

## Manatee Time Line

### What are some Important Dates or Notable Information about Manatees in Florida?

1492 – 1785

1903 – 1965

1976 – 1985

1996 - 2005

1824 – 1893

1966 – 1975

1986 – 1995

2006 - Present

### References

**1824** Research scientist R. Harlan described the Florida Manatee as different from the West Indian manatee or South American manatee and gave it a species name *latirostris*.

**1832** – John James Audubon noted that his guide in the Florida Keys had for years hunted manatees for sale and profit.

**1847** – Native Americans in Florida still reported to hunt manatees using canoes in the rivers or along the coast.

**1873** – The Zoological Gardens of Philadelphia attempted to maintain Amazonian manatees (*Trichechus inunguis*) in captivity. The manatees lived two and a half months.

**1878** – A large female manatee from British Guiana was shipped to Greencock, England, and transferred to the Royal Westminster Aquarium in London. The manatee lived for another six months before dying from complications from cold stress.

**1880** – Two West Indian manatees were exhibited in Key West, Florida.

**1882 or 1883** – Dr. Leonard Stejneger, a noted Steller Sea Cow biologist, obtains from Russian workmen an assortment of Steller Sea Cow bones for the Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Several specimens created for display.

**1884** – F. W. True quotes Silas Stearns, a naturalist of national repute who collected and supplied specimens of gulf marine life to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., on reports that manatees were formerly seen along the northern Gulf Coast from Pensacola to New Orleans and that their bones were formerly common. Note: Stearns was later appointed as Special Agent of the U.S. Fish Commission and was in charge of the 10th census of the marine industries of the gulf.

**1885** - An observer in Florida noted that, "ten years ago the meat (of a manatee) could be bought at fifty cents a pound. The animals are becoming far too scarce to admit of its being sold at all. There is no doubt that the manatee is fast becoming an extinct animal . . . . The sea cow will pass out of existence...and the only remaining trace of its former existence will be a few old bones." (S.L. Peterson, 1974)

**1893** – Protection under Florida State law (Ch. 4208.94)

**For more manatee time line information please exit this .pdf document by hitting your browsers' back button and select another time period from the FWC webpage.**