

# Clearwater Marine Aquarium: New Views

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# Our History

- **1972:** Founded as the Clearwater Marine Science Center
- **1978:** The City of Clearwater donates a former water treatment facility to use as our new home





# Our History

- **1984:** We took in the first stranded dolphin which was deemed non-releasable by NMFS

## Sunset Sam





# Our History

- **December 10, 2005:** A baby dolphin was rescued

Does anyone know  
this dolphin's name?

## Winter





# Our History

**September 2011:** The #1 Box office hit movie “Dolphin Tale” was released

**September 2014:** The movie, “Dolphin Tale2” was released



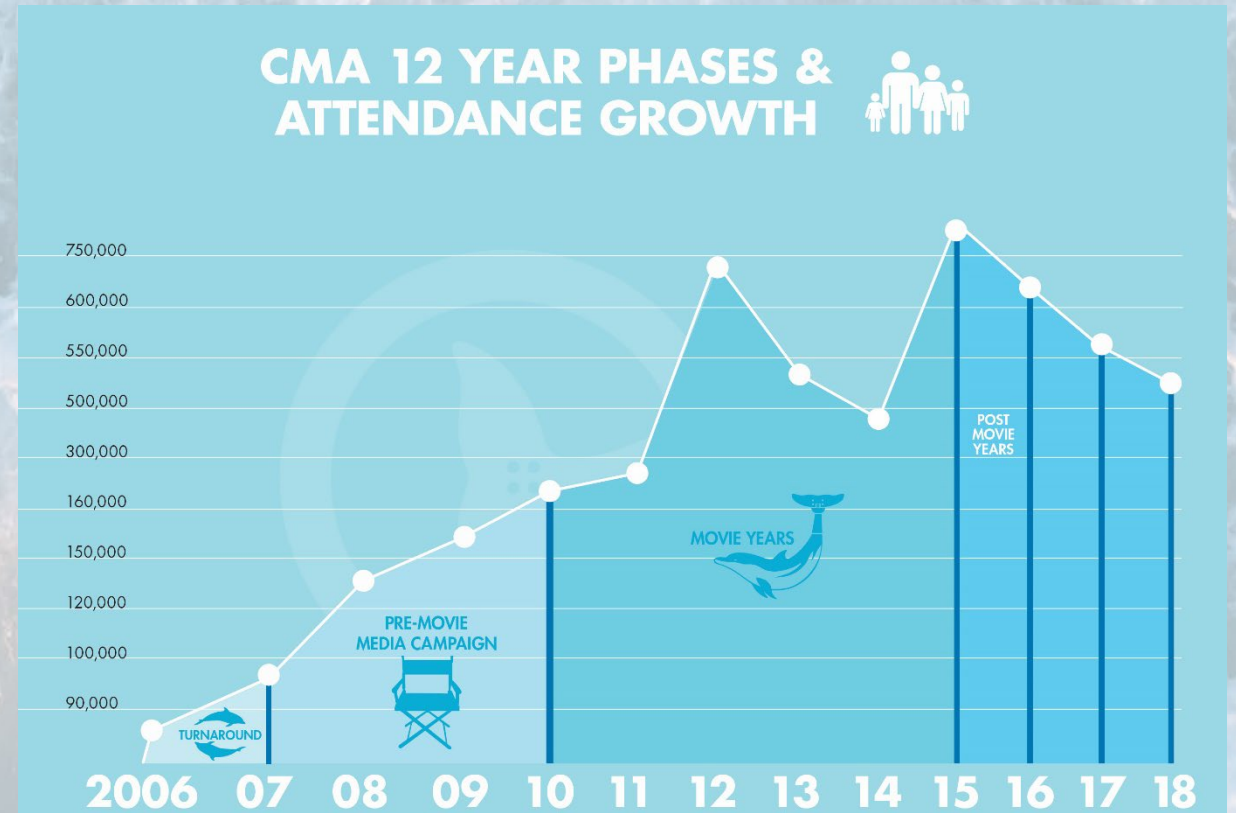


# Our History

- Attendance Increases
- 2011 = 220,000
- 2012 = 743,000
- 2015 = ~ 800,000

2012 – 2015  
Economic Impact  
From Movie and  
attendance

**\$2.0 Billion**



# Our History

- **2020:** Thanks to the support of our community and guests, we were able to fulfill a 14 year vision of building and opening a state-of-the-art facility





