

26 ‘Cold Snapped’ Sea Turtles to be Released by Clearwater Marine Aquarium

CMA Rescues and Rehabs Sea Turtles Impacted by Cold Weather

Clearwater, FL (Jan., 24, 2018) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will release 26 sea turtles impacted by cold water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico. The release will be held at Honeymoon Island’s North Beach on Thurs., Jan. 25 at 11 a.m. Media invited to attend.

Since Jan. 3, CMA has rescued 70 sea turtles from Pinellas and the surrounding counties that have been impacted by the frigid water temperatures. Sea turtles are cold-blooded and their internal body temperature is reliant on their external surrounding. As the water temperature drops, the turtle’s body temperature drops too. When sea turtles are exposed to frigid water temperatures over several days, their circulatory systems slow down and the turtles become lethargic; floating in the water or washing ashore, unable to swim or function properly.

“The sea turtle rehabilitation team has worked hard to get these sea turtles back home as soon as possible,” says David Yates, CEO. *“Our team will continue to treat the remaining rescued sea turtles impacted by the cold weather with the goal of releasing them back to the wild.”*

The 26 rescued sea turtles have been cleared for release by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC). CMA and the FWC approved the water temperatures as acceptable for the sea turtle release this Thursday.

Additional media information:

- Where: Honeymoon Island North Beach | 1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL
- When: 11 a.m. Media advised to arrive at 10:30 a.m.
- [Click here](#) to download video of the rescued sea turtles’ rehabilitation at CMA.
- Video of the sea turtle release available by 3 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 25.

For more information contact Julia Anderson at Clearwater Marine Aquarium: janderson@cmaaquarium.org or 727-686-3499.

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 an 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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