

Protecting a gentle giant

The Florida manatee is a large marine mammal that can reach 3,500 pounds and more than 12 feet long. These gentle, inquisitive marine mammals were once hunted for their meat and hides. This, in part, led to a significant decline in the manatee population, and its eventual protection under Federal and State laws. Since being listed, the manatee population in Florida has increased; however, manatees are still protected.

As of 2017, the population in Florida is estimated at more than 6,620; however, impacts from Florida's increasing human activity, cold stress, red tide and habitat threats pose challenges to this peaceful mammal.

Florida Power & Light Company supports manatee research through aerial surveys at its facilities to help assess the health of manatee herds.



Courtesy of FPL

Manatees are susceptible to cold temperatures. When the water temperature drops into the low 60s, manatees can experience cold stress and possibly die if they do not find warmer waters. During the winter, many manatees take refuge near coastal power plants that cycle water to cool their systems. The outflows produce warm-water havens even on the coldest days.

Manatee Lagoon – An FPL Eco-Discovery Center®

Visit this “edutainment” center in Palm Beach County. The 16,000-square-foot center features engaging hands-on exhibits where visitors learn about these protected and unique creatures as well as the natural wonders of the surrounding Lake Worth Lagoon. Outdoor observation decks allow up-close views of manatees on cold winter days as they bask in the warm water outflows of FPL's adjacent Riviera Beach Next Generation Clean Energy Center. Manatee Lagoon is located at 6000 N. Flagler Dr., West Palm Beach. The center offers year-round programs for the entire family. Go to VisitManateeLagoon.com for the latest offerings. Admission and parking are free.

How can you help?

- » Follow all signs when boating in waters inhabited by manatees. Manatees are seriously injured or killed due to collisions with boats.
- » Purchase a “Save the Manatee” license plate. Funds from the sale support manatee research and conservation programs across the state.



Resources

Manatee Lagoon:

VisitManateeLagoon.com

Florida Power & Light Company:

FPL.com/manatee

Marine Mammal Commission:

mmc.gov

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission:

myfwc.com

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

fws.gov

Our environmental promise

At FPL, we understand that caring for the environment is just as important as providing customers with affordable, reliable power, now and in the future.

This is reflected in our efforts to protect the air we breathe, the water and land we use and the plants and animals that share our planet. As a clean-energy company, we're committed and dedicated to minimizing our impact on the environment and the place we all call home.

FPL and the NextEra Energy family of companies embrace an environmental policy that is part of a company-wide Code of Business Conduct & Ethics. Each year, every employee reaffirms this pledge in writing.

Our promise in action

Our passion for protecting the environment is very personal. After all, we live here too.

That's why we work closely with federal, state and community organizations to help minimize impacts on natural resources and protect the Sunshine State's wild treasures.

In addition, we're constantly working to improve our standards by building cleaner power plants.

Through our environmental programs, we're helping to minimize habitat loss from construction and reduce water use. We work every day to make the Sunshine State a better place for all of us, including our wild treasures like the Florida manatee.

For more information on the Florida manatee and other Florida wildlife, please visit FPL.com/manatee



Florida Manatee

Changing the way
we can all help protect
Florida's wild treasures



CHANGING THE CURRENT... FPL.



FPL.



Seasonal Warm-Water Manatee Gathering Areas

Deutsch, C.J., and J.E. Reynolds, III. 2012. Florida manatee status and conservation issues. IN: Hines, E., J.E. Reynolds, III, A. A. Mignucci-Giannoni, L. V. Aragones, and M. Marmontel (eds.), Sirenian Conservation: Issues and Strategies in Developing Countries. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.



Timeline

Manatee Facts

- * One of the manatee's closest modern relatives is the elephant
- * Manatees typically move slowly, but can swim up to 20 miles per hour
- * Adult manatees have no natural predators

www.FPL.com/manatee

<p>1970</p> <p>1972 Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act passed</p> <p>1975 Manatee designated as Florida State Marine Mammal</p> <p>1977-1978 FPL started manatee surveys at its power plant locations</p>	<p>1973 Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 became law</p> <p>1979 Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission listed manatee as endangered species in Florida</p>	<p>1978 Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act passed</p>	<p>1990</p> <p>1996 Recorded minimum population estimate of 2,630 manatees</p>	<p>2000</p> <p>2001 Recorded minimum population estimate of 3,300 manatees</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>2010 Recorded minimum population estimate of 5,077 manatees</p> <p>2010 282 cold-stress manatee deaths reported</p>	<p>2016 Manatee Lagoon opens</p> <p>2017 Reclassified from endangered to threatened by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</p> <p>2017 Recorded minimum population estimate of 6,620 manatees</p>
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