

## **UME Weekly Update – 03/09/2022**

### [Video Update](#)

The supplemental feeding trial at the Temporary Field Response Station continues this week. Since staff first observed manatees feeding at the site on January 20, more than 110,000 pounds of lettuce has been provided by the FWC and the USFWS Unified Command.

It is typical to see animals dispersing this time of year as manatees naturally leave warm-water sites as ambient temperatures rise. The FWC and the USFWS Unified Command routinely evaluate and document the feeding trial and have not noticed a significant impact on manatee behavior.

As manatees naturally disperse from warm-water sites, people are more likely to see them while enjoying Florida's waterways. Public reports about distressed manatees to the FWC's Wildlife Alert hotline are essential to allow trained, expert staff to determine the best course of action. If you see an injured, sick, orphaned or dead manatee, please contact Wildlife Alert at 888-404-FWCC (3922).

Staff, volunteers, and our many partners within the Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partnership continue to work tirelessly to rescue and care for manatees in need of help. Recovery efforts continue as staff collect and examine carcasses to add to our understanding of this ongoing mortality event.

### **Statewide Rescues:**

3/3 - Staff received a report from USFWS staff of a thin manatee in Crystal River. The male manatee was rescued and transported to SeaWorld for rehabilitation.

3/6 - Staff received a public report of a grounded manatee in Stuart. Staff on site determined the manatee was unresponsive and thin, so the female was rescued and transported to Sea World for rehabilitation.

3/7 - FWC and Jacksonville Zoo staff rescued an excessively buoyant manatee in Volusia County. The manatee was transported to Jacksonville Zoo for rehabilitation.

### **Statewide Releases:**

3/2 - In January a stranded adult male manatee was rescued in Crystal River and sent to SeaWorld for rehabilitation. It was released back into Crystal River earlier this month.