

MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

14

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 17, 1984

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: County Administrator

BY: Originating Department County Administrator *SA*

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM - REGULAR X CONSENT _____ REQUESTED AGENDA DATE 8/28/84

RE: Manatee Sanctuary Area

County Attorney

APPROVED AS TO FORM

ACTION REQUIRED:

Adoption of Resolution R-84-113, supporting a request to the State of Florida, Department of Natural Resources, to designate portions of Manatee County as a Manatee Sanctuary Area.

ACTION(S) REQUIRED: _____ Execution Acceptance _____ Approval Recording _____ Authorization Adoption X

COST: N/A
SOURCE: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Correspondence from the Save the Manatee Club/Resolution R-84-113

BOARD RECORDS:

AGENDA DISPOSITION

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

- APPROVED DEFERRED UNTIL _____ RECEIVED
 DISAPPROVED CONCURRED WITH STAFF RECOMMENDATION REFERRED TO STAFF

OTHER: _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

BC19840828DOC026

BOARD MEETING DATE: _____

AGENDA CODE: _____



Save the Manatee Club

P.O. Box 605, Anna Maria, FL 33501

EWC
all

July 19, 1984

Chairman Ed Chance and Members
Manatee County Board of Commissioners
Manatee County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1000
Bradenton, Florida 33506

Re: Manatee Protection Areas, Manatee County

Dear Chairman & Commissioners:

Pursuant to my letter of July 12, requesting consideration by the Board as to declaring the Braden River and parts of the upper Manatee River 'Speed Regulatory Zones', I herewith forward copies of documents and information copied from the report "A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANATEE PRESERVATION PROGRAM", 1980, for your reference.

Our local chapter has a complete copy of this program and we hope you might be able to set up some sort of meeting in the near future when a representative from your office could meet with us to discuss other points of this program. We are greatly encouraged by the fact that as early as 1976, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners passed a Manatee Sanctuary Resolution which declared the entire county a protected area for the manatee and established idle and slow speed zones throughout county-waters. Then came:

- 1978 - the FLORIDA MANATEE SANCTUARY ACT of 1978: declares all of Florida "a refuge and sanctuary" for the manatee; includes rules and regulations of boat speed zones in waters ("waters" meaning waters of the State of Florida).
- 1979 - PROCLAMATION by Gov. Bob Graham that NOVEMBER is officially "Manatee Awareness Month"
- 1983 - Legislation declares portions of Manatee County 'Manatee Protection Areas'
- 1984 - AQUATIC PRESERVE declared for Terra Ceia Bay, Manatee County, by Florida Legislature.

We hope this additional information will be helpful to you. We look forward to meeting with your representatives to discuss further the implementation of a preservation or protection program for Manatee County.

Sincerely,
Peggy Dickson
Peggy Dickson, Chairman
Awareness Committee
Manatee County Chapter

COUNTY

JUL 23 1984

ADMINISTRATOR

enclosures

PROCLAMATION

22

State of Florida
Executive Department
Tallahassee

WHEREAS, the manatee has been designated the official marine mammal of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the entire State of Florida has been declared a manatee sanctuary by the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the manatee is a harmless, air-breathing mammal protected under the Federal Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts and is on the verge of extinction; and

WHEREAS, Florida's shallow coastal waters and protected inland waters provide the only known habitat for the manatee; and

WHEREAS, the total manatee population is estimated to be only 1,000 animals; and

WHEREAS, the manatee must retreat to known warm water refuges in the State during the winter months where it is particularly susceptible to man's harassment and encroachment; and

WHEREAS, the manatee is a slow, massive creature having no defense mechanism except flight and is often killed or injured by speeding boat propellers as it surfaces to breathe; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources has undertaken a public awareness and education campaign to alert the public to the plight of the manatee and has been empowered to regulate the operation and speed of motorboat traffic in manatee protection areas from November 15 through March 31 of each year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Graham, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim November, 1979, as

MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH

in Florida and urge all citizens and visitors in the State to become aware of critical habitat areas in order to enhance our understanding of the relationship between man and manatee for the future benefit of both.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 4th day of October in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-nine.

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Handwritten signature of Bob Graham.

