



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK



Dauphin Island Sea Lab

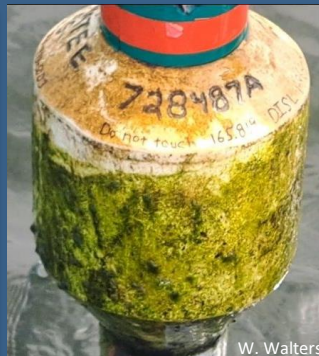
Spring 2024 Newsletter

Catching up with tagged manatees

Thanks to our partners at Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (CMARI), two of our previously tagged manatees have been retagged. Manatees TexasTeeMiguel, Clog, and Lynns핀 were tagged by our team during summer 2022, but their tags became detached last year. As water temperatures cooled, all three of these manatees visited Crystal River, FL, a major warm water refuge site for manatees. CMARI staff were able to retag TexasTeeMiguel and Clog and are currently working to retag Lynns핀. With the start of spring, we will now be able to track these manatees' movements as they migrate northward to the northern Gulf of Mexico and continue our collaborative research here in Alabama waters.



J. Spann



W. Walters

TexasTeeMiguel in Crystal River, FL (left) before attachment of a new tag (right).

Highlights

- **Tagged manatee update**
- **Stranding response**
- **MSN team presents new research**
- **Outreach spotlight**
- **Educational materials now online**
- **Shop MSN!**

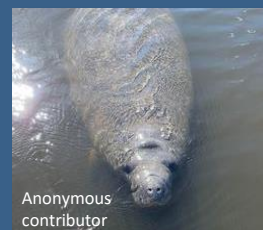
Cold season stranding response

This winter, MSN continued to see a trend of increased manatee sighting reports in Alabama waters during November and December, with 44 total sightings reported. The cold water temperatures in the area during these months put manatees at risk of potentially fatal cold stress.

During January, MSN responded to a suspected cold stress related manatee mortality along Perdido Bay in Baldwin County, AL. The carcass was recovered, transported to the DISL Marine Mammal Research Center, and frozen pending necropsy when resources are available. Our team plans to conduct a necropsy this summer as part of an undergraduate *Marine Mammal Health* course taught by the MSN veterinarian.



MSN responds to deceased manatee



It will soon be manatee sighting season!

Report all sightings online or by phone!

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

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

MSN presents new research

The MSN team has been busy sharing research findings with colleagues from coast to coast! MSN Director Dr. Ruth H. Carmichael attended the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) meeting in Portland, OR and the Ocean Sciences meeting (OSM) in New Orleans, LA to share research on the links between marine mammal and human health. Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) student Levette Tucker also attended OSM and presented work on the elements in manatee vibrissae (whiskers) that can tell us where they forage.



REU intern Levette presents her research findings

Educational materials now available online!

We are excited to share new educational materials on the DISL Marine Mammal Research Program webpage at disl.edu! Educators can download and print interactive games on necropsy and photo-identification techniques used by scientists. You can also find files to 3D print your own marine mammal biofacts for your classroom!



New year, new outreach events

We kicked off 2024 with some fun and educational events aimed at raising awareness for our citizen-science program and for manatees in northern Gulf of Mexico waters. Events included the Dauphin Island Mardi Gras parade and the Mobile and Biloxi Boat Shows. Huge thanks to all of our volunteers who helped with these events!

Aboard the MSN Mardi Gras float (right) and at the Biloxi Boat Show in Mississippi (bottom)



Shop MSN

Support MSN's research, education, and stranding response efforts by shopping our online store or making a tax-deductible donation at manatee.disl.edu. With recent funding cuts, we need your support now more than ever!



Purchase your own Mana-T-shirt!