

“First Sighting”

Words and music by Gary R. Pane 1999

I looked in the river and there he was
I couldn't believe my eyes
I looked in the river and there he was
I couldn't have been more surprised

I wanted to get a better look this time
I wouldn't be happy with just a peek
The captain said “You may not see him again cause these animals are meek”

Refrain: But, he was my first manatee sighting
Yeah, he was my first manatee sighting

We looked to the left and then we looked to the right
We tried to see a sign
Maybe a ripple or maybe a wave
He holds his breath a long time

He bobbed for air and then I was amazed
How could such an animal be in this place
Living in the river without hardly a trace of being seen,

Refrain: But, he was my first manatee sighting
Oh-h-h, he was my first manatee sighting

He started heading over toward the spring
The water was clearer than anything
My heart stopped beating, ears began to ring
I saw the mammal, every inch of him

My first sighting was in eighty-four
I realized then that we could do so much more
To keep the river as it was before
And protect the life there that God adores

Refrain: Yeah, he was my first manatee sighting
Oh-h-h, he was my first manatee sighting

Instrumental:
Refrain: