

# U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## *Proposed West Indian Manatee ESA Reclassification from Endangered to Threatened*



### **Informational Open House**

*Presentation and Question/Answer Session*

**1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

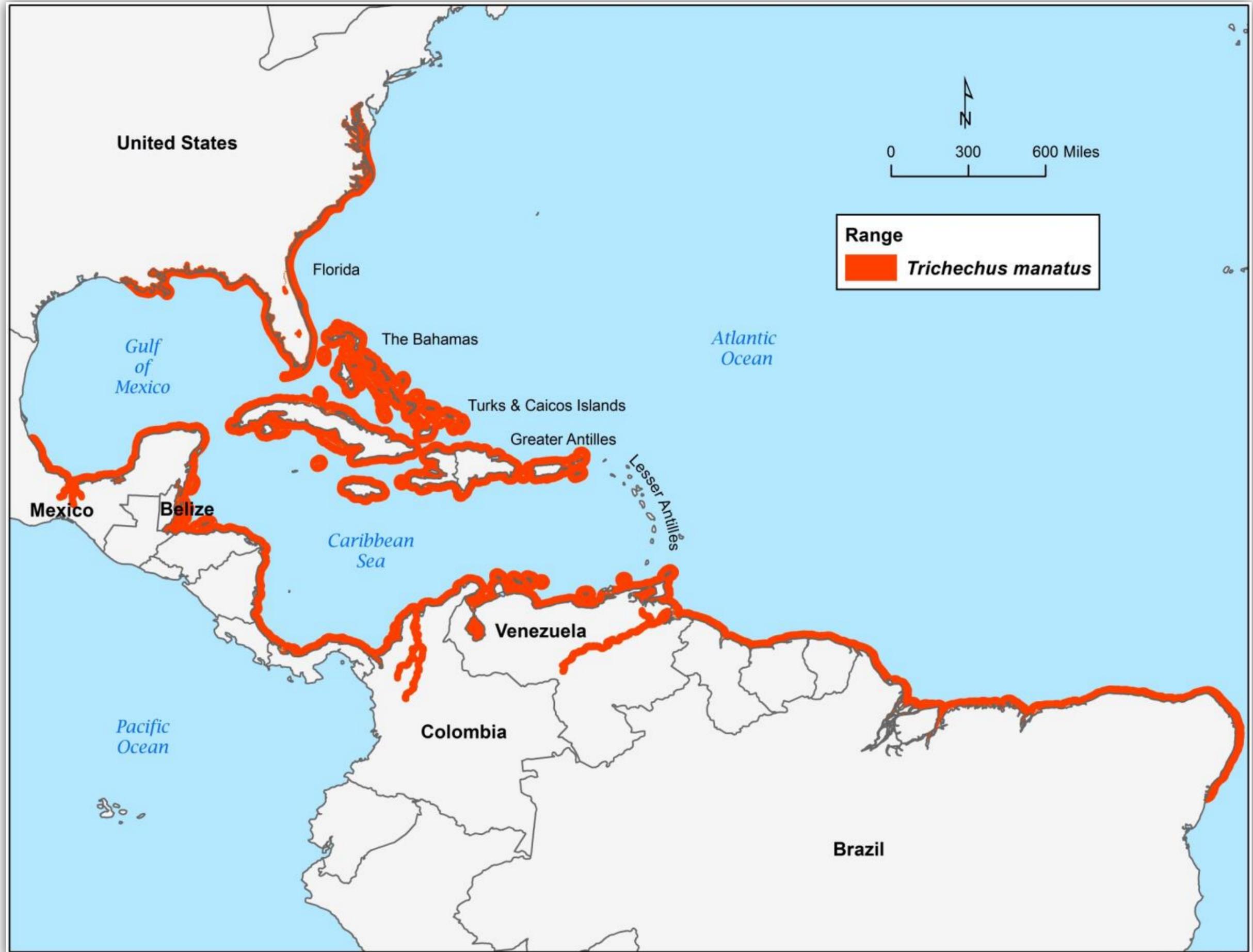


### **Formal Public Hearing**

*Presentation and Formal Public Comment Period*

**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

***If you wish to speak at the hearing please register at the Registration Table  
Registration not required for Open House***



# ESA Threats Evaluation

(aka Five-Factor Analysis)

- (A) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- (B) Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- (C) Disease or predation;
- (D) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms;
- (E) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

# Status Definitions

An “**Endangered Species**” is a species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

*A species that is in danger of extinction is one that is currently on the brink of extinction in the wild.*

A “**Threatened Species**” is any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

*Not on the brink of extinction but threats remain and must be addressed for full recovery.*

# What changes occur now or if status change is finalized?

Simply put...**nothing**...regardless of manatee's status on the list of threatened and endangered species.

**ALL** federal manatee protection and conservation measures remain unchanged, and additional measures can be added if warranted.

**ALL** manatee protection areas (speeds zones and sanctuaries) remain enforced and compliance mandatory.

**ALL** project consultation and permit review processes remain unchanged.

**ALL** manatee conservation efforts will continue into the foreseeable future.

**ALL** efforts to minimize, mitigate or eliminate threats to recovery will continue undiminished.

## Then why make the change?

Based on our analysis and review of current information, the Service believes the West Indian manatee **no longer fits the definition of endangered** and as such proposes to change the species' status to threatened as outlined in the ESA.