

Manatee Guidelines for Oil Spill Response

Manatee Rescue Response:

Conduct marine life (Marine mammals /Sea turtles) surveillance flights in pre-impact assessment areas/regions expected to have oil within 72 hours. A biologist with experience surveying marine mammals and turtles is optimal.

If *no* manatees are observed in impact or pre-impact assessment region, continue monitoring and develop a daily adaptive aerial monitoring plan based on oil trajectory.

If manatees are observed in an area expected to have oil within 48 hours: FWC will coordinate with manatee rescue partners (USFWS LOA holders), prepare response plans, and stand-by to assist with additional rescue needs.

Continue to monitor manatee distribution in impacted area(s).

Manatee Necropsy Response:

Staff from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be mobilized to conduct manatee necropsies wherever carcasses are located. Carcasses may be transported to the FWC/FWRI Marine Mammal Pathobiology Laboratory located in St. Petersburg, Florida, if not, a field necropsy will be preformed.

Carcasses are to be kept refrigerated or on ice until necropsy can be conducted, unless recovery is not an option.

Additional necropsy assistance may be called for by FWC.

Manatee Captive Care:

All manatees will be held for de-oiling at appropriate facilities (may include: Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park in Homosassa Springs, Florida (contact: Art Yerian, c:352-302-7283), Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Florida (contact: Lee Ann Rottman, c: 813-695-2135), or Miami Seaquarium (contact: Robert Rose, c: 305-281-9793). All manatees will be evaluated by a veterinarian experienced in manatee medicine (if necessary, a manatee veterinarian will be deployed to the area).

Upon medical clearance by the attending veterinarian, manatees will be transferred to long-term holding. Facilities that were identified as potential sites are Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park in Homosassa Springs, Florida (contact: Art Yerian, c:352-302-7283), Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Florida (contact: Lee Ann Rottman, c: 813-695-2135), or Miami Seaquarium (contact: Robert Rose, c: 305-281-9793). Selection of location will be based upon readiness, distance, availability, and other concerns.

Manatees will be only released back into the wild once the pending threat of oil contamination is clear.

Manatee Communication Plan (Notifications/Contacts)

For calls within FloridaThe Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission maintains a Wildlife Alert Hotline (1-888-404-3922) which is well known to the public in Florida. The Wildlife Alert Hotline is frequently used by the public to report injured wildlife in addition to wildlife and boating safety violations. FWC Law Enforcement Dispatch takes call.

For manatee calls from the public into 1 888 404 FWCC (FWC wildlife alert hotline) :

If the caller is reporting an oiled manatee within Florida, FWC dispatch operators will notify FWRI manatee staff as per the current standard operating procedures (SOP) manatee alert protocol. If the report is in reference to a deceased oiled manatee an FWC officer should also be dispatched to the location. A FWC/FWRI manatee oil spill response lead should be alerted, they include (in order and as available): Andy Garrett (727) 638-3295; Martine deWit (727) 423-0271; Tom Reinert (561) 262-0006; Margie Barlas (727) 423-4403; or Leslie Ward-Geiger (813) 781-1175. These names and cell numbers were updated in March 2012. To verify current contact information call (727) 896-8626 Marine Mammal Program.

- a. FWC/FWRI manatee program staff verify the call If the animal is outside of the Area of Concern (AOC) boundary, FWC will respond with the SOP. Animals collected outside of the AOC should be visibly assessed for oil and, if observed, will follow oil spill response protocols.
- b. If the call is within the AOC and is a report of a carcass, FWC will respond and follow the oil spill protocol for carcass retrieval.
- c. If the call is within the AOC and is a report of a live manatee, FWC will notify USFWS regarding response actions.
- d. For calls outside of Florida, the FWC/FWRI will serve as expert consultants and provide resources as possible.

FWC Manatee Protection No Entry and Motorboats Prohibited Zones
In Effect as of May 2010

County Restriction and Location Citation in Fla. Admin. Code

Brevard County No Entry Zones (November 15 – March 31)

Reliant (formerly OUC) Power Plant (Indian River) 68C-22.006(2)(a)1., FAC

FPL Power Plant (Indian River) 68C-22.006(2)(a)2., FAC

Motorboats Prohibited Zone (Year-round)

C-54 Canal (off the Sebastian River) 68C-22.006(2)(b)2., FAC

Motorboats Prohibited Zone (November 15 – March 31)

Reliant (formerly OUC) Power Plant (Indian River) 68C-22.006(2)(b)1., FAC

Broward County No Entry Zones (Year-round)

FPL Port Everglades Power Plant 68C-22.010(1)(a)1., FAC

FPL Lauderdale Power Plant 68C-22.010(1)(a)2., FAC

Citrus County No Entry Zones (November 15 – March 31)

Blue Waters area of the Homosassa River (2 zones) 68C-22.011(1)(m), FAC

Collier County No Entry Zone (Year-round)

Basin off of Henderson Creek 68C-22.023(1)(a), FAC

Hillsborough County No Entry Zone (November 15 - March 31)

TECO-Big Bend Power Plant 68C-22.013(2)(a), FAC

Indian River County No Entry Zone (November 15 – March 31)

Vero Beach Power Plant 68C-22.007(1)(e), FAC

Lee County No Entry Zone (November 15 – March 31)

FPL Tice Power Plant (Orange River) 68C-22.005(2)(a), FAC

Miami-Dade County No Entry Zones (Year-round)

Virginia Key Area 68C-22.025(1)(e)1., FAC

Black Creek Canal 68C-22.025(1)(e)2., FAC

No Entry Zones (November 15 - April 30)

Biscayne Canal 68C-22.025(1)(f)1., FAC

Little River 68C-22.025(1)(f)2., FAC

Coral Gables Canal 68C-22.025(1)(f)3., FAC

Motorboats Prohibited Zone (Year-round)

Fisher Island Area 68C-22.025(1)(d), FAC

Florida's Wildlife contingency Plan for Oil Spill Response – June 2012
Manatee Guideline for Oil Spill Response

Palm Beach County Motorboats Prohibited Zone (November 15 - March 31)

FPL Riviera Beach Power Plant 68C-22.009(1)(e), FAC

Sarasota County No Entry Zone (Year-round)

Pansy Bayou 68C-22.026(2)(c), FAC

No Entry Zone (November 15 – March 15)

Warm Mineral Springs / Salt Creek 68C-22.026(3)(b), FAC

St. Lucie County No Entry Zone (Year-round)

Harbor Branch Canal Basin 68C-22.008(2)(a), FAC

Motorboats Prohibited Zone (November 15 - March 31)

Moore's Creek 68C-22.008(2)(b), FAC

Volusia County Motorboats Prohibited Zone (October 15 - April 15)

Blue Spring 68C-22.012(2)(d), FAC

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