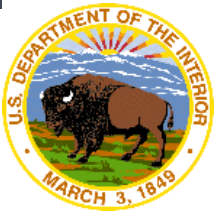


# **Florida Manatee Movement and Habitat Use in the Northern Gulf of Mexico**



All photos courtesy of USGS Sirenia Project



## **BOEM Information Need:**

Manatees are an ESA listed species that appear to be expanding their range in the northern GOM, potentially increasing the likelihood of impacts from BOEM activities.

## **Date Information is Required:**

Data needed for ESA and MMPA consultations as well as current and future NEPA analyses.

**Tentative Ranking: 11**

## Background:

- Potential impacts to manatees from vessel traffic associated with BOEM activities
- More than 100,000 service vessel round-trips for a typical lease sale in the Central Planning Area





## Study's Objectives:

- 1) Determine manatee movements/spatial distribution and habitat use in the northern GOM, specifically in areas west of the Suwannee River, FL
- 2) Conduct health assessments on tagged animals



## **Study's Methods:**

- 1) Satellite telemetry of up to 20 manatees annually for 3 years (N=60)
- 2) Habitat characterization of areas used by manatees
- 3) Health assessments of captured animals –including gender, blood/urine samples, fat thickness, scar photos, and skin samples for genetic analyses.



# **Opportunity to partner with USGS Sirenia Project**

