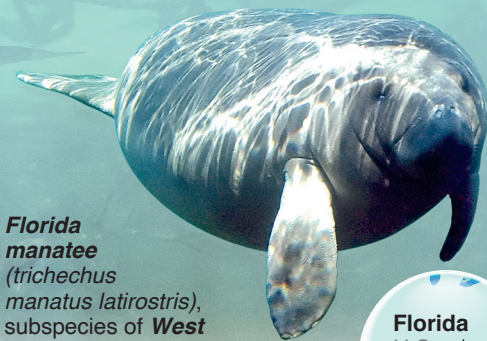


Manatee death rate soaring in Florida

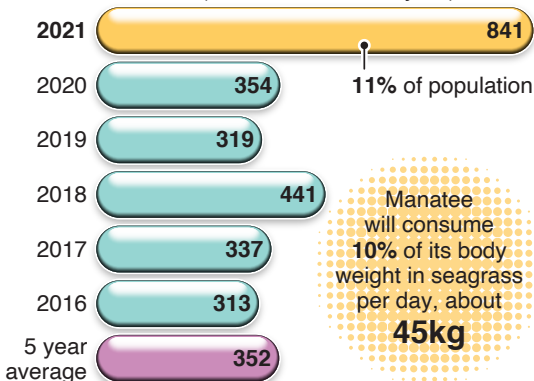
More manatees have died in 2021 than at any time in Florida's known history, says the state's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Florida manatee (*trichechus manatus latirostris*), subspecies of **West Indian manatee** – docile herbivore also known as **sea cow**



MORTALITY RATE (Jan 1-Jul 2 in each year)



Man-made pollution: Staple diet of seagrass is dying as sunlight is shaded out by toxic **algae blooms** caused by increasing water pollution due to neglected septic tanks, raw sewage, and fertiliser run-off