a manatee exhibit and is licensed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to rescue and medically treat manatees. An interpretive program is also available year-round. *Entry fee.*

Lowry Park Zoo

Tampa, Florida (813) 935-8552

Lowry Park Zoo has a manatee exhibit and is licensed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to rescue and medically treat manatees. A self-guided program is available year-round. Guided tours are also available at group rates (a 3 week notice is required). *Entry fee.*

To see manatees living in the wild:

Tampa Electric Company, Manatee Viewing Center **Tampa, Florida (813) 228-4289 for an information recording**

The Manatee Viewing Center has an environmental education building with exhibits and a film about manatees. The outdoor observation areas offer you the opportunity to observe manatees in their natural habitat. Open seasonally, December through March, daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *No entry fee.*

Lee County Manatee Park

Ft. Myers, FL (941) 694-3537

Manatees can be viewed at the Lee County Manatee Park in the winter — usually November through March. The park, located on Florida's southwest coast, features a sidewalk from which to view manatees, along with a kiosk featuring manatee information. Free guided walks are also available. Open year-round. *Parking fee.*

Florida Power and Light Co., Manatee Observation Center **Riviera Beach, FL (800) 552-8440**

The FPL plant is one of the warm water gathering areas of manatees on Florida's east coast. An outdoor observation area is available to see manatees taking refuge in the warm water outflow from the plant. An indoor education center features a video and educational information. Open seasonally from January 2 through February 28. *No entry fee.*

NOTE: See location map on page 3.

All About Manatees

NATURAL HISTORY

Although they have similar body shape and overlap in some habitat areas, manatees are not related to dolphins, whales or sea lions.



Photo credit: Patrick M. Rose, SMC

A nictitating membrane is a "third eyelid" found in many animals beneath the lower lid of the eye. It is capable of extending across the eye for protection.

Manatees don't necessarily have daily routines or cycles. In general, they will feed, rest or travel at any time of the night or day.

Description

West Indian manatees are large, gray-brown aquatic mammals. Their seal-like body tapers to a flat, paddle-shaped tail. Two forelimbs, called flippers, on the upper body have three to four nails each. Their head and face are wrinkled, and their snout has stiff whiskers. The manatee's closest land relatives are the elephant and hyrax (a small mammal resembling a rodent).

Adult manatees have been known to exceed lengths of 13 feet and weigh over 3,500 pounds; however, this is quite above average. Manatees usually average around 10 feet in length and weigh somewhere between 800 and 1,200 pounds. At birth, manatees are three to four feet long and weigh between 60 and 70 pounds.

Anatomy and Physiology

Manatees have a large digestive tract, and unique, continuously replacing molars to cope with an herbivorous diet. Manatees eat abrasive plants that wear down these molars. As an adaptation, new molars form at the back of the jaw and move forward, pushing out the oldest, most worn-out teeth. The rate of molar movement depends on how fibrous the plants are.

Manatees' eyes are small and have a nictitating membrane. Manatees have fairly good vision and can distinguish between different-sized objects and patterns.

Manatees emit sounds underwater that are believed to be used in communicating with one another, and not for navigational purposes. Vocalizations may express fear, anger or sexual arousal. They are also used to maintain contact, especially when manatees are feeding or traveling in turbid water. Especially common are vocalizations between mothers and calves. A mother and calf once separated by a flood gate vocalized constantly for three hours until reunited.

Adult manatees move through the water primarily by the pumping action of the tail. The front flippers are used for steering and lateral movement, or crawling over the water bottom and also for putting food into the mouth. Young manatees seem to propel themselves with their flippers.

Manatees are only found in tropical and subtropical waters. They are unable to maintain metabolic functions in colder waters. Generally, temperatures below 68°F are considered too cold and are potentially lethal to manatees.

Behavior

Manatees spend most of their time feeding (six to eight hours a day) and resting (two to twelve hours a day). They graze for food along water bottoms and on the surface. They may rest submerged at the bottom or just below the surface, coming up to breathe on the average of every three to five minutes. Intervals between breaths depend upon activity level. When manatees are using a great deal of energy, they may surface to breathe as often as every 30 seconds. When resting, manatees have been known to stay submerged as long as 20 minutes.

Manatees are agile and have been observed in loosely organized, playful activities such as body-surfing and barrel-rolling.

Manatees are not territorial. Because manatees have evolved with no natural enemies, they have not needed the protection or cooperation of a herd. Consequently, they are semi-social, somewhat solitary animals. They sometimes gather in small, informal groups, but have no leader or real structure.

*Manatee mother
with nursing calf*

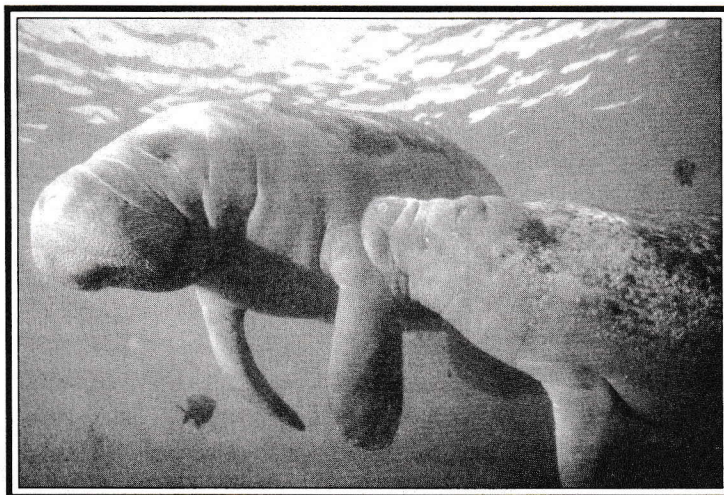


Photo credit: Patrick M. Rose, SMC

Newborn manatee calves usually weigh between 60 and 70 pounds. They are capable of swimming to the surface on their own and vocalize at or soon after birth.

Breeding and Reproduction

Manatees do not form permanent pair bonds. During breeding, a single female, or cow, will be followed by a group of a dozen or more males, or bulls, forming a mating group. They appear to breed at random during this time. Although breeding and birth may occur at any time during the year, there appears to be a slight spring calving peak.

Manatees usually bear one calf; twins are rare. Phyllis, one of the SMC adoptees, gave birth to twins in 1991. Intervals between births range from two to five years. (A two year interval may occur when a cow loses a calf soon after birth.) The gestation period is approximately 13 months. Mothers nurse their young for a long period, and a calf may remain dependent on its mother for up to two years. The cow assumes total responsibility for raising the calf. Calves nurse underwater from a nipple located behind the mother's flipper and begin to eat plants a few weeks after birth.

Scientists believe females become sexually mature around five years of age. Males are mature at approximately nine years of age. They live long lives — it is believed that manatees can live 60 years or more. One manatee in captivity is now over 49 years old. Because of the many perils in the wild however, longevity is uncertain. Because the reproductive rate is so low, the species as a whole adapts very slowly to changing situations or unnatural stress. The current population is estimated to be at a minimum of 2,600 animals.

Food

There are eight main types of marine and freshwater vegetation in Florida that manatees prefer to eat, including turtle and manatee grass, water hyacinth and eelgrass.

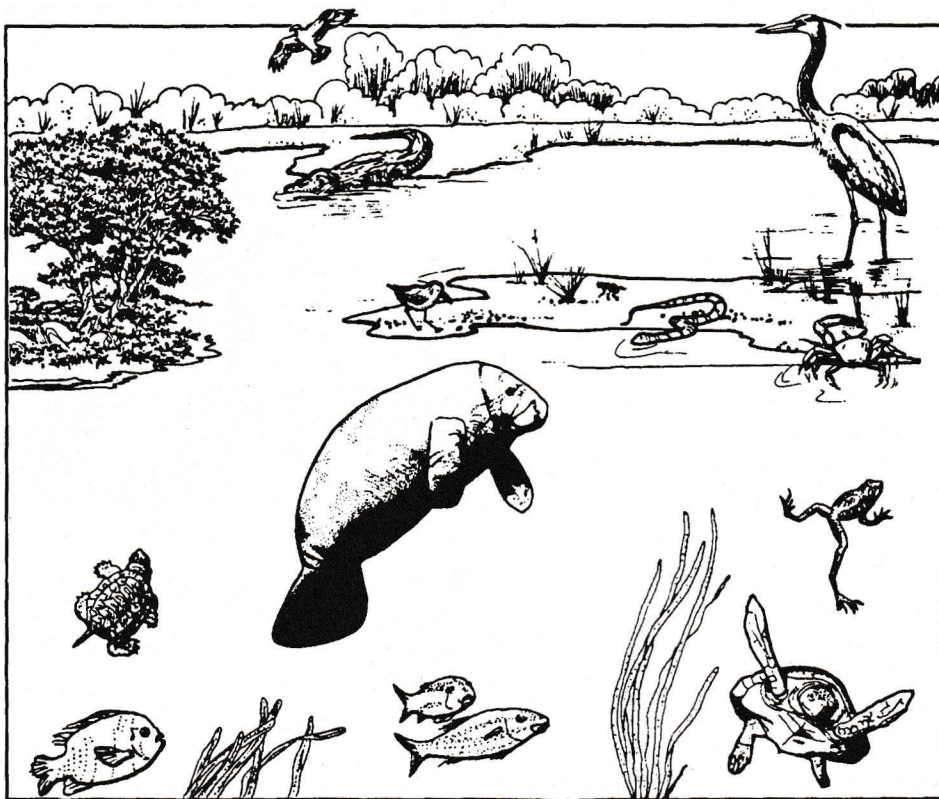
Manatees are herbivores, feeding on a large variety of submerged, emergent and floating plants. They can consume about 100 pounds of vegetation daily. Seagrass beds are important feeding sites for manatees. Many of these feeding areas are vulnerable to destruction by dredge and fill activities, a method for deepening streams, swamps or coastal waters by excavating solids from the bottom and depositing the resulting mud elsewhere. Surface water run-off from nearby construction sites or agricultural lands, and herbicide spraying can also harm or destroy seagrass beds. However, an increasingly common cause of seagrass degradation is caused by "seagrass scarring," which frequently occurs when a boat's propeller tears and cuts up the roots, stems and leaves of seagrasses.

