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# MANATEE

An Endangered Species

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[http://www.conservationfund.org/sites/default/files/manatee\\_karen\\_nicolaon\\_istockphoto\\_500x335.jpg](http://www.conservationfund.org/sites/default/files/manatee_karen_nicolaon_istockphoto_500x335.jpg)

## Introduction

If you're walking near a river and you see a nose come out of the water like an elephant's, you may wonder what it is. What you are seeing is probably a Manatee. It is very rare to see a Manatee since they are endangered. Manatees are often run over by boats and jet skis. For this reason and others they are endangered.

## Description

A Manatee usually becomes visible when its nose pops out of the water. Manatees are wrinkled, have whiskers, flippers, a paddle-shaped tail, and are eight to thirteen feet long. Manatees are grayish brown, and sometimes have

Manatees have an upper lip that reaches this description, it identify a Manatee.



algae on their backs. elephant-like prehensile out to grab food. With might be easier to iden-

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## Where Manatees live

Manatees live all over the world, from open

oceans to small rivers in South America,

North America, Africa, Asia, and

Oceania. Manatees live in rivers, canals,

and estuaries (an estuary is a open body of

costal water). Manatees live in waters that

are at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Some-

times they are seen in waters near power plants because the electricity heats up the water. Manatees live all

over the world, but if we don't do something, they'll be gone forever.

## Manatees and Their Many Names

Manatees have many different names. The

Manatee's scientific name is *Tricheus Manatus*.

Christopher Columbus thought Manatees were

mermaids. Manatees earned the name Sea Cow because they graze a lot like cows. Manatees have been

around since before Columbus, but how much longer are they going to be around?



[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6f/FL\\_figo4.jpg/250px-FL\\_figo4.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6f/FL_figo4.jpg/250px-FL_figo4.jpg)

## Range and Population

Manatees are being hunted, poached, and killed frequently. Manatees are often poached for their bones, hide, and meat. Manatees also get killed by being run over by boats, jet skis, canal locks, and flood

gates. Manatees are also getting caught in fishing fishing nets, fishing hooks, and water pollution can make them sick.

If we keep all this up, the manatees will be gone.



<http://www.sirenian.org/images/distribution.jpg>



## Threats

Manatees are dying out, for many reasons. As humans make more buildings, habitat disappears and not just manatee habitat, nature is disappearing. Manatees are hunted for oil, bones, hide and meat. Manatees are also crushed by

flood gates since they are too slow to move out the way in time. Manatees are being threatened and will not be around much longer.



[http://a57.foxnews.com/global.fncstatic.com/static/managed/img/legacy/2009/10/660/371/o\\_21\\_young\\_manatee.jpg](http://a57.foxnews.com/global.fncstatic.com/static/managed/img/legacy/2009/10/660/371/o_21_young_manatee.jpg)



## Solutions

Manatees are becoming endangered, so humans have already set laws to try and stop. Now that manatees are endangered there are boating speed limits to prevent a Manatee from getting run over. Anyone getting caught harming a Manatee could be fined up to \$100,000 and sent to jail. There's a save the Manatee Club, which educates the public about Manatees and habitat conservation. If we follow these laws and are



orphaned-manatee.jpg.492x0\_q85\_crop-smart

careful about Manatees, they might not go extinct.

As you have read, Manatees are gentle creatures and pose no threat to humans. There are only two thousand and three hundred West Indian Manatees left. Manatees are disappearing because of humans, and humans need to help.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

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