GOVERNOR

Brevard County
Manatee Sanctuary
Resolution

23

APR 01 1976

Motion by Commissioner Wickham, seconded by Commissioner Wenner, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 370.12(2), Florida Statutes, provides that it is unlawful to kill, capture, possess, annoy, injure, molest or torture a manatee or sea cow except that the Division of Marine Resources of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Florida may grant a permit to capture a manatee or sea cow if such is for a scientific or educational purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1543, officially designates manatees as an endangered species which may become extinct unless afforded protection; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is currently the only State in this country which has a significant population of manatees and the number of manatees in the State has been estimated at 1,000, of which approximately 25% are located in Brevard County; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes that many manatees are killed each year in the State of Florida by the propellers of fast moving boats; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes the desirability of protecting sea cows or manatees in order to insure that this unique species of mammal does not become extinct; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes that the waters of Brevard County, Florida form a favorite habitat of the few remaining sea cows or manatees existing in the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida hereby recognizes that the waters of Brevard County form the habitat of a significant number of the manatees which currently exist in the State of Florida.

APR 01 1976

2. The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida hereby recognizes the fact that the manatee has been classified by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1543, as an endangered species.

3. In recognition of their status as an endangered species and of the danger that they may become an extinct species due to the operation at high speed of propellor-driven boats in the waters of this State, the Board of County Commissioners hereby designates Brevard County as a Manatee Sanctuary and directs the Administrative Director of Brevard County to cause signs to be placed along the edge of appropriate bodies of water within this county in which manatees are known to exist, which signs will inform the public of the fact that manatees are a threatened species of mammal and will inform the public of the provisions of Section 370.12 (2) Florida Statutes.

DONE AND ADOPTED in Regular Session this 1st day of April, A.O., 1976.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: Lee Wenner
Lee Wenner, Chairman

ATTEST:
Curtis R. Barnes
Curtis R. Barnes, Clerk



STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF BREVARD
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, held on the 1st day of April, 1976, at Palmdale, Florida.
C. R. Barnes, Clerk



Save the Manatee Club

P.O. Box 605, Anna Maria, FL 33501

EMC
all

COUNTY

July 12, 1984

JUL 19 1984

JUL 16 1984
Board of County Commissioners
MANATEE COUNTY

Chairman Ed Chance
and Commission Members
Manatee County Board of Commissioners
Manatee County Courthouse
P.O. Box 1000
Bradenton, FL 33506

ADMINISTRATOR

RE: Speed Regulatory Zones - Braden River

Dear Chairman Chance & Commissioners:

As you are probably aware portions of Manatee County were declared 'manatee protection areas' in the 1983 legislative session, including portions of Terra Ceia, the area from Ft. Hamer-easterly on the upper Manatee River, and practically the entire Braden River. Terra Ceia was declared an aquatic preserve in 1984, giving it well-deserved protection and the Florida-manatee will benefit greatly by the curtailment of habitat destruction, the limitation of allowable density, etc. We would like to see some reasonable measures taken to afford protection to the existing habitat in the Braden River.

The 'Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act', passed by the State in July 1978, allowed for enforcement of boating speed regulations in designated areas. Our local chapter has had an intensive drive ongoing since December 1983 during which time we have collected data and testimonials which indicate there is enough significant manatee activity in the Braden River to merit designation as a "Speed Regulatory Zone."

On behalf of citizens concerned with preserving the existing manatee habitat of the Braden River, and those who would like to see the Florida manatee protected in this namesake county, we respectfully request the County Commissioners declare a resolution that would establish a speed regulatory zone throughout the Braden River. We feel you will agree with us for the following reasons:

- 1) The Marine Patrol advises us that the Braden River is not charted on boating-depth charts, most probably due to its extreme and ever-changing shallows, and its inaccessibility;
- 2) Residents of the area and fisherman who frequent the River indicated that there is very little water-skiing done on the River due to the sand bars and shallows. They also indicated that such activity would endanger the skier. Therefore, speed regulations would also be for the safety of motor-boaters;
- 3) The presence of the Florida/West Indian Manatee in this namesake-county of Manatee could be used in the Tourist Development Council promotion, since such a speed regulatory area could be promoted as a passive recreation area encouraging such activities as canoeing, hiking on nature trails, fishing, photography, picnicing on the banks, etc., all in keeping with the existing atmosphere of the Braden River. (The same idea might be applied to the Fort Hamer area)

County Commission
July 12, 1984
Page Two

4) The enforcement of the Speed Regulatory Zones comes under the jurisdiction of ANY law enforcement officer. The following groups each covering Manatee County, making a total of four (4) law enforcement officers patrolling the County at all times:

Florida Marine Patrol
Fresh Water Fish & Game Commission
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Manatee County Sheriff's Department.

