



CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 20 - Issue 2

March/April 2013

Citizens For Florida's Waterways promotes the need for responsible use of Florida's waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property owners and the environment. Citizens For Florida's Waterways advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.

CFFW: History and Introduction

Since 1994, Citizens For Florida's Waterways has been campaigning on behalf of boaters in Brevard County. We attend every hearing and workshop, send representatives to Tallahassee, meet with boating interests in other parts of Florida, and worked to organize Florida's first statewide boating coalition, Standing Watch. We've written letters and columns in Florida Today and Boat US magazine, have been interviewed for dozens of articles in several newspapers, and have been interviewed on-camera by several television news stations.

When we introduce ourselves to someone new, they usually ask something along the line of "are you for boaters or manatees?" It's a reasonable question because of the way the issue is commonly framed in the press, but the answer is simple: Citizens For Florida's Waterways exists to promote a reasonable coexistence between man AND the marine environment. We work to preserve the environment in a way that will allow us to enjoy it while assuring that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy it in the future.

Our board of directors includes members who spend many hours per week studying trends in manatee population, births, mortality and disease. That's why we weren't surprised when 3276 manatees were counted statewide in 2001, 40% more than the previous high count and six times the estimated population in 1972. In fact, we publicly predicted that record count months ahead of time and were asked by the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission how we could have known. We knew that the bitter cold that year would force most manatees to the warm water discharges, and the clear, calm weather would allow a good count. We studied the increases in natural manatee mortalities and other factors over the years and concluded a healthy population growth rate of over 5 percent. We also weren't surprised by the lower count in 2002, hampered by warmer weather, or the record counts on the east coast in 2003.

One of our associates studied the mystery of propeller wounds and derived a relationship between the spacing of those wounds and the sizes of boats that couldn't have caused them. He further refined his model to show which way the vessel was traveling with respect to the animal, and the approximate size of the propeller. Whale researchers in Europe and dugong researchers in Australia are now applying his findings to their own work.

In 2001, CFFW helped raise \$45,000 to fund a study of underwater boat noise by the world's foremost expert in manatee hearing, Dr. Edmund Gerstein. That study confirmed Dr. Gerstein's long-held belief that manatees are unable to hear slow-moving boats until they are dangerously close, but can hear fast-moving boats while they are still at enough distance to let them avoid the boat. The use of Dr. Gerstein's patented sound-producing device may one day make pervasive slow speed zones a thing of the past.

Also in 2001, five members of CFFW filed an administrative challenge to stop the massive new slow speed zones passed by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. Joined by attorneys from Standing Watch, the city of Cocoa Beach, the city of Titusville, and Sea Ray Boats, we showed how the Commission failed to follow their own rules when creating the new zones. Shortly after losing that challenge, CFFW raised \$25,000 and hired a prestigious Tallahassee law firm to appeal the decision. Ultimately, the appellate court decided not to get involved in this contentious issue and issued a per-curiam decision upholding the state's actions.

Many of our members and Board of Directors have served on various committees over the years, including the Brevard Marine Advisory Council, the Manatee Protection Plan-Ad Hoc Committee, the Brevard Dredging Committee, The CM3P or Comprehensive Maritime Management Master Plan, the Manatee Forum, and so on.

CFFW is also urging the state to listen to sound science and follow where that science leads. We have worked many years cultivating a relationship with the various state agencies to ensure that ... **(Continued on Page 2)**

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Please Mark Your Calendars!

Please call Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827 for more information.



- » **3/23/2013 & 3/24/2013 - 16th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market:** Harbor Town Marina, Sea Ray Drive, 8am to 4pm (both days). Free Admission, Free Parking.
- » **4/8/2013 - CFFW General Meeting:** Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building, 6pm to 8pm. Contact Kelly Haugh at (321) 543-6970 for more info. ❖

CFFW General Meeting

April 8th, 6-8pm: Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building (1st building on the left as you enter the park).

Come meet some of our Past Presidents and your current Board of Directors, and hear the final report on the Annual Flea Market.

