



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

MEDIA ALERT

Clearwater Marine Aquarium to Release Three Rescued Sea Turtles *Unique Event Includes the Release of a Critically Endangered Kemp's Ridley*

Clearwater, FL (July 10, 2017) – “Pop,” a critically endangered Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle, will be released back home this Wednesday, July 12, with two threatened Loggerhead Turtles. The unique release of three turtles at the same location on the same day, will take place at Sebastian Inlet State Park, on the East Coast of Florida. All three were rescued from the East Coast, rehabilitated at Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), and are now in good health.

CMA has been providing Pop, a juvenile and very cute Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle, a high level of care since his rescue on April 19, 2017, where he was found floating, emaciated and lethargic. Pop’s recovery started with the Animal Care Team providing intravenous nutrients and fluids, followed by a restricted diet. His improvement was quick and now Pop has gained plenty of weight and is enthusiastically swimming and eating silverside fish. So, after three months of great care, this little guy is ready to go home.

Golden Graham and Crackle, two large, threatened Loggerhead Turtles, are also being released on Wednesday. Golden Graham, rescued March 30, 2017, arrived at CMA malnourished and underweight (at 172 pounds.) After a series of tests, CMA provided Golden Graham the necessary treatments to re-nourish her body and steady her health. She now weighs 222 pounds and is ready to be released back into the wild. Crackle, rescued April 19, was also emaciated and covered with barnacles, which is indicative that she had been sick for a long time. Crackle is now recovered, eating and swimming well, and ready to go home.

“The opportunity to release three rehabilitated sea turtles on the same day, including a critically endangered turtle, is a joyous occasion for us here at CMA and for all animal lovers,” says David Yates, CEO. “We are thrilled that the staff of CMA, including our amazing volunteers and interns, were able to nurse these turtles back to good health.”

Additional Details:

- Release Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017
- Release will be held at Sebastian Inlet State Park at approximately 11:30 a.m.
- CMA will live broadcast the release on Facebook on the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Page
- Media will be provided still photography and video of the release
- Media interested in attending the release or interested in video and photography, please contact Julia Anderson, Janderson@cmaquarium.org.

For further information, contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaquarium.org or 727.686.3499.

Release Sponsored by Duke Energy



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 |

SeeWinter.com

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