It has been estimated that our estuarine areas have lost over 30% of their seagrasses since the 1940s. Statewide there are about 64,000 acres of seagrass that show moderate to severe propeller damage.

While coastal and estuarine vegetation has declined, quite another problem is occurring in Florida's freshwater bodies. In recent years, the state has experienced an influx of exotic species. Although these plants may be a nuisance to navigation, in some areas they are the only food source available for manatees.

HABITAT

Manatees are found in shallow, slow-moving rivers, bays, estuaries, and coastal water ecosystems. They can live in fresh, brackish, or salt water. These habitats provide them with sheltered living and breeding areas, a steady, easily obtainable food supply and warm water — all of which manatees need to survive.



Scientists don't know what "cues" manatees follow, but they seem to know when cold weather is coming and seek warm water areas.

Identification of manatee habitat is very important for managing potentially harmful human activities, such as coastal development.

Range

The United States manatee population is concentrated primarily in Florida. Manatees are susceptible to cold and, in the winter, congregate near natural springs or warm water effluents of power plants or other industrial outfalls. Water temperatures below 68°F usually cause manatees to move into these warmer refuge areas.

Between late March and November, manatees migrate freely around Florida's rivers and coastal waters. A few may range as far north as the Carolinas and as far west as Louisiana during the summer months, but these sightings are rare.

MANATEE HABITAT = Food + Water + Space + Shelter

Food: Considering the amount that manatees eat, suitable habitat must provide an abundance of aquatic plants to sustain the manatees using the area.

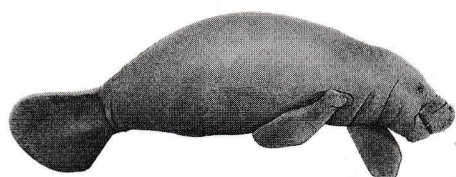
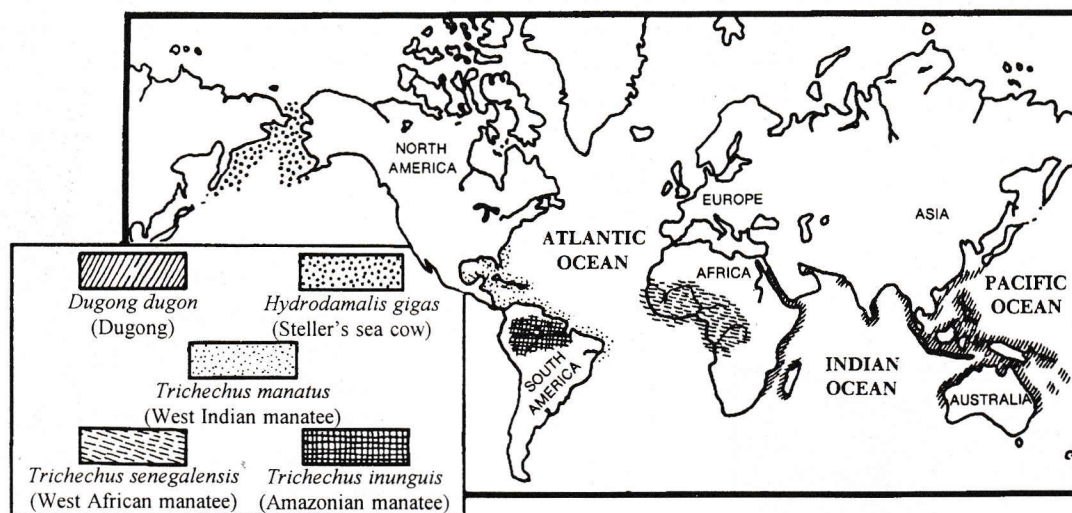
Water: Manatee intake of water occurs while eating aquatic plants as well as drinking. Research suggests that manatees in salt water do not need to drink fresh water for extended periods. This may explain why manatees can go so easily from fresh to salt water environments. It also means that people do not need to give manatees water from hoses. Manatees can take care of their own fresh water needs.

Space: Manatees require space to move about. They are migratory and the space (range) they require is influenced by seasonal change. Travel corridors, or passageways, are necessary for manatees to move back and forth between summer and winter habitats. It has been documented that many manatees have preferred habitats they return to year after year.

Shelter: Manatees must have safe, protected areas away from harassment, boat traffic, strong current, etc. Shelter continues to become harder and harder for manatees to find. As a result, manatees are using less favorable habitat where high boat traffic and harassment occur. Such conditions account for a large portion of human-related mortality.

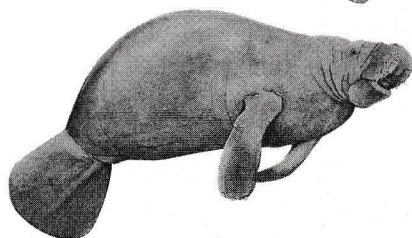
Sirenians of the World

West Indian manatees and their relatives belong to the scientific Order Sirenia, which comes from the word "siren." In ancient mythology, this was a term used for sea nymphs or mermaids. With a little imagination, manatees and dugongs could bear some resemblance to mermaids. Perhaps manatees and dugongs even helped to perpetuate the myth of these half-human creatures.



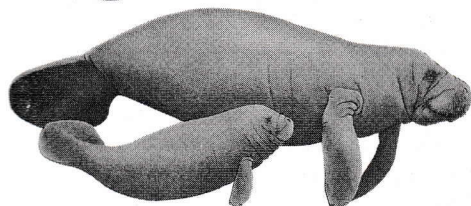
Amazonian manatee *Trichechus inunguis*

Found in the fresh waters of the Amazon River and its tributaries in South America. The smallest member of the Family Trichechidae, the Amazonian manatee has smooth skin and no nails on its flippers and feeds on fresh water vegetation.



West African manatee *Trichechus senegalensis*

The West African manatee is very similar in appearance to the West Indian manatee and lives in similar habitat. It is found in West African coastal areas, but very little is known about this species because they have not been widely studied.

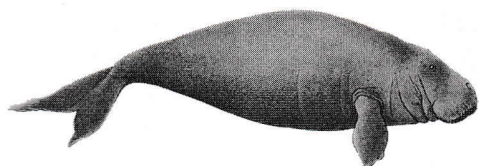


West Indian manatee *Trichechus manatus*

Subspecies: *Trichechus manatus latirostris* (Florida manatee)

Trichechus manatus manatus (Antillean manatee)

Florida manatees are found in the southeastern United States, mostly in Florida. Antillean manatees are found in the coastal and inland waterways of Central America and along the northern coast of South America. Both can be found in salt, fresh or brackish waters and feed on marine, estuarine and fresh water vegetation.



Dugong *Dugong dugon*

Dugongs are found in the Indo-Pacific region of the world. They have smooth skin and a notched tail fluke. They feed on marine grasses and are hunted for food by humans. Male dugongs have tusks. Tusks are rarely found in female dugongs.



Steller's Sea Cow *Hydrodamalis gigas*

At one time, Steller's sea cow was found in the arctic waters of the Bering Strait but was hunted to extinction within 27 years of its discovery in 1741. The largest sirenian on record, the Steller's sea cow grew up to 30 feet in length and weighed around 3 1/2 tons.

All remaining sirenian species are listed as "endangered" or "vulnerable" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Why are Manatees in Trouble?

Over the last several years, an attempt has been made to identify and quantify the West Indian manatee's distribution, population size, and causes of mortality in order to better understand this animal's life history and threats to its survival. Data from research has shown that many manatee mortalities are directly related to human contact or encroachment.

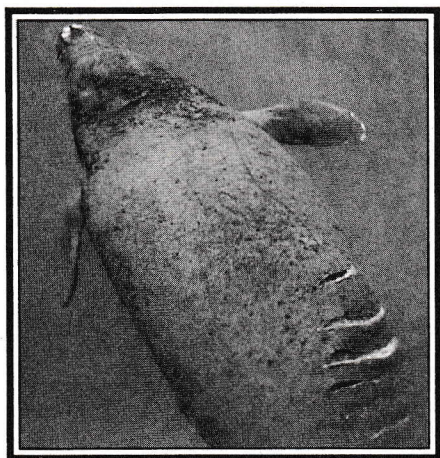


Photo credit: Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Propeller scar on a living manatee.

Loss of Habitat

Ultimately, loss of habitat is the most serious threat facing manatees today. Florida is experiencing unprecedented growth and is currently the fourth most populous state in the nation. An estimated 1,300 people are moving to Florida every day. In 1997, over 43 million people visited the state of Florida.

The growth in human population with its added pollution, litter, and boat traffic, has degraded and/or eliminated manatee habitat. Many fresh water and marine grassbeds have been lost due to water pollution, herbicides, surface runoff, propeller dredging, and dredge and fill projects. There are very few places left where manatees are free from the danger, stress, and harassment posed by human activity.

Watercraft Collisions

Where cause of death is known, watercraft collisions are the single largest category of manatee mortality in the United States. West Indian manatees can swim up to 20 miles per hour in short bursts, but they usually only swim about three to five miles per hour. Because manatees are slow moving, need to surface to breathe air, and prefer shallow water, they are vulnerable to boat hits. Consequently, manatees suffer injury and death due to the crushing impact of the hull and/or slashing of the propellers. In the case of large power vessels and barges moving through shallow waters, manatees may be caught between the vessel and the water bottom, or the vessel and docking structure, and crushed. In 1997, over 790,000 boats were registered in Florida. An estimated 300,000-350,000 boats registered in other states also used Florida's waterways.

Natural Mortality

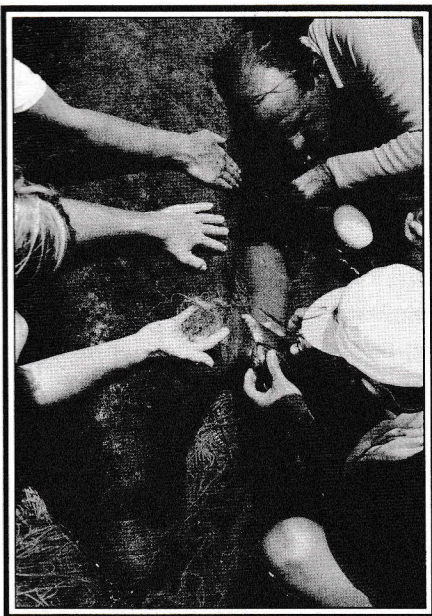
As with all wild animal populations, a certain percentage of manatee mortalities are attributed to natural causes such as cold stress, gastrointestinal disease and pneumonia. According to the Florida Marine Research Institute, from 1974 to 1997, 17% of all manatee mortalities were from natural causes.

