

### **Guidelines for Activities in Proximity to Manatees and Their Habitat**

- A. All personnel associated with the project should be informed of the potential presence of manatees, manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. Such personnel instruction should also include a discussion of the civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees, which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- B. All contract and/or construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s).
- C. Temporary signs should be posted prior to and during all construction/dredging activities to remind personnel to be observant for manatees during active construction/dredging operations or within vessel movement zones (i.e., work area), and at least one sign should be placed where it is visible to the vessel operator.
- D. Siltation barriers, if used, should be made of material in which manatees could not become entangled, and should be properly secured and regularly monitored. Barriers should not impede manatee movement.
- E. If a manatee is sighted within 100 yards of the active work zone, special operating conditions should be implemented, including: no operation of moving equipment within 50 feet of a manatee; all vessels should operate at no wake/idle speeds within 100 yards of the work area; and siltation barriers, if used, should be re-secured and monitored. Once the manatee has left the 100-yard buffer zone around the work area on its own accord, special operating conditions are no longer necessary, but careful observations would be resumed.
- F. Any manatee sighting should be immediately reported to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Manatee Sighting Network Hotline at (866-493-5803) or at [manatee.disl.org](http://manatee.disl.org) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Jackson MS Field Office (228-493-6631).