The State of Florida has 18 declared Manatee Sanctuary Areas where speeds of boaters are regulated. Among them are locations in Hillsborough and Sarasota Counties (please refer to the enclosed brochure "Keep a Lookout" published by the DNR). We would like to see Manatee County added to this list and would be proud to have our local officials take the first step towards the protection and promotion of this docile marine mammal whose name we use.

We look forward to your reply and your support. Thank you.

With warmest regards,



Peggy Dickson, Chairman
Awareness Committee -
SAVE THE MANATEE CLUB
Manatee County Chapter

Box 605

enclosure

Manatees are protected
by state and federal laws.

The U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 protect manatees. The Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act does the same, and also establishes 18 manatee sanctuary areas in the state.

It is illegal to harass, hunt, capture or kill any marine mammal, including manatees. Anything that disrupts a manatee's normal behavior is a violation, punishable by up to a \$20,000 fine, one-year imprisonment or both.

Use the toll-free
Manatee Hotline,
1-800-342-1821

to report to the FLORIDA MARINE PATROL any instance of manatee harassment, distress, injury or death. If you observe any violations, report the name of the boat, its registration numbers and a description.

The Florida Department of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity agency, offering all persons the benefits of participating in each of its programs and competing in all areas of employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or other non-merit factors.



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Bureau of Education and Information
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
8900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Florida's 18 Manatee Sanctuary Areas

OPERATION AND SPEED OF MOTORBOATS WILL BE REGULATED FROM MARCH 1 THROUGH SEPT. 30 IN THE FOLLOWING FLORIDA WATERS:

CITRUS AND LEVY COUNTIES - Withlacoochee River and its tributaries, including all side channels and coves; Bennet's Creek; Bird's Creek; and the two dredged canal systems on the north side of the Withlacoochee River southwest of Yankeetown.

FROM NOV. 15 THROUGH MARCH 31:

CITRUS COUNTY - Headwaters of the Crystal River (King's Bay) and the Homosassa River.

VOLUSIA COUNTY - Blue Springs Run and connecting waters of the St. Johns River.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - Alafia River from Tampa Bay to U.S. Highway 41.

BREVARD COUNTY - Delespine power plant effluent and Frontenac power plant effluent along the Indian River. Turkey Creek and its tributaries, and related tidal waters west of U.S. Highway 1.

SARASOTA COUNTY - Venice Inlet and connecting waters, including Lyons Bay, Donna Bay, Roberts Bay and Hatchett Creek.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY - Discharge canals of the Vero Beach power plant and connecting waters.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY - Discharge of the Henry D. King Municipal Electric Station and connecting waters.

