

From: [Calleson, Teresa](#)
To: [Mena, Lourdes](#); [Basili, Gianfranco D](#)
Cc: [Calleson, Charles S](#); [Hinzman, Roxanna](#); [Dziergowski, Annie](#)
Subject: Issues with high capacity at manatee facilities
Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022 11:28:00 AM
Attachments: [20220506_Manatees In Facilities-Release Committee Chart Combo Release Committee_rvsd.xlsx](#)
[Welaka NFH manatee arrival 5.6.2022 DSC_0162.JPG](#)
[Marathon WC manatee 5.3.2022 IMG_5354.JPG](#)
Importance: High

Hi all,

FYSA – having issues with manatee capacity due to high number of rescues and two of the recent watercraft-related rescues for the MRP were injured females with calves (so net increase of 2 for each of these). The situation is exacerbated by the fact that three of the other primary critical care facilities (Miami Seaquarium, ZooTampa and Jacksonville Zoo) are closed to incoming patients, and Sea World is having to take all the incoming critical care cases (again). To me, we are seeing a higher number of watercraft cases coming in and bad injuries – propeller cuts to the head (see attached) – this manatee has a fractured skull but is eating at Sea World and looked surprisingly ok to me when I saw him last week while there for the AMMPA meeting. Looking at past years – we are similar to last year (but have facility closures we didn’t last year at this time) but running about 20 manatees or so higher for rehab than the years prior to 2021.

Sea World was able to release 2 manatees this week but received 3 new incoming patients on Friday alone. Two of the manatees (the watercraft injured mother with the calf) they received would normally have been routed to ZooTampa as they were from Lee County.

Welaka National Fish Hatchery – we did it! 😊 two male manatees were released into Pond 4 at Welaka NFH on Friday (photo attached – thanks, Lourdes!). The manatees seem to have settled in now and are enjoying the romaine. There was a significant storm that passed through last night but the report this morning was that all is going well. For the safety of the manatees and the Sea World staff on site, we are telling everyone to keep this “close to the vest” for the next couple of weeks. Will make a great story, we hope – but in due time. This will initially be a 2-week trial.

Manatees in Captivity (5/6): 88 (72 in FL, 2 in GA, 12 in OH, 1 in TX and 1 in PR)

Critical Care Facility Status:

Sea World (33) – OPEN

ZooTampa (15) – CLOSED, space/water quality issues

Jacksonville Zoo (3) – CLOSED, extremely critical watercraft-injured manatee from St. Augustine taking up the medical pool because has to be at shallow depth

Miami Seaquarium – CLOSED and asked to go back to a holding facility (cannot provide critical care and does not have an experienced manatee critical care vet)

Following my presentation last week and my meeting with Disney’s management on Thursday, we have some additional offers of assistance on the table that are going to take me some time to try to evaluate and discuss with MRP leadership and Headquarters/USDA because it would involve federal permitting – they are at Disney, Gulfarium, White Oak, and possibly Dolphin Research Center. They

would be options that won't provide immediate help – perhaps over a 1-2 year horizon. Disney's may be more helpful due to staff with manatee experience, financial considerations and proximity to Sea World (i.e. easy for them to take stable manatees from this partner facility in Orlando). They want to continue to help the MRP with taking stable manatees – UME cases or otherwise. At a lunch meeting I had last Tuesday, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has also offered staffing and financial assistance with Welaka or elsewhere, if that would be helpful.

Let me know if you have questions – should be interesting over the next month, especially with the Memorial Day holiday on the horizon. I will be out of the country May 21-27 but will be letting the facility partners know and will touch base with the manatee vets.

Terri Calleson

Florida Manatee Recovery Lead

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200

Jacksonville, Florida 32256-7517

904-731-3286 (office)

