



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

MEDIA ALERT

Endangered Loggerhead Sea Turtle to be Released after Intense Rehab at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

‘Waffle Crisp’ will crawl to ocean at Honeymoon Island State Park

Clearwater, FL (Aug. 21, 2017) - Waffle Crisp, an endangered sub-adult loggerhead sea turtle, will crawl back to the ocean on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at Honeymoon Island State Park. The turtle is ready for release after extensive rehabilitation at Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), including extraction of air from her body cavity and intravenous feeding.

On May 26, 2017, Waffle Crisp was found floating offshore in Citrus County, Florida. The turtle was covered in barnacles, algae, and was emaciated. She was brought to CMA where the team carefully removed the barnacles and provided her with vitamins, antibiotics and Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN). TPN is a feeding method, commonly used on people, that inserts vital fluids through the vein to provide nutrients the body needs.

They also carefully removed air from the turtle’s coelomic cavity, which is the main body cavity containing the digestive tract and other organs. Air can become trapped in this cavity for a variety reasons, like internal injuries and leakages. After three months of rehabilitation, Waffle Crisp is ready to go home.

“The level of care our turtle rehabilitation team provides for these animals is incredible,” says David Yates, CEO of Clearwater Marine Aquarium. “The support from our donors and guests is essential in maintaining the advanced equipment needed to save turtles like Waffle Crisp.”

Waffle Crisp will crawl home at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at Honeymoon Island State Park’s North Beach: North Beach, 1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698.

Additional Details:

- When: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 at 9 a.m.
- Where: Honeymoon Island State Park. Please park in the North Parking Lot, the release will be held on the North Beach: **North Beach, 1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698**
- **Media welcome to attend.** Contact: Julia Anderson: janderson@cmaquarium.org
- CMA will live broadcast the release on Facebook on the [Clearwater Marine Aquarium page](#).
- 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 | SeeWinter.com

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