Cold Weather

During winters in Florida that have been unusually cold, an increase in manatee mortality has been documented. Manatees cannot tolerate temperatures below 68°F (20°C) for long periods of time. Researchers believe that individuals affected by the cold cannot produce enough metabolic heat to make up for heat loss in the environment.

Red Tide

Red tide is a term used for the proliferation or "blooms" of tiny marine organisms called dinoflagellates. The organism's plant pigments can cause the water to appear red, green or yellow. Microscopic, but found in great abundance, these organisms give off a toxic by-product that affects the central nervous system of creatures in the area of the bloom. The toxins accumulate in shellfish or other filter feeders like sea squirts ingested by manatees as they feed in surrounding grassbeds. In 1996, outbreaks of red tide in southwest Florida contributed to 151 manatee deaths (see more information on page 12).



*Photo by Laurel Canty Ehrlich,
Dolphin Research Center, Grassy Key, Florida*

*A rescue crew from the Florida Dept. of
Environmental Protection and Dolphin
Research Center remove monofilament
line embedded in a manatee's flipper.*

Pollution

Water pollution caused by many of the items we use in our daily lives (pesticides, herbicides, and detergents, for example), as well as storm water runoff and industrial chemicals may poison waterways, food sources, and the manatees who utilize them. Oil exploration and possible oil spills are potential threats to all marine and estuarine habitats.

Litter

Debris in the waterway, such as discarded fishing line and hooks, plastic six-pack holders and plastic bags are dangerous to manatees and other forms of wildlife. Entanglement in or ingestion of litter have caused manatee injury and death. Crab trap lines and hoop nets used by commercial fishermen can also cause entanglement problems for manatees.

Harassment

Harassment refers to any act which causes manatees to change their natural behavior. This can include pursuing or chasing manatees; poking, grabbing, or riding them. Feeding manatees or giving them water from a hose can also be considered harassment. Harassment can force manatees to leave preferred habitat such as warm water refuges, or can lead to the separation of a mother and calf — both can be life threatening situations. Feeding manatees or giving them water disrupts the manatee's normal behavior and conditions them to take food or water from people. Because of this, some manatees have been harassed or fed dangerous, non-food items.

Flood Control Structures

Manatees can be crushed in closing flood gates and canal locks that are used to protect against salt water intrusion and flooding. This problem is particularly acute in south Florida where there are many water control structures. Deaths from drowning have also occurred when the tremendous suction created by water rushing through opening gates pins animals under the water. In recent years, the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working to monitor the opening and closing of these structures and have added prototype mechanical devices and sensors in some locations to reverse gate action to prevent this type of death from occurring.

Perinatal (Dependent Calf)

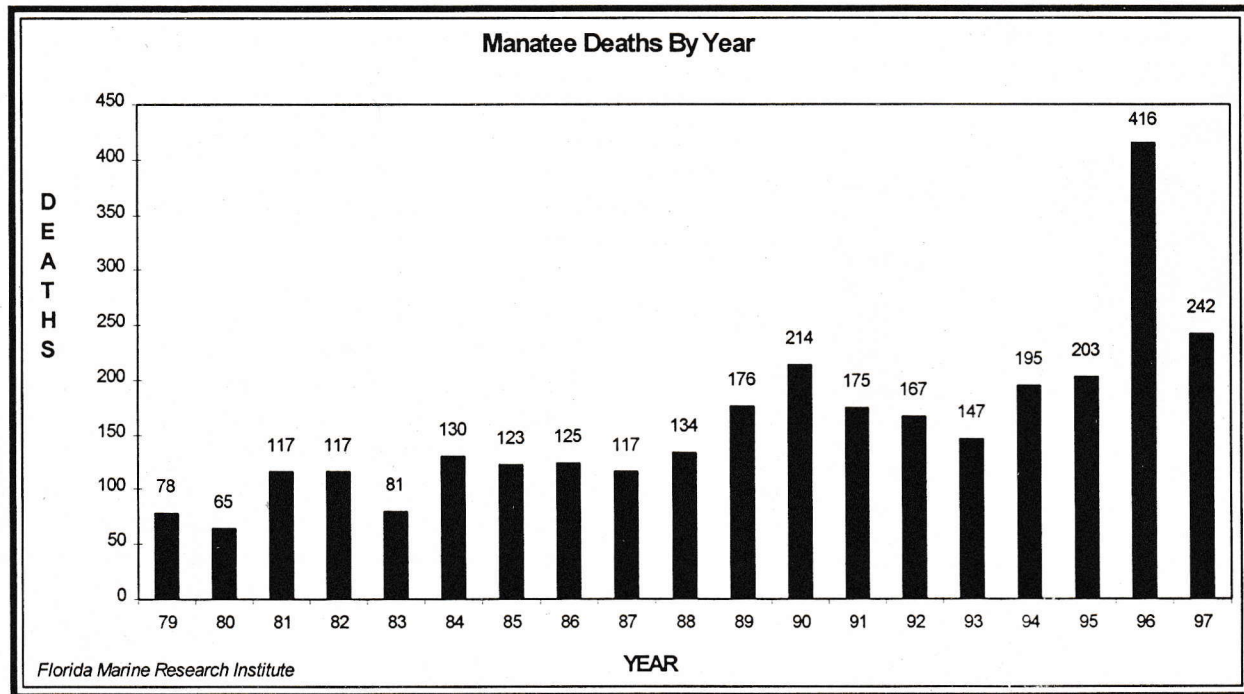
Perinatal, which means "around birth," accounts for 21 percent of manatee mortalities. This is not really a "cause of death" category, but includes all manatees less than 150 cm (about 5 feet) in length that did not die from a known human-related cause. All wild populations of animals have a relatively high, inherent rate of death among newborns, but the number of manatee calf mortalities appears to be increasing in recent years. Scientists are not sure yet if this is true, but they are very concerned about this category of death, and are looking closely at possible causes. Unfortunately, most calf carcasses are very decomposed by the time they are discovered. This limits scientists' ability to determine cause of death.

Did You Know That Throwing Fishing Line in Florida Waters Is Against The Law?

Manatees are sometimes unintentionally killed or injured by fishing activities. They can drown in nets or die from infection caused by entanglement in crab trap lines, monofilament fishing line, or hooks. It is now a second degree misdemeanor to intentionally discard any monofilament fishing line or netting into or onto the waters of the state of Florida.

MANATEE MORTALITY STATISTICS

**TOTAL
NUMBER
OF U.S.
VERIFIED
DEATHS
(including
Puerto Rico)**



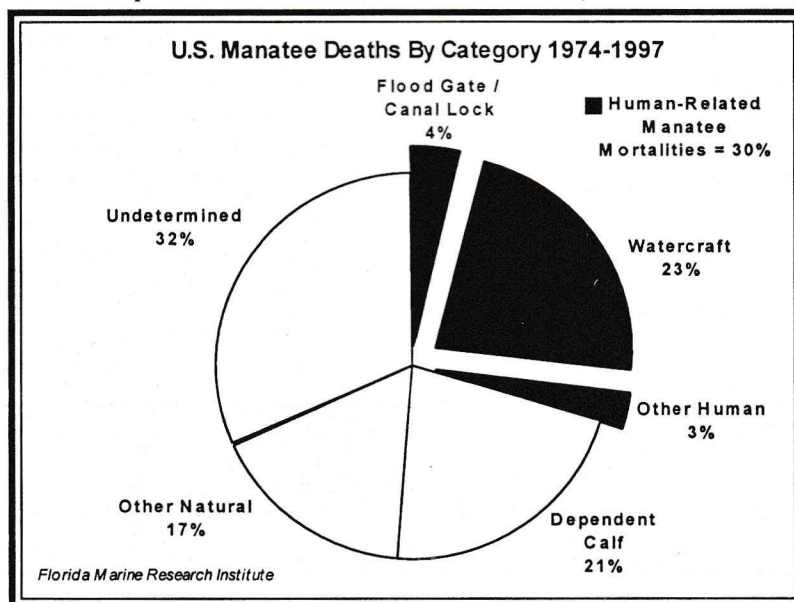
Scientists break down the causes of manatee deaths into six different categories:

- Watercraft collisions
- Flood gate or canal lock (crushed and/or drowned)
- Other human-related (deaths caused from monofilament line, litter, poaching, vandalism, culverts or other human-made structures)
- Perinatal (dependent calves under 4.9 feet (150 cm))
- Other natural (mortalities caused by natural circumstances such as cold stress or disease)
- Undetermined (the manatee is too badly decomposed to determine cause of death, the necropsy finding is inconclusive, or the manatee carcass was reported and verified, but not recovered)

Natural Causes Take Toll On Manatee Population

In 1996, red tide was suspected in the deaths of at least 151 manatees on Florida's southwest coast, or about 12% of the entire west coast population. However, in 1997 only 16 manatees were determined to have died from red tide.

In the winter of 1989-90, at least 45 manatee deaths occurred from cold stress because of a prolonged cold front in December. During that time, temperatures in Florida's coastal waters dipped into the 40° and 50°F range.



It's the Law

Save the Manatee Club has been the lead organization for education efforts outlined in the Manatee Recovery Plan.

