



## Inspection Report

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MS Leisure Company, Inc.  
4400 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Key Biscayne, FL 33147

Customer ID: **6011009**  
Certificate: **58-C-1252**  
Site: 001  
Miami Seaquarium

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 21-JAN-2025

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### 2.131(b)(1) Critical

#### Handling of animals.

The four dolphins housed at Top Deck were discovered laying on the floor of their tank in seriously diminished water levels, which resulted in various scrapes and abrasions on their chins, chests, pectoral fins, peduncles, and flukes. At approximately 9:30 pm, on January 11, 2025, an employee began a routine backwash procedure of the pumps and filter for Top Deck. The employee became distracted with another task and failed to follow written protocols. Instead of stopping the process after 5 minutes, the backwash process continued to drain water from the tank for the next several hours. Another employee also failed to follow written standard operating procedures by not routinely checking water levels throughout the night. At approximately 5 am on January 12, 2025, the low water levels were identified, and the animals were observed at the bottom of the tank with the injuries described above.

Failure to implement proper handling procedures exposes the animals to potential injuries and undue stress.

Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Corrective actions were put in place and compliance was restored by the time of inspection.

### 3.108(b)

#### Employees or attendants.

At the time of inspection, the facility did not have documentation of participation for the employees required to participate in their Life Support/Water Quality training.

Without documentation of a facility's training courses, it is difficult to assess if an employee has the knowledge and skills to adequately perform proper husbandry techniques, animal handling techniques, and reporting protocols. This can lead to errors and have a negative impact on animal welfare.

The facility will provide and document participation in and successful completions of a facility training course for such employees, that will include, but is not limited to, species appropriate husbandry techniques, animal handling techniques, and information on proper reporting protocols, such as recordkeeping and notification of veterinary staff for medical

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Prepared By: CHARLES PALMER  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
Title: SUPERVISORY ANIMAL CARE  
SPECIALIST

Date:  
23-JAN-2025

Received by Title: Facility Representative

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concerns.

To be correct by January 28, 2025.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

KRISTIN NAPOLI, SUPERVISORY ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST

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**Species Inspected**

| Cust No | Cert No   | Site | Site Name        | Inspection  |
|---------|-----------|------|------------------|-------------|
| 6011009 | 58-C-1252 | 001  | Miami Seaquarium | 21-JAN-2025 |

| Count  | Scientific Name           | Common Name        |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 000004 | <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN |
| 000004 | <b>Total</b>              |                    |