

MANATEE RESPONSE BY THE NUMBERS

Updated: 12/15/2021

MANATEES RESCUED STATEWIDE IN 2021: 141

MANATEES RESCUED IN UME DEFINED AREA (12/1/2020 – 12/5/2021): 84 in the Atlantic Management Unit

MANATEES RESCUED STATEWIDE IN LAST 7 DAYS: 2

MANATEES RELEASED IN LAST 7 DAYS: 1

MANATEES IN REHABILITATION FACILITIES: 85

Please note this is preliminary data which is subject to change.

[Video Update](#)

Weekly Update

12/15/2021

Teams continue to monitor and respond to manatees along the east coast and are looking for signs of starvation and cold stress.

Staff are in the final preparation stages for the supplemental feeding trial to begin at the manatee UME Temporary Field Response Station in Brevard County. We are staging equipment and supplies and making sure other resources are in place. Staff will continue to monitor the weather and manatee behavior to determine when to provide food.

Water temperatures currently are around 72 F or higher along much of the East Coast. Typically, water temperatures hit 68 F or lower before manatees gather in warm water sites. As of December 15, manatees are not gathering in large numbers.

In addition to the supplemental feeding trial, the FWC and USFWS are assisting partners with a variety of other efforts to help reduce manatee mortality, specifically along the East Coast of Florida. Both agencies have increased law enforcement presence along the waterways in the areas most affected by the UME. Officers will watch for manatees in need of assistance and help ensure existing speed zones are followed. These speed zones help reduce the likelihood of manatees being struck by boats.

The morning of December 15, FWC staff found a small calf at the Cape Canaveral Energy Center. Staff responded and captured the calf, which was then transported to SeaWorld.

On December 16, the FWC will also be assisting ZooTampa as they release a rehabilitated manatee at TECO Manatee Viewing Center in Apollo Beach. The manatee was rescued because of neurological signs from exposure to red tide.