

107-pound Endangered Loggerhead Sea Turtle Scheduled for Release “Nitro” Headed Home after Being Rehabilitated

Clearwater, FL (September 12, 2019) – On Thursday, September 12 at 10:30 a.m., Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), offers a story of inspiration and hope in the wake of Hurricane Dorian with the release of an endangered loggerhead sea turtle on the pristine sands of Clearwater Beach, named the nation’s #1 beach by Trip Advisor.

The 107-pound sub-adult female, “Nitro”, was found floating by a boater near Hurricane Pass in Pinellas County. Nitro arrived at CMA on August 13, 2019. Upon intake, Nitro appeared lethargic and slightly thin. She had thick algae coverage and several barnacles on her carapace (shell). It appears Nitro had some gastrointestinal issues, resolved with a treatment protocol that included fluids, a special diet, exercise and vitamins.

After a short period in rehab at CMA, Nitro has been cleared for release back into the wild by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the veterinary staff at CMA.

Schedule of Events:

Location	Clearwater Beach, behind the Sand Pearl Resort 500 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater, FL 33767 Street parking or park in the public garage across the street
10:00 a.m.	Media arrives, set up
10:00-10:15	Pre-release interviews with CMA Staff, as needed
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	An overview by David Yates, CEO
10:30 a.m. – estimated time	Nitro Release
10:35 a.m.	Closing interviews, wrap up

CMA video production will be live streaming the event and providing on-site video by land, via the sky with a drone, and by sea with a boat film crew. To request post-production material, please contact Kelsy Long at klong@cmaaquarium.org.

Media Contact: Kelsy Long, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, klong@cmaaquarium.org 727.441.1790 x259 or via cell at 410.507.1453.

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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.