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Current Environmental Ethical Dilemma

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Current Environmental Ethical Dilemma

The news story selected is from the United States News website with the title “2021 is already the deadliest year on record for Florida Manatees. Why are they dying?”. The article was written on the 9th of July of 2021 and can be found at

[https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/07/09/more-manatees-died-2021-deadliest-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/07/09/more-manatees-died-2021-deadliest-year-florida-history/7916309002/)

[year-florida-history/7916309002/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/07/09/more-manatees-died-2021-deadliest-year-florida-history/7916309002/). Chesnes (2021) claims that in the year 2021, more manatees have died in Florida than any other year. Although several biologists and environmentalists have tried to understand the cause and recognize the solution, it still worries how the Indian River Lagoon will be conserved. Furthermore, due to the lack of seagrass in the Lagoon, the main food for manatees, they have starved and malnutrition. As a result, approximately eight hundred and forty-one manatees have passed away in Florida. Almost fifty-three percent have died in Volusia, St. Martin and Lucie, Brevard and Indian River. Another cause of death is boat strikes.

Individuals are to be blamed for polluting the waterway because of immense urbanization and agricultural expansion. Algal blooms obtained from fertilizers and sewage leaks have destroyed seagrass. Florida has taken a step in examining the cause of manatee death, although they have not produced the results. Nevertheless, the government has provided eight million dollars to cater for habitat rehabilitation. On the other hand, the federal government altered the status of manatees from endangered to threatened species. The ethical environment theory that best explains this dilemma is ecocentrism theory. Ecocentrism concentrates on the environment as a whole; therefore, it will consider the ecosystem interest rather than humans' interest only.

Moreover, the theory informs individuals that all life is interdependent and thus, individuals and nonhumans need the environmental procedures that nature offers. Therefore, individuals taking a boat ride in the lagoon and agricultural development destroys the seagrass, food for manatees,

but it provides humans with what they need. Therefore, based on the theory, human activities are harmful to the ecosystem hence immoral.

Reference

Chesnes, M. (2021). 2021 is already the deadliest year on record for Florida manatees. Why are they dying? *USA TODAY*.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/07/09/more-manatees-died-2021-deadliest-year-florida-history/7916309002/>

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