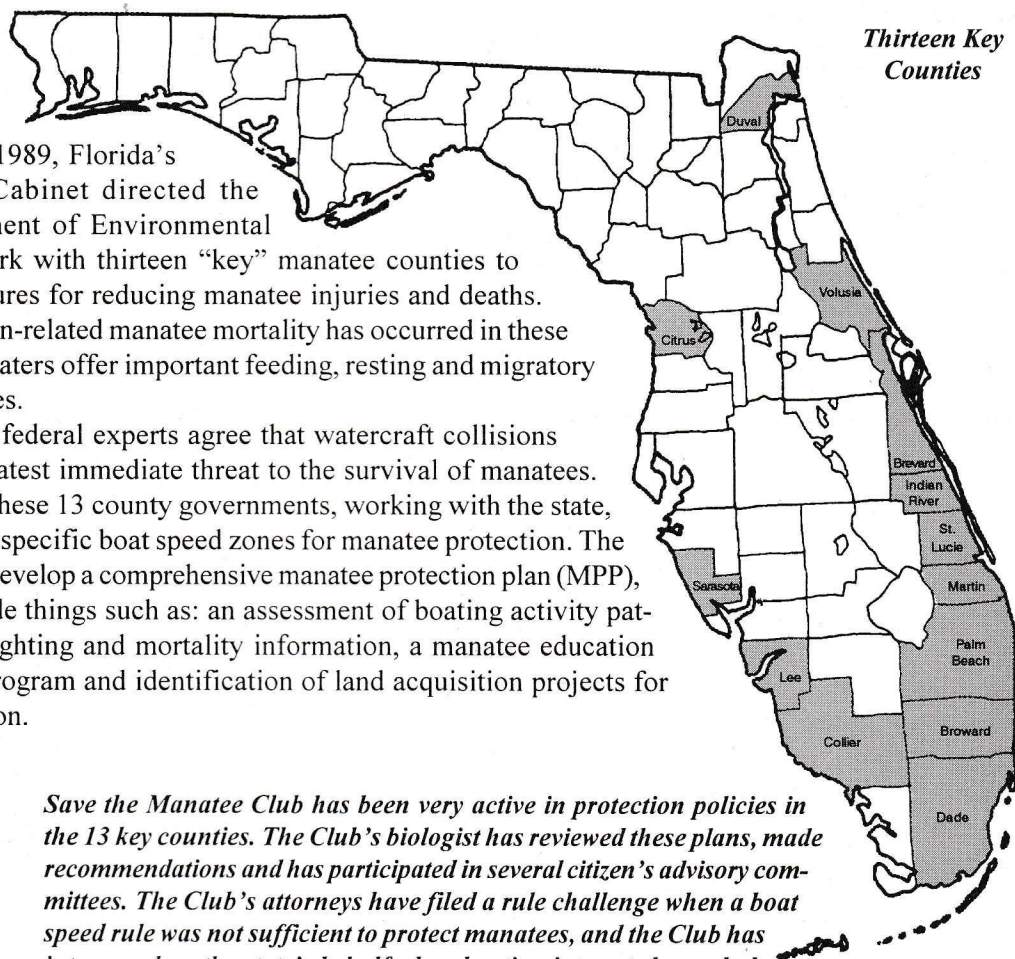
Manatees are protected by both state and federal laws. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 is perhaps the most important federal wildlife law that assists in the protection of manatees and other endangered and threatened species, and provides protection of critical habitat. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 provides federal protection for manatees and other marine mammals, including restrictions on products derived from these animals. Manatees are also protected by the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978. Anyone convicted of violating Florida's state law faces a possible maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 60 days. Conviction on the federal level is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and/or one year in prison.

The *Manatee Recovery Plan* was developed as a result of the Endangered Species Act. The recovery plan is coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and sets forth a list of tasks geared toward recovering manatees from their current endangered status.

Manatee Protection In Florida

In October of 1989, Florida's Governor and Cabinet directed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to work with thirteen "key" manatee counties to implement measures for reducing manatee injuries and deaths. Most of the human-related manatee mortality has occurred in these counties. Their waters offer important feeding, resting and migratory areas for manatees.

Both state and federal experts agree that watercraft collisions represent the greatest immediate threat to the survival of manatees. The first task of these 13 county governments, working with the state, is to develop site-specific boat speed zones for manatee protection. The second task is to develop a comprehensive manatee protection plan (MPP), which will include things such as: an assessment of boating activity patterns, manatee sighting and mortality information, a manatee education and awareness program and identification of land acquisition projects for manatee protection.



Save the Manatee Club has been very active in protection policies in the 13 key counties. The Club's biologist has reviewed these plans, made recommendations and has participated in several citizen's advisory committees. The Club's attorneys have filed a rule challenge when a boat speed rule was not sufficient to protect manatees, and the Club has intervened on the state's behalf when boating interests have challenged the rules. The Club recently opened a satellite office in Tallahassee, Florida's Capitol, and hired a director of government relations to address manatee issues before Florida's Legislature, Governor and Cabinet and regulatory agency heads. With constant help from members like you, through letters and telephone calls, we've been able to obtain stronger protection for manatees in most cases.



Rescue, Rehabilitation & Research

Thanks members!

Save the Manatee Club has provided funds for equipment used in manatee rescue and rehabilitation efforts, including specially designed rescue boats and trailers.

Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation

Sightings of sick, injured, orphaned, tagged, dead or harassed manatees can be reported to the Florida Marine Patrol by calling 1-800-DIAL-FMP, *FMP on your cellular phone or use VHF Channel 16 on your marine radio. Wildlife officials will investigate and, if need be, coordinate the rescue of sick, injured or orphaned manatees. Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park, Lowry Park Zoo, Miami Seaquarium and Sea World of Florida are all rehabilitation facilities that are authorized to capture, transport and treat these animals under the joint supervision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). In addition, other organizations are involved in verification of injury, rescue and transportation under the supervision of the rescue coordinator at the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) in St. Petersburg, Florida, part of FDEP.



Photo credit: Sea World, Inc.

Sea World animal care specialists feed two orphaned manatee calves.

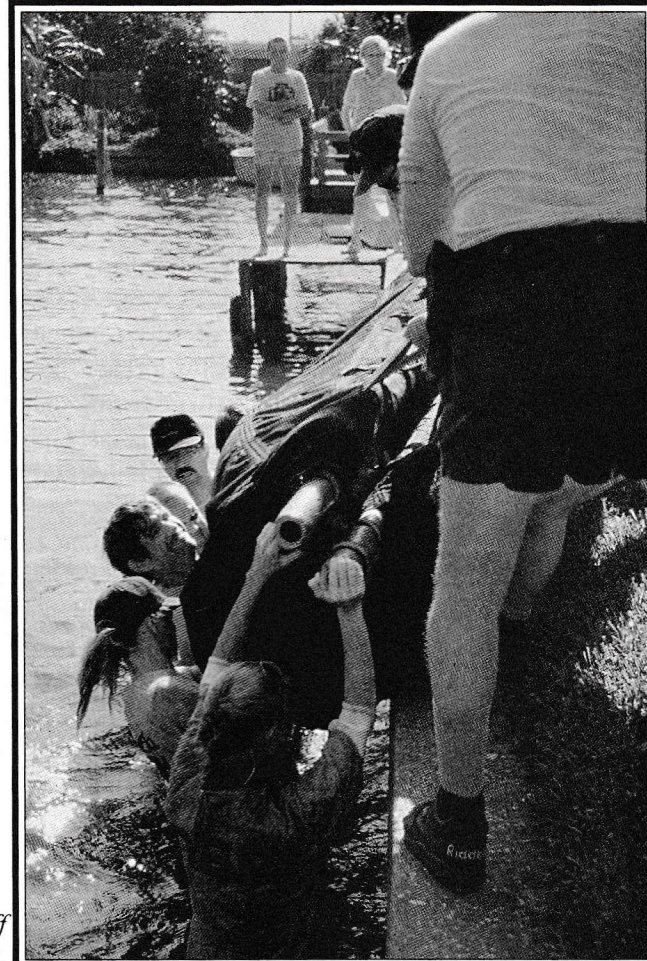


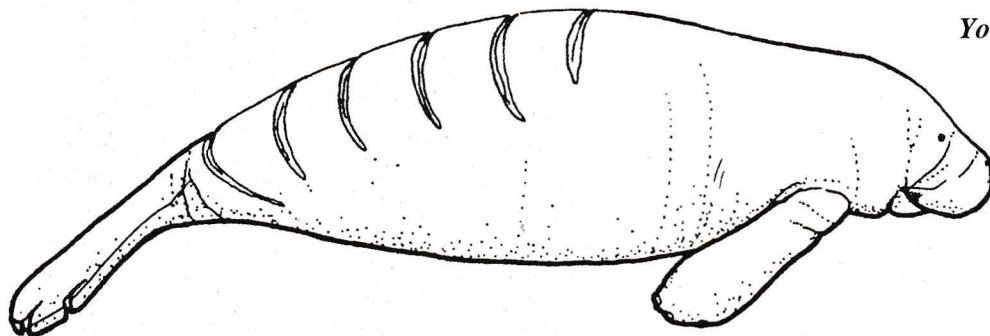
Photo credit: Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection staff lift an injured manatee from the the water.

Club-sponsored manatee research is important in implementing management policy that can help protect manatees in the wild. For example, aerial surveys of Tampa Bay funded by the Club have contributed to one of the best existing databases on wild manatees. Save the Manatee Club also funded a study to analyze lipids in manatees' facial bones to help understand how manatees hear directionally. Club-sponsored research on manatee immune system and genetics is useful in the treatment of injured or diseased manatees. Recently, SMC funded aerial surveys of manatees in the Florida Keys to help implement site-specific boat speed zones for manatee protection.

The Manatee Scar Pattern Catalog

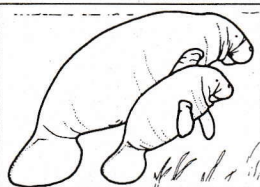
Most adult manatees in the wild are scarred from collisions with boats. Researchers can use these scars to identify individual animals. By observing an individual over the course of time, researchers can learn many things about important habitat, migration and other behavioral factors. The U.S. Geological Survey's Sirenia Project, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Save the Manatee Club, maintains a statewide computerized manatee identification catalog with photographs of distinctively scarred manatees. The catalog contains reports on about 1,000 individuals.



Your membership dollars have provided computer equipment and data entry assistance to maintain the Sirenia Project's scar pattern catalog and have funded a photo and video identification study of manatees in southeast Florida and on Florida's west coast.

The Manatee Carcass Salvage Program

The Manatee Carcass Salvage Program is currently operated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Its purpose is to examine manatees found dead in Florida and other parts of the southeastern United States to try to determine cause of death. Individual citizens can help by immediately calling 1-800-DIAL-FMP, *FMP or use VHF Channel 16 on their marine radio to report the sighting of a dead manatee. By doing a necropsy on a dead animal, scientists can tell some of the causes of manatee deaths. Cause of death is divided into categories and quantified so researchers can better understand the dangers to manatees.



