

# What are the differences between a dugong and a manatee?



The tail of a dugong is fluke-like (similar to a dolphin tail), but the manatee tail is paddle shaped

Dugongs cannot tolerate freshwater. Dugongs are strictly marine mammals, but manatees migrate between marine and freshwater.

Dugongs have smooth skin, whereas manatees have rough and wrinkled skin

Dugongs live in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Manatees live in the Atlantic.

The age of sexual maturity for dugongs is between 4 - 17 years, and for manatees it's 5-9 years

Dugongs grow to an average length of 3 meters. Manatees usually are between 3 - 3.5 meters in length

The primary threats to dugongs are bycatch and the destruction of seagrass habitats. Manatees are primarily threatened by adverse temperatures and vessel-strikes

Dugongs weigh less than manatees. The average adult dugong weighs 250 - 400 kg, while the average manatee weighs 400 - 500 kg.

