

CR-125

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Jim Kraus/R4/FWS/DOI  
11/06/2007 01:41 PM

To Stan Garner/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS, Richard Meyers/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS, Keith Ramos/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS  
cc Elizabeth Souheaver/R4/FWS/DOI@FWS

bcc

Subject Fw: Manatee protection

Manatee Season has arrived.

Jim Kraus  
Project Leader  
Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive  
Crystal River, Florida 34429  
Phone: 352/563-2088 FAX: 352/795-7961  
e-mail: Jim\_Kraus@fws.gov

--- Forwarded by Jim Kraus/R4/FWS/DOI on 11/06/2007 01:39 PM ---



"Burton, John"  
<john.burton@MyFWC.com>  
11/06/2007 08:24 AM

To [Redacted]

cc <Jim\_Kraus@fws.gov>, "Delapaz, Dennis"  
<dennis.delapaz@MyFWC.com>

Subject RE: Manatee protection

Thank you for the information [Redacted]. I will pass the information to our local officers. We will continue to monitor the area and conduct patrols in the area.

Thanks,

Captain Burton

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 06, 2007 6:21 AM  
**To:** Burton, John  
**Cc:** Jim\_Kraus@fws.gov  
**Subject:** Manatee protection

Dear Captain Burton,

I've been at Three Sisters and Gator hole a few times in the past week. Many manatees are trying to use these areas as the weather is getting cooler. A cold front will be here later today and below normal temps are expected for the rest of the week. The manatee sanctuaries don't go up for another ten days. A law enforcement presence is desperately needed in these areas NOW. The manatees are being chased out of these springs by boats and swimmers starting at sun-up every day. Just yesterday two manatees returned to the sanctuary area outside Three Sisters as the last boat left at around 10:30. They had only a few minutes of rest before two four boats arrived and sent their swimmers after them. One swimmer immediately approached and touched one of the resting manatees, causing it to leave. At Gator Hole yesterday, [Redacted] arrived at better than slow speed in his very loud boat and drove over manatees resting there. Several of the animals could then be seen leaving the area. I recently video

taped this captain herding manatees with his boat at Hunter's Spring while his swimmers chased them back and forth. Just last week his boat was boarded by the Coast Guard after a complaint by a waterfront homeowner behind Hunter's. Soon after your officers spoke to [REDACTED] about the herding incident, he was seen and video taped speeding across the bay. Not just slightly above slow speed, but speeding! He has a habit of leaving the controls and walking to the front of the boat while it's running and in gear.

Please do whatever you can to get an officer to these areas as the manatees will need someplace where they can get warm and be protected until the sanctuaries are in place. Thank you, Captain.

Tracy Colson

CR-137

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Ivan  
Vicente/RMA/R6/FWS/DOI  
Sent by: Ivan Vicente

02/04/2008 07:39 AM

To Keith\_Ramos@fws.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: Manatee

Just informing you on this one.

--- Forwarded by Ivan Vicente/R4/FWS/DOI on 02/04/2008 07:38 AM ---



[Redacted]

02/01/2008 08:07 AM

To ivan\_vicente@fws.gov  
cc  
Subject Manatee

Ivan,

This email is in regard to our conversation of 1/28/08 regarding people not following the rules when snorkeling with the Manatee. We had Capt. Joe as our operator for our Manatee trip. He gave us very in depth instructions on what we could do and what we could NOT do. Our experience with the Manatee was fantastic!!!

While we were at the dive spot we noticed a number people who were not following the rules,

- Vigerously rubbing the Manatee
- Using fins & making a lot of noise-splashing with the fins and scaring the Manatee.
- Getting most of their bodies inside the roped off area
- Chasing the Manatee
- Pulling their tails
- Disturbing them while they were sleeping

Almost all of these problems were caused by individuals(adult) from pontoon boats from [Redacted]

We feel our captain [Redacted] did a very good job with us and also he tried to let the other people know what they were doing wrong-to no avail. We feel there should be a ban on swim fins and also someone in the area to control people who don't think the rules apply to them. We had a GREAT EXPERIENCE !!!!!!!

[Redacted]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2008 4:28 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Manatee harassment

[REDACTED]

I am sure by now you have gotten a few calls or emails about a video posted on Scuba board showing blatant harassment of manatees including the separation of a mother and calf by the American pro diving outfit. I am sending you this email to lodge my complaint as well. The way these people treat those poor manatees is disgusting and needs to be stopped. I respectfully ask that you don't just let this go unaddressed. I know there are many more people upset by what has been done. You only need follow the link below to read what lots of other people are saying.

<http://www.scubaboard.com/forums/florida-conch-divers/221582-manatee-abuse-harassment-caught-tape.html>

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Continental Airlines Account  
1-813-775-3555

[REDACTED]



ACISS WEB Report Inquiry (FWNC08OFF0087-1).mht