Take Action Tip

- **Send us your S&H Green Stamps.** Believe it or not, we have purchased three research boats with them. The boats are currently on loan to state researchers who use them for manatee rescues, manatee tracking, and to collect data on seagrasses and water quality.

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection staff on board a manatee rescue and research boat purchased by Club members with donated green stamps.

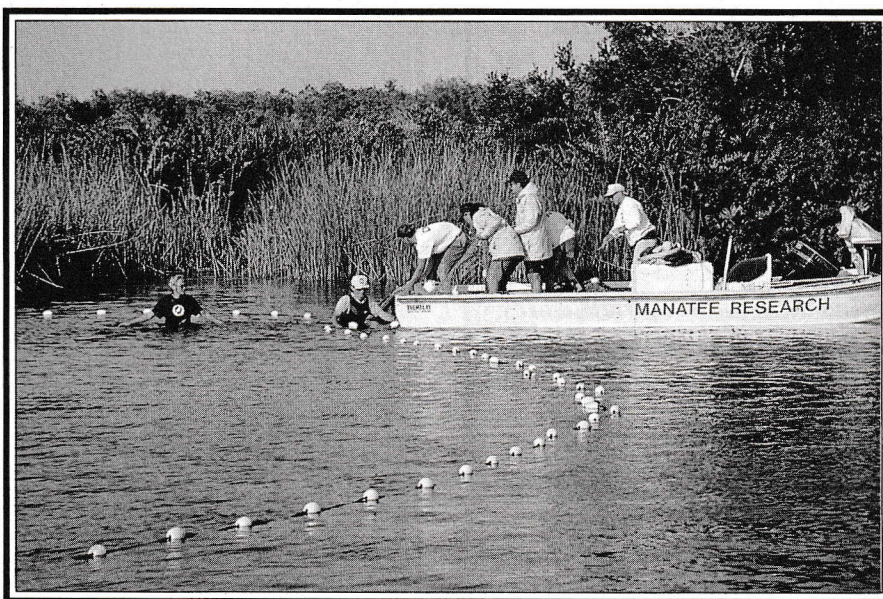
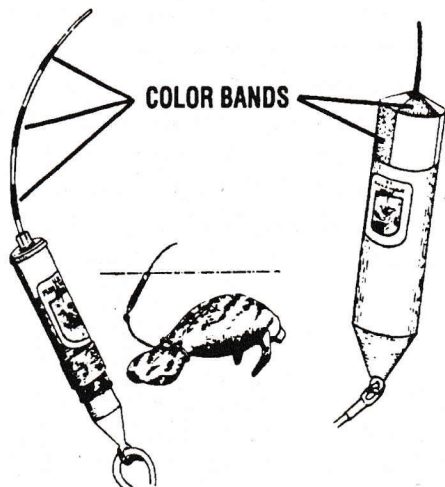


Photo credit: Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

MANATEE TAGS

IF YOU SEE A MANATEE WITH A
TRANSMITTER, PLEASE CALL THIS
TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-DIAL-FMP,
*FMP OR USE VHF CHANNEL 16
ON YOUR MARINE RADIO
NOTE WHERE AND WHEN SEEN, AND
POSITION OF COLOR BANDS



Please do not touch or grab the tags —
they are harmless to the manatee.

SMC is working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Sirenia Project to track manatees in Georgia. The research is essential in designating potential protected areas, speed zones and other manatee protection measures. SMC also gave the Sirenia Project \$24,000 for data analysis of their east coast manatee research.

"Beam me up Scotty!" The manatee pictured sports a tracking device.

Tracking Manatee Movement

An important part of manatee research is to determine animal movements and critical habitat. Researchers monitor manatees by using tracking devices. The tracking device is a four-foot long, flexible nylon tether that connects a floating transmitter to a belt which fits snugly around the base of the manatee's tail. Several weak links have been designed into the assembly which allow the manatee to break free if it becomes entangled on an object. Researchers stress that the tag assembly does not harm the manatee or affect their freedom of movement.

Viewed from above the water, the radio tag looks somewhat like a floating soda can with a straw. It is about a foot and a half long and slightly larger than the diameter of a tin can. It floats about five feet behind the manatee, attached to a tether. Only the top of the canister is visible at the surface and is covered with brightly colored reflective tape. The top of the can is labeled "MANATEE TAG - DO NOT TOUCH." A short, black antenna extends 6 inches above the top (see also photo below).

Radio signals sent from the transmitter are received by polar orbiting satellites and analyzed to yield accurate locational data on the manatee. Sensors built into the unit give additional data on water temperature and the manatee's activity. Researchers access this information daily by computer. Specific information about migration patterns, use of preferred habitats and feeding areas, and manatee activity patterns and habits are also used to help protect this endangered species.

Researchers have been able to record some interesting and informative manatee movements as a result of the tagging program. One manatee made a 200-mile trip from Brevard County to Port Everglades in less than 10 days. Another manatee named Chessie traveled all the way from Florida to Rhode Island and back! These long distance movements had not previously been documented for individual manatees.

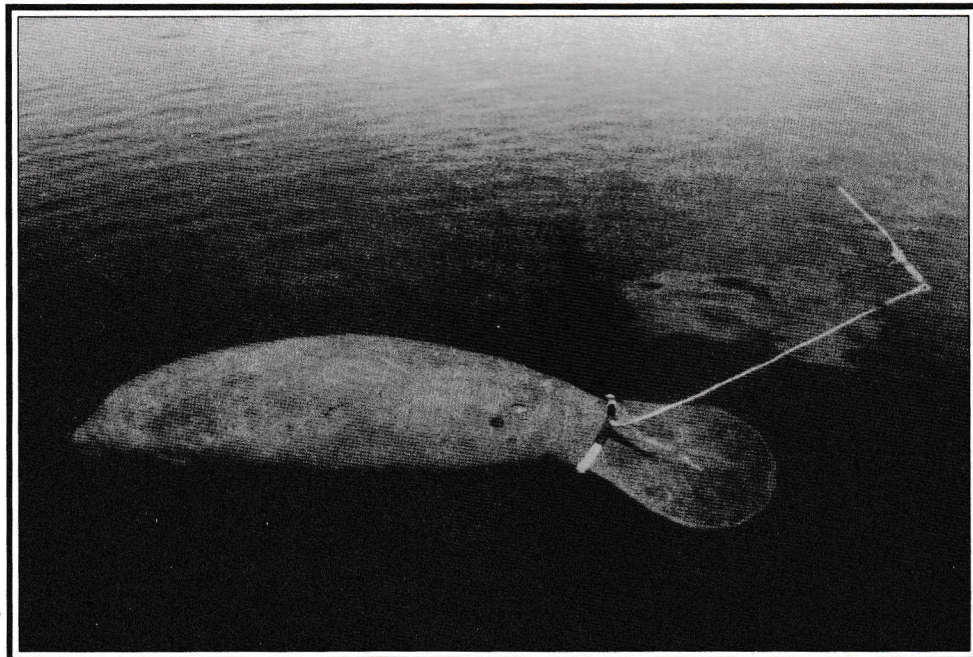


Photo credit: U.S. Geological Survey, Sirenia Project

Manatee Protection Tips

**When Operating Your Boat,
Please Observe These
Regulatory Signs:**



*A minimum-wake zone where
boats must not be on a plane
and must be level in the water.*



*A zone in which boats are not
permitted to go any faster than
necessary to be steered.*



WHEN BOATING

- Wear polarized sunglasses. They can help eliminate the glare of the sun and help you to see below the water's surface.
- Stay in deep water channels when boating. Avoid boating over seagrass beds and shallow areas where manatees might be feeding (but be aware that manatees also use deep water channels when traveling).
- Look for a snout, back, tail or flipper breaking the surface of the water, or a swirl or flat spot on the water that is created by the motion of the manatee's paddle-shaped tail when it dives or swims.
- If you see a manatee when operating a powerboat, remain a safe distance away — 50 feet is suggested. If you want to observe the manatee, cut the motor, but do not drift over the animal.
- If you like to jet-ski, water-ski or participate in high-speed watersports, choose areas that manatees do not, or cannot frequent, such as a land-locked lake.
- Obey posted speed zone signs and keep away from posted manatee sanctuaries.

STASH YOUR TRASH!

- Recycle your litter or throw it in a proper trash container. Debris in waterways, such as discarded plastic bags or six-pack holders, is dangerous to manatees and other forms of wildlife.
- Discard monofilament line or fishing hooks properly. Not only are they dangerous for manatees, but discarding monofilament line into or onto the waters of the state of Florida is against the law.

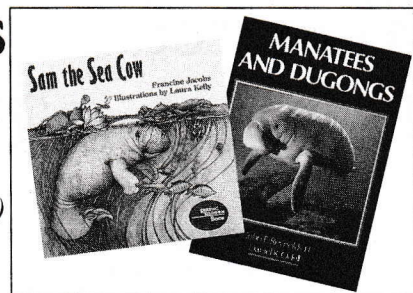
HANDS OFF

- Resist the urge to feed manatees or give them water. Not everyone loves manatees and feeding them or giving them water could encourage them to swim to people who might be cruel to them. Their natural feeding patterns may also be altered by encouraging them to "hang around" waiting for food or water. When hand-fed lettuce or water from a hose is no longer available, manatees may not know where to find or identify natural, reliable sources of food.
- "Look, but don't touch" is the best policy when swimming or diving. By quietly observing manatees from a distance, you will get a rare opportunity to see the natural behavior of this unique animal. Any other actions might be considered harassment, which is against the law.

Additional Manatee Resources

Reference Books

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- Wisc, Wilham. *The Strange World of Sea Mammals*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1973.



