

MEDIA RELEASE

9 June 2009

LARGEST LOGGERHEAD TURTLE EVER RESCUED GETS RELEASED

On Thursday 11 June 2009, UnderWater World will release the largest Loggerhead Turtle the aquarium has ever treated in its 20 year history, into the ocean off Mooloolaba beach.

The giant turtle nicknamed 'Noosa' has been a prominent patient in the aquarium's rehabilitation clinic for over five months, weighing in at 121kgs and estimated at over 80 years of age.

Just before Christmas last year local Lifeguards reported the injured turtle floating offshore at Noosa Main Beach.

After arriving at UnderWater World it was determined that Noosa had severe floating syndrome from the ingestion of marine rubbish and was dangerously emaciated due to his inability to dive for food.

Senior aquarist Kate Willson was first to assess Noosa and initiated immediate treatment to help the injured turtle.

"We began feeding Noosa a specially treated squid mix to loosen the compaction in his stomach so he could pass the obstruction and begin to recover," Miss Willson says.

"He's a curious and interactive turtle so it wasn't long before he was feeding on his own and swimming strongly in our Turtle Rehabilitation Pool" she adds.

As his health improved so did Noosa's appetite, the enormous turtle now eating up to 30 yellow tail fish every day.

A highlight in UnderWater World's Behind the Scenes Tour, Noosa is extremely popular throughout the aquarium and his release is highly anticipated by everyone involved in his rehabilitation.

"We will all miss Noosa, but he's had a perfect vet check and is growing every day, so we're very confident he's one hundred per cent healthy and ready for release," Miss Willson says.

Although Noosa has made a full recovery it's unfortunate that turtles in this condition are being reported more often to the UnderWater World rehabilitation clinic due to pollution.

To help generate awareness about reducing marine rubbish, UnderWater World supports initiatives such as 'World Ocean Day' and 'World Environment Day' to promote the importance of caring for our marine life and minimising pollution in our waterways.

If you find an injured turtle please do not attempt to move it, instead contact UnderWater World on (07) 5458 6280 and notify them of the turtle stranding location.

- ENDS -

Photo and interview opportunities

What: Invitation to join the turtle release expedition for the largest Loggerhead turtle UnderWater World has ever rehabilitated. Interviews with UnderWater World staff are available (spaces are limited so please confirm attendance ASAP).

When: 10.00am, 11 April 2009. Expedition is subject to weather conditions.

Where: The Wharf, Mooloolaba – meeting at the front reception of UnderWater World.

RSVP: Courtney Aspland, Marketing Coordinator – Corporate on (07)5458 6224 or caspland@underwaterworld.com.au by Monday 8 April 2009.

For more information please contact:

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