



Dauphin Island Sea Lab's MANATEE SIGHTING NETWORK

Spring 2012 Newsletter



Manatee Sighting Network's 5-Year Anniversary Gala



The DISL's Manatee Sighting Network celebrated its five-year anniversary at the new Tacky Jack's in Gulf Shores on Friday, March 9. A 38-foot manatee mural, created by artists Dwight Kirkland & Michael Colley of Black Leaf Studio, was unveiled at the gala.

The gala was a huge success and raised over \$6,000 for manatee research. MSN would like to thank everyone who attended & sponsored our gala.

Tacky Jack's gift cards available online at manatee.disl.org.

100% proceeds go towards MSN!



Highlights

- **MSN Celebrates 5 years of research & outreach**
- **NFWF grant provided MSN with new large equipment for sighting & stranding response.**
- **Manatee tagging planned for August**
- **Find MSN at local outreach events.**
- **MSN assists with manatee captures in Belize this June.**
- **MSN adds a new face to the lab.**
- **271 sightings reported to network, a new record for MSN in 2011.**

MSN obtains New Equipment

A grant received by The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) provided MSN with equipment for sighting and stranding response. This heavy-duty equipment will allow us to work in a variety of environments and handle these massive mammals more efficiently. The equipment includes:

- *Hobie sea kayak
- * 2011 2500 HD Chevy Silverado
- *Utility trailer
- * 2011 22 ft. Sundance boat
- * Enclosed trailer for mobile lab & animal transport

Thanks NFWF!



5 Manatees to be Tagged

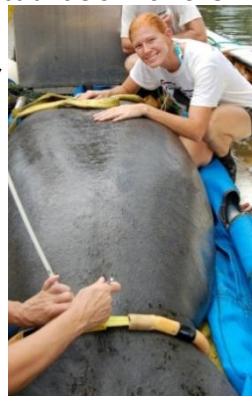
In collaboration with SeaWorld Orlando and Sea 2 Shore Alliance, MSN will tag up to 5 manatees in Alabama this summer.



Data collected by the tags will help us understand the local movements and habitat usage of manatees in Alabama and nearby waters. We will also be able to track seasonal migration routes.

MSN goes to Belize for Captures

MSN's Courtney Miller will travel to Belize this June to assist Sea 2 Shore Alliance with Manatee captures, tag and release. She will learn valuable skills that she can apply to MSN captures set for this summer in the Mobile Bay area.



Manatees have already started to migrate to Alabama.

Report all sightings & strandings online or by phone!

**Manatee.disl.org
1-866-493-5803**

MSN Outreach 2012

Discovery Day

MSN and sister network, the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network (ALMMSN), educated the public about marine mammals and raised funds for research at DISL's Discovery Day on April 21.

Cocktails for Critters

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation hosted 'Cocktails for Critters' on May 3 at Tacky Jack's on the Causeway. The fundraiser was a huge success, and we were able to spread awareness of local manatee movements. Thanks to everyone who attended! Your generous donations will keep our research programs active.

2012 Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo on Dauphin Island, July 20-22!

Recent Presentations by MSN

- Aven, A., R. Carmichael, and N. Taylor. 2012. Shallow water phantoms: Understanding manatees in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Science Collaborative, Biloxi MS, 22 March 2012.
- Carmichael, R. and A. Aven. "Alabama manatees: Shallow water phantoms", Sunrise Rotary Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL, 28 March 2012.



Introducing.....

Meet MSN's new Network Manager & Research Technician, Jessica Delo. Jessica is from Birmingham, AL, and she has a M.S. in Environmental Management from Samford University.

"I have really enjoyed working with the MSN, and I am hoping to gain valuable professional experience." - Jessica

Help Support MSN

- **Buy a Card for a Cause!** Tacky Jack's gift cards available online.
- **Manatee T-shirts** available in child and adult sizes online
- Sign our pre-commitment forms for the **Alabama Manatee License Plate**



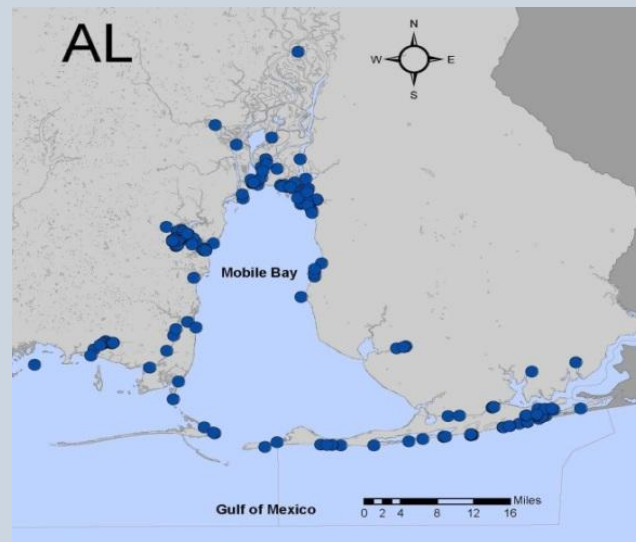
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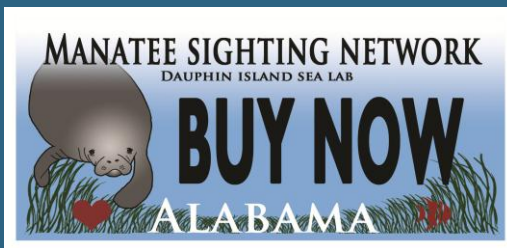
Like! Us on Facebook under Mobile Manatees Sighting Network



Discovery Day, Dauphin Island Sea



In 2011 MSN recorded 211 sightings in the state of Alabama. MSN has recorded 740 sightings in Alabama since 2007.



**1,000 COMMITMENTS
NEEDED!**

YOU can help Alabama get a manatee tag!

Simply sign the application included with this newsletter where indicated. Provide your contact information and mail to MSN. By signing, you are committing to buy our tag when it goes into production. When our quota of 1000 signatures is reached, we will contact you for vehicle and payment information (or pay now).

**Support manatee research in
Alabama!**