For more information, contact Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827. ❖

CFFW: History and Introduction (Continued from Page 1)

the boater and waterfront property owner are represented and given a voice at the state level. CFFW has had a lobbyist in Tallahassee for several years working to represent our interests and advise us on any legislative issues that we should be aware of.

We continue to grow our club and work toward reasonable regulation of our waterways. We invite you to join our club, or just attend one of our meetings. Visit cffw.org for more information. ❖

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Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Boat Safe Reimbursement Program

CFFW promotes the need for responsible use of Florida waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property owners, and the environment. CFFW advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.

If you would like to receive reimbursement for the class fees charged by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron, you can attend a CFFW meeting, present your certificate of completion, and receive your reimbursement.

CFFW funds are limited, and we do have a finite amount of money in our scholarship fund, so it is on a first come, first served basis, and as noted above this is for the Basic Safe Boating class only.

You can visit our website at www.cffw.org or www.savefamilyboating.com for the location of our events and meetings.

You may also contact Kelly Haugh CFFW President at 321-449-0827 for more information.

Enjoy safe boating! ❖

Bob's Bio

CHILDHOOD

Grew up in Indiana in the 50s
Spent summers on glacier formed, spring fed Lake George
in northeastern Indian
Plenty of safety rules and enforcement
Learned to waterski at 5

FLORIDA

Moved to and spent most of the 60s in Orlando – PARADISE
FOUND
Family Boating became almost year-round
Parents took the Power Squadron Safe Boating Class using
Chapman's in 1966
Central Florida lakes, rivers springs, west coast, east coast
and the Keys

I was raised on Family Boating – Some of the BEST
memories of my youth.

Spent the 70s in Gainesville and reached as high as
Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the academic
community. Spent the final academic career year at Embry
Riddle in Prescott, AZ with no water

BREVARD

1981 - Took the opportunity to join the Shuttle Program –
right after the first launch
Moved back to Florida – Specifically canal front on East
Merritt Island

My wife didn't especially like the house we rented – but I
wanted to live ON THE WATER for the first time in my life
All was well for a while –
Bought our first boat new in 1982
We spent our weekdays working hard and traveling on
business – but every weekend was a vacation – boating
in Florida – Just like my parents had taught me, and their
parents had taught them

Extended our family with the birth of our first daughter
and bought a canal front house down the street in 1986.
Welcomed our 2nd daughter in 1989

LIFE WAS GOOD

MY EARLY DAYS IN THE WAR

On April 6, 1986 – the most famous manatee death in
Brevard County occurred – A ski boat struck and killed a

manatee in Kiwanis Basin during a Ski Tournament. The
tournament site was permanently shut down. Although the
county promised to replace the site, the promise was empty
and the once active and prosperous Ski Club fell apart
shortly thereafter

Then in 1989, for motives I still am not sure of – but I believe
were a combination of anti-growth and economic jealousy
– a few misguided nutcases declared war on power boating
with a proposal for STATEWIDE boating speed limits not to
exceed 30mph.

Boating Safety was the publicly stated driver and – by the
way – protecting Manatees was also cited. My lifestyle was
under attack

In August of 1989 I wrote my first series of letters to the
Governor and the Cabinet urging them NOT to adopt a
STATEWIDE speed limit on the water of 30mph and in many
places 20mph – with slow speed at night.

In my letter I cited tournament water skiing speeds of 34,
36 and also 40+ for barefoot skiing. In the discussion of
manatee protection, I stated that as many as 9 manatees
had been counted from my dock.

The speed limit did not pass – but the war had started and
the anti-growth/ant-boating nutcases grabbed the manatee
as the central strategy in limiting if not eliminating power
boating in Florida

Late in 1989 early 1990, the state imposed emergency rules
regulating boat speeds for manatee protection on significant
portions of Brevard, including chunks of the Barge Canal.
The common opinion among boaters was that they couldn't
really ever do that. We were wrong.

CBPS

I joined CBPS in 1990.

