

Endangered Green Sea Turtle Survives Boat Strike to be Released Wednesday *Clearwater Marine Aquarium Removes Tumors and Treats Boat Strike Wounds*

Clearwater, FL (Oct. 31, 2017) - Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will release endangered green sea turtle Apple Jacks on Wed., Nov. 1 at Honeymoon Island State Park. Apple Jacks is an 82-pound sub-adult sea turtle that was rescued in February this year in Lee County. The turtle had a large wound on the carapace, believed to be caused by a boat strike, as well as fibropapilloma tumors. These cauliflower-like tumors on the soft tissue of the sea turtle's body are caused by a virus called fibropapillomatosis.

On Feb. 28 Apple Jacks was picked up and brought to the Center for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) in Sanibel, FL. On March 1, the sea turtle was transferred to CMA for triage and subsequent rehabilitation. Rehabilitation included receiving vitamins, antibiotics, iron, and fluids, caring for the wound on the sea turtle's carapace as well as removing the fibropapilloma tumors. The cause of fibropapillomatosis is still unknown, but you can help prevent boat strikes to turtles by following all speed regulations while boating, and by having a designated person looking for wildlife in the path of the boat.

Apple Jacks will be placed in the water at Honeymoon Island State Park's Ranger Station on Wed., Nov. 1 at 11 a.m.

Additional Details:

- **This is not a public event. Media can attend by RSVP only.**
- The release will be held 11 a.m. at Honeymoon Island State Park's Ranger Station on Wed., Nov. 1
 - 1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698
- Video and photography will be available after 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.