

**From:** Harvey, Sharneka [mailto:sharneka\_harvey@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2015 3:34 PM  
**To:** Jeff Ruch  
**Subject:** Re: FOIA Request

Dear Mr. Ruch,

This is a partial response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 06, 2015. In your request, you asked for:

1. The number of manatee harassment complaints FWS has received through its dedicated email address;
2. The number of such harassment complaints FWS has received from sources other than its dedicated email address;
3. Summary disposition information concerning enforcement action taken on any of these complaints; and
4. Any analysis FWS has done concerning the extent or nature of harassment of manatees, including those involving swim-with interactions between manatees and humans.

With this release, we are providing you a full response to item #1 and a partial response to item #3. A secondary response will follow covering data on items #2, #3 and #4 since January 01, 2012.

In response to your request, on January 12, 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife Service created a new email address to report manatee harassment or other refuge violations. The address is [manateemannersnot@fws.gov](mailto:manateemannersnot@fws.gov). Since the inception of this reporting system, Federal Wildlife Officers have received seven (7) reports regarding potential manatee harassment. Of these incidents, five (5) were determined to be on Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, one (1) was determined to be on Kings Bay Manatee Refuge, and one (1) was determined to be off refuge in the Homosassa River. Each incident was reviewed and/or investigated resulting in the following actions:

-Incidents occurring on Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge

- o Four (4) reports were determined to be unfounded.
- o One (1) report was resolved as an educational contact.

-Incidents occurring on Kings Bay Manatee Refuge

- o One (1) report resulted in targeted patrols and increased speed zone enforcement at the identified location.

-Incidents occurring outside areas of functional responsibility

- o One (1) report was referred to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement for review.

The Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge law enforcement staff will continue to process your request and make every effort to respond to the remainder of the enforcement related portions of this request as soon as possible.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c)(2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Should you have any interim questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Federal Wildlife Officers at the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge at 352-563-2088.

Thanks

From: Harvey, Sharneka [mailto:sharneka\_harvey@fws.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:44 PM  
To: Jeff Ruch  
Subject: Re: FOIA Request

Dear Mr. Ruch,

This completes our response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 06, 2015. In your request, you asked for:

1. The number of manatee harassment complaints FWS has received through its dedicated email address;
2. The number of such harassment complaints FWS has received from sources other than its dedicated email address;
3. Summary disposition information concerning enforcement action taken on any of these complaints; and
4. Any analysis FWS has done concerning the extent or nature of harassment of manatees, including those involving swim-with interactions between manatees and humans.

A partial response was provided to you on March 21, 2015. Our Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge has thoroughly searched their files and are providing you all the information located in our files. It is important to note while examining these statistics they include cases where complainants refused to provide official testimony. These cases were still investigated without the required testimony and law enforcement actions were taken accordingly. Additionally, there is an overlap of Kings Bay Manatee Refuge and Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge statistics. As a result, statistics from other sources regarding reporting of manatee harassment complaints are combined.

During the period requested (January 1, 2012 to present), Federal Wildlife Officers (FWO) received 70 complaints regarding potential manatee harassment from sources other than its' dedicated email address. Of those incidents, 64 were reported on Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge and/or within the Kings Bay Manatee Refuge. 6 complaints were received from areas outside the functional

responsibility of Crystal River NWR Law Enforcement personnel. Each incident was reviewed and/or investigated resulting in the following actions:

- Incidents occurring on Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge/ Kings Bay Manatee Refuge
  - o 10 complaints resulted in Kings Bay Manatee Refuge Rule prohibition citations
  - o 6 complaints resulted in written warnings for refuge prohibitions
  - o 35 complaints resulted in educational contact or verbal warning
  - o 13 complaints were determined to be unfounded.
- Incidents occurring outside areas of functional responsibility:
  - o 6 reports were referred to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement for review.
  - o 2 reports were referred to the State of Florida for investigation.

Please direct any further requests for additional information or clarification to Federal Wildlife Officers at the Crystal River NWR at 352-563-2088.

Thanks

From: Harvey, Sharneka [mailto:sharneka\_harvey@fws.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 2:29 PM  
To: Jeff Ruch  
Subject: Re: FOIA Request

Dear Mr. Ruch,

In addition to the response recently provided to you, regarding your February 6, 2015 FOIA request, please be advised that the Service has not done an analysis concerning the extent or nature of harassment of manatees, including those involving swim-with interactions between manatees and humans. Though the Service has collected the statistics provided to you, this information has not been thoroughly assessed and/or analyzed.

If you consider this portion of our response to be a denial of your request, you may file an appeal by writing to:

Freedom of Information Act Appeals Officer  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Solicitor  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 6556  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Your appeal must be received no later than 30 workdays after the date of this letter. The appeal should be marked, both on the envelope and the face of the appeal letter, with the legend "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Your appeal should be accompanied by a copy of your original request and this letter, along with any information you have which leads you to believe the records are available.

Also as part of the 2007 OPEN Government Act FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA

requesters and Federal agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation.

You may contact OGIS via regular mail at:

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)  
National Archives and Records Administration  
Room 2510  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

You may also contact OGIS in the following ways:

E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Phone: 301-837-1996  
Fax: 301-837-0348  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Please direct any further requests for additional information or clarification to Federal Wildlife Officers at the Crystal River NWR at 352-563-2088.

Thanks