



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Fall 2022 Newsletter



Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Manatee health assessments in Alabama waters

In August, DISL/MSN and collaborators from Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, SeaWorld Orlando, and Mote Marine Lab successfully led the capture and health assessment of three manatees in Alabama.

The captured manatees were given complete health assessments by a veterinary team and fitted with floating satellite telemetry tags to locate them and track their movements in local waters and migration routes when they leave the area. All three of the captured manatees were adult males, ranging in size from 9 to nearly 11 feet. One animal was identified as a previously known male manatee named “Clog” that was rescued in 2007 after naturally stranding on a low tide near Tampa, Florida. This work is part of a collaborative research study on manatee population and movement ecology in the northern Gulf of Mexico.



Manatee undergoing health assessment near Mobile, Alabama

Highlights

- Health assessments in AL waters
- MSN tags Texas manatee
- New publication on habitat use
- Rare summer manatee stranding
- MSN welcomes new student
- Shop MSN!

MSN tags manatee previously rescued in Texas

This summer, the DISL/MSN team traveled to Crystal River, Florida for the tagging and release of an adult male manatee nicknamed TexasTeeMiguel. During December 2021, multiple agencies came together to rescue this manatee when he was found suffering from cold stress in Texas waters. He was rehabilitated at SeaWorld San Antonio before release in Crystal River. DISL/MSN partnered with Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute to tag and monitor future movements of this northern Gulf of Mexico visitor.



DISL/MSN Contributor

It will soon be too cold for manatees in the northern Gulf of Mexico!

Report all sightings online or by phone!

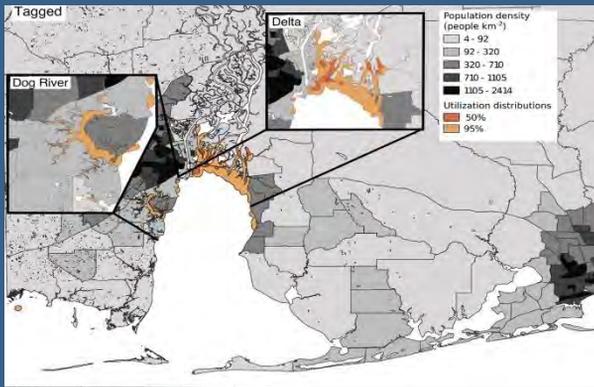
Manatee.disl.org
1-866-493-5803

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Mobile Manatees Sighting Network

New paper on manatee habitat use in the northern Gulf of Mexico

Our newest research paper, led by Dr. Carl Cloyd, examines manatee habitat selection in Alabama waters. Understanding the influence of environmental conditions on manatee habitat use and range expansion will help guide conservation of manatees throughout their range.

Citation: Cloyd CS et al. 2022. Habitat selection and abundance of West Indian manatees at the margins of their expanding range. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 696:151-167. <https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14116>



Habitat use map for manatees in Alabama

MSN welcomes new PhD student

We are excited to welcome new PhD student Sophia Corde to the DISL/MSN team! Originally from Connecticut, Sophia graduated with her B.S. in Marine Science and Biology from the University of Miami. Sophia then studied conservation and human-elephant conflict in Kenya and graduated with her M.S. in Biology at Western Kentucky University. She is now a Marine Sciences graduate student studying manatee behavior, distribution, human-wildlife interactions, and conservation.



Response to rare warm season manatee stranding

The majority of manatee strandings in Alabama and Mississippi occur during winter months and are attributed to cold stress, but this summer, DISL/MSN responded to a warm season manatee stranding near Pascagoula, MS. The adult male manatee was 11 ft long and weighed nearly 1200 lbs. The carcass was transported to the DISL Marine Mammal Research Center for a full necropsy; however, due to the advanced state of decomposition, a cause of death could not be determined. Additional diagnostic analyses including histopathology and toxicology are pending.



MSN staff take samples during a manatee necropsy

Get an early start on holiday shopping with MSN!

Support DISL/MSN's research, outreach, and stranding response efforts by shopping on our website www.manatee.disl.org!



Purchase a plushie or manatee-t-shirt today!