



Port Everglades Department
SEAPORT ENGINEERING & FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DIVISION
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Port Everglades Business Community

FROM: Erik Neugaard, Environmental Program Manager

DATE: November 22, 2017

SUBJECT: Manatee Season

Manatee season officially runs from November 15 through March 31. Manatees scatter around Port Everglades and within the Dania Cutoff Canal, which has a warm water source at the Lauderdale Power Plant cooling lakes. In previous years, more than 1,200 manatees were counted in Broward County's waterways, which represents approximately 20 percent of the entire statewide population of manatees.

Port Everglades has a long history of protecting manatees. Protections include establishing protection zones, performing stringent monitoring during marine construction and dredging projects, increased signage and educational outreach, and installation of protective vessel fendering systems throughout the Port. In the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), an idle-speed zone is in effect between November 15 and March 31 and a slow-speed zone applies in all other waters of Port Everglades year round. As a reminder, the entire Florida Power & Light (FPL) discharge canal is closed year-round to all non-authorized vessels.

Port Everglades is requesting the continued observance of the following manatee protection procedures:

- Inspection of the waters adjacent to any berths and vessels before arriving and leaving dockside to ensure that no manatees are within the area.
- Allowing enough time to accommodate for idle-speed conditions during vessel arrival and departure.
- Allocating ample time to meet vessels entering the Port while observing the speed regulations.
- Observation of the idle- and slow-speed regulations within the Port throughout the year.
- Coordination with the Port Everglades Harbormaster's Office to report sightings of manatees outside of the FPL discharge canal.

Protections for Florida manatees were first enacted in 1893. Today, they are protected by the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act [Florida Statute 379.2431(2)] and are federally protected by both the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. To report an injured, dead, harassed, or orphaned manatee, call 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or *FWC or #FWC on a mobile phone or email Tip@MyFWC.com. We look forward to your continued cooperation in assisting Port Everglades in protecting this gentle endangered animal. Please let me know if you need any additional information or have any questions. I may be reached at [954-468-0164](tel:954-468-0164) or via email at eneugaard@broward.org.

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