



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

MEDIA ADVISORY

Clearwater Marine Aquarium “Making Waves” Speaker Series

- **Free educational seminar on Thursday, May 21**
- **Topic: Sea turtle nesting overview and the importance of lighting**

Clearwater, FL (May 15, 2015) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium continues its free Making Waves speaker series May 21 with Rick Herren, Sea Turtle Lighting Specialist at the Sea Turtle Conservancy and Lindsey Flynn, Associate Sea Turtle Biologist at Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The public is invited to attend this speaking session and learn about sea turtle nesting and how they can help the viability of this endangered species.

The public is reminded to turn out unnecessary beach lights to help prevent disorientation of female sea turtles and hatchlings. It is suggested to close curtains and be mindful of bright lights shining on the beach. Female sea turtles are very sensitive to lights, activity, or obstructions on the beach when attempting to lay eggs. A false crawl will result when a female sea turtle emerges from the water but is disturbed by lights, noise or activity or obstacles such as beach furniture and sand castles as she is trying to locate a suitable nesting spot. Once hatchlings emerge, they can suffer from lighting pollution and become disoriented, preventing them from finding the water.

This free speaker series is geared towards anyone wanting to learn more about marine life and is open to all ages.

6.00pm	Welcome and refreshments provided by Costco Wholesale
6.30 – 7.30pm	Guest speakers, Rick Herren and Lindsey Flynn
7.30 – 8pm	Q & A session

Location: Clearwater Marine Aquarium
249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL

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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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