Books For Young Readers

- Amato, Carol. *Chessie, the Meandering Manatee*, Barron's Educational Series, Inc., Hauppauge, NY, 1997.
- Goff Clark, Margaret. *The Vanishing Manatee*, Cobblehill Books, Dutton/New York, 1990.
- Crump, Donald (ed.). *National Geographic Book of Mammals*, Vol. 11, National Geographic Society, Washington, DC, 1981.
- Haley, J. J. *Rooker, manatee*, Focus Publishing, Inc., Bemidji, MN, 1996.*
- Jacobs, Francine. *Sam the Sea Cow*, Walker and Company, New York, 1979.*
- Kuzmier, Kerie and Jennifer McCann. *Manatees & Dugongs*, Center for Marine Conservation, Washington, DC, 1990.
- Scott, K. *Endangered Species and Friends Rhyming Book*, Second Ark Publications, Houston, TX, 1996.*
- Sibbald, Jean H. *The Manatee*, Dillon Press, Inc., 1990.*
- Unterbrink, Mary. *Manatees: Gentle Giants in Peril*, Great Outdoors Publishing Co., 1984.

Videos

- *The Best of Manatees*. VHS format. International Video Projects, Inc., 250 Bird Road, Suite 307, Coral Gables, FL 33146.*
- *Manatees: A Living Resource*. John E. Reynolds. VHS format. Educational Images Ltd., P.O. Box 3456, West Side Station, Elmira, NY 14905.
- *Manatee Messages: What You Can Do!* Produced by Save the Manatee Club with assistance from the Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education. Available in elementary or secondary level formats. Videos can also be ordered with open captions for students with hearing loss.*
- *Manatees: Preserving the Legacy*. VHS format. Sea World, 1720 S. Shores Road, San Diego, CA 92109-7995.
- *Roll On Manatee*. Keith Hastings. Channel 24, 11510 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32817-4699.
- *What in the World is a Manatee?* Christopher Brown. Docent Films, 5950 Williams Road, Tallahassee, FL 32311

*May be purchased through the Save the Manatee® Club Catalog Dept.

More Things You Can Do to Save Manatees

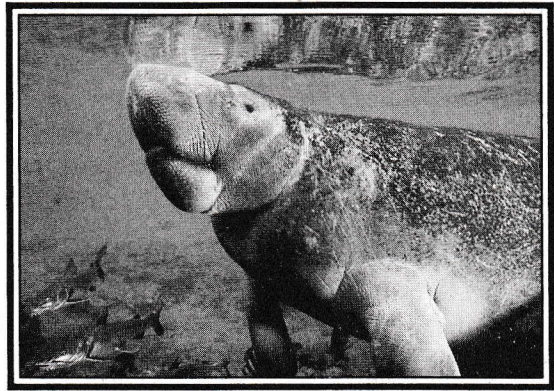


Photo credit: Patrick M. Rose, SMC

TAKE ACTION TIPS



Write a letter to Florida's Governor and tell him that you support strong manatee protection in the state of Florida. This will help to illustrate to policy makers just how important manatees are. You can write, type, phone, fax or e-mail. It doesn't matter whether you live in or outside of Florida. ANY type of letter or a call helps!

The Honorable Lawton Chiles
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: (850) 488-4441, Fax: (850) 487-0801

E-mail the Governor at his web site: <http://www.eog.state.fl.us/eog/govmailform.html>



Next, write your U.S. senator and representative (if you live in Florida, you can also write to your state senator and representative). Tell them how important manatees are to you and ask them to support protection for manatees and their habitat and to keep other environmental laws strong.

To find out the name of your U.S. senator and representative, you can call (202) 224-3121. You can also access this information on the Internet by visiting "The Zipper" at <http://www.voxpop.org/zipper>.

To find out the name of your Florida state senator, you can call the Florida Senate President's Office at (850) 487-5229 or the Florida Senate Secretary's Office at (850) 487-5270.

To find out the name of your Florida state representative, you can call the Florida State Representative Clerk's Office at (850) 488-1157. You can also get this information by visiting the "Online Sunshine Guide To The Florida Legislature" at: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>.



Join SMC's Action Network. This is our grassroots effort to inform local, state, and federal decision-makers about manatee protection issues and how we feel about them. If you're interested in participating, just fill out the insert in this handbook, call 1-800-432-JOIN or e-mail us at manatee@america.com.



You can become a Club volunteer, no matter where you live. SMC has volunteers both in AND outside of Florida. We even have members living outside the United States! Meet new people, experience new challenges and help save manatees — just fill out the insert in this handbook, call 1-800-432-JOIN, or e-mail us at manatee@america.com.



If you're drafting your will or revising an existing document, we hope you'll consider making a bequest to SMC. All you need to do is consult your attorney for advice. SMC's legal name is Save the Manatee Club, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your help will assure that future generations will be able to enjoy manatees in the wild.

***More Things You
Can Do to Save Manatees
(continued from page 19)***



If you're a Florida resident, consider buying a manatee license plate for your car. Funds raised go to the state of Florida for manatee conservation and environmental education efforts.



In Florida, when you register or re-register your boat, you can donate a few dollars to Florida's manatee conservation efforts by purchasing a manatee decal at your local tag office. Funds raised go to the state of Florida for manatee conservation efforts.



Don't forget, you can also purchase a t-shirt, bumper sticker, manatee toy, book or other gift item from the Club's gift catalog. You'll help to spread the word about manatees, and your dollars will fund Club programs.



Consider giving a manatee adoption as a birthday or holiday gift. It's a unique gift and a great way to get more people involved in helping to save manatees.



Does your employer have a Matching Gift Program? If so, you can make your donation go even further by asking your company to match your contribution to SMC.



Are there festivals or events in your area that may be interested in including SMC? Call our Volunteer Coordinator with a date, contact name and phone number. We'll do the rest.



Does the company you work for have an employee publication? Do you belong to an organization that puts out a newsletter? You can help spread public awareness about manatees by including SMC information in it. Call or write SMC's Communications Director, and we'll send you a prepared SMC public service ad.



Subscribe to Working Assets Long Distance (WALD). WALD is a socially and environmentally responsible long distance company whose rates are competitive with other long distance companies. When you switch your personal long distance service, mention SMC and our number, (407) 539-0990, and we'll get \$10.00 off our long distance bill (WALD is SMC's long distance company). If you switch your business telephone service and your bills are a minimum of \$100.00 per month, SMC receives a credit of \$100.00. Also, let them know you recommend the Club to be a recipient of their annual donations to nonprofit environmental organizations. For more information on WALD's services, call 1-800-788-8588, or access their home page at: <http://www.wald.com>.



Do you know a media organization that might be interested in publishing information about manatees? How about a radio or television station that might run SMC audio or video public service announcements recorded by Jimmy Buffett? Someone who might provide a "link" to SMC's Internet home page? Contact SMC's Communications Director with names and addresses.



If you reside in Florida and own a business, you can provide your employees an opportunity to give to the Environmental Fund for Florida (EFF). If you are employed in Florida, let your employer know about EFF. EFF is a fundraising coalition of Florida's environmental organizations (SMC belongs to EFF). Through workplace giving and payroll deduction, employers and employees can help protect Florida's beautiful environment. Contact EFF at (941) 682-4991.



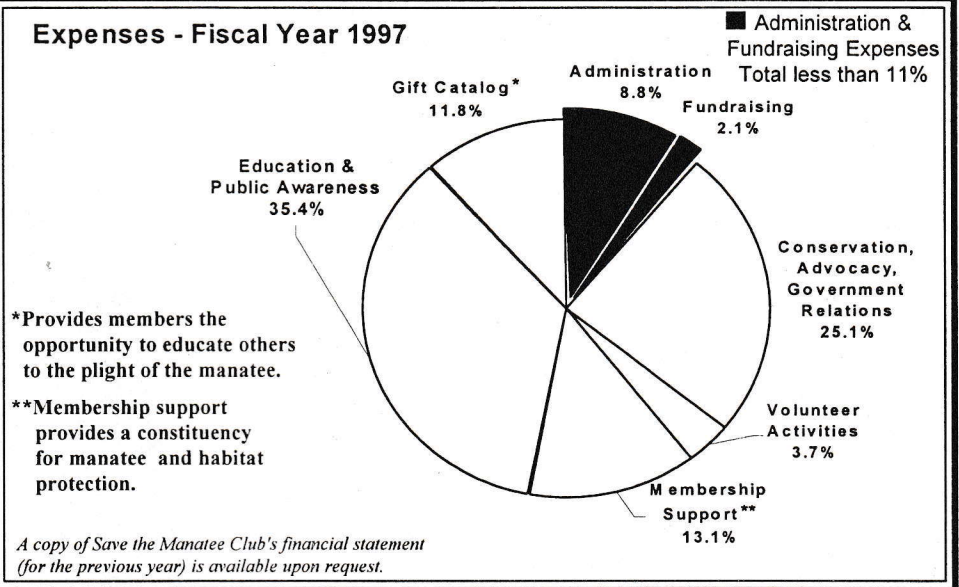
Sign up for a manatee Visa or MasterCard through Republic Bank and the Club will receive \$1.00. When you renew your card, the Club will receive \$.50. For information, call 1-800-386-5454 or visit their website on the Internet at <http://www.republicbankfl.com>.

How are Save the Manatee Club Funds Used?

CLUB PROGRAMS

Save the Manatee Club is almost totally membership supported. The Adopt-A-Manatee® program is our primary source of funding. You, as a member and adoptive parent, make our programs possible. Funds from the Adopt-A-Manatee program go toward public awareness and education, research, rescue and rehabilitation efforts, advocacy, and legal action in order to ensure better protection for manatees and their habitat. In 1997, more than 89% of Adopt-A-Manatee funds went directly to manatee programs, with less than 11% going to SMC administrative and fundraising costs combined.

Expenses - Fiscal Year 1997



Someone To Watch Out For Us



That's what we need.

Each year, a number of endangered manatees are accidentally killed or injured in boating collisions. You can help protect manatees from injury and death. For free manatee protection tips, contact:



Save the Manatee Club
500 N. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
1-800-432-JOIN

<http://www.objectlinks.com/manatee>

*Public service ad from SMC's
1997 boater awareness campaign.*

Public Awareness Activities

Save the Manatee Club press releases on manatee issues go out to local, state and national media on a regular basis. Singer Jimmy Buffett also records public service announcements about how the public can help protect manatees. These are distributed to radio and television stations throughout the U.S. In addition, SMC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have co-funded a manatee information radio station in Crystal River, FL to inform the public about how to act in manatee habitat. In 1997, SMC launched a boater awareness campaign and produced over 6,000 press kits which were distributed to state and national media.

