



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Spring/Summer 2020 Newsletter



Mississippi manatee goes to Cuba

A cold-stressed manatee sighted in Mississippi this winter was recently sighted in Cuba! In January, the MSN team responded to a manatee in distress in Ocean Springs, MS to coordinate a rescue effort. The manatee disappeared before a rescue could take place, but photos submitted to the Manatee Individual Photo-identification System (MIPS) identified the manatee as FM582.

First documented as an adult in southwest Florida in 2006, FM582 is the only documented manatee to move round-trip between the United States and Cuba. We look forward to seeing where this manatee traveler will be spotted next!

For more info see Rood et al. 2020 in *Sirenews* at www.seewinter.com.



Credit: DISL/MSN



Credit: DISL/MSN

MSN staff monitor a cold stressed manatee identified as FM582.

Highlights

- *Mississippi manatee goes to Cuba*
- *World Marine Mammal Conference*
- *New members of the MSN team*
- *Early season manatee sightings*
- *MSN goes to Mardi Gras*
- *Support MSN!*

Credit: DISL/MSN Contributor



It's manatee sighting season in the northern Gulf of Mexico!

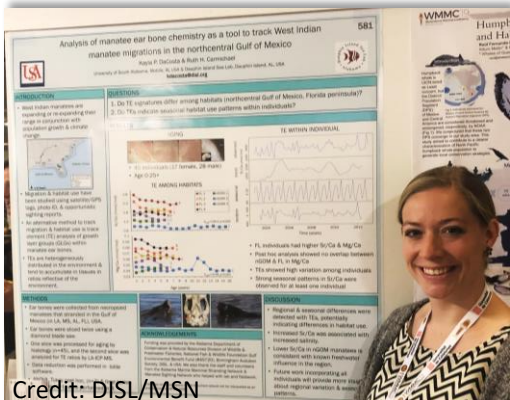
Report all sightings online or by phone!

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

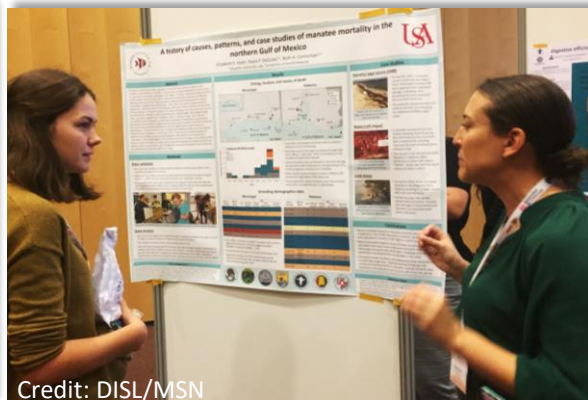
**Like! Us on Facebook:
Mobile Manatees Sighting Network**

MSN attends the World Marine Mammal Conference

In December, the MSN team joined more than 2,700 scientists, policy-makers, educators, and students from across the globe at the World Marine Mammal Conference (WMMC) and the International Sirenian Symposium. MSN traveled to Barcelona, Spain where we presented current research from the northern Gulf of Mexico and learned from international colleagues how best to work together to enhance marine mammal science and conservation.



Credit: DISL/MSN



Credit: DISL/MSN

PhD student Kayla DaCosta (left) & MSN manager Elizabeth Hieb (right) at the WMMC.

Welcome new MSN team members

MSN is excited to introduce the newest members of our team, Dr. Jennifer Bloodgood and Cristina Clark. We are looking forward to adding their expertise and experience to MSN!



Credit: J. Bloodgood

Dr. Jennifer Bloodgood joins MSN and our sister network, the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network (ALMMSN), as our veterinarian and lead for biomedical research. Dr. Bloodgood completed her DVM and PhD at the University of Georgia.



Credit: C. Clark

Cristina Clark joins our team as the ALMMSN Assistant Stranding Coordinator. Cristina attended the University of San Diego and previously worked at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, MS.

Manatee season starts early in the northern Gulf!

Manatee sighting season got off to a busy start this spring with MSN receiving our first sighting in Alabama waters in early April. Since then, we've recorded more than 75 sightings in AL and ~25 additional sightings from the Florida panhandle, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

Report manatee sightings to MSN

1-866-493-5803



Credit: DISL/MSN contributor A. Bianco

Manatee traveling along the beach in Gulf Shores, Alabama on May 2, 2020.

Let the good times roll with MSN!

For the third consecutive year, staff and volunteers proudly represented MSN and ALMMSN in the **Dauphin Island Mardi Gras People's Parade!** Thanks to all of our krewe and a special thank you to volunteers Suzi and Mike Mutascio for their hard work in creating our signature manatee float!



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)

