



## DISL's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

N. Taylor, DISL Aug 2011



Rattlesnake Bayou was a hot spot for manatee activity this summer. One 2011 visitor was 'Bama', the first manatee captured & tagged in AL back in 2009.

### Happy holidays from MSN!

*Celebrate manatee style!*

Extra special manatee gift ideas:

- 1) Purchase **Tacky Jacks** gift cards. Order through MSN at <http://manatee.disl.org/donate.cfm>  
**MSN receives 100% of proceeds.** Help us by enjoying food & drinks you buy anyway!
- 2) Adopt a manatee! MSN teamed with **Save the Manatee Club** to establish an Alabama manatee adoption program. Log on to [savethemanatee.org](http://savethemanatee.org) for details.  
**MSN receives 20% of proceeds.**



- 3) **Make a donation** to support local manatee research.

*Each gift is a unique & meaningful way to say happy holidays*

### MSN presents work at 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals

MSN's R. Carmichael & A. Aven shared data at the international Biology of Marine Mammals conference held in Tampa, FL this fall. The researchers authored several presentations, including:

"Evidence for seasonal site fidelity by Florida manatees (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico" — A. Aven, R. Carmichael, M. Ross, C. Beck, J. Powell

"Aerial surveys in Alabama, Mississippi, & eastern Louisiana to locate manatees potentially affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill" — J. Powell, M. Ross, R. Carmichael, A. Aven

"Were multiple stressors a 'perfect storm' for northern Gulf of Mexico bottlenose dolphins in 2011?" — R. Carmichael, M. Graham, A. Aven, G. Worthy, S. Howden

### 2011 Highlights

- 267 sightings reported - a new record for MSN.  
**Thanks to all who reported!**
- **Tacky Jacks** sponsors MSN. Look for our gear & an impressive manatee mural coming soon to Tacky Jacks, Gulf Shores.
- **Coastal Cleanup** organizers selected MANATEES as the year's featured animal.
- Manatee awareness **dock sign & boat decal** available for AL & MS.  
**Request yours today!**
- DISL introduces a sister network for dolphin & whale strandings:

#### Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network ALMMSN



**1-877-whale-help**



Stranding season is here.

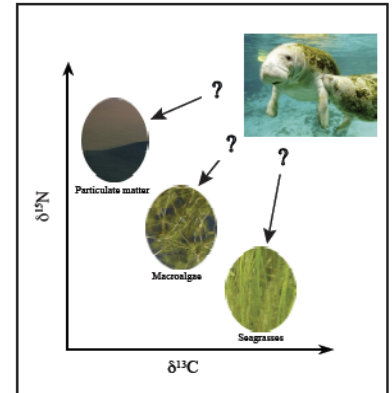
**1-866-493-5803**

MSN needs supplies & volunteers. Help by making a tax-deductible donation, purchasing MSN gear & volunteering your time. Call or check our website for details.

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

You have likely heard the phrase, "you are what you eat". This concept can be used to identify the foods that manatees eat.

For the past 5 years, MSN researchers have collected data on the chemical signatures (stable isotope ratios) in tissues of manatees captured or that died in Alabama & Mississippi. Skin, muscle, & ear bones have been used to identify the vegetation that supports local manatee populations & trace their position in local food webs.



**Dock signs & boat decals are now available from MSN. Please contact us to request a FREE dock sign or waterproof decal for your boat, kayak, or cooler. 1-866-493-5803**



## Manatee awareness dock sign program

Thanks to generous support from US Fish & Wildlife Service and Save the Manatee Club, MSN now has manatee awareness signage available for the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Signs are FREE to waterfront property owners in Alabama & Mississippi. They mount easily to pilings and the bright colors alert boaters that manatees are seen in the area.

Matching boat decals provide a quick reference to report manatee sightings on the water.

The program, which began in July, is extremely successful. More than 80 signs have been distributed.

You can help identify manatee habitat & encourage reporting by requesting a sign or decal for your home or business.



## Thank you Coastal Cleanup

This year Coastal Cleanup was a big success. To our delight, the organizers opted to feature northern Gulf of Mexico manatees.

DISL's MSN staff & volunteers worked several stations around Mobile Bay distributing manatee information & participating in the cleanup.

Thanks to the Cleanup organizers & our hardworking volunteers.

*We hope you will join our team for Coastal Clean up 2012.*



Like! Us on Facebook as **Mobile Manatees Sighting Network.**

**Want to receive newsletters by email?**  
Send an email to [manatee@disl.org](mailto:manatee@disl.org) with your full name & address. We will convert you to paperless!



**1,000 COMMITMENTS NEEDED!**

Help Alabama get a manatee tag!

Visit our website ([manatee.disl.org](http://manatee.disl.org)) for an application. When we have 1000 signatures, we will contact you for vehicle & payment information.

**Support manatee research in Alabama & Mississippi!**