

Manatee Enforcement



Burden of Proof

The Endangered Species Act **is not** a Strict Liability Statute, which means:

The prosecution must show that the violation was committed in a manner where the accused either knew or should have known they were in violation of manatee protection regulations.

(makes posting paramount to enforcement)

MANATEE ZONE
SLOW SPEED
MINIMUM WAKE
TO SHORE

2005 5 15



2005 5 15



ATTENTION BOATERS

Some waters of Duval County are now regulated year round for manatee protection. These boat speed regulation zones are marked by regulatory signs designed to clearly indicate the speed restriction and the area regulated. Please watch for and carefully read these signs as violations of these regulatory zones may result in fines.

The regulatory zone in the area of this boat ramp is a:

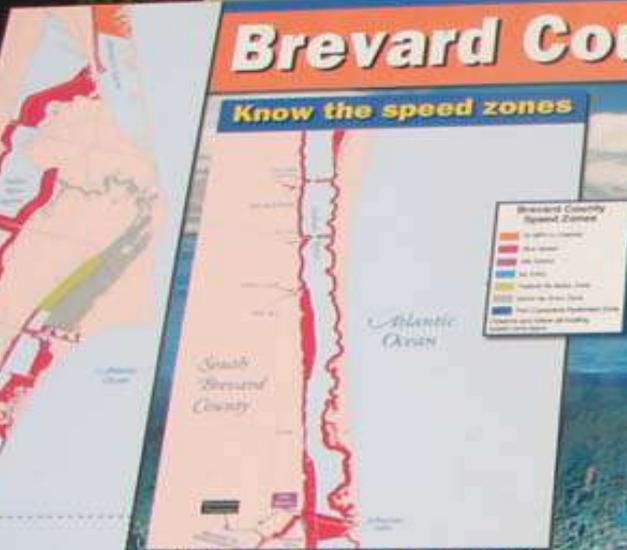
MANATEE ZONE
SLOW SPEED BUFFER WITHIN
600 FT OF EAST SHORE
OR 300 FT OF WEST SHORE

CAUTION BOAT

2002 7 23

Brevard County boater information

Know the speed zones



Mangroves and seagrasses
Mangroves and seagrasses are vital ecosystems that provide habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. They also help filter pollutants and sediments from the water. Please do not anchor in mangroves or seagrass beds, and please do not discharge any pollutants or sediments into the water.

Wear a life jacket
Florida law requires that all persons on a boat wear a life jacket. Life jackets are designed to keep you afloat in the water until help arrives. They are not intended to prevent drowning, but they can give you time to get help.

What can you do to protect Florida manatees?

- Slow down in manatee areas. Manatees are most vulnerable to boat strikes in shallow, protected areas. Slowing down in these areas can help protect them.
- Manatee Season: From November 1 to March 31, manatees are protected from boat strikes. During this time, you must slow down in manatee areas.
- Manatee Safe Zones: These are areas where manatees are most vulnerable to boat strikes. You must slow down in these areas.
- Manatee Safe Zones: These are areas where manatees are most vulnerable to boat strikes. You must slow down in these areas.
- Manatee Safe Zones: These are areas where manatees are most vulnerable to boat strikes. You must slow down in these areas.

Manatees
Manatees are the state's official marine mammal. They are large, slow-moving mammals that live in shallow, protected areas. They are most vulnerable to boat strikes. Please do not discharge any pollutants or sediments into the water. Please do not anchor in mangroves or seagrass beds. Please do not discharge any pollutants or sediments into the water.

Attention boaters!

LOW SPEED
No Wake

SLOW SPEED
No Wake

RESUME NORMAL
SAFE OPERATION

Who should use wakeboards?
Wakeboarders should use a personal wakeboarder's life jacket (PWLJ) when operating a boat. PWLJs are designed to keep you afloat in the water. They are not intended to prevent drowning, but they can give you time to get help.

Who should use life jackets?
All persons on a boat must wear a life jacket. Life jackets are designed to keep you afloat in the water. They are not intended to prevent drowning, but they can give you time to get help.

Who should use life jackets?
All persons on a boat must wear a life jacket. Life jackets are designed to keep you afloat in the water. They are not intended to prevent drowning, but they can give you time to get help.

TO REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS (888) 404-FWCC

Minimum required safety equipment for recreational boaters*

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) One wearable USCG approved life jacket for each person on board is required. Children under 16 years old must wear an approved life jacket or a vest that is 16 feet long and 12 inches wide. If a vessel is 16 feet or longer, it must also have one Coast Guard approved throwable PFD. PFDs must be readily accessible to all occupants.

