



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

MEDIA ALERT

Clearwater Marine Aquarium to Release Green Sea Turtle, “Quaker” *Turtle treated for fishing line entanglement and pervasive virus*

Clearwater, FL (July 17, 2017) – After two months of rehabilitation at Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) “Quaker,” an endangered green sea turtle, will be released back into the wild. The release will be held Tuesday, July 18 at 11 a.m. at Fred Howard Park.

Quaker arrived at CMA on May 12, 2017 after she was found floating at Homosassa Bay, Florida. She had a severe injury to her front right flipper due to a fishing line entanglement which fortunately was treated without any major complication. She also had a small tumor growing at the base of her rear flippers.

This disease, known as Fibropapillomatosis, is caused by a herpes-type virus that promotes the growth of cauliflower-like tumors on the soft tissue of the sea turtle’s body. It is most common among green sea turtles, although it has been reported in other species. Luckily, as long as those tumors are only external they can be surgically removed by using a CO2 laser. On June 6, CMA veterinary staff successfully removed the tumor and Quaker rapidly recovered from surgery.

After being in the CMA hospital for only two months, Quaker has been cleared for release by the CMA veterinary staff and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

“Rehabilitating an endangered sea turtle impacted by fishing line and the virus was an unusual opportunity for us.” says David Yates, CEO. “Our team worked tirelessly to get Quaker back to health and going home.”

Additional Details:

- Release Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2017
- Release will be held at Fred Howard Park at approximately 11 a.m.
- CMA will live broadcast the release on Facebook on the Clearwater Marine Aquarium page
- Media are permitted to attend the release. Those interested please contact Julia Anderson: janderson@cmaquarium.org
- Media will be provided still photography and video of the release upon request

For further information, contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaquarium.org or 727.686.3499.

Release Sponsored by Duke Energy



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 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 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.

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 |

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