



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Fall/Winter 2017 Newsletter



Alabama manatee tagging & health assessments

This fall, the MSN team launched our 5th year of manatee health assessments and tagging efforts in Alabama waters. A single male manatee, measuring ~1,100 lbs and more than 9 ft long was captured in Dog River, AL before hurricane Irma shut down the field season.

This previously undocumented manatee received a full physical evaluation and was equipped with a satellite telemetry tag before release. Data were collected to help learn more about the health of Alabama's manatee population. Eleven manatees have been captured and tagged in Alabama since 2009, in collaboration with SeaWorld Orlando, Sea to Shore Alliance, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Photos: Researchers attach a satellite telemetry tag (top) and perform an ultrasound to measure body fat thickness (bottom) during manatee health assessment.



Credit: DISL/MSN



Credit: DISL/MSN

Highlights

- MSN celebrates 10 years!
- Manatee health assessments
- Hurricane Irma impacts
- Marine Mammal Conference
- New book from MSN volunteer
- Support MSN this holiday season!

Manatees impacted by Hurricane Irma



Credit: S. Baumhower

As Hurricane Irma made landfall this past September, its powerful winds led to extreme low tides across much of the Gulf coast. In Mobile Bay, receding waters left solid land visible in areas normally occupied by water (*top photo*). Manatee sightings in the area decreased following the storm, as many animals, including MSN's newly tagged manatee, moved east into Florida.

Credit: M. Sechler



In Florida, receding waters resulted in two manatees stranded in Sarasota Bay (*bottom photo*). These strandings made national headlines as local residents and officials with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) successfully moved the manatees to deeper water.

Hurricane impacts on manatee movements is an area of ongoing study for MSN researchers.



Credit: J. Steele

It's getting cold for manatees in the northern Gulf of Mexico!

Report all sightings online or by phone!

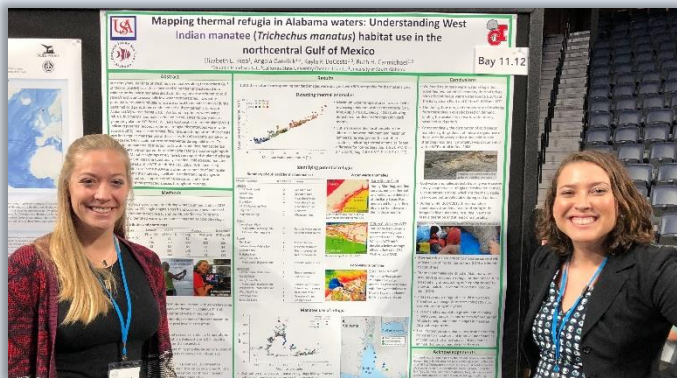
**Manatee.disl.org
1-866-493-5803**

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

The MSN team visits Canada!

In October, the MSN team joined scientists from around the world for the 22nd Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Concurrent with the conference, MSN manager Elizabeth Hieb and PhD student Kayla DaCosta also attended the 8th International Sirenian Symposium, which focused on manatee and dugong populations.

The meetings provided opportunities to share results from our work in the northern Gulf of Mexico, while learning about innovative and exciting new approaches to marine mammal research, education, and conservation.



DaCosta & Hieb presented research at the Society for Marine Mammalogy's 22nd Biennial Conference in Halifax

MSN celebrates 10 years!

The close of 2017 marks the 10th anniversary of the Manatee Sighting Network, and we want to say **THANK YOU!** We are impossibly grateful for all of your support during the past decade. Our manatee research, education, and outreach would be impossible without **YOU!**



Credit: E. Poche

We look forward to the next 10 years & hope to see you at these upcoming events in 2018!

- Feb. 2-4 **Biloxi Boat Show**, Biloxi, MS
- Mar. 2-4 **Mobile Boat Show**, Mobile, AL
- Apr. 7 **DISL's Discovery Day**
Dauphin Island, AL
- May 3 **Cocktails with the Critters**
Spanish Fort, AL

Support MSN!

Shop online at manatee.disl.org!

MSN T-shirts, plush toys, & can-huggers available!



Local author, photographer, & MSN volunteer Simone Lipscomb released a new children's book! Last year, we met Sophia & Grandma Brucey in *Magnolia Manatee's Long Journey Home*, based on the true story of Alabama's first manatee rescue. This year, their adventures continue in *Finding Home: The Life of Stella Sea Turtle*. Illustrated by Linda-Bell Schrorer, these books are sure to be a hit this Christmas!

New this Christmas!

Holiday Special for Kids
of All Ages!

Buy both books, get \$5 off!



Support Manatee Sighting Network & Friends of Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

To order online visit:
SimoneLipscomb.com Store

(Discount will be refunded to your card after order is submitted)

Proceeds benefit manatee outreach & education and sea turtle conservation