



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater Marine Aquarium to release two sea turtles back to the wild on World Turtle Day, Monday, May 23 - open to media and the public

Clearwater, FL (May 20, 2016) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will send two rehabilitated sea turtles back to the gulf Monday, May 23, at 12:00pm. “Acura” and “Jinx” will be returning to the wild from Clearwater Beach near the Sandpearl Resort. Media and the public are welcome to attend.

Acura, a juvenile green sea turtle, arrived at CMA on February 14th, 2016 in the midst of Operation Cold Stun (www.seewinter.com/OperationColdStun). Discovered near Caladesi Island, Acura was brought to CMA for treatment of a head wound which was likely caused by a boating incident. With a few months of wound care and nutritional treatments to help regain his strength, Acura is ready to return home to the gulf.

Found floating near Three Rooker Island, Jinx, a green sea turtle, was rescued and brought to CMA on April 28th, 2016. To determine the cause of his buoyancy issues, the team utilized digital imaging software to discover a large amount of gastrointestinal gas. After a few weeks of antibiotics and nutritional treatment, Jinx was given a clean bill of health and cleared for release.

Sending Acura and Jinx back to the wild on World Turtle Day is a proud achievement for the CMA turtle team. The aquarium is very grateful for the generous donations from all over the world that have helped with Operation Cold Stun and to Duke Energy for their continued support to the sea turtle rehabilitation program. To join Duke Energy and support our sea turtle rehab work, visit www.seewinter.com/donate and come see our team in action at Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Pictures of Acura and Jinx are available for download (contains graphic image of turtle wound):
<https://www.hightail.com/download/cUJYaXRORkVRR2NVV01UQw>

Essential Details for Attending Media

Time: Turtles will be released at 12:00pm. Please plan to arrive by 11:30am for ideal viewing.

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

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Media Contact: Becca Romzek, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, bromzek@cmaaquarium.org 727.441.1790 x289

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 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

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