



CLEARWATER MARINE  
AQUARIUM™

## PRESS RELEASE

### Clearwater Marine Aquarium to release 5<sup>th</sup> rehabilitated sea turtle in less than four weeks – open to the public

**Clearwater, FL (Monday, July 11, 2016)** –Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will release “Norbert,” a rehabilitated, endangered Kemp’s ridley sea turtle, on Clearwater Beach this Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am. Media and the public are invited to attend.

Norbert is the 5<sup>th</sup> sea turtle released by the aquarium in less than a month. Fellow Harry Potter-themed turtles “Bellatrix” and “Kreacher” preceded Norbert in their return to the gulf, along with “Guadalajara” and “Wonder Woman.” This summer has also been promising for loggerhead sea turtle nesting, as the CMA nesting patrol team has surpassed their record-breaking nest count from 2013 with 231 nests at the halfway mark of the season.

Discovered near Pier 60 on Clearwater Beach, Norbert, a juvenile Kemp’s ridley sea turtle, was brought to Clearwater Marine Aquarium on May 26, 2016 after being caught on a hook. A popular fishing location, Pier 60 is one of the few piers around the state of Florida involved with the Responsible Pier Initiative Program. This program supplies piers and their employees with the equipment and training needed to safely assist in sea turtle rescues related to hook/line ingestion and entanglement. Fortunately, Norbert was rescued using this equipment by one of the pier’s volunteer fishermen.

The following day, Norbert was x-rayed to assess depth and positioning of the hook. Dr. Shelly Marquardt performed the successful hook removal. After the surgery, Norbert received vinegar rinses daily, TPN (total parenteral nutrition) administered intravenously, and periodic endoscopic procedures to assess the healing of his esophagus. Norbert’s rehabilitation progressed rapidly and he has been cleared for release by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Dr. Marquardt.

Photos of Norbert’s intake and treatment are available here for download:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/8zGTi/YnJvbXpla0BjbWFXdWFyaXVtLm9yZw>

Norbert will return home to the ocean at 10:30am on Wednesday. Attending Media are encouraged to arrive no later than 10:00am for idea viewing. To learn more and join Duke Energy in supporting CMA’s turtle program, visit [www.seewinter.com/donate](http://www.seewinter.com/donate).

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#### About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin’s story of survival, after the injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, Dolphin Tale, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, Dolphin Tale 2, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people’s lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.

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