

CNN News Highlights — Manatees

1) Lagoon	2) manatees	3) nitrogen	4) phosphorus	5) septic tanks	6) stretches from
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We're heading out on Florida's Indian River ____, which ____ Palm Beach County to Daytona Beach. The lagoon is where Florida ____ come for the warm water, but in recent years, the northern end of the lagoon has been a death trap for them. All these homes along the lagoon that are on ____ are slowly leaking literally tons of ____ and ____ into the system.

1) algae	2) essentially smothering	3) decades	4) Marine biologist	5) pollutants	6) vegetation
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____ Peter Belli has studied manatees for _____. He says those _____ are being released by septic tanks and water treatment facilities along the lagoon and are fueling _____ growth in the water, which is causing the manatee's main food source, seagrass, to die. "So this algae is reducing light down to the seagrasses, _____ them and killing them," he says. Manatees need to eat nearly 100 lbs of _____ a day.

1) crystal clear	2) emaciated	3) murky	4) seagrass	5) starvation	6) toxic
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Between December 2020 and April 2022, more than 1,200 manatees died of _____ — most of them here in the northern part of the Indian River Lagoon. Just a couple of decades ago, the water in this Indian River Lagoon was _____; you could easily see down to the bottom. Now it's dark and _____ and polluted with chemicals and algae. With their _____ gone, the manatees had little choice but to eat the algae that killed it, which is _____ for them. Their normally round bodies became flat as they became more and more _____.

1) attempting	2) carcasses	3) skull	4) still remain	5) sued	6) suffered immensely
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Katrina Shadix is the executive director of Bear Warriors United, which _____ Florida's Department of Environmental Protection in 2022 to help protect the manatees. "They _____ and for a very long time. When a manatee starves to death, it's an extremely painful process." These photos from Bear Warriors United show how desperate some of the manatees were, _____ to pull themselves out of the water to eat leaves off dry land or grass along the water's edge. On this beach in the lagoon, Katrina says she found many manatee _____. She showed us some of their bones that _____ and shared this picture with us of a manatee _____.

1) admitted	2) federal judge ruled in favor of	3) go extinct on our watch	4) home herd	5) lawsuit	6) recover
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Earlier this month, a _____ Bear Warriors United and against the state, finding Florida's Department of Environmental Protection was, quote, in violation of the Endangered Species Act. "There was lax leadership from the state of Florida." The state of Florida has _____ that it will be 12 to 15 years before seagrasses start to _____.

We reached out to both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, but neither provided a response to our questions.

Are you hopeful the manatee population will come back here?

"I am hopeful now. I wasn't at first—I was convinced that this _____ was going to go extinct and that the rest of the state manatees would follow. But now that we won this _____, we think we have a really good chance of working with the state to make sure the manatees don't _____."

Translation

我們正前往佛羅里達的印第安河潟湖，這條潟湖從棕櫚灘縣延伸到代托納海灘。這裡是佛羅里達海牛為了溫暖水域而聚集的地方，但近年來，潟湖北端卻成了牠們的死亡陷阱。沿著潟湖蓋的這些住宅都使用化糞池，這些化糞池正緩慢地向水域滲漏出大量氮和磷。

海洋生物學家彼得·貝利研究海牛已經數十年。他表示，這些污染物來自沿潟湖設置的化糞池和污水處理設施，這些物質促進了水中藻類的生長，進而導致海牛主要食物來源——海草——大量枯死。「這些藻類減少了照射到海草的陽光，等於是把它們悶死了，」他說。海牛每天需要攝取將近一百磅的水生植物。

從 2020 年 12 月到 2022 年 4 月之間，有超過 1,200 隻海牛因為飢餓而死亡，大多數都發生在印第安河潟湖的北端。就在短短幾十年前，潟湖的水還是清澈見底，如今卻變得又黑又混濁，充滿化學物質與藻類。隨著海草消失，海牛別無選擇，只能改吃那些導致海草死亡的藻類，而那對牠們來說是有毒的。原本圓滾滾的身體變得扁扁的，因為牠們愈來愈瘦弱。

