

Amputated and Rehabbed, Clearwater Marine Aquarium Returns Threatened Sea Turtle to Wild

Juvenile Green Sea Turtle “Olivia” goes home on beautiful Clearwater Beach

Clearwater Beach, FL (March 11, 2020) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), offers a story of inspiration and hope with the release of “Olivia,” a juvenile green sea turtle with boat strike wounds. She was released at 11:00 a.m. on the pristine powdered white sands of Clearwater Beach, ranked America’s #1 beach in 2019 by TripAdvisor. Now, “Olivia” has a second chance at life thanks to the hard work of CMA’s veterinary staff and an attentive boater who alerted CMA’s rescue team.

[View footage and photos of today's release on Clearwater Beach.](#)

[View footage and photos of Olivia’s rehab at CMA.](#)

“Olivia was found floating offshore near John’s Pass on June 2, 2019,” said Dr. Shelly Marquardt. “Upon intake at CMA’s surgical suite, a physical exam found that Olivia had severe injuries to the carapace and left rear flipper that appeared to be consistent with an old boat strike injury.”

CMA’s veterinarian determined that due to the extent of the injuries, amputation of the left rear flipper was necessary. A CO2 laser was also used to remove the damaged end of “Olivia’s” carapace. At 53 lbs., “Olivia’s” treatment plan consisted of fluids, vitamins, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatory medications.

“Further diagnostics confirmed Olivia was also battling an infection in both shoulder joints that was affecting the use of the front flippers,” said Dr. Marquardt. “After ten months of good nutrition and medical care, Olivia’s wounds have healed, the use of her front flippers has returned, and she is ready to be released.”

“Olivia” was cleared for release by Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s veterinarian and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to preserving our marine life and environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescue dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter, the dolphin’s story of survival after 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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