# Our Purpose



- We are a working marine life hospital
- We believe in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through Rescue, Rehabilitation & Release of marine life, environmental education, research, and conservation



# Our Vision

- We aim to enhance our research efforts domestically and Internationally
- We are currently engaged in efforts in the Caribbean and are encouraged by the partnerships we have established
- We will continue to be a community asset in Clearwater, Pinellas County & the Tampa Bay Area
- Build and grow programs that benefit locals and tourists alike





**Current Project:  
Sea Turtle Friendly Lighting  
Along Our Beaches**



# Sea turtles nest on our beaches!

## Loggerhead sea turtle



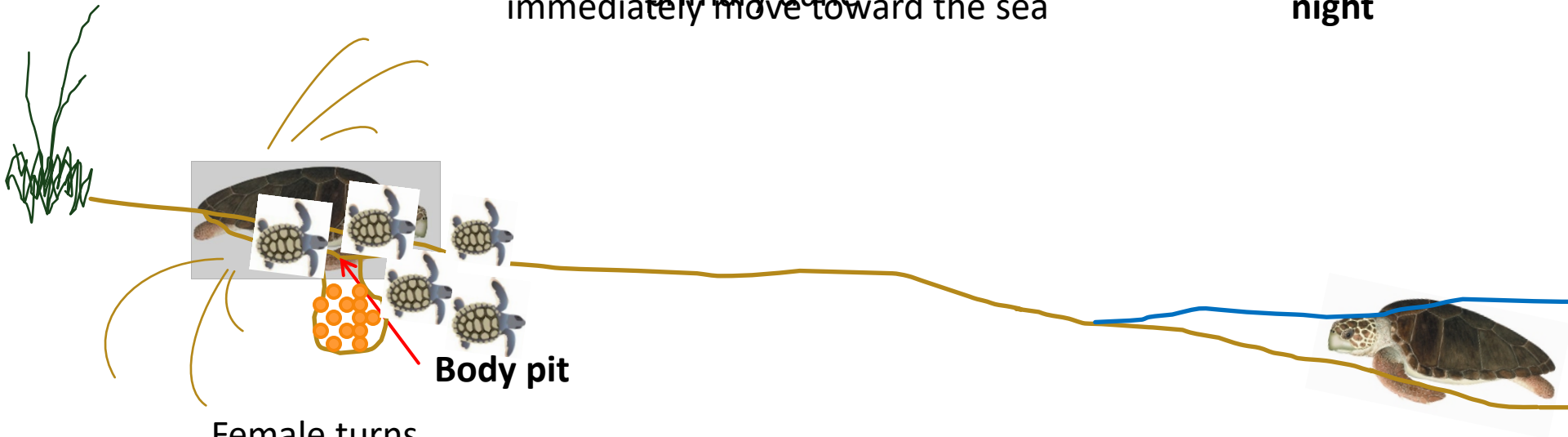


# Nesting Process

Female prepares the nest site by pushing or digging surface sand away to form a

“body pit” typically between the high-tide line and the primary dune. Matchings will emerge from the nest at night and immediately move toward the sea

Adult female emerges from the surf zone at night



Female turns head in opposite direction of the sea at the nest site by casting sand, principally with front-flipper and rear flipper strokes



