



**Jacksonville Marine
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JMTX Manatee Protection Program Summary

The commercial mariner members of the Jacksonville Marine Transportation Exchange (JMTX) are working to support manatee protection efforts and reduce the risk of injury and death caused by vessel interactions. JMTX members including Harbor Pilots, Docking Pilots, Tug companies, and port facilities have agreed to implement a three element program that includes awareness, communication and operational procedures. Each of these critical stakeholder groups has developed company specific plans and procedures that support these elements.

Awareness

Harbor Pilots have implemented an arriving vessel awareness program to ensure deep draft ships are aware of manatees before they enter port. Through their briefing process, they ensure ships lookouts are alert for manatees throughout the harbor transit.

Docking Pilots who direct vessel movements to and from the dock have been trained to be particularly cautious during docking and undocking operations.

Tug Companies train their captains and crews to be alert for manatees both during docking operations and during river transits.

Port terminal have trained their personnel in detection and awareness of manatees.

The JMTX posts the most recent manatee sighting maps on their website which is available to all mariners and commercial maritime companies.

Communications

Mariners have agreed to support sharing of manatee sighting information while on the water. Operators who sight manatees in the waterway will notify other mariners via vhf radio of the manatee presence to increase caution in those areas.

Additionally, mariners and shore side personnel may report sightings to the regional manatee survey teams through their dispatch offices.

Operational Procedures

Large commercial vessels probably pose the most significant risk to manatees during docking and undocking operations. Consistent with safe navigation, the JMTX mariners and facilities have agreed to basic protection procedures during docking and undocking operations.

Prior to vessel docking, shore side personnel will conduct a visual sweep of the pier side dock face. If manatees are detected, the vessel will be notified and if safe to do so, the docking will be delayed until the manatees move from the area. If a delay is not possible for safety reasons the operation will be conducted at the slowest possible speed and with the utmost caution.

Prior to bringing tugs alongside or undocking the vessel the Docking Pilot or Harbor Pilot will conduct a visual sweep of the perimeter of the vessel to detect any manatees. If manatees are present, operations will be suspended until they move away and the operation can be conducted safety.