



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM™

Shark Attack Survivor Uses Innovation Designed for Winter the Dolphin

Her kids use Winter's story to heal, family to meet Winter and Hope at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Clearwater, FL (June 15, 2018) – In June 2017 Tiffany Johnson was attacked by a shark while snorkeling on vacation in the Bahamas with her husband. Today, Johnson uses the same prosthetic company and technology as Winter, the rescued dolphin at Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA). Johnson and her family will meet Winter and Hope whose rescue stories have helped them emotionally heal. The encounter will be held at CMA on Sun., June 17 at 11:30 a.m.

Johnson, 33 years old from Concord, North Carolina, lost half of her right arm to the shark. She was able to swim back without suffering more injuries. Looking back, medical professionals have told her she should have bled out in the first 30 minutes, but miraculously, she survived. Johnson was evacuated via medical transfer to the Charlotte, NC hospital from the Bahamas. It was there that she was introduced to the Hanger Clinic, the prosthetic company she now uses, just like Winter, the rescued dolphin at CMA. Johnson also uses the same silicone liner created for Winter, called 'Winter's gel.'

"As we were dealing with my kid's healing process, we watched Dolphin Tale to introduce the concept of overcoming a tragedy through an amazing story," says Johnson. *"My kids were fascinated and felt instantly connected to Winter because her and I and share the same group of prosthetists. It has been a beautiful piece of our journey."*

Johnson, her husband, and two children will meet Winter and Hope the rescued dolphins at CMA on Sunday, June 17, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. Media advised to arrive by 11 a.m.

Additional media information:

- When: The Johnson family will meet Winter and Hope at 11:30 a.m. on Sun., June 17. Media advised to arrive by 11 a.m.
- Where: Clearwater Marine Aquarium | 249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL, 33767
- Photos and video to be available upon request.
- 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 | SeeWinter.com

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