



NEWS RELEASE

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Rescued and rehabilitated Manatees “River” and “Sparky” to return to the Wild

What: In a joint effort, Miami Seaquarium and US Fish & Wildlife Service Manatee Recovery Program will be releasing manatees “River” and “Sparky” to the Black Point Marina area on Thursday, March 15th, 2007.

When: Animal loading will begin at 9:00am at **Miami Seaquarium**. Media advised to arrive by 8:45am 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 welcomed to follow the manatees to the drop off area. Please contact Public Relations Coordinator Carolina Perrina at 305-365-2525 to schedule your media crew.

Who: Manatee “River” background:

River was rescued on September 18th 2004 from Little River in Miami. River was possibly separated from his mother by a flood gate. River was a small orphan weighing only 70 pounds and was losing more weight, but other than that was in good condition. He was bottle fed for 2 years by Miami Seaquarium animal care staff. Manatee River currently weighs almost 900 pounds and is fully recovered and ready to return to the wild with monitoring devices to allow specialists to continually check on his health and well being.

Manatee “Sparky” background:

Manatee Sparky was rescued as a one-year-old orphan baby from the FPL Power Plant in Port Everglades. Baby Sparky arrived early afternoon at Miami Seaquarium on Saturday, March 5th 2005. The 50-pound orphan baby had lost a lot of weight and was very emaciated. Miami Seaquarium veterinarian and animal care staff administered antibiotics to prevent any possible infection. 900-pound Sparky is now fully recovered and ready to return to the wild with monitoring devices to allow specialists to continually check on his health and well being.

* Manatee lovers from all over the world will be able to track River and Sparky after they have been released back into the wild by logging on to www.wildtracks.org

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