



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Spring/Summer 2021 Newsletter



Well-known manatee “Keenan” stranded in Mississippi

This winter, MSN staff monitored a number of cold-stressed manatees in western Mississippi. Thanks to MSN photographs and collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and USGS Sirenia Project, one animal was identified as “Keenan”, a manatee with a well-known sighting history dating back to 1979 in Brevard County, FL. A rescue effort was coordinated for Keenan in early January, but he moved from the area before rescue teams arrived and was later found deceased.



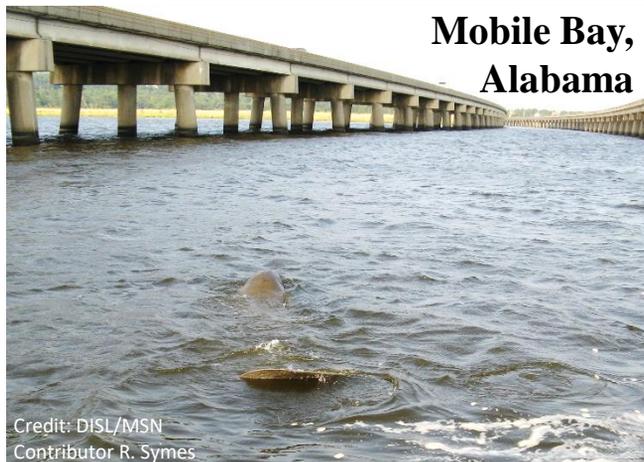
Credit: DISL/MSN
Veterinarian Dr. Jenny Bloodgood monitors manatee “Keenan”

Sightings of Keenan in Mississippi represent rarely documented manatee movements between the Atlantic coast of Florida and the northern Gulf of Mexico. These data can inform conservation for manatees across their range.

New paper on bridge construction and manatees

A new publication from MSN researchers, led by Elizabeth Hieb, examines how bridge-building and other types of in-water construction may affect manatees and similar large aquatic species. The article, published in *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, addresses direct causes of injury and death and longer-term cumulative impacts on manatees and their habitats. The paper also reviews best practices to mitigate risks.

Manatees may be especially vulnerable in areas like the northern Gulf of Mexico where less is known about their abundance and distribution. This work seeks to reduce construction-associated risks to manatees and other species.



**Mobile Bay,
Alabama**

Credit: DISL/MSN
Contributor R. Symes

Highlights

- Well-known manatee stranded in MS
- New paper on construction & manatees
- Estimating manatee abundance
- Thank you to our supporters!
- Panhandle Manatee Program
- Support MSN!

Credit: DISL/MSN Contributors
Ana & Tim Lewis



It's manatee sighting season 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**

Research update: Manatee abundance in AL waters

Post-doctoral scientist Dr. Carl Cloyed is currently leading efforts to estimate manatee abundances in Alabama for the first time. The project, funded by the State Wildlife Grant Program, uses MSN's citizen-sourced sightings, tagged manatee, and aerial survey data to estimate the number of manatees in Alabama across seasons and years. Our results will help guide conservation and management for manatees in AL and set a baseline to monitor future changes in manatee occurrence.



Credit: DISL/MSN

Aerial survey of Dog River, AL 2016

Thank you to our supporters!

Thank you to **HK Custom Tackle** for your generosity! 10-year-old founder Harper Kenny (pictured below) donates a portion of sales from his fishing lure business to MSN!

Visit www.facebook.com/hkcustomtackle



Credit: HK Custom Tackle

We also thank the **Lower Alabama Fleet Feet Running Club** for their donation to MSN for the second consecutive year. Proceeds were donated from the Sea Turtle Half Marathon and Sweetheart 5K runs. MSN staff and volunteers helped main water stations along the race course.

MSN partners with Panhandle Manatee Outreach Program

MSN is excited to partner with the newly formed **Panhandle Manatee Outreach Program** to raise awareness and collect sighting data for manatees in the western FL panhandle. Program partners include MSN, the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, the National Wildlife Federation, Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida IFAS Extension, Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge, the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, and local volunteers!

Learn more at www.panhandlemanatee.org or www.facebook.com/PanhandleManatee



Panhandle Manatee Outreach Program staff and volunteers raise awareness for manatees

New way to support MSN!

You can now support MSN by shopping our **Amazon wish list!** Through our partnership with **Save the Manatee Club**, you can send much needed supplies directly to MSN to support our research, outreach, and stranding response!

Visit www.amazon.com/wishlist and search for Save the Manatee Club!



Use this QR code!

