



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

Heartwarming Homecoming: Rescued Sea Turtle Returns Home on Valentine's Day

Clearwater Marine Aquarium rescues, rehabilitates and releases green sea turtle impacted by virus and entanglement

Clearwater, FL (Feb. 14, 2019) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) celebrated it's love for marine life this Valentine's Day with a special sea turtle release at Fred Howard Park. Yahtzee, a 24-pound juvenile green sea turtle, was released after rehabilitation at CMA. Yahtzee was found floating near New Port Richey in October 2018 wrapped in thick fishing line. He was found with one of his flippers already missing and healed, possibly due to a prior entanglement or predator. Yahtzee also had several fibropapilloma tumors around his body.

CMA rescued Yahtzee, provided fluids and vitamins, and surgically removed the fibropapilloma tumors. The tumors are caused by the fibropapilloma virus, a virus found primarily in green sea turtles that causes tumors to grow externally on soft tissues, including eyes and flippers. Yahtzee has healed since his surgery and was cleared for release by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission as well as the CMA veterinary team.

[Click here](#) to download photos and video of Yahtzee's release at Fred Howard Park on Thurs., Feb. 13, 2019.

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

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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A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3)