

## **UME update: 12/29/2021**

### [Video Update](#)

This week's Unified Command operations covered a wide range of operations including assisting our Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partners find additional non-critical rehabilitation space, continuing to address ongoing and anticipated logistical needs, procuring lettuce for the supplemental feeding trial, rescuing manatees in distress, carcass recovery, and monitoring manatees throughout the UME area.

The Temporary Field Response Station (TFRS) team is still finding little manatee activity due to unseasonably warm weather. For now, staff continue to deploy floating PVC pipe corrals each day in the off-chance manatees visit the area and take an interest in the lettuce offered. While the manatees have been uninterested so far, this may change when the weather and waters get colder. The corrals are working well in preventing the lettuce from dispersing outside the feeding trial area and do allow for easier clean up, reducing the chance of lettuce remaining in the system.

### **Manatee Rescue Update:**

Last week, the team captured an adult male that had beached itself in Palm Beach County. The FWC rescue team found the manatee unresponsive and underweight and transported the animal to SeaWorld for rehabilitation.

Additionally, 11 manatees were entrapped behind a flood gate in Homestead, Florida. FWC's Southeast Field Lab met with South Florida Water Management District staff and monitored the situation while the gate was reopened to ensure all the animals left and no new animals entered. After a visual assessment, it was determined that none of the manatees required rehabilitation.