



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM™

Critically Endangered Sea Turtle Rehabbed after Boat Strike and Two Endangered Sea Turtles treated for Virus at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Sea turtles returned to the wild on Tuesday, April 17

Clearwater, FL (April 17, 2018) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) released three sea turtles on Tues., April 17 at Fred Howard Park. The sea turtles included Echo and Papa, two endangered green sea turtles treated for the Fibropapilloma virus, and Marigold, a critically endangered Kemp’s ridley sea turtle treated for boat strike injuries.

Echo and Papa, named during the NATO phonetic alphabet theme, were rescued in January this year in Hudson Beach, FL. They were brought in with low body temperatures and tumors caused by the Fibropapilloma virus. Both sea turtles underwent successful tumor removal surgery and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) cleared them for release.

Marigold was rescued in October 2017 during the flower naming theme. The critically endangered Kemp’s ridley sea turtle was found by a fisherman on the Cotee River, near New Port Richey, FL. Marigold’s left lung was partially exposed through an extensive wound on her top shell and had sustained additional wounds on her bottom shell. The injuries are believed to have been caused by a boat strike.

Marigold was promptly triaged after arrival, put on fluids and wound care was performed regularly. This included removing marine debris and old bone fragments, gently cleaning/disinfecting the area, then applying a waterproof protective paste mix (including honey). Marigold was also cleared for release by FWC and returned home along with Echo and Papa.

Please contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaquarium.org or 727.686.3499 for more information.

Additional Details:

- Where: The release will be held at Fred Howard Park | 1700 Sunset Dr., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
- When: 10 a.m. on Tues., April 17, 2018.
- CMA broadcasted the release on the Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s Facebook page: ([link](#))
- [Click here](#) to download rehab video. [Click here](#) to download release video.

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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