



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/RA/ES

VIA FACSIMILE AND OVERNIGHT MAIL

Mr. Eric Glitzenstein
Meyers & Glitzenstein
Suite 700
1601 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009-1035

Ms. Virginia S. Albrecht
Mr. Robert Gulley
Hunton & Williams
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109

Dear Mr. Glitzenstein, Ms. Albrecht, and Mr. Gulley:

Re: Deployment of Law Enforcement Resources for Protection of Florida Manatee

On January 5, 2001, a Settlement Agreement (Agreement) in the case of Sava the Manatee Club, et al. v. Ballard, et al., Civil No. 00-0076 EGS/JMF (D.D.C.) was approved by the Court. As part of this Agreement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) agreed to provide the plaintiffs and intervenors with a letter generally describing how the Service intends to deploy its increased law enforcement resources in FY 2001. (See Agreement, ¶ 12.) We are pleased to provide this information to you in this letter.

In the FY 2000, Congress appropriated \$500,000 to the Service for manatee law enforcement, to study warm water refugia, and to determine if additional refuge and sanctuary designations are warranted. These funds were directed to three different programs involved with manatees, Law Enforcement (LE), Ecological Services (ES) and National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). In FY 2001, Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 to the Service for manatee law enforcement, to study warm water refugia, and to continue the analysis to determine if additional refuge and sanctuary designations are warranted. The funds for each program in each fiscal year is summarized below:

	FY2000	FY 2001
LE	\$250,000	\$350,000
ES	\$200,000	\$405,000
NWR	\$50,000	\$245,000

The funds that went to LE in FY 2000 were spent to buy several boats and motors, trailers and the vehicles to tow the boats, and law enforcement "task force" operations to reduce boater speed. The \$50,000 given to NWR in FY 2000 was used to hire an additional full time refuge officer for Ten Thousand Islands NWR. No funds given to ES were used for manatee law enforcement in FY 2000. These funds were, however, used to conduct the other manatee activities directed by Congress.

In FY 2001 LE received an additional \$100,000 for a total available amount of \$350,000. LE will spend this \$350,000 in the following ways. The Service has hired one additional special agent dedicated primarily to manatee protection. This special agent will be located in Jacksonville. The Service also has ten other special agents in Florida who will be used for the task force operations and to assist in manatee protection (\$255,000 for all special agents salary, travel, etc.). LE will acquire an additional Boston Whaler and an outboard motor for the Whaler for the new special agent (\$35,000). A small amount will be used for repair and maintenance of boats used for manatee protection (\$10,000). Finally, special task force operations will be increased in FY 2001 from 7,400 man-hours to roughly 9,000 man-hours (\$50,000). The special task forces will be used primarily on weekends and during holidays when boat use is at its highest. By necessity these task forces will be focused on boating in the counties with the highest manatee mortality and in those areas that are identified as trouble areas as the year progresses.

Some of the funds given to NWR in FY 2001 will again be used for manatee law enforcement. NWR will continue to fund the refuge officer at Ten Thousand Islands NWR (\$50,000)¹. Additionally, it will fund a total of three new refuge officers at refuges in Florida. Lake Woodruff NWR², Crystal River NWR and Merritt Island NWR will each be staffed with a new refuge officer at a total cost of \$195,000 (\$65,000 per refuge officer). The hiring of these new refuge officers will enable the Service to continue to increase its efforts to protect the manatee. For example, in FY 1998 the refuges in Florida, independent of the LE efforts, spent an estimated 3,000 man-hours on manatee law enforcement including spot task force efforts that differ from those done by LE. In FY 2000, the refuges in Florida spent an estimated 5,000 man-hours on manatee law enforcement. In FY 2001, with the addition of the three new refuge officers, the Service estimates that the refuges will spend approximately 7,000 man-hours on manatee law enforcement. Next fiscal year this will increase to 9,000 man-hours.

¹The refuge pays \$15,000 to cover the full cost of \$65,000 for the refuge officer.

²The Lake Woodruff NWR also bought a boat for manatee law enforcement out of the refuge operational funds (\$38,000).

Summarizing the funds that will be spent in FY 2001 on law enforcement efforts for protection of the Florida manatee, LE will spend \$350,000, NWR will spend \$245,000, and refuges in Florida will spend \$53,000 of their operational dollars for a grand total of \$648,000 in FY 2001.

Sincerely yours,


for **San D. Hamilton**
Regional Director