



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™
MEDIA ALERT

Threatened Loggerhead Sea Turtle ‘Toot’ will Crawl to Ocean at Clearwater Beach

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Continues Rehab Efforts Throughout Hurricane Irma

Clearwater, FL (Sept. 20, 2017) – “Toot,” a 168-pound threatened sub-adult loggerhead sea turtle, will be released at Clearwater Beach behind the Sandpearl Resort this Thursday, Sept. 21 at 11 a.m. Media and the public are invited to attend, and encouraged to arrive by 10:30 a.m.

Fishermen found Toot floating near Tierra Verde in Pinellas County on June 27, 2017. She weighed 130 pounds, was covered in barnacles and seemed very lethargic. Toot was brought into Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) where the team carefully removed the barnacles and provided her with fluids, antibiotics and Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN). Toot, now weighing 168 pounds, received extensive care during her rehabilitation at CMA, including throughout Hurricane Irma. A team of CMA staff remained at the aquarium during the storm with the animals, including Toot, to continue care and rehabilitation.

“Our team continues to implement our mission of rescue, rehab, and release no matter the circumstance,” says David Yates, CEO of Clearwater Marine Aquarium. “Toot and the other animals at CMA continued to be provided with the utmost care during the hurricane, and we are excited to see her return to the wild.”

Additional Details:

- When: Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 at 11 a.m. Please arrive by 10:30 a.m.
- Where: Clearwater Beach behind the Sandpearl Resort: 500 Mandalay Ave, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767
- **Media invited to attend.** Contact: Julia Anderson: janderson@cmaquarium.org
- CMA will live broadcast the release on Facebook on the [Clearwater Marine Aquarium page](#).
- Media will be provided photography and video of the release upon request.

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

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