



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Carolina Perrina
305-365-2525 Office
305-719-2810 Pager

Rescued and Rehabilitated Manatees ‘Sebastian’ and ‘Bronco’ to Return to the Wild

What: Miami Seaquarium will be releasing 2 manatees together. ‘Sebastian’ and ‘Bronco’ the manatees will go back to the wild on Tuesday September 18th, 2007.

When: Animal loading will begin at 6:30am at **Miami Seaquarium**. Media advised to arrive by 6:15am at the park and go through the gate to the right of the main entrance. Once the manatees are loaded on the truck, they will depart from the park promptly. Media is welcome to follow the manatees to the drop off area. Manatee Sebastian will be released at **Sebastian inlet**. Manatee Bronco will be released at **Vero Beach**. Please contact Public Relations Coordinator Carolina Perrina at 305-365-2525 to schedule your media crew.

Who: Manatee ‘Sebastian’ background:

Manatee Sebastian was rescued as a 610lbs sub adult, from the St. Sebastian River. Manatee Sebastian was rescued arrived April 25, 2007. Sebastian suffered severe boat trauma to his back causing fractured ribs and a punctured lung (pneumothorax). He was 7 feet long when rescued. “While the treatment he received at Miami Seaquarium was imperative for his recovery, it was his perseverance to survive that helped make it a smooth recovery,” said Dr. Maya Menchaca Rodriguez, Miami Seaquarium veterinarian.

Manatee ‘Bronco’ background:

‘Bronco’ was rescued as an orphan on March 9, 2006 from Vero Beach due to possible cold stress and being an orphan. Bronco weighted 280 lbs. when rescued. Bronco was transported to Miami Seaquarium on February 28th, 2007. Manatee Bronco was brought from SeaWorld to accompany one of the oldest manatees Miami Seaquarium has under its care, manatee Romeo. “Manatees are very social, our older manatees at Miami Seaquarium become teachers for the orphans that come in,” said Dr. Maya Menchaca Rodriguez, Miami Seaquarium veterinarian.