



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

MEDIA ALERT

Three Sea Turtles Injured by Fishing Gear Released in One Week

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Rescues, Rehabs and Releases Three Lucky Survivors

Clearwater, FL (Aug. 24, 2017) – In one week, three sea turtles wounded by fishing gear have been released by Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) after rehabilitation. Urkel-O's and Eucalyptus, both endangered green sea turtles, were released Thursday, Aug. 17. Oat Bran, a juvenile, critically endangered kemp's ridley sea turtle, followed one week later on Aug. 24.

Urkel-O's flipper had to be amputated by the CMA team after being tightly wrapped in monofilament fishing line. Eucalyptus was accidentally hooked by a fisherman, and treated for trauma. And most recently, Oat Bran, was released after swallowing a large hook and line that had to be surgically removed by the CMA team.

The team was unable to remove the hook and line from Oat Bran with an endoscope, so they carefully removed the large hook through surgery. This left Oat Bran, who was less than three pounds, with a large incision on the underside of his neck that was cleaned and cared for daily. During his 15 week rehabilitation, Oat Bran received vitamins, antibiotics and was on Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) until his esophagus healed. TPN is a feeding method, commonly used on people, that inserts vital fluids through the vein to provide nutrients the body needs when the individual is unable to eat on their own.

All three turtles were rescued and rehabilitated by CMA and released at Honeymoon Island State Park.

"Leftover fishing gear can be deadly to marine life," says David Yates, CEO of Clearwater Marine Aquarium. "We hope to educate people on safe fishing practices, and are happy our team was able to rescue, rehabilitate and release these three lucky survivors."

Practicing the use of safer fishing hooks and proper disposal of fishing gear are a few ways to help protect marine life. Swallowing a fishing hook or getting caught in fishing line can be harmful to many different species of marine life including sea turtles, dolphins, stingrays, whales, manatees and birds.

- [Download video of the turtles' rehabilitation and releases here.](#)
- [Read CMA's fishing gear tips to protect sea turtles.](#)
- CMA staff available for interviews.

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

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.

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