

Speeding boats are the endangered manatee's only serious enemy. A gentle aquatic mammal, the manatee inhabits the coastal and inland waters of Florida and the Caribbean.

Sometimes called a sea cow, these air-breathing animals average close to 10 feet in length and 2500 pounds when they're full grown. Their diet is completely vegetarian. It includes submerged sea grasses, as well as floating vegetation like water hyacinths.

Manatees have no natural enemies, but many are injured every year by speeding boats and boat propellers. Today only about 1800 animals remain in Florida's waters.

You can help! When you're boating, remember to slow your craft in waters where manatees are known to gather. By slowing your boat, you'll be more apt to see one before you get dangerously close...and the manatee will have a better chance of swimming away unharmed. This sticker, prominently displayed, shows you care.

The manatees thank you!