Achieved the rank of AP and served as the Boating Activities
Chairman for 1991 and 1992

SPACE COAST WATER SKI CLUB

We re-formed the Space Coast Water Ski Club in 1993
and held tournaments in the C-54 canal and, under great
scrutiny from the protectors of manatee, in the Indian River
at the former Melbourne Conchy Joes (now Squid Lips). The
ski club thrived for a few years but without a maintainable
tournament site, some of the ... *(Continued on Page 5)*



THE FIRST YEAR OF THE LAST DECADE MANATEE

Fla Manatee		
Today's Count 19		
Total Count		
1988-134	-	43
1989-174	-	31
1990-200	-	46 Nov

ON THE BLACKBOARD at Blue Spring, the rangers keep count: "Today's Count" showed 19 of about 65 regulars had returned for winter by the end of last month. But, below, the rangers' running tally of total deaths statewide, and deaths caused by boats, showed 1990 had already set a record.

BY JEFF BRAZIL / PHOTOGRAPHY BY RED HUBER

Out of the shadows they come, materializing slowly, as if beaming in from some other world. Sometimes they look like blimp ballerinas, pirouetting in unison. With effortless figure-eights of a single flipper, they change direction.

They wear perpetual grins, as if they know something the rest of us don't, but it's no big deal, so don't worry. Being face to face with their tiny, milky-gray eyes and furrowed brows is like staring at some ancient monument come to life, here to deliver a message from the past:

Dear Human Beings . . .

Even in this age of disappearing ozone and acid rain, there is hardly a more poignant case of Man versus Nature than that of The Manatee. Though massive and mighty, they pose no threat to any other creature. They are lamb-gentle, popular enough to adorn probably more T-shirts, mugs and trinkets than any other endangered species.



They bear the names of literary heroes, *Gandalf, Romeo, Merlin*; of historical places, *Savannah, Troy*; of famous persons present and past, *Liza, Luke, Milton, Luther*. They are the last of their kind.

And they are vanishing.

Since the government supposedly took them under its wing nearly two decades ago with the U.S. Endangered Species Act, at least 1,784 manatees have died in Florida, at least 567 — a third — as a direct result of human contact. For six years running, the number of deaths has averaged 149 a year, as much as 12 percent of the estimated remaining population. If that were people, it would be equivalent to 77,000 deaths per year in Orange County, instead of the usual 5,500.

From Man, the chief peril is boat hulls and propellers. The Manatee is scarred from hundreds of near-misses. Beyond the violent encounters are condos, marinas, hotels. The government says such encroachment on has jeopardized The Manatee more than any other endangered species.

As few as 1,200 remain in this country, all in this state. There are some in the Caribbean and South America, and a few among their cousins in Africa. But scientists say if The Manatee goes in Florida, so goes the best hope for the *Sirenian* order, the only large, vegetarian marine mammals on the globe.

This is not just another yet-another-species-going-extinct story. The great irony is that scientists believe The Manatee is the creature Most Likely To Succeed Despite Man, the best symbol we have of what's happening — and what will

happen — to the environment. Of all creatures small and great, a more peaceful, accommodating yet heartier one could not be imagined. And that simply may not be enough.

When the research for this account began, the idea was to measure the status of The Manatee as the century neared its end. If the 12 months ultimately covered are any indication, then 1990 may have been a crossroads of sorts for this one-of-a-kind creature.

After two straight annual records, 1990 takes its place as the most deadly year on record for The Manatee. On the political scene, important vows have been broken or only half-kept. Even marine industry representatives wonder, what gives? If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can run out of money for manatee research in what biologists and politicians called The Year of The Manatee, what will next

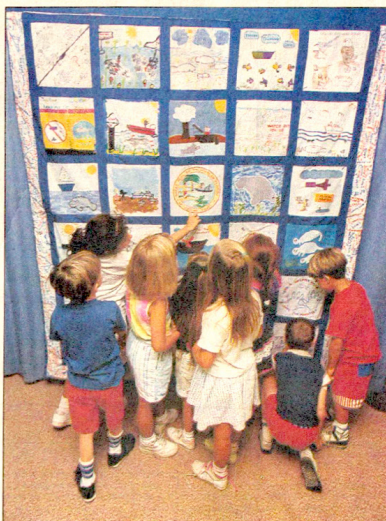
year bring? And the year after that?

