

Manatee Protection Measures for South Carolina

To reduce potential construction-related impacts to the manatee to discountable and insignificant levels, the Service recommends implementing the following *Standard Manatee Protection Measures* to all projects affecting the coastal waters of South Carolina.

The permittee will comply with the following construction conditions for manatee protection:

1. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of manatees and the need to avoid collisions with manatees. All construction personnel **must** monitor water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s).
2. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are 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.
3. Barriers must not impede manatee movement and additionally any siltation barriers used during the project shall be made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled and must be properly secured, and regularly monitored to avoid manatee entrapment.
4. All vessels associated with the project shall operate at “no wake/idle” speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
5. If manatee(s) are seen within 100 yards of the active construction area all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure protection of the manatee. These precautions shall include the operation of all moving equipment no closer than 50 feet to a manatee. Operation of any equipment closer than 50 feet to a manatee shall necessitate immediate shutdown of that equipment. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has departed the project area of its own volition, or until 30 minutes has elapsed if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.
6. The permittee understands and agrees that all in-water lines (rope, chain, and cable, including the lines to secure turbidity curtains) must be stiff, taut, and non-looping. Examples of such lines are heavy metal chains or heavy cables that do not readily loop and tangle. Flexible in-water lines, such as nylon rope or any lines that could loop or tangle, must be enclosed in a plastic or rubber sleeve/tube to add rigidity and prevent the line from looping and tangling. In all instances, no excess line is allowed in the water. Where appropriate in water wires, cables, should be fitted with PVC sleeve from the surface to the bottom to prevent any potential scraping of the passing manatees.
7. Any collision with and/or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contacts: Melanie Olds, South Carolina Manatee Lead,

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Charleston Field Office, at 843-727-4707 ext. 40413; or Terri Calleson, Manatee Recovery Coordinator, North Florida Field Office, at 904-731-3286.