



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK



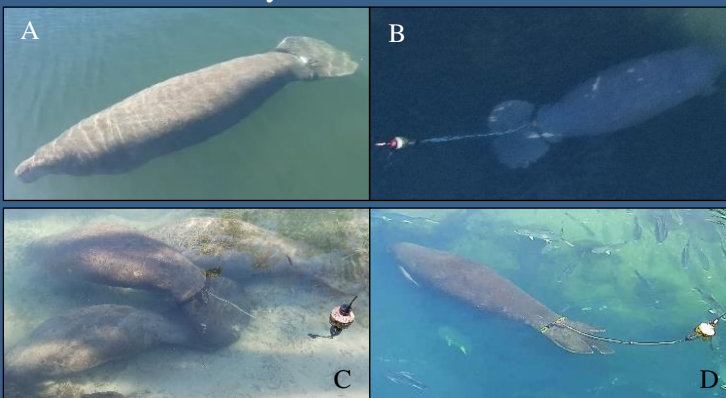
Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Tagged manatees update!

Back in the heat of July 2022, we tagged TexasTeeMiguel at his release after being rehabilitated at SeaWorld Orlando for cold stress. In August 2022, we tagged 3 manatees, including Clog, Lynnspin, and Sanford. This effort began an exciting two years of tracking the movements and migration paths of these animals along the northern Gulf of Mexico coast from our waters in Alabama, to Mississippi and Louisiana and to Florida. Manatee tracking gear is designed to fall off the animals at about 2 years of wear.

Sighting reports of tagged manatees are important to help verify satellite-based locations. We thank everyone who reported sightings of our tagged animals and were able to be a part of this journey with us. Check our Adopt-A-Manatee section at the end for an update on adoptable animals.



A. TexasTeeMiguel in Crystal River, FL (credit John Spann)
B. Clog near Pensacola, FL (credit Dronelife850)
C. Lynnspin in Crystal River, FL (credit Dale Olson)
D. Sanford in Homosassa, FL (credit Save the Manatee Club)

MSN Welcomes New Staff to the Team!

Brianna (Bree) Janssen joined the DISL/MSN team this summer as our new lab manager! Bree is a master's student in the Marine Conservation and Resource Management program at the University of South Alabama. Her work involves managing a database of water quality studies for Alabama and keeping all of our programs running smoothly.



Ella Watts joined the DISL/MSN team this December as our new MSN intern! Ella is a 2024 graduate of Spring Hill College with her BS in Marine and Organismal Biology. She is already helping with bimonthly habitat sampling, processing manatee sighting reports, and response to manatees in distress. She loves all things marine life! Say "hello", if you see her in the field.



Highlights

- **Tagged manatee update (for now!)**
- **MSN welcomes NEW STAFF!**
- **The Carmichael Lab takes on Australia at SMM 2024**
- **Adopt-A-new manatee!!**



It has become too COLD for manatees in the northern Gulf of Mexico!

Report sightings online or by phone!
Manatee.disl.org

1-866-493-5803

Like! Us on **Facebook:** Mobile Manatees Sighting Network
Follow us on Instagram: @CarmichaelLab

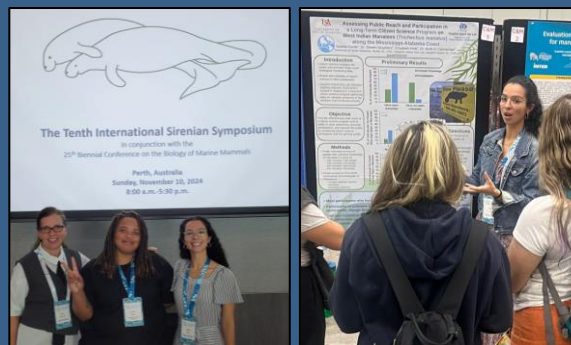
The DISL/MSN researchers visit Australia for the Society for Marine Mammalogy Conference!

In November, DISL/MSN staff and students trekked “downunda” to Perth, Australia to share research and learn from colleagues at the 25th Biennial SMM conference! The day before the conference, manatee and dugong researchers from around the globe participated in the 10th biennial Sirenian Symposium. **MSN Director, Dr. Ruth H. Carmichael** spoke to the group about the hurdles to monitoring, research and management of the growing number of manatees visiting the northern Gulf of Mexico and the U.S. Atlantic coast outside of Florida. The talk, titled *Changes in latitude and changes in attitude: Shifts in distribution and the culture of conservation for manatees in the U.S. outside of Florida*, was a collaboration between MSN and colleagues in TX, LA, and NC.

Levette Tucker, 2023 Research Experiences for Undergraduates intern and University of South Alabama student, shared a poster about using manatee whiskers to understand what manatees eat, *Stable isotope analysis of vibrissae to investigate individual patterns of resource use in the nGOM*.

Sophia Corde, graduate student, shared her poster about MSN functions, *Assessing public reach and participation in a long-term citizen science program for manatees along the Mississippi-Alabama coast*.

Dr. Carmichael also shared a poster that combined stranding data across programs, *One Ocean One Health: Reciprocal links among marine mammal, ecosystem, and human health in coastal waters*.



Carmichael, Tucker and Corde at SMM

Coming this summer: Adopt a new manatee!

You can support DISL/MSN’s education and outreach efforts through Save the Manatee Club’s Adopt-A-Manatee program. Past tagged manatee “Clog” is joining the list of manatees you can symbolically adopt! He is a recurring visitor to Alabama waters and in 2022 was part of our tagging program. He will join Alabama manatee “Bama” in the adoption list, and a portion of proceeds will support MSN!