# Disturbance Conditions





# Disorientations



Residential lighting

Location of the nest

**Warning:**

**The following pictures  
are graphic**

Crawl of the adult female

Credit: Mike Anderson





Credit: CMA

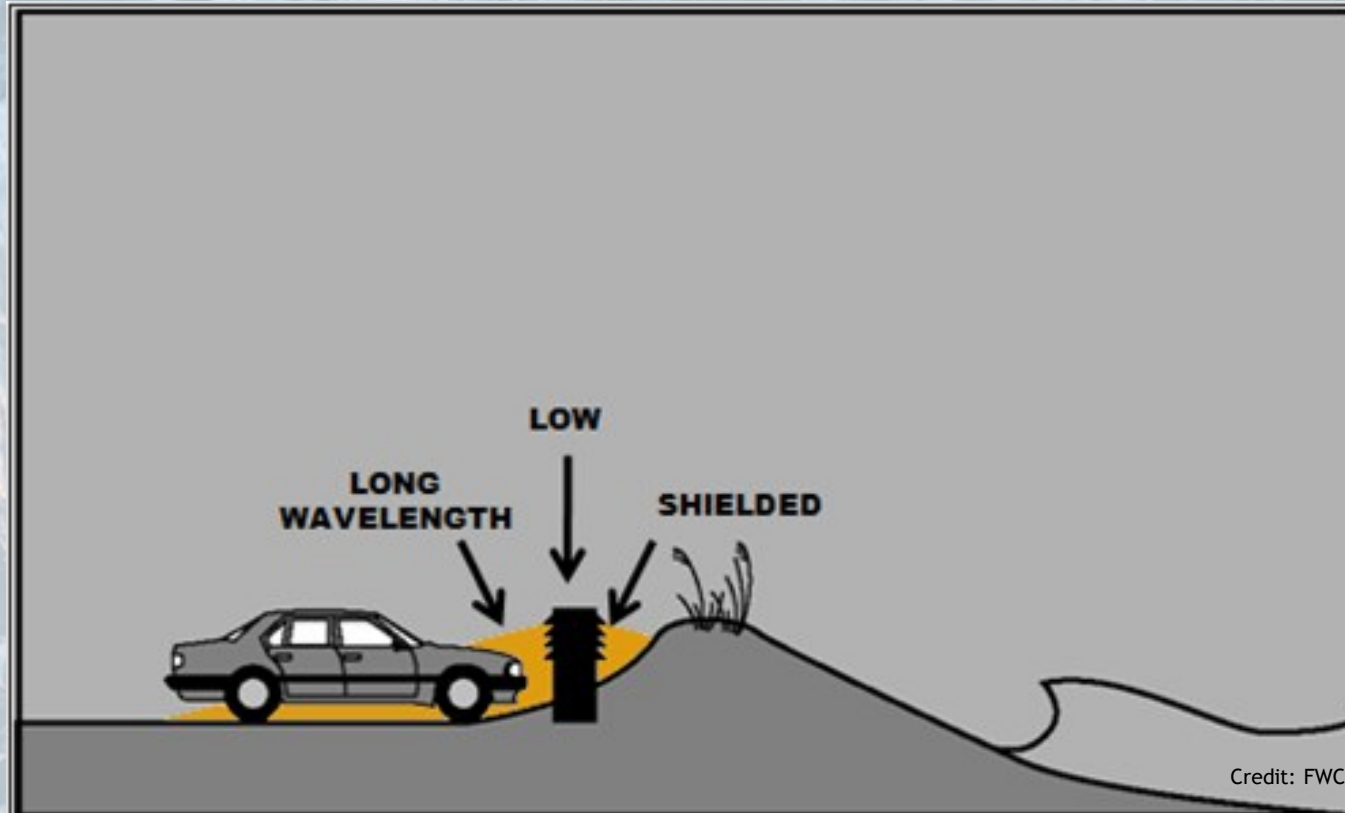
Credit for all photos: FWC

**WATER**  
**AQUARIUM**



# How Can Cities Help?

The FWC's motto for turtle-friendly lighting is  
“long, low and shielded.”





# Change Can Be Good

BEFORE

AFTER



Credit: Sea Turtle Conservancy

From left to right: Photo 1 - View of Eastern Mist property taken 'before' retrofit from the back yard adjacent to the beach. Photo 2 - 'After' retrofit view of property illustrating replacement of unshielded beachside fixtures with full spectrum bulbs replaced with full-cutoff fixtures lamped with long wavelength amber LED bulbs.



Can sea turtles really see a difference?

Let's find out!



# Sea Turtle Conservancy Retrofit Program



- Organization received funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF)
- Replace (retrofit) artificial lights on Florida properties with wildlife friendly alternatives
- Benefits:
  - Protect adult and hatchling sea turtles
  - Save up to 75% in energy costs
  - Help bring beachfront properties into compliance with lighting ordinances
  - Install aesthetically pleasing LED light that also improves night visibility
- We have assisted STC with retrofits at **26 properties in Pinellas County** within the last 6 months!





Thank you!