Email: Teresa_Calleson@fws.gov

<http://www.fws.gov/northflorida>

Facility	Rescue ID	Facility ID	Name	Rescue Date	Transfer Date - to this facility	Waterbody/County	Cause of Rescue	Sex	Rescue Straight Length (cm)	Rescue Weight (kg)	Rescue Weight (lbs)	Medically Cleared for Release	
Sea World (28)	REC9512	SWFTm9537B	Oakley	12/1/1995	1/24/2006	Oakhill/Volusia	Natural Cold Stress	F	175	111	245	NO (conditionally non-releasable)	
		SWFTm8687B	Sara	10/14/1986		Venice Inlet - Venice Beach/Sarasota	Undetermined	F	132	40	88	NO (conditionally non-releasable)	
	RNW1820	SWFTm1862B	Keeks	10/15/2018		Gulf of Mexico - Clearwater/Pinellas	Natural Orphan calf	F	119	26	57	NO	
	RNE1906	SWFTm1917B	Alby	8/7/2019		Halifax River - Daytona Beach/Volusia	Natural Orphan calf	M	101	23	51	NO	
	RNW1915	SWFTm1918B	Adobe	9/3/2019		Crystal River/Citrus	Natural Orphan calf	F	143	55	121	NO	
	RNE1910	SWFTm1922B	Manhattan	10/28/2019		St. Augustine Beach/St. Johns	Natural Orphan calf	M	120	28	62	NO	
	RSW2004	SWFTm2012B	Chillycheese	3/16/2020		Little Sarasota Bay/Sarasota	Natural Orphan calf/Cold Str	F	126	41	90	NO	
	RNW2007	SWFTm2015B	Kelis	4/9/2020		McPherson Bayou - St. Pete Beach/Pinellas	Natural Orphan calf	F	127	31	68	NO	
	RSW2007	SWFTm2023B		6/22/2020		Little Hickory Bay - Bonita Springs/Lee	Watercraft	M	298	425	937	NO	
	REC2018	SWFTm2026B		7/15/2020		FPL-CCEC Plant Indian River/Brevard	Entrapment PP/Orphaned ca	F	112	23	51	NO	
	RNE2003	SWFTm2027B	Lizzo	7/28/2020		Palm Coast/Flagler	Natural Orphan Calf	F	115	28	63	NO	
	RNE2005	SWFTm2030B		9/4/2020		San Sebastian River/St. Johns	Natural Orphan Calf	F	115	21	46	NO	
	RNE1608	SWFTm1615B	Pippen	7/20/2016	9/19/2020	Daytona Beach/Volusia	Natural orphan calf	M	115	26	57	NO	
	REC2028	SWFTm2040B		12/19/2020		Berkeley Canal/Brevard	Natural Orphan Calf	M	163	90	198	NO	
	REC2029	SWFTm2041B		12/21/2020		Indian River/Brevard	Natural/Buoyancy Problem	F	252	225	496	NO	
	REC2104	SWFTm2102		1/14/2021		Blue Spring - SJR/Volusia	Natural Emaciated	F	135	49	108	NO	
	REC2107	SWFTm2104		1/24/2021		FPL-CCEC Plant Indian River/Brevard	Natural Orphan Calf	F	135	52	115	NO	
	RSW2105	SWFTm2105		1/25/2021		Flamingo/Everglades National Park	Watercraft/Undetermined	M	263	345	760	NO	
	RSE2107	SWFTm2106		1/26/2021		ICW-Pompano Beach/Broward	Natural Orphan Calf	F	161	93	205	NO	
	REC2108	SWFTm2107		2/1/2021		Blue Spring - SJR/Volusia	Natural Cold Stress	F	293	590	1300	CLOSE	
	RSW2108	SWFTm2109		2/3/2021		FPL Ft Myers - Orange River/Lee	Watercraft Impact	M	241	270	595	NO	
	RSE2108	SWFTm2110	Chessie	2/5/2021		Lake Worth - Riviera Beach/Palm Beach	Natural/Buoyancy Problem	M	327	565	1245	NO	
	RSE2109	SWFTm2111		2/5/2021		Fort Pierce/St. Lucie	Natural Tidally Stranded/Und	F	196	131	289	NO	
	RNE2103	SWFTm2113		2/9/2021		Welaka Spring/Putnam	Natural/Emaciated	F	119	172	379	NO	
	REC2110	SWFTm2115	Chloe	2/23/2021		Blue Spring - SJR/Volusia	Undetermined/Entanglemen	F	315	475	1047	NO	
	REC2111	SWFTm2116		3/5/2021		Melbourne Beach/Brevard	Watercraft - Both	F	230	268	591	NO	
						Blue Spring - SJR/Volusia	Emaciation						
						Blue Spring - SJR/Volusia	Calf of rescued mother						



