



## CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

### PRESS RELEASE

#### CMA to Host Sea Turtle Awareness Day on Clearwater Beach

- Help clean the beach and participate in free sea turtle activities Saturday, May 7

**Clearwater, FL (April 18, 2016)** – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), a marine life rescue center, is kicking off turtle nesting season by hosting Sea Turtle Awareness Day on Clearwater Beach at Pier 60 on Saturday, May 7 from 9am – 12pm.

The public is invited to help clear the beach for the turtle hatchlings and nesting females beginning at 9am, followed by a free beach yoga class and fun, educational activities with Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s sea turtle team. Prizes and give-away items will be distributed to participants while supplies last. CMA will also provide trolley service from Winter’s Dolphin Tale Adventure to Pier 60 from 8am to 1pm, providing free parking and ease of access to the event for participants.

Loggerhead sea turtle nesting season is monitored by CMA staff each year from May to October. Sea turtles nest at night and can be impeded by artificial lights, chairs, sandcastles, toys, and trash – all of which can prevent adults from nesting successfully and avert hatchlings from reaching the sea. This year’s theme to “Keep the Beach Dark” promotes turtle-safe lighting practices.

Sponsored by the Nichol’s Foundation and Duke Energy, Sea Turtle Awareness Day aims to educate the public about the importance of lighting, keeping the beaches clean, and protecting this endangered species. Other sponsors include the City of Clearwater, Florida Wildlife Alliance, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, and many more.

Advanced registration is recommended. Participants can sign up at [www.seewinter.com/turtleawareness](http://www.seewinter.com/turtleawareness) and follow event updates on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1662029884057503/>

WHEN: Saturday, May 7, 9am-12pm  
WHERE: Pier 60 on Clearwater Beach

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**Media Contact:** Becca Romzek, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, [bromzek@cmaquarium.org](mailto:bromzek@cmaquarium.org) 727-441-1790 ext. 289

**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 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 every other aquarium in the world.

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

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 | 727.445.1139 f | SeeWinter.com

A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3) organization