



Save the Manatee Club

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES 1997 - 2005

Save the Manatee Club has been the voice for manatees since 1981 and has worked solely for the welfare and protection of endangered manatees and their aquatic habitat. What follows are some of the highlights of our accomplishments since 1997.

1997 – Save the Manatee Club

- Funds rehabilitation and release projects in Puerto Rico and Jamaica.
- Supports a satellite tracking program in response to a manatee poaching problem in Belize.
- Provides educational materials to Colombian school children.
- Funds research projects on east and west coast photo identification studies and at a power plant on Florida's East Coast.
- Provides funding for a genetic assessment of manatees in Florida and Puerto Rico.
- Donates its 5th vessel toward rescue efforts of injured manatees.
- Stops a very large marina from being built in sensitive manatee habitat.

1998 – Save the Manatee Club

- Sponsors two physiological research studies.
- Donates equipment to aid in the on-water law enforcement effort.
- Hires an East Central Florida regional coordinator in response to high mortality in the region.
- Successfully lobbies for additional funds for the state's manatee conservation efforts during the legislative session.
- Helps to obtain a permanent federal sanctuary at Three Sisters Spring in Crystal River, Florida.

1999 – Save the Manatee Club

- Starts a pilot project in the Florida Keys to recycle monofilament fishing line.
- Provides funding to organizations in Colombia and Puerto Rico for the care of orphaned calves.
- Supports a research study in Chetumal Bay, Mexico on manatee use and distribution.
- Assists in the rescue of two manatees far from home: one headed to the Dry Tortugas and the other swimming in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Successfully lobbies the state to adopt no-entry zones at the warm water effluents of two East Coast power plants protecting manatees as they take refuge from cold weather snaps.
- Files Sixty Day Notice of Intent to Sue letters against the federal and state governments charging that the agencies are in violation of the Endangered Species Act and other federal laws.

2000 – Save the Manatee Club

- Supports an ambitious project to determine the distribution of manatees in Nicaragua and also provides funding for education in the classrooms.
- Funds a research study aimed at minimizing harassment of manatees at the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Files two federal lawsuits against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and also the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for violations of the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Takes legal action to stop the high-speed testing of personal watercraft in the deadliest county for manatees, resulting in the withdrawal of the permit request by the applicant.
- Plays a major role in obtaining additional funding for the state's manatee programs during the legislative session.

2001 – Save the Manatee Club

- Starts a monofilament fishing line recycling program in Broward County, Florida.
- Hires an advocate to address regional issues and to build grass roots support in Southwest Florida.
- Successfully lobbies for a county ordinance establishing a slow speed zone on the east side of Tampa Bay.
- Intervenes on the state's behalf to stop a water bottling company from withdrawing water from a federally designated manatee sanctuary in Crystal River, Florida.
- Assists Woody, an orphaned calf, in Belize.

2002 – Save the Manatee Club

- Obtains three new manatee safe havens and 7 new manatee boat speed zones in six counties through our previous litigation.
- Initiates a new on-water public awareness program by distributing 1,000 "Please Slow, Manatees Below" banners to boaters.
- Hires a media coordinator to increase manatee public awareness nationally.
- Provides funding for veterinarian care for a calf in French Guiana.
- Assists in tracking rehabilitated manatees or animals born in captivity and introduced into the wild in Florida, Belize, and Puerto Rico.
- Successfully intervenes on the state's behalf and Brevard County boat speed zones are upheld by the courts.

2003 – Save the Manatee Club

- Obtains 3 new federal refuges (speed zones) in critical areas in the state through our previous litigation.
- Supports the tracking of Bonnie who has been repeatedly entangled in monofilament fishing line in the Florida Keys.
- Successfully lobbies the legislature to preserve all of the state's funding for its manatee research and management programs.
- Produces new Jimmy Buffett and John Lithgow public service announcements and distribute them nationally.
- Plays a major role in obtaining a strong Manatee Protection Plan in Brevard County.

2004 – Save the Manatee Club

- Obtains much-needed slow speed zones throughout Tampa Bay after almost 15 years of advocating for them.
- Provides emergency funds toward the rehabilitation of three rescued orphaned manatee calves in Mexico, Belize, and Puerto Rico.
- Funds equipment and provides support for manatee research at Blue Spring.
- Donates funds for a new manatee tracking program in Costa Rica.
- Successfully lobbies to obtain a federal emergency slow speed zone in parts of Lee County waters to replace state speed zones when they were successfully challenged by local boaters opposed to slow speeds.

2005 – Save the Manatee Club

- Takes preliminary legal action against the federal government to find alternatives to underwater blasting in the Port of Miami to deepen the channel.
- Starts a kayak eco-tour in Crystal River, Florida in order to promote passive observation.
- Participates in an award-winning program, *Operation Seaspray*, to promote safe boating.
- Plays a major role in obtaining slow speed zones in Cockroach and Little Cockroach Bays in Hillsborough County.
- Donates radar guns to improve on-water enforcement efforts in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.