



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

MEDIA ALERT

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Set to Release Green Sea Turtle, Bubba Gump

Clearwater, FL (July 7, 2014) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium will release a rehabilitated Green sea turtle, Bubba Gump, this Tuesday morning, July 8 at 10am on Honeymoon Island.

Bubba Gump was taken into Clearwater Marine Aquarium's rehabilitation facility on March 2, 2014 due to a buoyancy disorder and lack of nutrition. He was found floating face down in Tarpon Springs, as he was unable to dive and remain submerged, affecting his ability to forage for food. After four months of intense medical care and treatment at CMA, Bubba Gump is now ready to be released back into the Gulf of Mexico.

Bubba Gump's release is Clearwater Marine Aquarium's eighth turtle release in 2014 and seventh Green sea turtle release this year. A Loggerhead sea turtle was released this past January.

Additionally, the Hurst family of Clearwater will be attending this turtle release in memoriam of their 3 year old daughter, Savannah, whom they lost in March due to a genetic brain disorder. Savannah loved sea turtles and the family felt this was the perfect way to honor their young child.

Media are invited to join the release and farewell of this 56 pound turtle on Tuesday. Please contact Amy Binder if you are interested in attending. We will be releasing at the Nature Center, located inside the park.

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Media Contact:

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About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Clearwater Marine Aquarium's mission is to preserve marine life and the environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release.

CMA is home to dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter, the dolphin's story of survival and inspiration, has touched millions of people around the world. The movie *Dolphin Tale*, about her life story, was a #1 box office hit in theaters, and is available on DVD. Produced by Warner Bros.-based Alcon Entertainment, *Dolphin Tale* stars Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick, Jr., and Ashley Judd. The sequel *Dolphin Tale 2* is currently in production and scheduled for a September 12, 2014 North American release. Her documentary, *Winter, the Dolphin That Can*, is available at www.SeeWinter.com. The documentary takes viewers on an extraordinary journey through her rescue, fight to stay alive and extensive rehabilitation. Scholastic published *Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again* in October 2009.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our marine life and environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation, and release.

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