

## **MANATEE RESPONSE BY THE NUMBERS**

**Updated: 12/22/2021**

[MANATEES RESCUED](#) STATEWIDE IN 2021: 145

MANATEES RESCUED IN UME DEFINED AREA (12/1/2020 – 12/19/2021): 87 in the Atlantic Management Unit

MANATEES RESCUED STATEWIDE (12/15/2021 - 12/21/2021): 4

MANATEES RELEASED (12/15/2021 - 12/21/2021): 1

MANATEES IN REHABILITATION FACILITIES: 88

Data is preliminary.

### [Video Update](#)

#### **Weekly Update**

12/22/2021

The Temporary Field Response Station (TFRS) is now operational. However, since the team is witnessing little manatee activity due to unseasonably warm weather, only small amounts of lettuce are being offered at the site. When manatee presence increases, staff will increase the amount of food offered and have secured numerous sources to obtain produce.

Staff are using floating PVC pipe corrals to prevent the lettuce from dispersing outside the supplemental feeding area and to allow for easier clean up, reducing the chance of lettuce remaining in the system. A system for monitoring water quality near the TFRS is now in effect.

Due to early cold fronts this season, manatees moved to warm water sites. After the fronts passed, and water warmed again, manatees moved into nearby habitat. In general, water temperatures take longer to drop than the surrounding air temperature. Typically, water temperatures hit 68 F or lower before manatees gather in warm water sites. FWC and USFWS staff will continue to monitor surrounding waters and respond as necessary. Staff are also monitoring the weather closely and as water temperatures decrease, they anticipate that manatee sightings in the area will increase.

#### **Manatee Rescues Update**

Last week, the team captured a previously rescued and released manatee, an adult female, for a routine health assessment. During the assessment, she was found to be underweight, so manatee response staff decided to transport the animal to SeaWorld for rehabilitation.

The other two manatees, an adult male and an adult female, were found at different locations near the TFRS. The male had external injuries and was transported to Jacksonville Zoo. The female displayed buoyancy issues and was transported to SeaWorld.