

Minority Report: Ten Thousand Islands

Nancy Anderson

Minority Opinion:

Change 30/20 zones to 30/Slow Speed zones where there are marked channels, and 20 shore-to-shore speed zones where there are no marked channels.

I agree with all aspects of Susan Snyder's Minority Opinion Report regarding the 10,000 Islands.

I would like to include a couple of additions to her report:

1. With the completion of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, natural fresh water sheet flow will return to the Faka Union Canal and, most likely, to areas west of the canal. This may attract more manatees to the area west of the canal as there probably will be additional fresh water sources, thus more manatee travel corridors. In addition, the Manatee Mitigation Site to the west of the canal should also provide fresh water and a warm water refuge for manatees.
2. This area has a large travel corridor area for manatees as shown by the map below where manatees were tracked using satellite-linked GPS technology. The map also shows grass beds, in green. Plate 13 Detailed movements between feeding areas and freshwater sites using satellite-linked GPS technology (2001).
3. Rookery Bay Watershed Engineering Research Project, Seagrass Study " Preliminary Data Benthic Habitats, presented by Nancy Anderson 4/22/16.

Although the seagrass beds in this area may have changed since the U.S. Geological Survey of 2001, the "Seagrass Study " Preliminary Data Benthic Habitats", indicates there is still seagrass in this area.

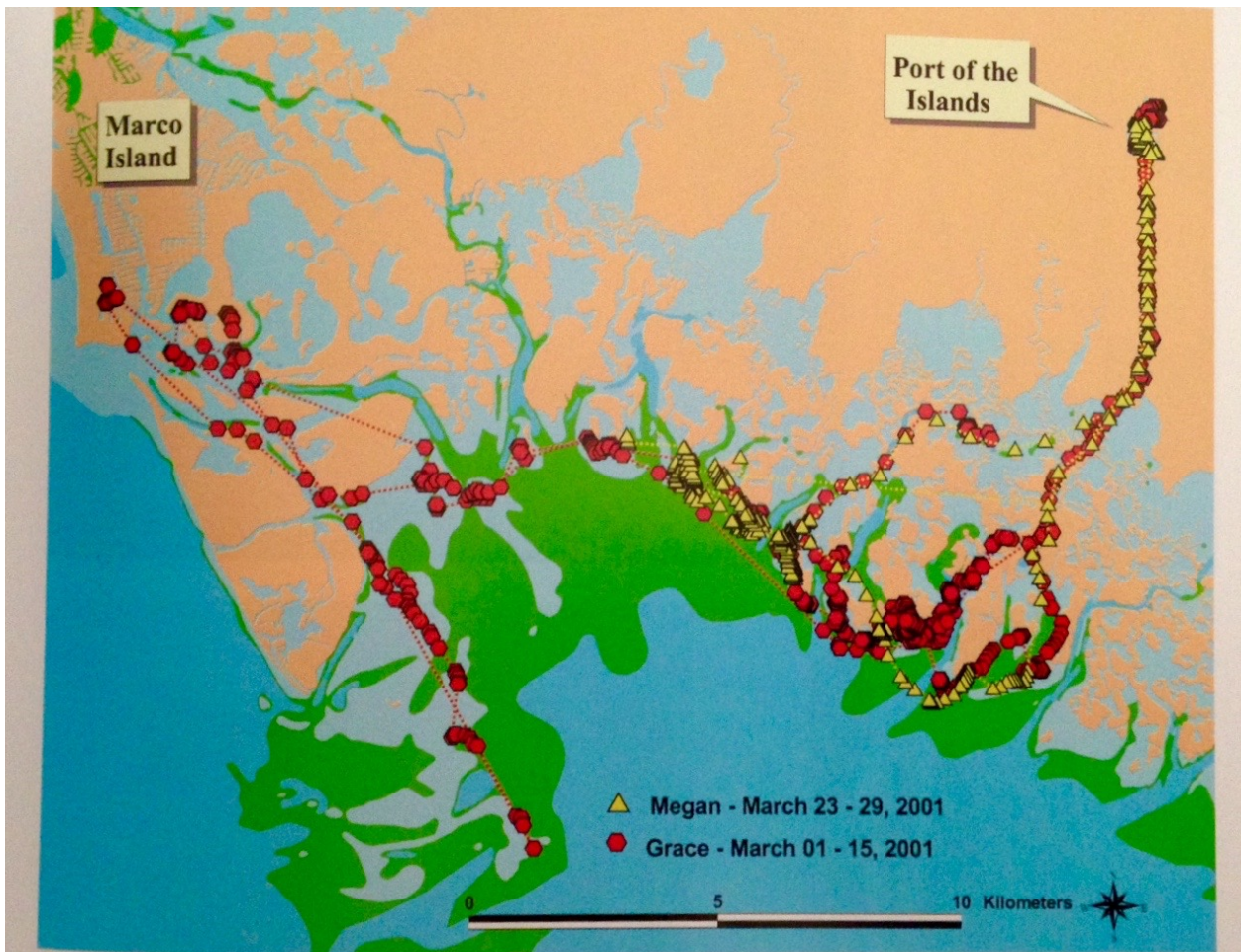


Plate 13. Detailed movements between feeding areas and freshwater sites for two manatees in the Ten Thousand Islands area of southwest Florida obtained using satellite-linked GPS technology. Grass beds shown in green. (Figure by Rachel Henriques and U.S. Geological Survey.)