

Booklist

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The Manatee Scientists: Saving Vulnerable Species.

Lourie, Peter (Author)

Apr 2011. 80 p. Houghton, hardcover, \$18.99. (9780547152547). 599.55092.

Posing in all their distinctively lumpish charm, the manatees photographed by Lourie and others add plenty of visual appeal, but that isn't all that this latest Scientists in the Field entry has going for it. All three species of manatee are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) official Red List of Threatened Species, and the author not only profiles the work of three veteran researchers who are studying each—one at a station on the Amazon in Brazil; one at a facility in central Florida; and the third tracking the most elusive species along several rivers in Gabon, Angola, and Senegal—but also explains all of the categories for endangered species developed by the IUCN and the types of direct and indirect data that are gathered and used to determine that status. He also presents nontechnical overviews of manatee behavior and ancestry, along with human and natural hazards to the health of these gentle creatures, and closes with pages of summary facts as well as generous resource lists. A sturdy addition to a standard-setting nonfiction series.

— *John Peters*