

Job Description- Director of Conservation

Save the Manatee Club, Maitland, Florida (SMC)

Web: savethemanatee.org

Email: education@savethemanatee.org

- Guide SMC's role in manatee and habitat protection through directed policy recommendations and legal defense strategies as required.
 - Take measures to support individual manatee welfare as well as the conservation of manatee habitat, both nationally and internationally.
 - Support and enhance citizen advocacy efforts.
 - Advocate that manatee protection leads to aquatic ecosystem protection.
 - Identify and study larger environmental issues that may impact manatees and their habitat
 - Identify opportunities for SMC to partner with other organizations and agencies in efforts that will benefit manatees and Florida's ecosystems.
 - Identify and support measures that will lead to manatee protection
 - Synthesize program information for communication with the legal and scientific community as well as the public
 - Write conservation and educational articles, assemble press releases and communicate with the media, contact Congress, the legislature, and other officials in regard to manatee-related issues.
 - Represent manatees and SMC at meetings, conferences, coalitions, and working groups
 - Enhance education and outreach efforts.
 - Put conservation science into practice to protect manatees and their habitat by combining legal and conservation policy.
 - Organize SMC comment on various Conservation and Management plans
 - Prioritize conservation issues for SMC; set the program's agenda
 - Advises as appropriate on SMC's research participation so that the organization helps find answers to the questions that currently lead to conflict and strategize the best legal outcomes.
 - Evaluate national and international funding requests
 - Remain current on gray and peer-reviewed literature related to all aspects of management, legal policy, and science as appropriate.

- Drive policy change and implementation.
 - Work to enhance manatee conservation efforts and ensure strong local, state, and federal protections including keeping up to date with all local, state, federal and international laws and rules applicable to manatee and ecosystem protection. Special attention should be paid to understanding the importance of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act and the implementation of their rules as they pertain to manatee and manatee habitat protection. Additionally, the Director of Conservation should maintain a strong understanding of other laws such as NEPA, Clean Water Act, Florida Growth Management Act etc. Special attention should be paid to understanding how the cumulative impacts of actions authorized under these acts as it relates to permitting of construction projects at the local, state and federal level are affecting manatee protection and conservation.
- Provide input that is valued and sought by the public policy, scientific community and the public.
- Coordinate conservation program volunteers
- Organize the program; optimize use of existing legal and data resources

The Director of Conservation reports directly to the Executive Director and is responsible for all issues relevant to that department as defined by the Executive Director and manages other employees and volunteers/interns in that department. This Director also supports the Executive Director in any other tasks deemed necessary and works in coordination with the other directors on education and outreach projects. Emphasis should be given to establishing and nurturing professional relationships with key staff members of the USFWS, FWC, DEP etc. so as to influence the best practices for manatee and ecosystem protections within these respective agencies.