



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Offers \$10,000 Reward in Dolphin Shooting

Clearwater, FL (December 12, 2014) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest, and conviction of the person responsible for killing a dolphin with a steel arrow over the December 6 weekend.

A deceased dolphin was discovered on Orange Beach, Alabama, the victim of a hunting arrow. It is believed the dolphin survived, yet suffered, for at least five days with the arrow in its side before passing.

“Dolphins, and that of all marine life, must be preserved and protected,” stated David Yates, CEO of Clearwater Marine Aquarium. “The fact that there is a person responsible for such a horrific act is not acceptable. Clearwater Marine Aquarium aims to work with NOAA law enforcement to stop this senseless act and prevent it from happening in the future.”

This is the second human related dolphin death on the Gulf Coast in the past two weeks, with both occurrences being investigated by NOAA’s law enforcement. A pregnant bottlenose dolphin, weeks away from giving birth, was found dead on Miramar Beach, Florida due to a gunshot wound. It is estimated there have been at least 17 dolphins that stranded with gunshot wounds on the Gulf Coast in the past ten years.

Any information concerning this hunting arrow shooting should call NOAA’s Office of Law Enforcement in Niceville, Florida at 850-729-8628 or the NOAA Enforcement Hotline at 1-800-853-1964. Callers can remain anonymous.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium is an active member of Dolphin SMART, an educational program that informs the public about the importance of responsible viewing of wild dolphins. Dolphin SMART is broken down by:

- Stay at least 50 yards from dolphins
- Move away cautiously if dolphins show signs of disturbance
- Always put your engine in neutral when dolphins are near
- Refrain from feeding, touching, or swimming with wild dolphins
- Teach others to be Dolphin SMART

The reward will be given to the person that provides conclusive information as determined by NOAA’s Office of Law Enforcement.

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Media Contact: Amy Binder, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, abinder@cm-aquarium.org, O: 727.441.1790 x242

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

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 | 727.445.1139 f | SeeWinter.com

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