This may well have been *The first year of the last decade*. At its current death rate and low reproduction rate, The Manatee could be gone by April 30 or so in the year 2000.

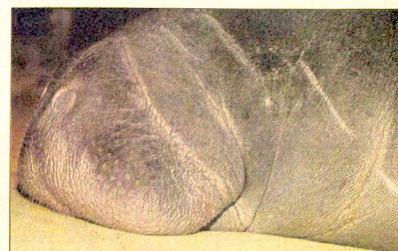
Imagine: One of the planet's oldest, kindest passengers, one that has pressed on through countless threats. Hurricanes. Great earthquakes. An ice age. And God knows what else. At last being undone by Man.

"If you can't save The Manatee," says biologist Tom O'Shea, "you can't save anything."

As the curtain collapses on the 20th century, elaborate plans have been created. If they are carried out, The Manatee may prevail, boding well in many ways for Florida. If they are not — if history is repeated — the time may come, sooner than later, to say goodbye.



KIDS' tribute. CUTS from a propeller. FACE of an injured manatee.



Bob's Bio

(Continued from Page 3)

key players bought their own lake in Palm Bay and the club faded away.

For a few years, I was skiing over 50 Saturday and Sunday mornings each year in the Barge Canal and on two Slalom courses that a few of us maintained in the Banana River. One on the south side of 520 and west of the channel and the more protected and preferred one north of the Norwegian Cruise ship bow and south of the Power Lines.

ad hoc COMMITTEE

In 1994 Brevard County undertook the State mandated task of developing a Manatee Protection Plan or face Amish-like limitations on Power Boat Slips and Marine Construction. The original make-up of the Committee was entirely stacked to the pro-Manatee side of the issue.

In February 94, a few of us convinced the Commissioners that the deck was stacked, and each Commissioner appointed a Boating advocate to serve on the Committee, bringing the total membership to around 23. Commissioner Truman Scarborough appointed me.

Sandra Clinger (a manatee ringer) from Brevard County's Office of Protected Species Management was the author of the draft plan. It was painful and exhausting process that seemed to go on for a couple of years.

It was clear the Save the Manatee Club had a strong hand in the draft development. Little did we know just how much – until a couple of years later when Clinger the ringer vacated the county position to formally accept employment with SMC.

In good faith, I shared my map of the 14 areas of central Brevard that readily supported water sports in an attempt to preserve them for our families. In the end they were just zone targets and 13 of them were designated to be regulated slow speed. One of the 13 was finally not regulated in a show of "compromise".

CFFW

But things were not moving fast enough for SMC. In 1994 they sent their state insider puppets back to Brevard with more zone proposals. About 8 local folks got together in anticipation of the scheduled public hearing at BCC and plotted to make it impossible for anyone to ever again underestimate the opposition to the proposal. We formed Citizens for Florida Waterways that night on a back porch of a Kiwanis Basin Merritt Island home. At the hearing, CFFW tied orange ribbons on the arms of all opposed. The auditorium was packed and only a handful of attendees did not wear our ribbons. The zones were imposed anyway. After all Pat Rose had not yet been removed as head of the state agency for conflict of interest due to his concurrent position with SMC. The deck was stacked.

LAWSUITS and the LEGAL CHALLENGE

There followed a few years of slow speed zone encroachment, with some new zones added each year or so. Then came the Slam Dunk. In 2000 17 Environmental organizations threatened to sue the State and the Federal Governments for lack of manatee protections as required by the ESA. An out of court settlement was agreed to in which the SMC dictated zones to be implemented in 13 Florida Counties with Brevard the Number One target.

