



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

13-year-old quadruple amputee to reunite with Winter the Dolphin

Ellie Challis aims to compete in 2020 Paralympics, inspired to swim by Winter

PRESS RELEASE

Clearwater, FL (May 30, 2017) – Thirteen-year-old Ellie Challis, a quadruple amputee, will visit Clearwater Marine Aquarium to see Winter the Dolphin, her inspiration. Ellie's arms and legs were amputated when she was a baby due to an illness.

Two years ago Ellie's dream came true when she flew from her home in England to meet Winter. After her visit, Ellie was inspired to become a strong swimmer despite her disability. She can now swim over a half mile and has been placed on the English para swim team. Ellie is aiming to compete at the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo.

Ellie will reunite with Winter on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Media accommodations to be made upon request.

Essential Media Information:

- Ellie will meet Winter and Hope at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31. Media advised to arrive no later than 1 p.m.
 - Clearwater Marine Aquarium 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL
- The event will be live broadcasted on Winter the Dolphin Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/winter.dolphin/>

For further information, contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaquarium.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.

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 |

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