



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Spring/Summer 2016 Newsletter



Pre-commit to purchase an MSN license plate today!

Starting June 1st you can commit to purchase an MSN license plate online! If we reach 250 pre-commitments in 1 year, the license plate will become available state-wide.

Proceeds directly benefit MSN!

Each pre-commitment requires a \$50 fee, more than 80% of which will be donated to MSN as a tax-deductible contribution. If we do not obtain 250 pre-commitments in 1 year, then \$48.75 of your fee can be refunded to you or retained by MSN as a donation.

Go to manatee.disl.org, use the QR code (right), or contact us directly (1-866-493-5803) to sign up today!



Plus, sign up today, to receive a free MSN can-hugger!

Manatee death attributed to red tide exposure

This winter, the DISL/MSN team responded to the first red tide related manatee mortality documented in the northern Gulf of Mexico outside of Florida. Red tide is the common name for naturally occurring algae that can make the water appear red. The algae can produce a toxin that affects the respiratory and nervous systems of manatees feeding in affected waters. Exposure to the toxin can potentially be fatal.

A necropsy (photos below) and lab tests determined that the manatee, which was discovered in a red tide affected area of Mississippi in December, most likely died as a result of recent exposure to red tide toxins. The red tide event originated in western Florida and was also responsible for isolated fish kills and closure of oyster growing areas along the Alabama coast.



E. Poche



E. Poche

Highlights

- *Manatee license plate pre-commit today!*
- *First manatee red tide mortality in northern Gulf*
- *Bama returns to Alabama waters!*
- *Thank you Fairhope Elementary*
- *How to recognize a manatee tag*



Credit: MSN Contributor

Manatee season has begun in Alabama!

Report all sightings online or by phone!

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

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

“Bama” returns to Alabama waters!

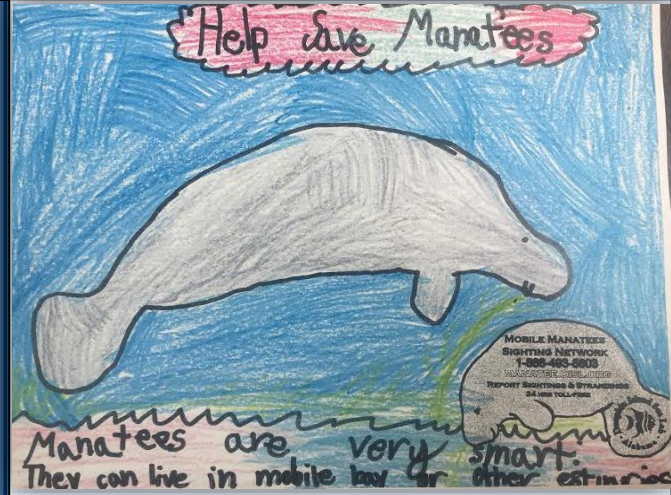
The MSN team kicked off July with exciting news – a confirmed sighting of well-known northern Gulf of Mexico manatee “Bama”, who was last documented in Alabama waters in 2011.

In 2009, Bama was captured and tagged by the MSN team in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, becoming the first manatee tagged in Alabama waters. Prior to her sighting this summer, Bama was undocumented for three years, last seen in Florida in 2013. In a photo (below) shared by a local resident, the MSN team identified Bama by the distinct triangular propeller scar on her back. Reports suggest she may be the focal female of a mating herd in the Dog River area.



Bama photographed with three other manatees in early July 2016

A. Albrecht



Fairhope Elementary students support local manatee work

This spring, MSN manager Elizabeth Hieb visited Fairhope Elementary to teach the 2nd grade students about our seasonal Alabama manatee population and how to safely share local waters with these endangered marine mammals. Following the presentation, students used their new knowledge to create posters raising awareness for manatees in Alabama waters and the need to protect them!

Thank you to Ms. Kacie Hardman and Fairhope Elementary for continued support of the MSN team!

Help Support MSN

Tacky Jack's gift cards, MSN t-shirts, Manatee plush toys, & NEW can huggers!

All available at manatee.disl.org



Have you seen a tagged manatee?

A manatee's satellite tag floats a few feet behind the manatee and can easily be confused with a crab trap or net buoy. If you see a tag or suspect a manatee is entangled in a net or line, NEVER try to disentangle the animal yourself. You may damage a tag or endanger yourself and the manatee. Report the sighting to MSN immediately so that we can assess any risk!



Go Green! Receive our newsletter via email! Contact manatee@disl.org.