



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM®

Nicholas the Dolphin Celebrates 17th Christmas at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Rescued on December 24, Nicholas the Dolphin is a true Christmas Miracle

Media assets: [Download b-roll and photos.](#)

CLEARWATER, Fla. (December 23, 2019) – This Christmas Eve, Nicholas the Dolphin celebrates his 17th rescue anniversary at Clearwater Marine Aquarium. In 2002, the 120-lbs. calf was found stranded with his mother, Noelle, near Gibsonton, Florida with second and third degree burns covering 36% of his body. Named in recognition of the holiday season, Nicholas and Noelle were both transported to Clearwater Marine Aquarium for long-term medical care.

Noelle sustained third degree sunburns and was believed to have a respiratory illness. Unfortunately, she passed away on December 27, 2002, leaving Nicholas orphaned at approximately six months old. Because he lacked necessary survival skills he would have learned from his mother, Nicholas did not make a suitable candidate for release, so Clearwater Marine Aquarium became his forever home.

Today, Nicholas serves as an ambassador of perseverance for children and military personnel with burn injuries, vitiligo, and a variety of skin differences. Although his injuries are healed, Nicholas has scarring on his back from the burns sustained during his stranding. Many form a bond with Nicholas and come to visit Clearwater Marine Aquarium during their treatment to be reminded that they too can live a full life with a skin difference.

Learn more about Nicholas at seewinter.com.

###

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. Major motion picture *Dolphin Tale* (2011) features Winter's story and its sequel *Dolphin Tale 2* (2014) features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. Clearwater Marine Aquarium also conducts important global research focused on protecting manatees, right whales and sea turtles. 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 marine life and environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the education, research, rescue, rehabilitation, and release.