



CLEARWATER MARINE  
AQUARIUM™

## Clearwater Marine Aquarium Sinking *Dolphin Tale* Prop to Benefit Marine Life

*House boat, home to Harry Connick Jr.'s character, to become artificial reef*

**Clearwater, FL (April 25, 2019)** – A part of Clearwater Marine Aquarium's iconic house boat, home to Harry Connick Jr.'s character in the movie *Dolphin Tale* and its sequel, will be transformed into a marine life habitat in the Gulf of Mexico. On Wed., April 24, the barge of the movie prop was professionally placed 10 miles off Clearwater Beach as part of Pinellas County's Rube Allyn Reef. CMA partnered with Pinellas County to contribute to its artificial reef system.

For the past 8 years, guests visiting CMA could see the house boat docked outside of the aquarium. Alcon Entertainment built the house boat for *Dolphin Tale* in 2010, and it was also used in *Dolphin Tale 2*. Recently the prop was dismantled to be rebuilt and renovated into a permanent house boat that will be placed at the aquarium. The barge of the boat prop was identified as an ideal structure to support an artificial reef.

*"When filming the Dolphin Tale movies, we never expected one of the props would become an artificial reef,"* says David Yates, CEO of CMA. *"We are happy and honored marine life will benefit from it."*

Artificial reefs provide valuable underwater habitats for marine life and are constructed from environmentally safe construction and demolition waste. Items such as concrete pipes, steel beams or entire ships are carefully placed on the ocean bottom. Within about two weeks, algae and barnacles attach to the reef material. Soon, fish come to feed on these creatures and within a year, the reef begins to support coral growth. For more information about the County's artificial reef program, including the GPS coordinates for the Rube Allyn Reef, visit [pinellascounty.org/reef](http://pinellascounty.org/reef).

For more information, contact Bill Potts at [bpotts@cmaaquarium.org](mailto:bpotts@cmaaquarium.org) or 727-858-3348.

### **Additional Details:**

- [Click here to download video of the barge placement.](#)
- [Click here to download photos of the barge placement.](#)

### **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.