

# MANATEE REHABILITATION PARTNERSHIP RESTRUCTURING OPTIONS

## Option 1: MRP retains its identity but is under the umbrella of the FMT

### Pros:

- MRP continues as an implementation team
- Organization of meetings will fall to USFWS to incorporate MRP topics into FMT agenda
- MRP retains identity and logo, etc.
- Unrestricted funding capabilities (status quo)

### Cons:

- Membership is limited to members of FMT only
- More difficult to obtain outside funding because funds would be perceived as being given to a government agency rather than an non-governmental entity or partnership
- Potential less buy-in or participation by some members -

## Option 2: MRP retains its identity but is related to or a part of the Interagency Oceanaria (IO)

### Pros:

- FMT still decision making group, but MRP and IO are on equal levels
- More inclusive membership than Option 1
- More flexibility for MRP to set its own agenda/expanded topics than Option 1
- MRP continues as an implementation team
- MRP retains identity and logo, etc.
- Unrestricted funding capabilities (status quo)

### Cons:

- Increased administrative responsibility that will need infrastructure support independent of USFWS
- Increased partner workload for the MRP responsibilities – especially to the partner who picks up the task of hosting or arranging meetings

## Option 3: MRP autonomous

### Pros:

- MRP continues as an implementation team
- Non-governmental collaborative partnership of entities that self manage for the common goal of tracking manatees
- Unrestricted funding capabilities (status quo)
- Capability of becoming a non-profit
- Membership open and determined by MRP; full representation of various disciplines and interests
- Continuity of post-release data (even if the species status changes)

### Cons:

- Increased administrative responsibility that will need infrastructure support independent of USFWS
- Increased partner workload for the MRP responsibilities – especially to the partner who picks up the task of hosting or arranging meetings
- Potential loss of current institutional funding support
- *Unclear whether MRP would still be part of IO under this scenario*