

Critically Endangered Sea Turtle Swallowed Hook, Rehabbed at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Pebbles the sea turtle released Thursday morning

Clearwater, FL (April 4, 2019) – On Thursday, April 4, Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) released Pebbles, a critically endangered kemp’s Ridley sea turtle, back home into the Gulf of Mexico. The sea turtle was rescued and rehabilitated by CMA staff and released at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs, FL.

Pebbles is a juvenile kemp’s Ridley sea turtle that was caught by a fisherman near Cedar Key on March 23. CMA rescued the sea turtle and discovered Pebbles had swallowed the fisherman’s hook. CMA performed a hook removal procedure and began monitoring Pebbles’ recovery. Pebbles quickly recovered from the procedure and was been cleared for release by both CMA’s veterinarian and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Pebbles was released on Thurs., April 4 at 10:30 a.m. in Tarpon Springs, FL. Please contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaaquarium.org or 727.686.3499 for additional details.

Additional Details:

- [Click here](#) to download video of Pebbles’ release.
- [Click here](#) to download photos of Pebbles.

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. Major motion picture *Dolphin Tale* (2011) features Winter’s story and its sequel *Dolphin Tale 2* (2014) features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. Through Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, CMA conducts important global research focused on protecting manatees, right whales and sea turtles. 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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