



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Assists in Dolphin Disentanglement

- Dolphin calf untangled from fishing line wrapped around its tail

Clearwater, FL (August 11, 2014) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium was part of a collaborative effort to disentangle a dolphin calf that was caught in fishing line. The line was very tightly wrapped around her tail in several spots and it was cutting into her flukes. Swimming in waters close to Destin, Florida, a team that encompassed eight facilities worked together to locate the dolphin, remove the line and subsequently release the calf. The calf was swimming next to her mom who was not injured.

Upon reports of an injured dolphin, Clearwater Marine Aquarium joined seven other organizations to assist in the mission, including NOAA, Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge, Gulf World, Daughin Island Sea Lab, Sea World Orlando, FWC Law Enforcement and Destin’s local sheriff.

Over the course of two days with a team that exceeded 30 people, the line was successfully removed and the dolphin swam freely in the Gulf of Mexico. It took over a day to locate the dolphin and monitor her swim to shallow waters that were needed to safely remove the line. Once in a safe location, it took the team approximately 30 minutes to free the young dolphin from the fishing line.

Mike Hurst, Vice President of Zoological Care at Clearwater Marine Aquarium noted, “As good stewards of our environment, we need to remember to take every course of action to not leave any fishing line, hooks or lures that could potentially harm marine life.”

Photo credit must be provided to: NOAA - permit no. 932-1905-01/MA-009526-01

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About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium 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 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*, will premier 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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