

NEWS RELEASE

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Miami Seaquarium to Release Back to the Wild Seven Sea Turtles

Miami, FL (May 8, 2007) –After months of nursing care and nutritional support, Miami Seaquarium will release seven sea turtles back to the wild on **Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 10am**. The group composed of five loggerhead sea turtles named ‘Snoopy’, ‘Spoc’, ‘Coppertone’, ‘Barnacle’, and ‘Soldier’, along with one green sea turtle named ‘Ford’, and a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle named ‘Marley’, will be released on Bill Baggs Park.

Miami Seaquarium animal care personnel have had an exceptionally busy year with over 20 sea turtle rescues since January 2007. "Seven sea turtles are the most we've ever released at a time. We have had such a busy sea turtle rehabilitation year; it is nice to be able to help so many of these protected species back into the wild," said Dr. Maya Menchaca, Miami Seaquarium veterinarian.

The seven sea turtles are among those rescued this year from the areas of West Palm Beach, Broward County, and Miami-Dade County, their rehabilitation time varying from one week to four months.

‘Snoopy’, ‘Spoc’, and ‘Coppertone’ have been hand fed and under intensive care for the past four months after being paralyzed from toxin consumption. The protected Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, ‘Marley’, was rescued from entanglement and had lost a flipper. Others were found with fishing hooks in their mouths. Miami Seaquarium animal care staff and veterinarian administered antibiotics and fluids to the sea turtles. All seven of them have been nursed back to health and have fully recovered. The sea turtles' age ranges from 2 years old to 20 years old and their weight varies from 9 pounds to 100 pounds.

Miami Seaquarium continues to work diligently in the treatment and rehabilitation of sea turtles in South Florida.

Miami Seaquarium will load sea turtles on to the truck at 10am. The truck will depart from Seaquarium grounds as soon as the sea turtles are loaded. Media is advised to arrive by 9:50am at the right end of the park. Miami Seaquarium, 4400 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL.

-Miami Seaquarium-