



CLEARWATER MARINE  
AQUARIUM™

## PRESS RELEASE

### CMA to release 25<sup>th</sup> rescued sea turtle of the year back to the Gulf of Mexico

**Clearwater, FL (September 22, 2016)** – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) will send “Weasley,” an endangered Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle, back home to the gulf on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The release will begin at 10:30am on Clearwater Beach near the Sandpearl Resort. Media and the public are invited to attend, and encouraged to arrive by 10:00am.

Weasley was rescued from Clearwater Harbor on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and brought to CMA for treatment. The sea turtle had swallowed a fishing hook, which was trapped in its throat. CMA veterinarian Dr. Shelly Marquardt conducted the hook removal procedure the same day that Weasley arrived. The sea turtle has made a quick recovery, and is ready to return home.

Weasley is the 25<sup>th</sup> sea turtle released by the CMA team this year. The aquarium has responded to over 130 live sea turtles in 2016, one of the highest years on record. Upon intake, the average sea turtle receives over \$300 worth of treatment and care from the non-profit animal hospital.

With only one in 1,000 hatchlings surviving to adulthood, each sea turtle rescued and protected by the CMA team is crucial to the survival of the species. As the team says goodbye to another sea turtle, Weasley’s release gives CMA the opportunity to rescue, rehabilitate, and release more animals in need. Donations to support the sea turtle program are graciously accepted at [www.seewinter.com/donate](http://www.seewinter.com/donate)

Photos and Video of Weasley’s rescue can be downloaded here:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/OiTwX>

Weasley’s release will be broadcast live from Winter’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/winter.dolphin/>. Attending media are encouraged to arrive at the beach no later than 10:00am.

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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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