



# Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

## Fall/Winter 2019 Newsletter



### MSN monitors November manatee sightings

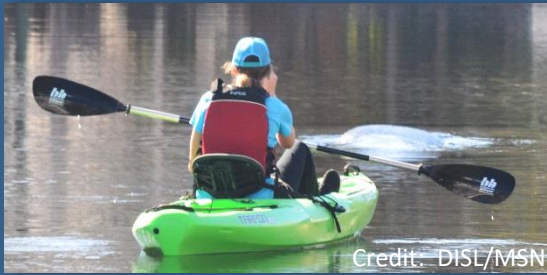
This year's manatee stranding season began with record-breaking, freezing temperatures across the northern Gulf of Mexico. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the start date of the cold season, water temperatures in Alabama were ~12°C (53°F), far below the 68°F threshold for potentially fatal cold stress.

Unseasonably cold temperatures seem to have caught manatees off guard. Many manatees are still present in the northern Gulf and along the central Atlantic coast. At press time, MSN is monitoring manatees near Kiln, MS (pictured below) and Fairhope, AL with recent reports as far west as Louisiana.

Report any manatee sightings immediately to MSN at **1-866-493-5803**. Do not give manatees food or water – this could disrupt their natural migration to warmer waters and encourage them to stay in areas where they are at risk.



Credit: DISL/MSN



Credit: DISL/MSN

### Tagged manatee Kellogg travels to Louisiana

TMA013 nicknamed “Kellogg” left his winter refuge site in Homosassa Springs, FL in late April and quickly traveled along the coast to the northern Gulf. After spending several weeks in Apalachicola, FL, he moved to Lake Pontchartrain, LA in June. Kellogg's tagged stopped transmitting GPS locations in late July, but MSN continues to keep a lookout for Kellogg!

*PhD student Kayla DaCosta (left) observes tagged manatee Kellogg with three other manatees in LA.*



Credit: DISL/MSN



Credit: DISL/MSN Contributor

**It's too cold for manatees in the northern Gulf!**

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

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

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

### Highlights

- **Late season manatee sightings**
- **Kellogg travels to Louisiana**
- **MSN research presented at CERF meeting**
- **Familiar manatees visit AL waters**
- **Thank you to 5 Rivers!**
- **Shop MSN this holiday season!**

# MSN presents research at CERF

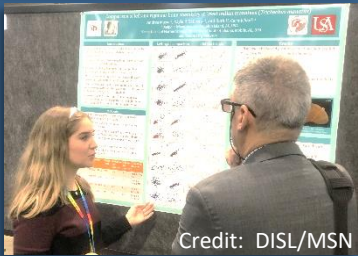
This November, the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) held its 25<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting in Mobile, AL. MSN team members presented research on manatee migration and habitat use in the northern Gulf of Mexico to a diverse audience of more than 1,400 scientists from around the world.



Credit: DISL/MSN

*MSN Manager Elizabeth Hieb*

*“Linking use of ship channels by West Indian manatees to seasonal migration and habitat use”*



Credit: DISL/MSN

*MSN Intern Andrea Mason*

*“Comparison of left and right ear bone chemistry in West Indian manatees”*



Credit: DISL/MSN

*PhD student Kayla DaCosta*

*“Use of manatee ear bone chemistry to track migrations in the northcentral Gulf of Mexico”*

# Familiar manatees visit Alabama waters!

This spring and summer, photos submitted to MSN from opportunistic sightings showed several familiar manatees spending time in local waters. TMA001, nicknamed “Bama,” was seen near Orange Beach, AL in July before moving to Dog River in August. CR643, “Big Ben”, was identified by his unique fluke scar as part of a mating herd in Dog River in May. Bama and Big Ben have sighting histories in AL dating back to 2009 and 2011, respectively.



**TMA001 “Bama”**

Credit: J. Crawford



**CR643 “Big Ben”**

Credit: C. Graddick

## 5 Rivers raises manatee awareness!

A huge thank you to Kathy Hicks and **5 Rivers Delta Resource Center** for creating this great display to help raise awareness for manatees in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and nearby Alabama waters!



Credit: DISL/MSN

## Support MSN!

We rely on your support to continue our research, education, and outreach efforts for local manatees. You can help by shopping our MSN store this holiday season or making a tax-deductible donation.

**Donate and shop online at [manatee.disl.org!](http://manatee.disl.org)**

