

MANATEE FACTS

Description: West Indian manatees are large, gray aquatic mammals with a body that tapers to a flat, paddle-shaped tail. They have two flippers and their head and face are wrinkled with whiskers on the snout. The average adult manatee is about 10 feet long and weighs about 1,000 pounds.

Behavior: Manatees are gentle and slow-moving. Most of their time is spent eating, resting, and in travel. Manatees are herbivorous and graze for food along water bottoms and on the surface. They may rest submerged at the bottom or just below the surface, coming up to breathe on the average of every three to five minutes.



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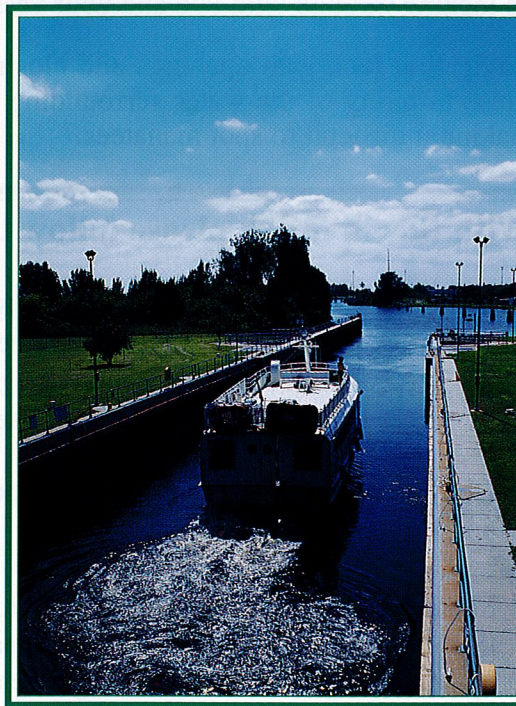
Habitat and Range: Manatees are found in shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals, and coastal areas. Manatees are a migratory species. Within the U.S. they are concentrated in Florida year-round. In summer months they can venture as far north as Virginia and the Carolinas and as far west as Alabama and Louisiana.

Lifespan, Mortality, Population: It is believed that manatees can live 60 years or more. Many manatee mortalities are human-related and most human-related manatee mortalities occur from collisions with watercraft. Other causes of human-related mortalities include being crushed and/or drowned in navigation locks and flood control structures; ingestion of fish hooks, litter and monofilament line; entanglement in crab trap lines; and vandalism. Ultimately, loss of habitat is the most serious long-term threat facing manatees today. There are about 3,000 West Indian manatees left in the United States.

If you see a dead, injured, orphaned, or tagged manatee, or a manatee being harassed, please call 1-888-404-FWCC or #FWC on your cellular phone.

LOOK OUT BELOW!

- Manatees share Florida's waterways with boaters.
- Manatees have learned to negotiate navigation locks.
- Manatees and boats both use navigation locks at the same time.
- Manatees face many dangers including being struck by speeding boats and crushed during lock operations.

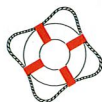


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You can help prevent manatee injury or mortality when locking through by following these simple guidelines...

For more information on manatees, contact:

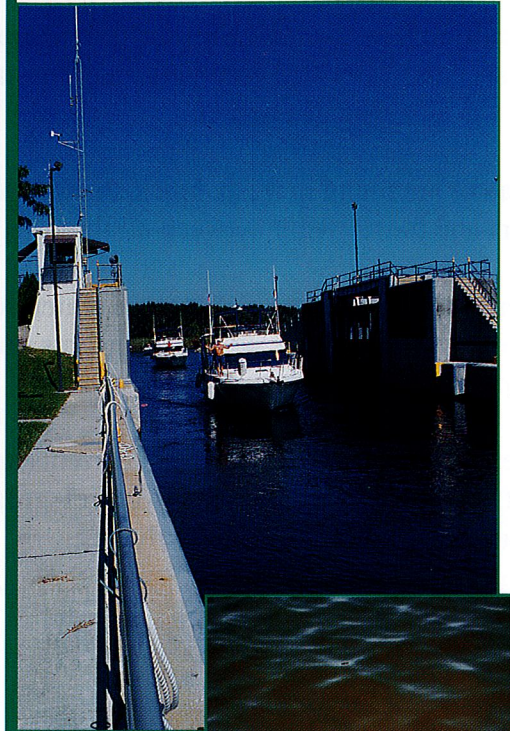
Save the Manatee Club
500 N. Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
1-800-432-5646



