



# Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

## Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter



### MSN builds capacity for manatee response in nGOM



MSN staff practice net capture (top) and ultrasound (bottom) techniques.

This spring, MSN/ALMMSN hosted a large-scale training session aimed at building capacity for live manatee response in the northern Gulf of Mexico (nGOM). Led in collaboration with SeaWorld Orlando, Sea to Shore Alliance, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, participants represented agencies from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

This training session gave participants the opportunity to practice boat-based capture techniques, animal handling, and tagging. Additionally, veterinarians from across the southeast led training on collection of health assessment data including ultrasound measurements, blood chemistry, and respiration rates. We look forward to more training opportunities in the future!

### Highlights

- **Building capacity for manatee response**
- **2018 manatee mortalities**
- **New faces on the MSN team**
- **Meet Kellogg the manatee!**
- **MSN shares our research**
- **Get involved and support MSN!**

### 2018 manatee mortalities on record pace



Credit: DISL/MSN Contributor

**Manatee season is underway in the northern Gulf of Mexico!**

**Report all sightings online or by phone!**

**Manatee.disl.org  
1-866-493-5803**

**Like! Us on Facebook:  
Mobile Manatees Sighting Network**

Extreme cold temperatures across the southeast this winter contributed to a record number of manatee mortalities in Florida, with more than 340 documented manatee deaths so far in 2018. In February, MSN responded to two cold-related mortalities in Alabama and Mississippi. One of these carcasses was confirmed as known manatee RSW1009 "Tippecanoe," a male manatee formerly rescued as an orphan calf in southern Florida. He was previously undocumented in Alabama waters, and data from his necropsy will provide valuable information about manatee migration and habitat use in the nGOM.



AP File



Credit: DISL/MSN

**Manatees gather at a warm water refuge site. MSN responds to a manatee mortality.**

## Welcome new MSN team members



**Dr. Alissa Deming** joins MSN and our sister network, the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network (ALMMSN), as our full-time veterinarian and lead for associated biomedical research. Dr. Deming completed her DVM and PhD at the University of Florida.

**Merri Collins** joined ALMMSN this winter as our Assistant Stranding Coordinator. Merri obtained her MS at Ohio University studying salamanders and is excited to apply her research experience to marine mammals.



**Mackenzie Russell** comes to us from the University of Florida and joins ALMMSN as our new Stranding Coordinator. Mackenzie obtained her MS from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and brings a wealth of experience in marine mammal biology, health, and stranding response to our team.



**We are extremely excited to welcome these new faces to our Marine Mammal Research Program!**

## Support MSN!

Shop online at [manatee.disl.org](http://manatee.disl.org)!



## Meet Kellogg!

In our last newsletter, MSN reported tagging a previously undocumented male manatee in Dog River, AL. We are pleased to announce that this manatee is now officially nicknamed Kellogg, in honor of pilot and long-time MSN friend Rod Kellogg.

Like his namesake, Kellogg the manatee is quite the traveler. He spent the winter in Homosassa Springs, FL and quickly moved west along the Florida panhandle this spring.

Thank you, Rod, for your many years of support of MSN!



Credit: S. Lipscomb

## MSN shares our research!

This spring, MSN attended several local outreach events and scientific meetings to share our research findings and knowledge about local manatees. Thanks to our team of staff, interns, and volunteers for helping raise awareness for manatees in the northern Gulf and our work here at MSN!



Credit: L. Schrorer

*MSN staff and volunteers at our education and outreach booth at DISL's Discovery Day.*