

Front Page

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Manatee Moves On To Rhode Island

By **CHRISTOPHER KAZARIAN**

The manatee that was sighted last Thursday in Gansett Harbor in Woods Hole appears to have left, but it does not seem to have gone too far.

Sarah Herzig, coordinator for the Cape Cod Stranding Network, said there have been eyewitness reports of a manatee in waters off Rhode Island, roughly 40 nautical miles from Falmouth.

While unable to verify whether it is the same creature, Ms. Herzig said, throughout the weekend the animal appeared to be traveling further south. "Manatees are so rare, it probably is [the same one]," Ms. Herzig said.

On Saturday, a manatee was seen near the Massachusetts and Rhode Island border, she said. Sunday night it was spotted at the East Greenwich Marina in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Sergeant Frances Ethier, an environmental police officer with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, was at the scene in Warwick. "It was probably in the worst area you could dream of it being: in the middle of the marina," she said. Despite the dangers of boating traffic, the mammal remained there for roughly 20 minutes, at times drinking from a water overflow pipe at the marina. Sgt. Ethier was able to take a number of pictures to document the incident.

The manatee drew a crowd of spectators. Many were enjoying dinner at a nearby restaurant, Chelo's Waterfront Bar & Grille, she said. The NBC affiliate in Providence, Channel 10, has video of the sighting on its web site, www.turnto10.com.

Margaret A. Flanagan, head of the Gansett Road Association, said Thursday's incident drew a number of residents to Woods Hole this weekend. Unfortunately, there is no public access from the road to Gansett Harbor, she said.

If anyone has pictures of the manatee in Falmouth, Ms. Herzig asked that they contact the stranding network at 508-743-9805.



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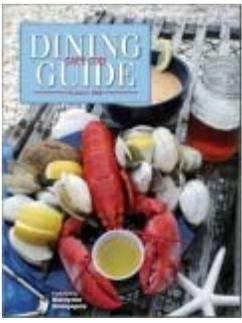
Pam Pavetto

The Mommy Rant

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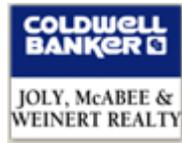
What's Going On Here?!

Gerree Hogan Trudeau



(patience, please, large file)

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