

UME Weekly Update: 3/16/2022

[Video Update](#)

The supplemental feeding trial at the Temporary Field Response Station is likely in the final weeks for this winter season as manatees continue to disperse from warm-water sites. The number of manatees present fluctuates based on ambient water temperatures, with a high of 116 animals early this week due to two colder nights.

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 (MRP) 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. Recently, the Georgia Aquarium joined the MRP and received their first manatees for rehabilitation. This will increase the capacity for the MRP to care for more manatees in need of assistance.

Statewide Rescues:

3/9 - A thin and excessively buoyant adult female manatee was rescued near Chokoloskee. Clearwater Marine Aquarium staff transported the manatee to Sea World for rehabilitation.

Statewide Releases:

There were no releases this week.