卡崔娜·沙迪克斯是「熊戰士聯盟」的執行長。該組織於 2022 年控告佛羅里達州環境保護局，要求保護海牛。「牠們經歷了極大的痛苦，時間非常漫長。海牛餓死是一個極度痛苦的過程。」這些來自熊戰士聯盟的照片顯示，有些海牛絕望地試圖從水中爬上岸邊吃乾地上的樹葉或岸邊的草。卡崔娜說，她在潟湖的這片海灘上發現了許多海牛屍體。她向我們展示了一些遺留下來的骨頭，並分享了一張海牛頭骨的照片。

本月稍早，一位聯邦法官裁定熊戰士聯盟勝訴，佛羅里達州敗訴，指出佛州環境保護局違反了《瀕危物種法》。卡崔娜說：「佛州的領導實在太鬆散。」佛州承認，海草要恢復恐怕還得等上 12 到 15 年。我們曾試圖聯繫佛羅里達州環境保護局及州長羅恩·德桑蒂斯，但他們都沒有對我們的提問作出回應。你覺得海牛族群會回來這裡嗎？

「我現在有信心了。起初我並不樂觀——我當時相信這一群當地的海牛會滅絕，而佛州其他地區的海牛也會跟著滅絕。但現在我們贏了這場官司，我們覺得有很大的機會能與州政府合作，確保海牛不會在我們這一代人手中滅絕。」



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Answers

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We're heading out on Florida's Indian River **1) Lagoon**, which **6) stretches from** Palm Beach County to Daytona Beach. The lagoon is where Florida **2) manatees** come for the warm water, but in recent years, the northern end of the lagoon has been a death trap for them. All these homes along the lagoon that are on **5) septic tanks** are slowly leaking literally tons of **3) nitrogen** and **4) phosphorus** into the system.

1) algae	2) essentially smothering	3) decades	4) Marine biologist	5) pollutants	6) vegetation
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4) Marine biologist Peter Belli has studied manatees for **3) decades**. He says those **5) pollutants** are being released by septic tanks and water treatment facilities along the lagoon and are fueling **1) algae** growth in the water, which is causing the manatee's main food source, seagrass, to die. "So this algae is reducing light down to the seagrasses, **2) essentially smothering** them and killing them," he says. Manatees need to eat nearly 100 lbs of **6) vegetation** a day.

1) crystal clear	2) emaciated	3) murky	4) seagrass	5) starvation	6) toxic
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Between December 2020 and April 2022, more than 1,200 manatees died of **5) starvation**—most of them here in the northern part of the Indian River Lagoon. Just a couple of decades ago, the water in this Indian River Lagoon was **1) crystal clear**; you could easily see down to the bottom. Now it's dark and **3) murky** and polluted with chemicals and algae. With their **4) seagrass** gone, the manatees had little choice but to eat the algae that killed it, which is **6) toxic** for them. Their normally round bodies became flat as they became more and more **2) emaciated**.

1) attempting	2) carcasses	3) skull	4) still remain	5) sued	6) suffered immensely
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Katrina Shadix is the executive director of Bear Warriors United, which **5) sued** Florida's Department of Environmental Protection in 2022 to help protect the manatees. "They **6) suffered immensely** and for a very long time. When a manatee starves to death, it's an extremely painful process." These photos from Bear Warriors United show how desperate some of the manatees were, **1) attempting** to pull themselves out of the water to eat leaves off dry land or grass along the water's edge. On this beach in the lagoon, Katrina says she found many manatee **2) carcasses**. She showed us some of their bones that **4) still remain** and shared this picture with us of a manatee **3) skull**.

1) admitted	2) federal judge ruled in favor of	3) go extinct on our watch	4) home herd	5) lawsuit	6) recover
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Earlier this month, a **2) federal judge ruled in favor of** Bear Warriors United and against the state, finding Florida's Department of Environmental Protection was, quote, in violation of the Endangered Species Act. "There was lax leadership from the state of Florida." The state of Florida has **1) admitted** that it will be 12 to 15 years before seagrasses start to **6) recover**.

We reached out to both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, but neither provided a response to our questions.

Are you hopeful the manatee population will come back here?

"I am hopeful now. I wasn't at first—I was convinced that this **4) home herd** was going to go extinct and that the rest of the state manatees would follow. But now that we won this **5) lawsuit**, we think we have a really good chance of working with the state to make sure the manatees don't **3) go extinct on our watch**."