



# DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB'S MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK



## SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



## RELEASE OF DISL RESCUED MANATEES

In late December of last year and early January of this year, the DISL/ MSN team rescued 2 cold-stressed manatees from our waters with the help of FWC, SeaWorld Orlando, USFWS, and ADCNR. The manatees, named **OWA** and **Mardis Gras**, were treated at SeaWorld's critical care facility and released in Crystal River, FL. Members of our staff participated in Owa's release in early April! Mardis Gras was released in early May.

**Watch Owa's release** via the link below!

[https://youtu.be/edeyApqNprw?  
feature=shared](https://youtu.be/edeyApqNprw?feature=shared)

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Rescued Manatees  
Update**

**MSN Welcomes New  
Members**

**Carmichael Lab  
Graduates**

**Outreach Events**

**Sighting Season Has  
Begun**

**Get to Know Our  
Managers**



# MSN WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE TEAM!



**Daniela Payán Arias** is a 2025 DISL REU intern. Daniela is working with our team to map manatee dock signs & assess their impact along the Alabama coast!



**Halia Morris** is studying how changes in manatee distribution relate to similar patterns found in other megafauna species.

Learn more about the DISL **NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates** (REU) program:  
[https://www.disl.edu/university\\_programs/nsf-reu/](https://www.disl.edu/university_programs/nsf-reu/)

## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



On 9 May 2025, we **celebrated graduation** of four MSN colleagues! We are very proud of our students for all of their hard work. Please help us in congratulating (pictured left to right): Akela Yuhl (MS), Levette Tucker (BS), Vanessa Neve (BS), and Bree Janssen (MS). We are pleased to have Levette and Vanessa stay on as staff.

## LEARN MORE: OUTREACH EVENTS!

Thanks to all who attended our spring outreach events: **DISL's Discovery Day** (Apr), **Delta Woods & Waters Expo** (Apr), & **Cocktails with Critters** (May)! Mark your calendars for these events next year & **upcoming events**: Manatee Habitat cruise (2 Aug; [blakeleypark.com](http://blakeleypark.com)), Bellingrath Gardens Gulf Discovery Day (27 Sep), Family Fun Day (27 Sep; [nmmog.org](http://nmmog.org)) We appreciate all of our staff & volunteers who make these events a success!

## SIGHTING SEASON IS HERE!

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

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

**Like! Us on Facebook:**  
[Mobile Manatees Sighting Network](#)

**Follow us on Instagram:**  
[@CarmichaelLab](#)





# GET TO KNOW ME

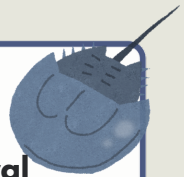


**Ella (new Carmichael Lab Manager)**



## ABOUT ME

Hello, everyone! My name is Ella and I was born and raised in central Alabama. My family is from Bay Minnette, so Mobile has always felt like a second home to me. On top of my passion for marine science, I love to go to concerts, spend time with my cat Luna, thrift, collect vinyls, go hiking or to the beach, read, draw, and travel!



## EDUCATION

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Marine and Organismal Biology that I obtained from Spring Hill College in May of 2024. While there, I was a member of Delta Gamma Fraternity, The Greenskeepers Club, The Honeybadgers Beekeeping Club, and the theatre department.



## TIME WITH THE SEA LAB

You may recognize me, and that is because this is not my first time with the Carmichael Lab! In summer of 2023 I was a work-study student with the lab, and continued to volunteer until April of 2024. Then in November of 2024, I came back as the MSN intern!



## PAST MANAGERS

Our two past lab managers, Elizabeth and Bree, were amazing and I have learned so much from them both. I am looking forward to following in their footsteps!



## CONTACT ME

You'll be hearing from me soon with future volunteer opportunities, but if you wish to reach out before then, here is my email:  
[carmichaellab@disl.org](mailto:carmichaellab@disl.org)





# GET TO KNOW ME



**Sophia (Manatee Sighting Network  
Manager)**

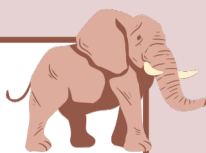


## ABOUT ME

Hi everybody, my name's Sophia! I'm from Connecticut but have been living in Mobile, Alabama for the past 3 years working on my PhD in Marine Science in the Carmichael Lab! I grew up by the ocean and have tried pretty much any ocean sport you can think of. When not in the waves I enjoy cooking, hiking, and playing video games with my siblings.

## EDUCATION

I hold a Bachelor's of Science degree in Marine Science and Biology from the University of Miami, while there I discovered my love for human-wildlife interaction research while studying on the Galapagos Islands. I also hold a Master's of Science degree in Biology from Western Kentucky University, where I researched human-elephant conflict mitigation strategies in Kenya.



## TIME WITH THE SEA LAB

I started at the Sea Lab in the summer of 2022 and got to help with our manatee health assessments and tagging and tracking of 4 manatees across the Gulf coast! In addition to this, I've gotten to help with dolphin photo-ID projects, manatee rescues and releases, and have had the pleasure of being the DISL Research Experience for Undergraduates TA!



## PAST MANAGERS

I learned so much from Elizabeth the past 3 years about MSN and how amazing it is to work with a passionate community. Being manager the past year has taught me a lot, and I am looking forward to maintaining this incredible relationship!



## CONTACT ME

Don't forget to submit your manatee sightings to our network whether by online form, phone, facebook messenger, or email! You're also welcome to send any other inquiries to me at [manatee@disl.edu](mailto:manatee@disl.edu)