The SMC had targeted the ENTIRE Banana River, Barge Canal and Sykes Creek early on. This proposal shut down all of these except the central areas of the Banana River. In addition, most of the shoreline of the Indian River was zoned. In the end, over 80% of all estuary shoreline in Brevard had a minimum 500 foot zone imposed and well over 60% of the entire estuary was zoned slow, idle or no entry.

Five of us, with some financial backing from CFFW, determined we should challenge this proposed rule in the courts. Tom McGill, Ron Pritchard, Dan Dvorak, Russell Gentile and Bob Atkins became Pro Se litigants in a court case that included The State of Florida (with SMC, Florida Wildlife Federation and FPL as Interveners) and (Standing Watch, Sea Ray, Cocoa Beach and Titusville Intervening with McGill, et al.

After 11 FULL Days of hearing over a couple of month period during 2001 the Judge rendered his verdict. – SLAM DUNK. ALL proposed zones were implemented.

Ron became County Commissioner, Tom wrote a book, Dan took the helm of CFFW and was instrumental in getting CFFW included as a charter member of the Manatee Forum. Russell disappeared (until recently). Feeling there is NO JUSTICE in this War, I deserted the cause.

MANATEE FORUM

In 2003, Steven Webster and Dan Dvorak, the leadership of CFFW at the time, argued and prevailed that CFFW deserved a seat on the developing Manatee Forum. The Forum was envisioned by the State to bring all sides of the Manatee Issue to the table in an attempt to reach consensus based on science where possible and ultimately to keep the State out of Court. Both State and Federal Wildlife agencies actively participate in a professionally facilitated discussion of science and politics. In March of 2007, Dan needing time with his young family, asked me to come out of ... (Continued on Page 7)

REAL ESTATE NEEDS?

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Citizens For Florida's Waterways
Celebrating Safe Boating Month



Presents

The 18th Annual

POWERBOAT POKER RUN

Saturday, May 18, 2013

**Registration - Kelly Park East Boat Ramp
(Merritt Island) 10 to 11 am**

Ending Location - Grills Riverside

**Stops include Ski Island, Sunset Waterfront Grill
The Island Waterfront Bar & Grill, Nautical Spirits at Harbortown,
Cocoa Village Riverfront Park**

Cash Prizes 1st 2nd & 3rd best hands

Cash prizes will be determined by the size of the pot

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CFFW.ORG



CFFW 16th Annual Marine Flea Market

hosted by

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March 23rd & 24th, 2013 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Central Florida's Largest Marine Flea Market

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For More Information, Please Contact: PEGGY WEHRMAN
(321) 261-1448 or e-mail: cfwbrevard@aol.com

(See Map on Back)

Volunteers Needed!

It's time for the 16th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market on March 23rd and 24th, and we need your help!

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help set-up, tear-down or work the event, please contact Kim Rouse at kimrouse02@yahoo.com.

We also have posters available -- If you have a business where you could display one, please call Sandy Reynolds at 321-543-7532 to arrange for pick up.

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Bob's Bio

(Continued from Page 5)

retirement and take the CFFW seat on the Forum. I accepted.
The Forum meets twice per year

WHAT IS GOING ON NOW?

CFFW continues to pursue relief from some of the more onerous zones here in Brevard County. Only success is that there are no new zones in the last 10 years.

There are still those who believe that the zones had little impact on boating in Brevard – Tell that to the residents of Merritt Island and Cocoa Beach.

CFFW is focusing on opening up reasonable speed travel corridors through the navigable channels like the Cocoa Beach channels, Sykes Creek and especially the Barge Canal

CFFW is focused on raising the bar to limit the ability to propose any new zone in a primary navigable channel – boating sanctuaries

POLITICS

Legislative Acts

Marine Mammal Protection Act (Federal)

Endangered Species Act (Federal)

Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act (State)

You may recall that Florida was in the process of down-listing and at the 11th hour at Charlie Crist stopped the action.

Florida Imperiled Species Management

Florida determined that the State listing process should include ONLY those species that are unique to Florida and not listed by the ESA. Manatee is no longer on the Florida Imperiled Species Management listing.

