



Manatee Scars: What do they mean?

- Many scars are caused when manatees are struck by moving boat propellers.
- Boat strikes are the main cause of manatees being sent to our Manatee Critical Care Center.
- Manatees have no natural predators, their biggest threat is humans.
- Only 4% of manatees have no boat strike scars, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of manatees have over 10 boat strike scars from different incidents.
- Humans can help by following boating regulations and speed limits, and watching closely for manatees while boating.

Additional Information:

Target Audience and Purpose: This piece is meant to inform guests of my local zoo (ZooTampa) about manatees scars. Many guests seem concerned about the condition and the number of scars on the manatees in the hospital. Guest perception is important, and so is educating about conservation. My audience is the general public, so the sentences are short and concise and discuss the causes of the scars and conservation. This piece could be used on a television slideshow or as a sign or banner.

Citations:

Boat Propeller: Cannon, Lee. *Delaware Sea Shore State Park Marina*. 2011. *Flickr*, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/leecannon/5635856259>.

Manatee with scars: F., Phil. *Manatee Tales on the Ichetucknee*. 2016. *Flickr*, https://www.flickr.com/photos/1stpix_diecast_dioramas/28052379730.

Manatee scar only: Pos, Robert. *West Indian manatee*. 1998. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, <https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/digital/collection/natdiglib/id/8851/rec/1>.