Fire Extinguishers (FEs) A FE is required on power vessels up to a point where the body of water is less than two miles wide. Vessels less than 16 feet long only need to carry a FE if they are operating from sunset to sunrise.

Sound Signals All vessels must carry an approved sound-producing device. There are various types that can be used on all public water.

Visual Distress Signals (VDSs) VDSs are required on vessels operating in federal waters. They are used to signal a vessel in distress. They are required on vessels operating in federal waters.

Take the pledge

1. I pledge to set a good example for my passengers by keeping my boat at all times while boating.
2. I pledge to always pay attention while operating the boat, including watching for I Can't See a Boat signs and manatees around my boat.
3. I pledge to learn and observe all boating regulations, navigation rules, and vessel safety requirements.
4. I pledge to operate my boat responsibly and I will not knowingly disturb wildlife.
5. I pledge to operate out of alcohol at all times.

WSD: www.floridawater.com

WEAR IT FLORIDA

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

JOINT ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS PLAN FOR MANATEE PROTECTION

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
and
The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

BACKGROUND

The Division of Law Enforcement of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has entered a Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) for cooperative law enforcement with the US Department of Interior; U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Office of Law Enforcement. This MAA provides for re-delegation of state and federal authority

1. The MAA is a re-delegation of federal authority to officers of the FWC with regard to search, seizure and arrest for the following Acts which pertain to Manatee Enforcement:

(a) Lacey Act Amendment of 1981

(b) Endangered Species Act of 1973

(c) National Wildlife Refuge Systems Administration Act

(d) National Conservation Recreation Act

(e) Marine Mammal Protection Act

2. The MAA also contains a re-delegation of FWC state law enforcement authority dealing with protection and conservation of wildlife and natural resources to FWS Special Agents/Manatee Refuge Officers.

FWS agents/officers received training in the use of Florida Uniform Boating Citations (UBC) and FWC written warnings. The training establishes the authority to issue either a UBC or FWC warning.

FWC Officers are authorized per the "enforcement strategy" section of this agreement to forward information to FWS for federal prosecution.

3. This MAA provides authority for joint enforcement efforts in the state.

Specifically, the FWC and FWS will be planning and conducting joint enforcement efforts with regard to manatee protection.

MANATEE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS PLAN

Goals

1. Increase compliance with state and federal manatee protection zones.
2. Provide a consistent approach to enforcement of manatee protection zones statewide.
3. Use best data available to determine where best to focus law enforcement efforts for the benefit and recovery of the species.
4. Use agency assets as force multiplier to prevent patrol area gaps.

Operation Details

FWC and FWS will jointly conduct at least five (5) targeted enforcement operations each year. Based on the following criteria:

High or increased number of Manatee mortalities due to watercraft strikes or waterborne activities.

Areas of high or increased number of manatee related complaints by patrol officers or the public and/or general lack of compliance with Manatee Speed Zones.

Properly posted speed zones allowing for effective enforcement.

Concurrent / overlapping state and federal zones.

Areas which historically have high boater activity and /or lack of compliance during holidays, weekends, or special events.

C. The enforcement operations will occur on the following holidays and high activity weekends:

Dates

Memorial Day Weekend - Last Monday in May

July 4th Weekend - Friday, Saturday and Sunday falling before or after the 4th.

Labor Day Weekend - First Monday in September

Columbus Day Weekend - Second Monday in October

Veterans Day or Thanksgiving Day Holidays

**** *Locations for these details will be determined using the criteria from "Operation Details - Section A" *****

D. Other operations as necessary and arranged by FWCIFWS will be organized year-round.

FY 2008

10/2007 – 9/2008

6 – Major details (Multi-agency)

20 – Joint details (FWCC or Local)

61 – FWS details

600: Notices of violations issued

223 citation - Referrals: from FWCC,
USCG, NPS, Local S/O

FY 2009

10/1/2008 – 9/30/2009

7 – Major Details (Multi-agency)

25 – Joint Details

74 – FWS Details

659 – Violation notices issued

127 citation: Referrals from USCG; FWCC;
S/O



Save Family Boating

STOP THE MADNESS!
PROPERTY & BOATER RIGHTS RALLY
TAKE BACK THE WATER!
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE!

Take Back The Water

Save Family Boating



MANATEE

*Rescue & Bar-B-Que
Commis*

STOP GLOBAL WHINING