

# Cute alert: Florida manatee gives birth to twins

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Scientists say a manatee that swims in waters near Sarasota has given birth to rare twins.

The Herald-Tribune ([bit.ly/1NQipWF](http://bit.ly/1NQipWF)) reports the manatee, Tomo-Bella, who has been observed by [marine biologists](#) since 1993, was spotted by an onlooker in a canal on Siesta Key this month with the twin calves.

According to a news release, the onlooker took video of the family and sent it to Mote Marine Laboratory, which confirmed the mother's identity.

Manatee twins are born between 1.4 and 4 percent of the time to Florida manatees.

Tomo-Bella has been documented with eight calves during the 23 years that scientists have been observing her.

Mote asks people who see the [manatee](#) with the twin babies to take photos, videos and provide location information—but don't disturb them.

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