Save the Manatee Club also produces public awareness waterway signs which alert boaters to the presence of manatees. Annually, about 2,000 signs are distributed free to Florida shoreline property owners through Florida Marine Patrol offices. SMC, in conjunction with the USFWS and the Florida Audubon Society (FAS), has produced brochures highlighting the problems associated with hand feeding manatees. Outdoor signs on the same topic have also been distributed at manatee viewing areas throughout Florida. Recently, SMC and the USFWS, along with support from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), created a brochure with manatee protection tips for divers, swimmers, and boaters. The brochures will be available to dive shops throughout the United States.

In 1997, SMC, in conjunction with the USFWS and FAS, produced 50,000 educational decals which were distributed free to boaters. The decals give tips on how to reduce manatee injury and death.

How are Save Manatee Club Funds Used? ***(continued from page 21)***

Education Activities



Photo credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

SMC helped to fund an interactive display at the new Manatee Education Center at Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park.

Each month, SMC staff handle thousands of requests for manatee information. SMC provides free manatee education packets and staff interviews for students. An educator's guide, four-color poster, and coloring and activity book are distributed free to educators across the United States. In addition, SMC and the Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education have produced a video titled "Manatee Messages: What You Can Do!" The video has been distributed free to schools throughout Florida. The Club also offers free in-service programs to educators throughout Florida and provides volunteer speakers to schools and civic groups in Florida and select areas across the United States. In 1997, SMC sent out approximately 3,500 educator's guides, 2,000 coloring and activity books, and 3,500 student education packets — all provided free through membership support!

Volunteer Activities

The Club has over 400 volunteers working in Florida and in states like New York, Pennsylvania, California, South Carolina and Massachusetts, helping to raise public awareness in their communities. On average, Club volunteers present manatee educational programs somewhere in the United States about twice a week. They staff festival booths almost three times a week! SMC provides training and materials to make first class volunteers.

SMC Volunteer Helen Spivey

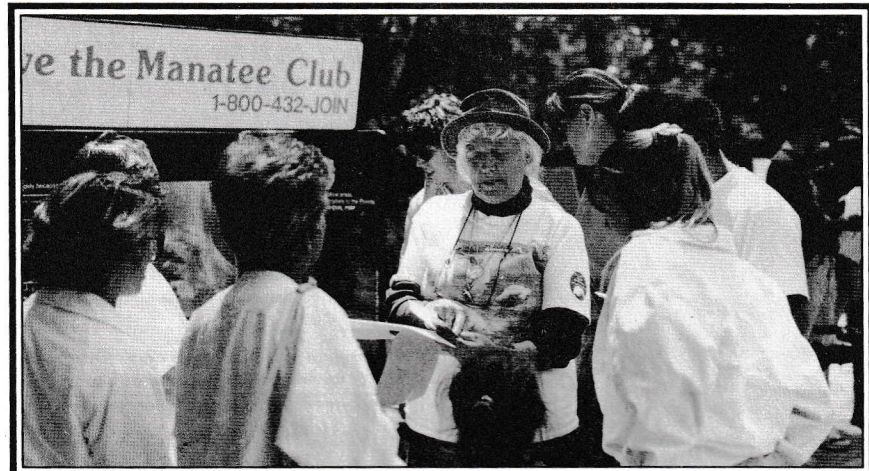


Photo credit: Susan Dougherty, FDEP

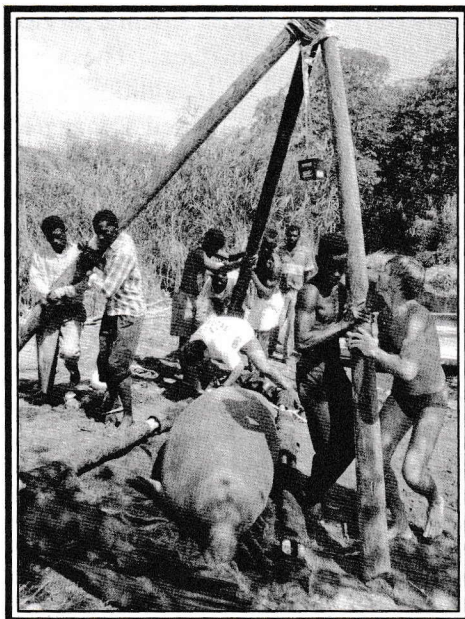


Photo credit: Sea World, Inc.

An injured manatee receives medical treatment in Jamaica.

International Efforts

SMC has funded studies of manatees in Africa, Costa Rica and Guatemala. SMC has also provided funds for manatee education efforts in Belize and Puerto Rico. In addition, SMC has sponsored projects to assess the health of manatees in Venezuela and Colombia and to educate villagers in Nicaragua who were hunting manatees for food. The Club has given funds to the Caribbean Stranding Network (CSN) in Puerto Rico to care for orphaned manatees and has provided medical treatment for an injured manatee in Jamaica. Recently, SMC provided supplementary food for four-captive manatees in Jamaica and completed the first phase for their reintroduction to the wild. Club funds also helped to establish a no-entry sanctuary to protect manatees in Belize. In addition, Club staff make recommendations on sirenian protection issues to the I.U.C.N. - World Conservation Union.

In 1997, the Club gave \$2,500 to the CSN for a manatee isolation pool. The Club also contributed \$8,000 toward a satellite tracking program of manatees in Belize to help prevent poaching.

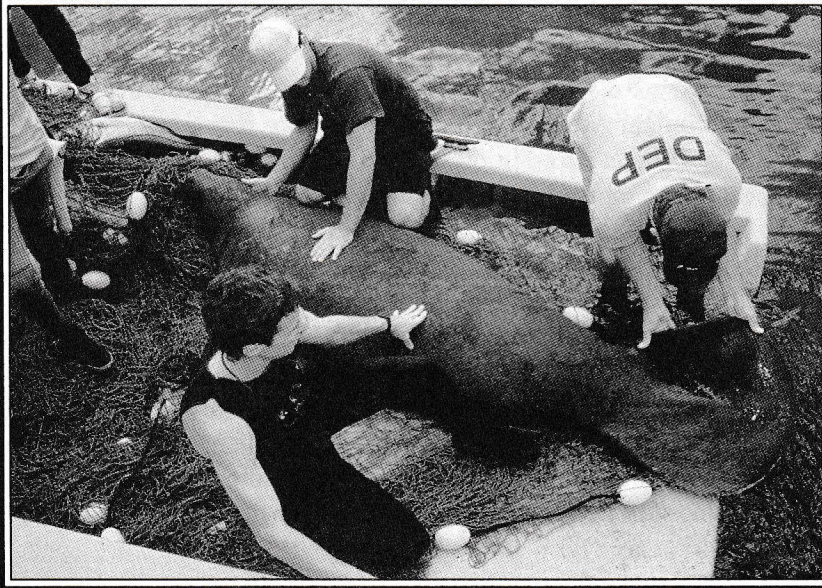


Photo credit: Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

*Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection staff work
to assist an injured manatee aboard a boat donated by SMC.*

Manatee Research

SMC has provided funds for equipment used in manatee research such as camera equipment, canoes, research boats, boat engines and trailers, walkie-talkies, computers, sanctuary buoys and radar equipment. SMC has also donated GIS software to the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge for the computerization of their manatee aerial surveys. The Club has assisted state and federal governments with research projects such as aerial surveys, sea grass studies and the compilation of over two decades of research data on the Blue Spring manatee population. The Club has also funded physiological studies and has provided funds for a manatee tagging program in southern Georgia. In addition, the Club coordinates a volunteer manatee sighting network in order to assist in manatee research and management plans.

In 1997, SMC was able to award over \$38,000 for manatee research!

1998 SMC-sponsored research projects include:

- The continuation of a photo identification study of manatees in southeast Florida. Long-term studies of individuals contribute to an understanding of species' behavior, movements and life history - \$8000.
- The continuation of a study of manatee use patterns at Brevard County, FL, power plants. This study will quantify manatee use of the area and will also document manatee movements in response to fishing vessels in the area - \$8,900.
- A research study on manatee reproductive hormones. This will add to the body of work that will help provide an accurate population model for manatees - \$8,100.
- Preliminary funding of a study of manatee bone density. This study will aid in understanding the nature of injuries inflicted on manatees in watercraft collisions - \$600.

Rescue and Rehabilitation

SMC has provided funds for equipment used in manatee rescue and rehabilitation efforts throughout Florida, including: specially designed rescue boats and rescue trailers, nets, an isolation pool, a manatee care building and diving equipment. SMC also helped fund a USFWS project to help reacclimate manatees to the wild, and SMC donated funds to help build a shelter for injured manatees awaiting transport in the Florida Keys. The Club provided financial support to rescue Chessie, a manatee who became stranded in the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. In 1996, SMC contributed funding for equipment, aerial surveys and manatee care and feeding during the red tide epizootic in southwest Florida. In 1997, the Club awarded over \$2,000 to Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park to replace the fence separating the wild and captive manatee populations.

In 1997, SMC awarded \$5,000 to Amber Lake Wildlife Refuge in Englewood, FL, to help with their manatee rescue efforts. SMC also purchased a boat to be used for manatee rescue and research efforts on Florida's southeast coast. In all, the Club has donated 5 boats for rescue and research purposes.

Advocacy Efforts

SMC has been part of the U.S. Manatee Recovery Plan Team and has assisted the USFWS with its Manatee Recovery Plan. Club staff also serve on the state of Florida's Manatee Technical Advisory Council, and make recommendations on many state and local task forces. In addition, SMC staff have reviewed plans, made recommendations and have lobbied to implement manatee protection in Florida's key manatee counties. Recently, Club staff have been working with the Monroe County Commission to obtain protection for manatees in the Florida Keys.

SMC has helped to create the best possible protection for manatees by providing comments on permit applications for marine events and coastal development. SMC also files important legal challenges against development projects that may have potential adverse affects on manatees and their habitat. Furthermore, SMC intervenes on the state's behalf when a boat speed rule is challenged, and the Club has challenged state rules that are not strong enough to ensure adequate manatee protection. In 1997, Club staff helped stop a cruise ship from docking on the Crystal River, an important winter area for manatees.

