

Manatee



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Status
Endangered

Taxonomy
Class: Mammalia
Order: Sirenia
Family: Trichechidae
Genus: Trichechus
Species: manatus

Manatees can be found in the warm waters of shallow rivers, bays, estuaries, and coastal waters. The largest population of manatees is found in Florida.

Manatees are known for their gentle, slow-moving nature. They communicate by squealing under water to demonstrate fear, stress, or excitement.

Manatees are *herbivores* and eat marine and freshwater plants. The average adult manatee weighs 1,500 to 1,800 pounds and measures 10 to 12 feet in length.

It is believed that these gentle giants live 50 to 60 years in the wild.