

## PRESS RELEASE

### Clearwater Marine Aquarium to reveal new rescued sea turtle habitat tomorrow

**Clearwater, FL (June 9, 2016)** – After many months of careful planning and construction, Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will debut a new rescued sea turtle habitat for its resident turtles. The renovated habitat, renamed Mavis's Rescue Hideaway, will open to the public Friday, June 10 at 11:00am. Media are invited to attend the VIP sneak peek, beginning at 10:00am.

CMA fans from around the world will be able to tune in and watch the rescued sea turtle habitat debut live from the aquarium's Facebook and Periscope profiles. Tomorrow's grand opening will also include an underwater message delivered by David Yates, the aquarium's CEO, from inside the habitat.

Named after the *Dolphin Tale 2* character "Mavis," a rescued, rehabilitated, and released green sea turtle, the new rescued sea turtle habitat will house the animal actor who played him. "Harold," who arrived at CMA with a visual impairment in 2010, will be one of the many residents of the newly renovated habitat, which has been home to many beloved animals since the aquarium's beginnings.

Mavis's Rescue Hideaway is a celebration of many efforts. The state of Florida appropriated \$2 million through the Division of Cultural Affairs for the aquarium's capital campaign. John Draheim, CMA chairman of the board, and his wife Jan, who volunteers regularly in the sea turtle department, also made a \$100,000 contribution to the improvement of the aquarium. Additionally, CMA receives continual support for the Sea Turtle Program from Duke Energy.

Follow CMA on Social Media to watch the exhibit debut live from these official accounts:

Facebook: [Winter Dolphin](#) and [Clearwater Marine Aquarium](#)

Twitter: [Winter Dolphin](#) and [Clearwater Marine Aquarium](#)

#### Essential Details for Attending Media

**Time:** The rescued sea turtle habitat will debut at 10:30am. Attending media are encouraged to arrive no later than 10:00am.

**Location:** 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater FL. Please alert aquarium staff that you are covering the exhibit opening.

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#### **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 rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin's story of survival, after the 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 environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.

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A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3) organization