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MANATEES



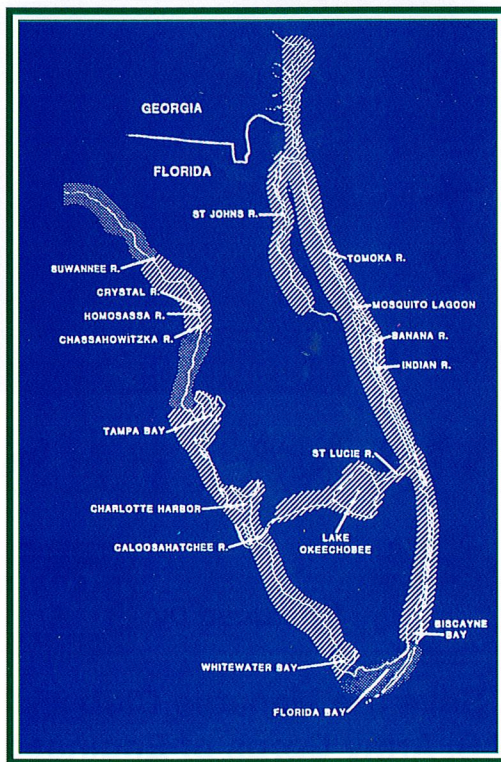
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**Save the Manatee Club and
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Jacksonville District**

DID YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN MANATEE HABITAT?

- Basically, all of coastal Florida is manatee habitat. Any waterway emptying into coastal waters is also manatee habitat.
- Manatees are found in fresh, brackish, and salt waters and move freely between all three.
- Water depths of at least 3 to 5 feet are preferred, however manatees can be found in flats and shallows adjacent to deeper water.
- If the waters are deep enough and currents are not too strong, manatees will travel great distances up coastal and inland rivers.



Manatee Habitat

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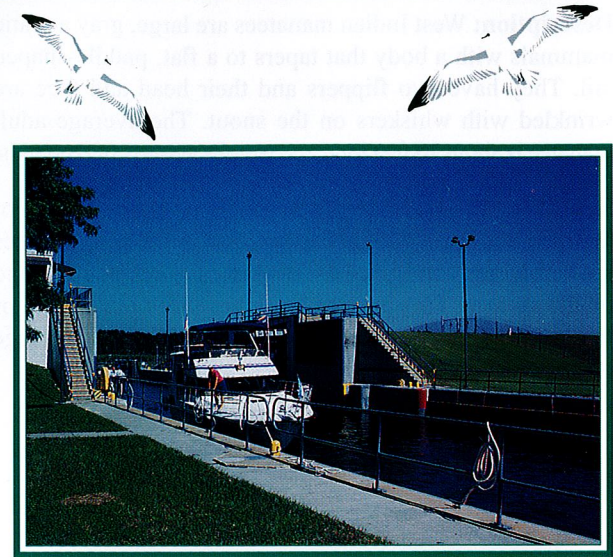
LOCKING THROUGH WITH MANATEES:

Proper Etiquette

Manatees are native to Florida and were using its waterways long before there were navigation locks. Since the construction of Florida's navigation lock structures, manatees have had to learn to negotiate them.

Manatees appear to be aware of scheduled openings and closings of locks and will often show up prior to that time. So be aware that manatees may often be locking through with you and your vessel.

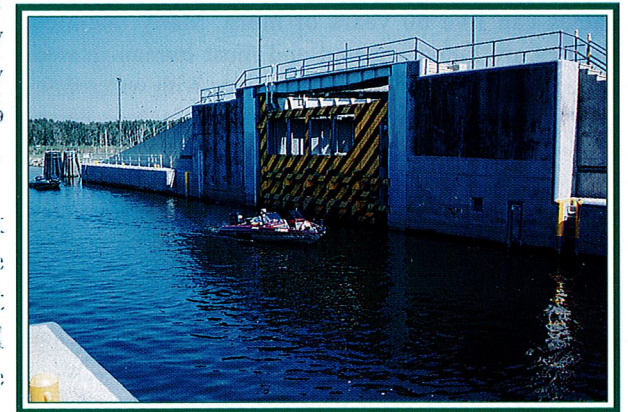
Navigation lock gate openings and closings often cause turbidity of the water surrounding the lock, making it difficult to spot manatees.



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With this in mind, please follow these simple guidelines:

1. Use extra caution when locking through in manatee habitat. Watch for these indications of the presence of manatees:
 - A snout, tail, or flipper breaking the surface of the water.
 - A swirl in the water that indicates a manatee is just under the surface.
2. Obey all cautionary and regulatory speed zones. Use idle speed when entering and leaving the lock chamber.
3. Manatees will linger at the gates waiting for them to open, so do not enter or exit partially opened lock gates. Wait until the gates are fully open and the lock operator has signaled to provide enough room for boats and manatees.
4. Special precautions are taken by lock operators when manatees are present. Please follow the instructions of the lock operator at all times. Remember, the lock operator has full authority over the movement of boats in the lock and its approaches.



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