



# Florida manatee management plan December 2007

# C o n s e r v a t i o n   g o a l

- To remove the manatee from the state imperiled species list and effectively manage the population in perpetuity throughout Florida by securing habitat and minimizing threats



# C o n s e r v a t i o n   o b j e c t i v e s

- Implement methods to estimate the manatee population and trends
- Reduce human-caused mortality rate
- Develop and implement plans to address potential changes in power plant operation
- Assist in the development of minimum flows at Florida springs
- Enhance management practices to secure seagrass and freshwater vegetation
- Use measurable biological goals to measure progress toward recovery



# Conservation actions

- 80 action items are listed in Chapter 7
- Major areas of focus:
  - Speed zone review
  - Improve enforcement efforts
  - Improve permit review process
  - Manatee Protection Plan review and development
  - Secure warm water resources
  - Monitor and protect seagrass
  - Retrofit water control structures
  - Launch new outreach initiatives



# Changes from draft plan

- General typographical and editing correction
- Clarifications and additional explanation throughout entire plan
- Revised Chapter 4 – Goals and Objectives
- Revised Chapter 11 – Implementation Strategy
- Revised Chapter 12 – Economic Impacts
- Revised Chapter 13 – Social Impacts



# Proposed regulations

- 68A-27.003, Remove Florida manatee from Endangered Species list
- 68A-27.004, Add Florida manatee to Threatened Species list



# Permitting framework

- FWC does not provide state permits to possess or take manatees
- FWC is authorized to issue permits to commercial fishers that allow operation of vessels at higher speed than the posted regulations
- Plan proposes to initiate future rule making that would eliminate many of the commercial fishing permits



# I s s u e s

- Dissatisfaction with FWC listing rule
- MBGs – Inclusion of habitat in criteria
- Funding issues
- Economic impacts



# Implementation in year one

- Meet with utility companies to address warm water issues
- Develop and test draft methodology to produce a statistically reliable population estimate
- Develop a revised FWC contingency plan for response to mass-strandings or mortalities, with a focus on loss of warm water
- Complete 50,000 hours of manatee zone enforcement
- Coordinate and comment on minimum flows for springs being evaluated by WMDs
- Initiate marketing of redesigned license plate
- Begin evaluation of existing speed zone rules
- Initiate meetings with USFWS and permitting agencies to improve coordination





- For additional information, visit [My FWC.com](http://MyFWC.com)