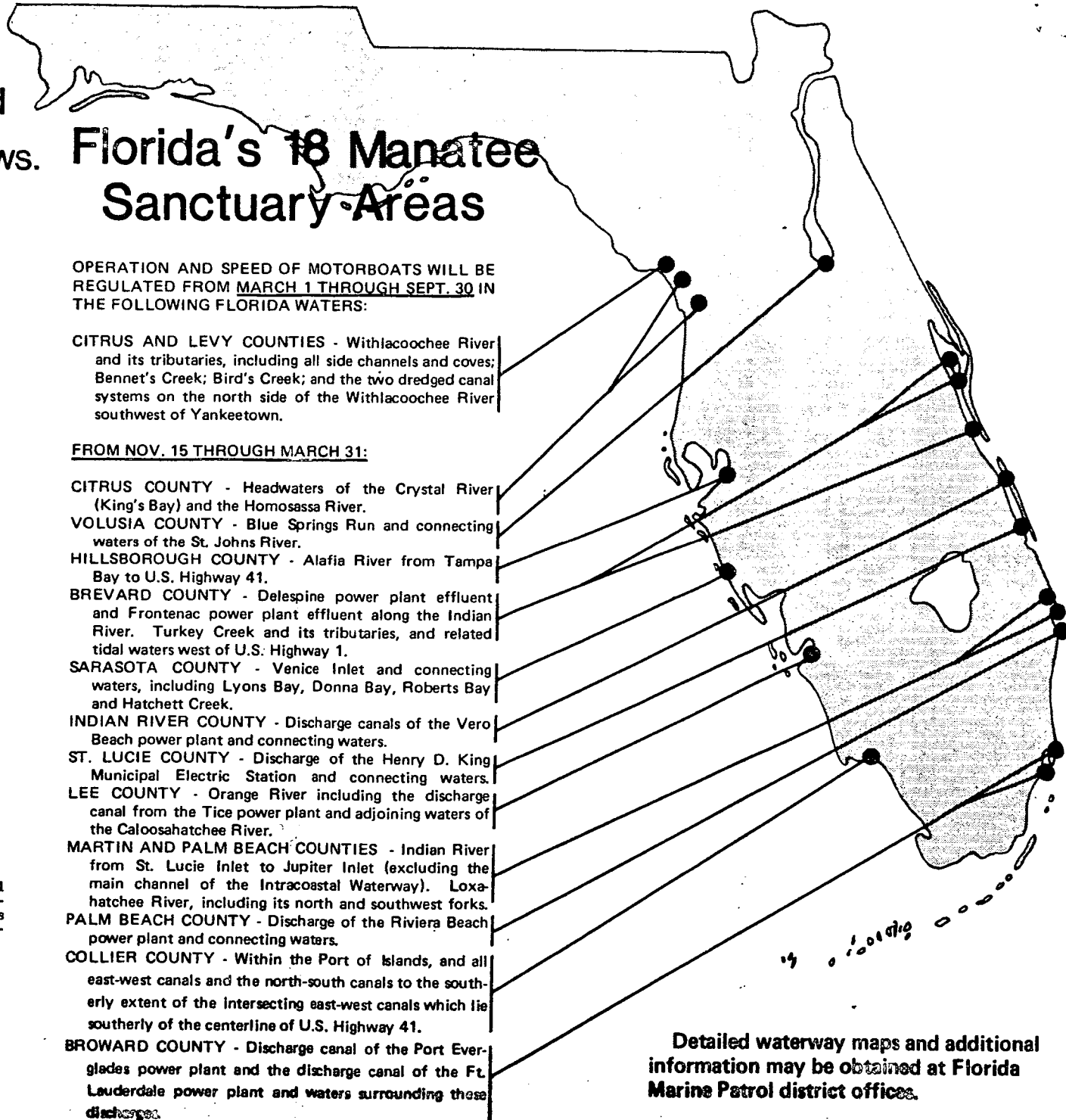
LEE COUNTY - Orange River including the discharge canal from the Tice power plant and adjoining waters of the Caloosahatchee River.

MARTIN AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES - Indian River from St. Lucie Inlet to Jupiter Inlet (excluding the main channel of the Intracoastal Waterway). Loxahatchee River, including its north and southwest forks.

PALM BEACH COUNTY - Discharge of the Riviera Beach power plant and connecting waters.

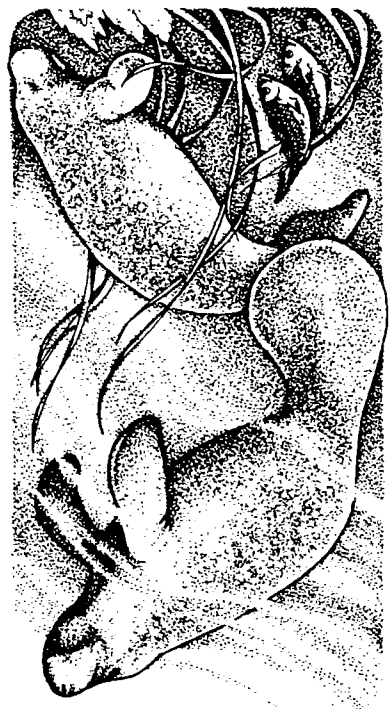
COLLIER COUNTY - Within the Port of Islands, and all east-west canals and the north-south canals to the southerly extent of the intersecting east-west canals which lie southerly of the centerline of U.S. Highway 41.