Each year, SMC hires lobbyists in Tallahassee, FL, to represent the Club during state legislative sessions. SMC has a satellite office in Tallahassee, and our director of government relations addresses manatee issues before the Florida Legislature, Florida's Governor and Cabinet and state regulatory agency heads.

Over the years, SMC grass roots support has helped to pass the Manatee License Plate Bill and the Manatee Protection Bill that amended the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978. In addition, SMC continues to lobby for a strong federal Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act.

In 1989, the Club funded a survey of registered boaters which helped to illustrate to Florida's decision-makers that manatee and natural resource protection was a high priority with boaters. Another survey funded by the Club in 1996 showed that Florida residents overwhelmingly support manatee protection.

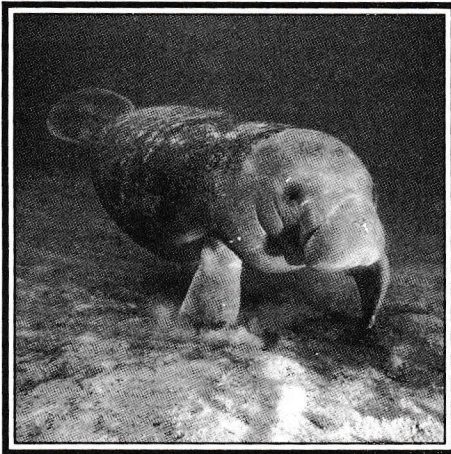


Photo credit: Patrick M. Rose, SMC

During the 1997 Florida Legislative session, Club lobbyists defeated a statutory amendment that would have allowed high speed boat testing in manatee habitat and were successful in maintaining the current funding level for Florida's manatee conservation program after a legislator threatened to reduce that budget by half.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION









- 1997 Environmental Public Service Award, Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc.
- 1997 Certificate of Environmental Achievement, Renew America Foundation
- 1996 Environmental Activism Award, *Discover Diving Magazine*
- 1996 Exceptional Contributions Award, Florida State Parks
- 1996 A resolution commending the Club and renewing the state's commitment to the protection of manatees was passed unanimously in the Florida House of Representatives. (Introduced by Representative Helen Spivey)
- 1995 Outstanding Achievement Award, Renewable Natural Resources Foundation
- 1994 "A+" Rating for SMC's Adopt-A-Manatee® Program, *The Chicago Tribune*
- 1992 Wildlife Conservation Award, Renew America Foundation
- 1992 Take Pride in Florida Award
- 1992 Outstanding Contribution Award, Take Pride in America Program
- 1991 Special Tribute Award, Animal Protection Institute
- 1991 Take Pride in Florida Award
- 1988 Walt Disney World Community Service Award

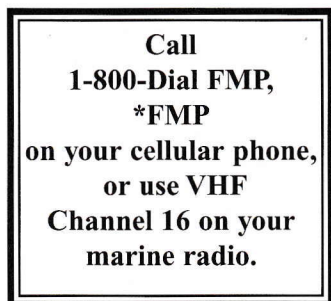
It's the 911 Line for Manatees

If you spot an injured, dead, tagged or orphaned manatee, or if you see a manatee who is being harassed, call 1-800-DIAL FMP, *FMP on your cellular phone, or use VHF Channel 16 on your marine radio.

If the manatee appears injured, please call right away. If injuries are not obvious, but you still suspect the manatee may be injured, try to determine the number of times the manatee surfaces to breathe during a five minute period before calling. Since manatees can stay submerged for up to 15 minutes at a time, frequent surfacing could be indicative of an injury. (If the manatee is traveling however, then frequent surfacing is normal.) Be prepared to give the exact location of the manatee.

CALL 1-800-DIAL FMP, *FMP or use VHF Channel 16:

-  *If you see a manatee with a pink or red wound. This means the wound is fresh.*
-  *If you see a manatee with grayish-white or white wounds, this means the wound has healed. However, the manatee can still have internal injuries, so continue to observe the animal for any of the other characteristics listed here.*
-  *If the manatee is tilting to one side, unable to submerge, seems to have trouble breathing or is acting strangely.*
-  *If you observe a manatee calf by itself with no adults around for an extended period of time. Manatee calves may remain dependent on their mothers for up to two years. If the mother dies before the calf is weaned, there is a strong likelihood the calf will not survive alone.*
-  *If you see anyone harassing a manatee in any way.*
-  *If you see boaters speeding in a protected area.*
-  *If you see a manatee who has become entangled in monofilament, crab-trap lines or other debris.*
-  *If you see a manatee tagged with a radio or satellite transmitter, do not attempt to remove the transmitter. The tag is designed to come off if it becomes entangled in something so the animal won't be trapped.*



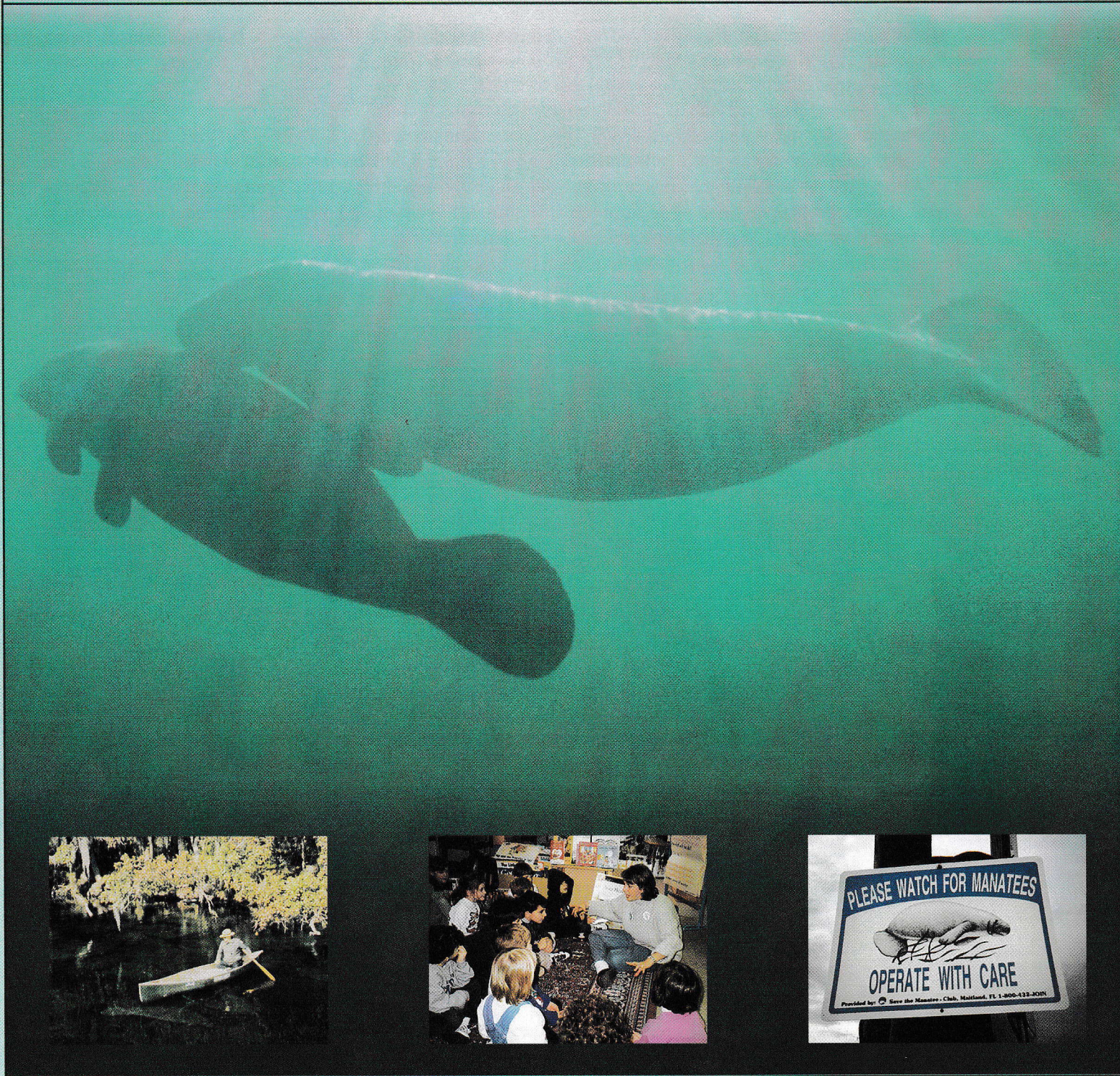
Florida Shoreline Property Owners: "Please Watch for Manatees" aluminum signs are produced by Save the Manatee Club and distributed free through Florida Marine Patrol district offices. Post one on your dock to warn boaters that manatees might be in the area. Call SMC for the FMP District Office located near you.



Florida Boaters can receive a free decal for their boat console which lists tips on how to protect manatees from injuries and death. (*Please note: The decal is available in limited quantities, so we can ONLY send them to people who will be boating in Florida.*) Write or call SMC and give: 1) your name and address, 2) the area in Florida where you will be boating.

"We must work ceaselessly and tirelessly to protect our true heritage – this nation's natural resources, of which the manatee is a part – so we have something of real value to pass on to our children. There's still so much to be done!"

—Jimmy Buffett



About the Cover Photographer...

Kim Walker Stanberry is a native Floridian. He has been "tromping around" in Florida's natural outdoors since he was four years old. As a native to the state, he saw all the changes and impacts to Florida's natural areas, which created a desire to show the public that Florida is not just a great place to go on vacation but also an incredibly diverse and beautiful land and water habitat. "People will help protect what they come to appreciate and cherish," says Kim. "Florida's natural resources are its greatest treasures. We have many beautiful parks and recreational areas, much more than most people realize, even those who live here." Kim's work has appeared in national magazines and brochures. He also runs a postcard company that features his work. For more information, contact him at: 1002 Willa Lake Circle, Oviedo, FL 32765, or call (407) 366-6135.



Save the Manatee® Club
500 N. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
Call 1-800-432-JOIN
www.objectlinks.com/manatee

Photo credits (back cover) from left to right:

- 1) Ranger Wayne Hartley taking manatee "roll-call" at Blue Spring State Park
- 2) SMC volunteer Jen Wutz and students at Potter Road School, Massachusetts
- 3) Public awareness waterway sign produced by SMC.