Federal Government is undertaking a 5-year follow-on review of Manatee Status. The 2007 review recommended down-listing. It is anticipated that the 2012 (now 2013) review will support the 2007 recommendation. There were some delays in performance of the required population modeling and analysis, but it is now underway with results expected in May 2013. The federal down-listing process should commence this year.

Endangered

Threatened

Species of Special Concern

This leaves the more egregious MMPA in the mix.

TAKE Definition

NO TAKE limitations

Feds are invoking the MMPA in Crystal River

Florida continues to review the existing 13 counties Manatee Protection Plans – committed to review every 5 years – But not keeping pace.

Good News/Bad News situation. Bad News – Brevard Zones have not been addressed. Good ... *(Continued on Page 10)*

The Roots of the Phony Crisis

I was listening to the TV Talking Heads the other day and their reaction to our new opportunity to buy monthly meetings with the President for a mere \$500,000.00 donation. It made me think of special interest groups and how much the interests of a few, with the ever ready support of our maybe just a little too liberal media, can become the law for the masses.

Of course, reflecting on the real direct affect this phenomenon has had on my own life, I could not help but focus on the issue of manatee endangerment. It is just simply amazing what affect a really small number of folks had, not only on my life, but also on the activities and lives of the boating public across the state of Florida. I refer to them as the dirty dozen because that's really close to the actual core group size. A few of us could easily name them. I'm sure most of you could name at least one.

Most of us never believed the manatee was actually endangered – but boy how the press did. I still have the December 16, 1990 12-page full-color Special Report section of the Orlando Sentinel titled “The First Year of the Last Decade – Manatee”. I went back and re-read the expose. It's simply unbelievable but there is little doubt how much impact the opinions expressed in this and other reporting of the time had on ALL of US.

There is some really interesting history preserved in this report. What makes some of the data even more interesting is that I made a recent request to the Florida Fish and Wildlife for manatee population data prior to 1990. I was given a lengthy response in defense of the inaccuracy of population data – but no data that was provided. Personally, the data from those years is an embarrassment to scientific research. Here are the numbers from the Sentinel report:

Year	Manatee Count
1974	255 (but the water was so murky, it was said 600-1000 more accurate)
1976	738 (but they figured they missed some so they said at least 800-1000)
1985	1039 (but estimated at least 1200)

The report goes on to state: “Marine industry leaders are convinced the number has been underestimated by environmentalists. They say 5,000 is not too high. A few biologists will go as high as 2,000, but most say somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500”

Unfortunately, it was the fuel that ignited the whole endangered manatee kneejerk regulation environment of the 90's culminating with the ridiculous environmental zealot organization's lawsuit and settlements by both the State and Federal agencies without ANY benefit analysis. What's worse is that with nearly 25 years of data proving that the regulations had no positive impact, we still have the regulations and they just keep coming.

Not long after the Slantinel expose'– if not concurrently, Sea World created their exhibit “Manatee – The Last Generation”. CFFW members were instrumental in objecting to the exhibit name and successfully changing some of the inflammatory anti-boating signage in the exhibit. Over the years, for whatever reason, SeaWorld has eliminated the manatee feature attraction and today, you can barely find the manatee exhibit – inside Turtle Trek – an exhibit focused on sea turtle protection.

Here is an interesting excerpt from the 12/16/90 Sentinel report

“There can be profit in helping the Manatee”

“FPL makes no secret to having spent \$700,000 on the Save the Manatee campaign. The power company helped produce the film ‘Silent Sirens’ has made more manatee pamphlets than any other organization and helped foot the tab for costly aerial surveys.

In 1974 the Environmental Protection Agency feared the warm water discharge of FPL's Fort Myers plant would harm the Orange River ecosystem, so the EPA ordered FPL to construct cooling towers.

Luckily enough for the nation's fifth largest utility, FPL discovered that manatees in the river loved the warm discharge. In fact, they counted on it during cold snaps. Thanks to the manatee, the EPA rescinded its order.

