

## GUIDELINES TO MINIMIZE/AVOID MANATEE ENTRAPMENT

### PRE-CONSTRUCTION

Water control structures, trash rakes, barriers and other devices that may entrap manatees (even temporarily) within a closed waterway could result in harm or death to the entrapped manatee. At least 90 days prior to installing a structure that may be a barrier or impediment to manatee movement, advanced consultation with the Service and the FWC should occur. When a manatee-accessible waterway is proposed to be closed to manatees (exclusion area), aerial and ground surveys are required to ensure that manatees are not entrapped in a closed system.

1. Aerial Survey: Prior to installing the last section of any barriers (temporary or permanent) that could result in the entrapment of manatees within the waterway, SFWMD or the Corps shall conduct an aerial survey of the proposed exclusion area. The extent of the survey area will be identified by the Service and FWC. Both the Service and FWC should be contacted to participate in the aerial survey. It is recommended that the surveys be conducted by helicopter.
2. Waterway Closure: If no manatees are sighted within the exclusion area, the waterway will be closed off immediately following the survey. If manatees are sighted within the exclusion area, they should be observed to see if they move beyond the proposed barrier. If they do not move out of the waterway within 10 days, the Corps and SFWMD shall consult with the Service and FWC to determine if the barrier should be put in place. Manatees shall not be herded, poked, prodded or harassed in any way to move them along the waterway.

### POST-CONSTRUCTION

Once the barrier has been installed, the barrier and waterway should be monitored by land once daily for a period of one week to check for the presence of manatees. If manatees are sighted within the exclusion area, the FWC should be contacted at 888-404-FWCC.