



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Set to Release Green Sea Turtle Attached to Fishing Line and Lure

Clearwater, FL (May 4, 2015) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), a marine life rescue center, has rehabilitated a juvenile green sea turtle, named ‘Urchin’ and will be releasing it on Tuesday, May 5 at Fort De Soto Park at 10.30am.

Weighing just four pounds, Urchin was initially discovered on Pass-A-Grille Beach on April 23, 2015 with a cluster of monofilament line (fishing line) wrapped around his right front flipper. A fishing lure was also attached, nearly as big as Urchin (Urchin’s length is 9.5 inches and the lure was 9 inches).

Upon intake into Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s sea turtle rehabilitation facility, the fishing line and lure were immediately removed. Urchin was then taken in for an X-ray, verifying there wasn’t a hook ingestion. Urchin healed quickly and will be released after just 13 days.

Since 2010, CMA has provided medical care to 375 sea turtles. This is the ninth sea turtle CMA has released in 2015. Duke Energy helps support Clearwater Marine Aquarium’s sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation program.

Turtle release details:

- Media and the public are invited to attend the release at Fort De Soto Park. Please arrive by 10.30 am, May 5.
- Upon entering Fort De Soto Park, media should inform the guard gate they are with CMA for the turtle release. Once inside the park, turn right at the end of the street. Drive north and continue past the gift shop to the last beach pavilion. The release location will be on your left.

Sea Turtle Nesting Update: Clearwater Marine Aquarium identified their first local loggerhead sea turtle nest of the season in Pinellas County Sunday morning (May 3) on Redington Beach. This ties the record for the earliest nest identified (tied with 2012).

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

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