The towers would have cost FPL some \$14million.”

So the \$700,000 through 1990 was money well spent. Who knows what the total FPL CYA investment is now. Do you also realize that for all these years, FPL was also allowed to continue to operate high volumes of oil delivering barge and tug traffic up and down the estuaries, bays and inlets on both coasts and the St John's River from Jacksonville to Sanford – without any objection from the Save the Manatee Club? And yet wherever the barge traffic occurred, there were significant numbers of deeply wounded and mutilated manatees. But NONE of the regulations affected FPL's operations.

... (Continued on Page 10)

Managing the WRONG CRISIS with the WRONG APPROACH

The ONLY crisis with respect to the Manatee is the potential of over population and the very serious threat that has on the estuary ecosystem through seagrass depletion. When the seagrass cannot sustain, the estuary dies.

The phony endangerment crisis was created by two factors. First, it is impossible to count the live herd and the attempt to do so has been sporadic at best. The early counts were pathetically inadequate yet greatly contributed to the extinction hysteria.

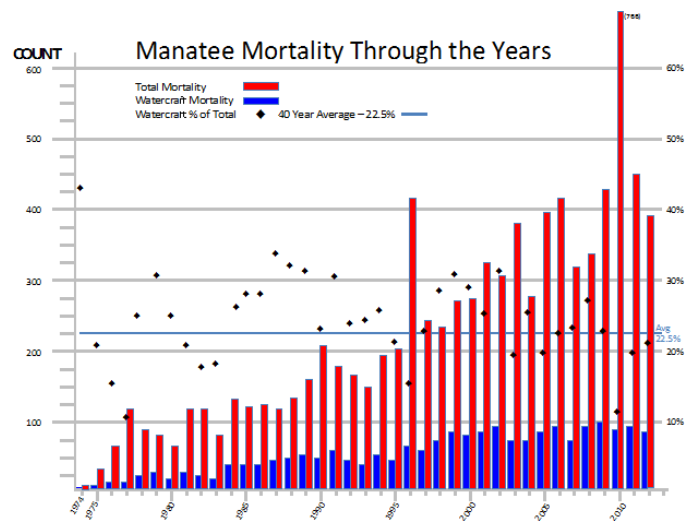
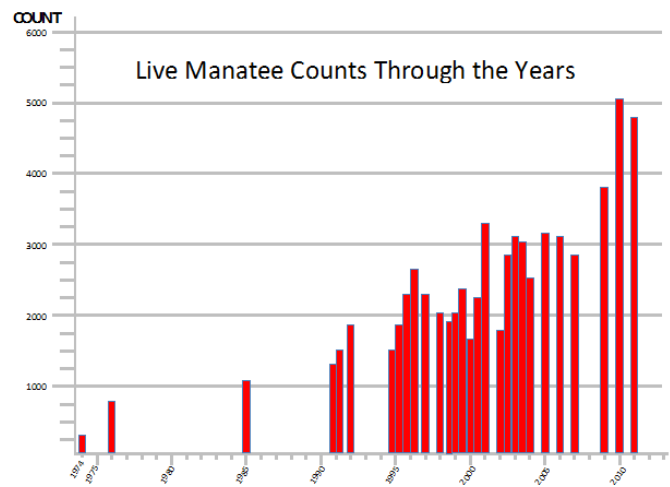
Second, it is truly unfortunate that the dead animals float, making them easy to count. We set out and proudly counted every one. Additionally, many of us believe that the job of classifying cause of death was shoddy if not manipulated to convict recreational boating as the cause. The sky is falling enviro-wackos assumed that increasing numbers of dead animals meant that the population was dying off. It never occurred to them the increasing numbers of dead animals meant the population was dramatically increasing. If one were to track the increase in bodies in the morgues of New York City, would we jump to the conclusion that New York would soon be a ghost town?

