



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater Marine Aquarium to release 10th sea turtle of 2016 back to the gulf on Tuesday, March 29

Clearwater, FL (March 28, 2016) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will send the 10th rehabilitated sea turtle this year home to the gulf tomorrow, Tuesday, March 29, at 11:00am from the Sandpearl Resort on Clearwater Beach.

“Wahoo”, a juvenile green sea turtle, was found on May 9th, 2015 in an intercostal waterway in Dunedin. He was discovered entangled in fishing line along with a deceased green sea turtle. Upon examination, the CMA team found pink cauliflower-shaped tumors on the turtles, confirming both animals had the fibropapilloma virus. After he was cut free of the fishing-line, Wahoo’s tumors on his neck, flippers, tail and eyes were removed in multiple laser procedures. An X-ray revealed that Wahoo also had a fractured bone in his left front flipper, extending the turtle’s hospital stay to ensure proper healing. After four surgeries and 10 months of rehabilitation, Wahoo was cleared for release.

CMA has already taken in over 116 live sea turtles this year, matching 2015’s total live turtle intakes. Through diligent work and the support of CMA fans, the turtle team is proud to celebrate Wahoo’s return to the wild. The aquarium is very grateful for the generous donations from all over the world that have contributed to sea turtle rehab and the continued support CMA receives from Duke Energy.

Join Duke Energy and support our work at www.seewinter.com/donate and come see our team in action by visiting Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Pictures of Wahoo are available for download:

<https://www.hightail.com/download/ZWJWZGlxefgwMEc1eDhUQw>

Essential Details for Attending Media

Time: Wahoo will be released at 11:00am. Please plan to arrive by 10:30am for ideal viewing.

Location: Clearwater Beach behind the Sandpearl Resort; media are permitted to utilize Sandpearl valet

###

Media Contact: Becca Romzek, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, bromzek@cmaaquarium.org 727.534.8749

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA): 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 an 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