



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Spring/ Summer 2022 Newsletter



Multiple stressors lead to death of Alabama manatee

During January, MSN responded to a functionally stranded manatee in the Theodore Industrial Canal near Mobile, AL. Under the direction of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and with help of partners from SeaWorld Orlando and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, MSN coordinated rescue of the sub-adult male manatee. The animal was successfully captured and received emergency veterinary care but died during transport to a rehabilitation facility. Necropsy results found the manatee suffered from multiple stressors, including cold stress, chronic heart failure, and a plastic bag obstructing the esophagus, which all likely contributed to the cause of death. This is the first case of a stranded manatee in Alabama where plastic debris contributed to death.



Stranded manatee (left) receiving veterinary care (right) during rescue.

Highlights

- **Multiple stressors lead to manatee death**
- **Sighting season starts early**
- **Spring outreach update**
- **Vet students gain necropsy experience**
- **Help fulfill our Amazon Wishlist**

Manatee sighting seasons gets off to an early start

Manatee sighting season in Alabama typically begins in April, but this season kicked off in early March. Sightings were reported to MSN from as far west as Texas during February and April. These sightings suggest that some manatees migrated northward earlier than is typical or may have overwintered outside of Florida. More research is needed to understand the timing of manatee migrations and potential for year-round occupancy in the northern Gulf of Mexico. By the end of May, more than 75 sightings were already reported in our region. We looking forward to another busy year of research and sighting reports!

Pensacola Beach, FL May 2022



DISL/MSN Contributor D. Lauderdale



DISL/MSN Contributor L. Brooks

It's now 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**

Spring Outreach Update!

This spring the MSN team has been ramping up our outreach efforts to remind local residents and visitors to watch for manatees and report sightings! We have already hosted informational booths at several community events, including the *Mobile Boat Show*, Mississippi Aquarium's *World Oceans Day*, and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation's *Cocktails with the Critters*. MSN staff also presented to pre-K through 8th grade students at schools in Mobile, AL, and we hosted an introductory training for 40 prospective volunteers to assist with stranding response and outreach efforts! Follow us on Facebook to look for MSN outreach events near you or call to schedule a visit from our team of researchers and educators.



Veterinary students visit DISL

During March, students from the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine visited the DISL Marine Mammal Research Center as part of an *Anatomy and Necropsy Techniques* course taught by MSN veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Bloodgood. Students gained hands-on experience assisting with a manatee necropsy and shadowing MSN staff to collect important data and samples to determine cause of death for the stranded manatee.



Veterinary students assist Dr. Jennifer Bloodgood (right) during a manatee necropsy

Amazon Wish List

THANK YOU to all of our supporters who have purchased items on our Amazon Wish List! Your donations of critical supplies for research, outreach, and stranding response have been invaluable! Thank you also to our friends at Save the Manatee Club for hosting the Wish List for us!

Visit www.amazon.com/wishlist and search for Save the Manatee Club!

Use this QR code!