But the most unfortunate result of this erroneous conclusion and perpetuation of the FALSE crisis, is the widespread imposition of draconian regulations on recreational boating in Florida. On the one hand they were never necessary, but what's worse, is that they accomplished nothing either. If these regulations were effective in any way, there would be a significant visible change in trend in one or both of these charts around the year 2000.

So here we sit nearly 15 years later with 40 years of data and we have a completely different set of facts:

1 – The manatee is clearly, not now, and probably never was, endangered in any sense of the terminology.

2 – Even though recreational boating has born the brunt of the unnecessary regulations for protecting a species that needs no protection, there is not only no relief in sight but what's worse, more regulations are being proposed and imposed every year. ❖



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“Catch A Memory” Radio Show

The radio show will again be an hour long on WMEL 1300-AM, Saturday mornings at 8:00AM – 9:00AM. The program will be covering the fishing action on Florida’s East Coast. Anglers can tune in to hear Jim and his cohorts provide you the latest fishing and new product information. ❖

“Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report” Television Show

Capt. Jim has joined a host of other top professional guides across the State of Florida on a new television show called the “Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report.” The TV show is on the SunSports network on Thursday evenings from 5:00PM to 6:30PM. Reporting expert, Capt. Jim will bring you an up-to-date fishing report from our offshore and inshore local waters.

Capt. Jim also provides daily reports Sunday through Wednesday on the TV shows web-site: www.floridainsiderfishingreport.com

If you would like to contact Capt. Jim, his phone number is 321-636-3728 and his web-site is: www.finelinefishingcharters.com. ❖



CFFW members are entitled to a full Membership in BoatUS for only \$15 - that's 50% off the regular \$30 annual dues!



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The Roots of the Phony Crisis (continued from Page 8)

Early manatee mortality data was labeled “Boat/Barge Collision”. Now, it is simply “Watercraft”. Does barge come to mind when you think of watercraft? For years, the agencies claimed they could not determine the size of a vessel that struck a manatee. CFFW promoted the research of James Woods, which proved that the determination is possible. In fact, it was always possible if you were not blinded by direction. The photos in many of the necropsy reports are obvious to even the casual observer.

It was no surprise that when CFFW challenged Brevard Rulemaking in State Court, FPL intervened, along with SMC, on the side of the State. Why does FPL maintain a seat on the Manatee Forum?

And you wonder how Tom McGill used both Conspiracy and Manatee in the title of his book. I’m glad I saved the Sentinel Report for all these years. ❖

Bob’s Bio (Continued from Page 5)

News – to date – the only result of these reviews is MORE ZONES

Recent new zones by the state in Flagler, Sarasota and plans to add zones in Pinellas and Hillsborough CFFW continues to challenge ALL new zones in the state at the Forum and at the Commissioners’ Meetings

SCIENCE

Population Explosion

– clearly no longer in threat of extinction

Zone effectiveness in question – CFFW Concentrating on this issue

No significant decrease in scarring

No significant decrease in mortality

Warm Water outflows, i.e. Power Plants

FEDs are finally admitting that these man-made outflows are in violation of the MMPA – they are TAKES

Feds want to shut them down – eventually – but struggling with implications on population

The Catch 22

More Manatees – More potential collisions – More Zones Where does it stop?

SMC would Shut-Down the entire 13 counties

CFFW’s job is to Prevent SMC, and anyone else, from doing any more damage to Boating in Florida by unnecessary regulation.

BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is the bottom line.

Since money is tight, why are we spending anything on this non-issue? CFFW Focused on cutting funding at the State Level. ❖

CFFW Member Recognition

Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Robert Behm	Don Nesbitt
Ron & Lois Dixon	Tony & Debby Pappas
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Ollie & Sherry Follweiler	Jim Ross / Fineline Fishing Charters
Charles & Susan Frazier	Cliff & Diana Schommer
Jeff Haggard & Anita Bromberg	Scorpion's Port Canaveral Marine
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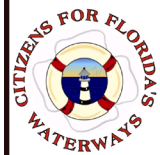
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4/8/2013 - CFFW General Meeting

(More Coming Events on Page 2)


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