



DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB'S MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



Fly Creek, AL Dec 2025
Photo Credit S. Corde, DISL/MSN

2025 AND WINTER SEASON RECAP

In 2025 we had more than 400 manatee sightings reported to our network, 208 of which were in Alabama! A majority of sightings were in the most southern part of the state in waterways around Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. This winter, DISL/MSN team responded to a total of three live cold-stressed manatees requiring stranding response in Fly Creek, Deer River, and Magnolia River. Additionally, the MMRP responded to six total mortalities (5 male, 1 female) this winter in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida panhandle. Initial necropsy findings indicate deaths were all related to cold stress. Thank you to all those who reported your winter manatee sightings! These data help us learn about population health and local threats to manatees.

HIGHLIGHTS

2025 and Winter Season Recap

Manatee Season is Here!

Volunteer Shout Out

Upcoming Events

MANATEE SEASON IS HERE



Warmer weather means that we're heading back into manatee season in Alabama! To help us best track local manatee movements, you can keep a special eye out on the water in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores as manatees make their migration back to Alabama waters. Remember to maintain safe boating practices and wear polarized sunglasses to better see manatees as they cruise under the water to their favorite spring and summer stomping grounds.

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT



We want to send out a HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us during this very busy outreach season!! We had amazing turnout from volunteers to assist us with **Family Fun Day**, the **Biloxi and Mobile Boat Shows**, and the **Sea Turtle Marathon**. These outreach events are incredibly important for getting the word out about manatee presence in our area,

so we thank everyone who helps make these a success. If you missed us at these events, keep them in mind for next year or contact us anytime to volunteer!

UPCOMING EVENTS

We hope to see you at our upcoming outreach events: **DISL's Discovery Day** (11 Apr), **Delta Woods and Water Expo** (25 Apr), **Cocktails with Critters** (7 May), and **Blakeley Manatee Habitat Cruises** (6 June and 1 Aug). We appreciate all of our staff & volunteers who make these events a success!

MANATEE SEASON IS HERE!

Report all sightings online or by phone!

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

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