



## CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM™

### **37 Baby Sea Turtles Released by Clearwater Marine Aquarium**

*Endangered loggerhead sea turtles rescued after failing to make it to water after hatching*

**Clearwater, FL (Nov. 9, 2018)** – 37 rescued loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings were released into the ocean on Fri., Nov. 9, off Palm Beach County, FL thanks to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA). CMA has released a total of 179 sea turtles this year. The baby sea turtles were all rescued after failing to make it to the ocean after they hatched from their nests. Some, like “The Pool Boys,” became disoriented after emerging from their nest and crawled away from the water, ending up in pools, parking lots and other dangerous areas. CMA rescued and rehabilitated “The Pool Boys” after they were found in a pool filter in Indian Shores, FL. The other sea turtle hatchlings were rescued in Northwest Florida for various reasons and transferred to CMA for final rehabilitation and release.

Unable to locate an appropriate seaweed line in the Gulf of Mexico for release, CMA located a healthy floating sargassum seaweed line to release the hatchlings 6 miles off Jupiter, FL on the east coast of FL. After hatching and emerging from their nests at night, sea turtle hatchlings crawl to the water and fight to swim to the weed line. Sargassum seaweed provides camouflage and an abundance of food for them to grow safely. However, it is estimated only 1 in 1,000 sea turtle hatchlings make it to adulthood due to predators and other threats. Many sea turtle hatchlings become entangled in garbage on the beach, fall in holes dug by beachgoers, become disoriented from coastal property lighting, and more.

*“The loggerhead sea turtle is an endangered species, and they have the odds stacked against them for survival,”* says David Yates, CEO of Clearwater Marine Aquarium. *“That is why our nesting conservation and rescue/rehab work with these sea turtles is essential to the species’ existence.”*

Beachgoers can help protect sea turtles by picking up trash and other objects left on the beach. Filling any holes in the sand and knocking down sand castles will give them a clear path back to the water. And avoiding the use of any lights after dark when at or near the beach will prevent confusing a nesting sea turtle or baby hatchling. To learn more about Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s sea turtle conservation program, [click here](#).

#### **Media Resources:**

- [Click here](#) to download photos and video of the hatchling release.
- [Click here](#) to download video of the hatchling rescue and rehabilitation.

For more information contact Julia Anderson: [Janderson@cmaaquarium.org](mailto:Janderson@cmaaquarium.org) or 727.686.3499.

#### **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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