



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM™

Two Endangered Sea Turtles Treated for Virus, One Missing Flipper, Rehabbed at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Juliet and Zodiac to be released Wednesday at private location

Clearwater, FL (April 24, 2018) – On Wed., April 25, Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will release Zodiac and Juliet, two endangered green sea turtles, back into the Gulf of Mexico. The two sea turtles were rescued by CMA staff in Jan. 2018 during cold weather that caused water temperatures to drop and affected hundreds of sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico.

CMA staff removed tumors caused by the fibropapilloma virus from both Juliet and Zodiac. Zodiac, a juvenile green sea turtle, was rescued on Jan. 6, 2018, from Hernando Beach, FL. The sea turtle was found floating and lethargic due to the cold-water temperatures and the fibropapilloma virus. Juliet was rescued from Belleair, FL, the following day and was brought to CMA with hypothermia and missing one flipper. The missing flipper is likely due to a healed previous injury and does not affect the sea turtle's ability to properly swim, complete migrations or dive for food.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Clearwater Marine Aquarium have cleared both sea turtles for release. Juliet and Zodiac will be released on Wed., April 25 at 10 a.m. at a private location in Honeymoon Island State Park. The release is not open to the public. Media invited to attend.

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

Additional Details:

- The release will be held at a private location at Honeymoon Island State Park at 10 a.m. on Wed., April 25, 2018. Media advised to arrive by 9:45 a.m.
- The release is not open to the public. Media please contact Julia Anderson for private release location: 727-686-3499 or janderson@cmaquarium.org
- CMA will broadcast the release on Facebook on the Clearwater Marine Aquarium page: ([link](#))
- Photos and video available upon request.

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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