

UME update 1/12/2022

[Video Update](#)

The weather over the last week at the Temporary Field Response Station has started to fluctuate (high air temperatures in the mid-60s to upper 70s) with low air temperatures still not dropping significantly. However, this coming weekend, nighttime air temperatures could reach as low as 50. Therefore, staff will be on the lookout for more manatees at the site next week when water temperatures are expected to drop below 68.

As part of the adaptive process of the supplemental feeding trial, staff are moving some of the PVC corrals to other nearby locations to increase the chances of a manatee encountering them and exploring the lettuce being contained within.

Leadership from the FWC and USFWS continue to prioritize the response to the manatee unusual mortality event. Last week, FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto and FWC Executive Director Eric Sutton toured the manatee Temporary Field Response Station in Brevard County and met with members of the response team.

The nonprofit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida announced that it is fundraising to support the supplemental feeding trial. In less than a month, the grassroots campaign has already raised more than \$10,000. All contributions help purchase leafy greens for authorized staff to provide manatees during the supplemental feeding trial, as well as other supplies for the response effort. Learn more about the [Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida Marine Mammal Fund](#).

Statewide Rescue update:

Last week in West Palm Beach, Florida at the Manatee Lagoon, manatee response staff responded to a report of a juvenile manatee in respiratory distress. A rescue team including staff from the FWC, USFWS, and Clearwater Marine Aquarium captured the thin male manatee. The manatee was transported to SeaWorld for rehabilitation.

In Broward County, manatee response staff received a report of a juvenile male manatee in a small pond on the grounds of the Fort Lauderdale Airport. The manatee gained access to the pond through an underground culvert system and possibly made it into the pond through an opening in the culvert grating. A rescue team, including staff from the FWC, USFWS, Broward County Environmental Resources Management, and Broward Sheriff's Office, responded and captured the male manatee. The manatee, appearing to be in good condition after an assessment, was transported to Port Everglades for release.

On Monday in Lee County, response staff rescued an adult female manatee that was excessively buoyant and had a fresh watercraft wound. The animal was captured in the Orange River and transported to SeaWorld for rehabilitation. This manatee has a microchip and was linked back to a previous rescue in St. James City in 2015 for an earlier watercraft injury.

Tuesday, FWC response teams and USFWS Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge staff received a report of an emaciated dependent calf that did not appear bonded to an adult female. The calf was observed trying to latch on to lactating females with calves already nursing. After an unsuccessful attempt to rescue on Tuesday the team rescued the calf Wednesday morning and noted that it was underweight and appeared to have cold stress lesions. Staff transported the calf to SeaWorld for rehabilitation.