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**NOAA FISHERIES DECLARES LOLITA PART OF THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

Killer Whale to Remain At Miami Seaquarium

Miami –February 5, 2015 – Miami Seaquarium, one of the original oceanariums in the United States, confirmed today that Lolita the Killer Whale will remain at the park after NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule that includes Lolita in the endangered species listing for the Southern Resident killer whales.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration stated in their press release, “While Lolita will now share the endangered listing status of the population she came from, the decision does not impact her residence at the Miami Seaquarium.”

“Lolita has been part of the Miami Seaquarium family for 44 years. Her listing as part of the Endangered Species Act does not mean that she is going to be moved,” said Robert Rose, Curator at Miami Seaquarium. “Lolita is healthy and thriving in her home where she shares her habitat with Pacific white-sided dolphins. There is no scientific evidence that the 49 year-old post-reproductive Lolita could survive in a sea pen or the open waters of the Pacific Northwest. It would be reckless to treat her life as an experiment and jeopardize her health and safety.”

Miami Seaquarium, South Florida’s most popular tourist attraction, is a family-oriented marine-life park open to the public 365 days a year. The park, accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, provides visitors with a greater understanding and appreciation for marine life through shows, presentations and marine-life exhibits. For information call (305) 361-5705 or visit www.miamiseaquarium.com.

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