BROWARD COUNTY - Discharge canal of the Port Everglades power plant and the discharge canal of the Ft. Lauderdale power plant and waters surrounding these discharges.



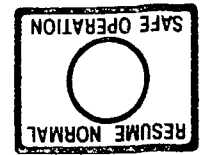
Detailed waterway maps and additional information may be obtained at Florida Marine Patrol district offices.

KEEP A LOOKOUT.



This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$1,690.95 or \$.008 per copy to disseminate information about Florida's endangered manatees.

2-8-82



SAVE THE MANATEE... IT HAS NO FRIEND, BUT YOU.

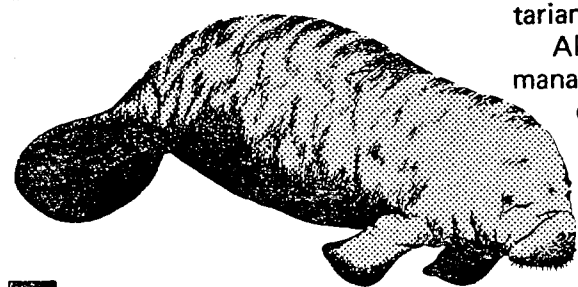
IF YOU DRIVE A MOTORBOAT, GIVE MANATEES THE RIGHT OF WAY. Be alert. Operate boats at idle or "no wake" speed (minimum required for steering) when entering manatee waters, and in deep water when possible. Watch for signs indicating manatee habitats. Steer clear of manatee concentrations. Do not pass over the submerged animals. Keep at least 50 feet away from manatees at all times.

IF YOU DIVE, LOOK BUT DO NOT TOUCH THE MANATEES. Photograph them if you like, but ONLY if they approach you.

IF YOU FISH, DO NOT DISCARD TANGLED MONOFILAMENT LINE INTO THE WATER. Manatees have been injured and killed, tangled in line trapped in the plants where they feed. Fish hooks may also cause serious injuries and infections.

IF YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO LIKE THESE WATER SPORTS... Tell them about these defenseless creatures who harm no one and could not fight if their lives depended on it.

You can help the manatee make a comeback in Florida.



The West Indian Manatee, or sea cow, is Florida's official marine mammal. Only about 1,000 of these harmless, fascinating creatures now remain, living their peaceful lives in Florida waters.

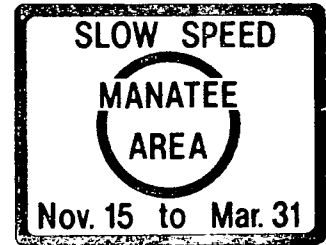
Huge, gentle and slow-moving, manatees are distantly related to elephants and dugongs. The average adult is 10 to 12 feet long and may weigh 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. Vegetarians, they dine on aquatic plants.

Although they swim gracefully, manatees cannot swim quickly enough to evade one of their major enemies — careless boaters.

In the last four years, almost 35 percent of the manatees died. Many of them were killed in collisions with boats or barges.

WINTER IS THE MANATEE SEASON IN FLORIDA. From Nov. 15 through March 31, please pay extra close attention as you operate your boat in Florida waters. Manatees seek winter refuge from colder ocean temperatures in warmer coastal and inland waters.

WATCH OUT FOR MANATEES ALL YEAR AROUND. Manatees are in Florida waters even during warm weather. They are just more widely scattered, rather than concentrated in warm-water areas. Be careful. And remember, in portions of Citrus and Levy counties, speeds are regulated from March 1 through Sept. 1.



MANATEES MAY BE IN MANY PLACES. The sea cows may be found in fresh or salt waters, preferring calmer rivers, estuaries, bays and canals. They often congregate in the warm water discharge areas near power generating plants and natural warm water springs when the weather gets cold.

STEER CLEAR OF MANATEES. Boaters should avoid such locations completely, but if you must travel through a concentration area, please follow the guidelines in this pamphlet carefully.

SAVE A MANATEE'S LIFE. Following these guidelines will help you reduce the possibility of killing or injuring a manatee by colliding with it in your boat.

Manatees are large, normally slow-moving creatures, but they can be surprisingly quick and unpredictable.

FLIP PAGE UP TO SEE THE MANATEE LOCATION MAP.