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SeaWorld San Antonio Joins Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network in the Successful Rescue of a Young Dolphin

PORT ARANSAS/SAN ANTONIO (May 12, 2017) – The Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN), assisted by SeaWorld San Antonio’s Rescue Team, successfully rescued and released a young dolphin found stranded in shallow water in Lighthouse Lakes near Port Aransas, TX.

TMMSN Executive Director Heidi Whitehead said, “With the help of SeaWorld’s rescue team we were successfully able to reach the dolphin and bring it onboard the rescue boat for a medical assessment. Working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) it was determined the dolphin was in good body condition to be released. We then tagged the animal so we can continue to track its well-being. The dolphin was then relocated to deeper water near the Aransas Channel.”

It is believed the dolphin became stranded during a recent extreme high tide. After being spotted by a local fisherman in the same place for several days TMMSN was called in to help the animal. “This is a true success story,” added Whitehead. “Thanks to the combined efforts of our alert citizenry coupled with the expertise of SeaWorld’s Rescue Team and our tireless TMMSN Critical Care Team, we were able to help this dolphin. The green tag we placed on the dolphin’s dorsal fin will enable the public to report sightings of the marine mammal so we can track its progress and ensure its wellbeing.”

Each year up to 150 marine mammals can be found stranded or injured along the Texas coast. If you see a marine animal in need, please call: 1.800.9.MAMMAL.

More about SeaWorld San Antonio and TMMSN

SeaWorld San Antonio and TMMSN have partnered in marine mammal rescue for 30 years. Recently SeaWorld San Antonio and The TMMSN announced expanded plans to work together in the rescue and rehabilitation of marine mammals. Over a three year period, SeaWorld San Antonio is committing approximately \$1.1 million in additional funding and resources, including: SeaWorld animal care professionals and veterinarians dedicated to work with TMMSN; as well as a new state of the art facility at SeaWorld San Antonio to provide 24-hour care for sick and stranded animals that need long term rehabilitation. This facility will ease the burden on TMMSN’s resources when rescued animals are in need of long term care.

The Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network is a non-profit organization created in 1980 to further the understanding and conservation of marine mammals through rescue and rehabilitation, research and education. TMMSN is dependent on grants as well as public and private donations. The TMMSN relies heavily on volunteers and donations. To learn more about how you can help The TMMSN, please visit: www.DolphinRescue.org.

About SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment™ is a leading theme park and entertainment company providing experiences that matter and inspiring guests to protect animals and the wild wonders of our world. The company is one of the world's foremost zoological organizations and a global leader in animal welfare, training, husbandry and veterinary care. The company collectively cares for what it believes is one of the largest zoological collections in the world and has helped lead advances in the care of animals. The company also rescues and rehabilitates marine and terrestrial animals that are ill, injured, orphaned or abandoned, with the goal of returning them to the wild. The SeaWorld® rescue team has helped nearly 30,000 animals in need over the last 50 years.

The company owns or licenses a portfolio of recognized brands including SeaWorld, Busch Gardens® and Sea Rescue®. Over its more than 50-year history, the company has built a diversified portfolio of 12 destination and regional theme parks that are grouped in key markets across the United States, many of which showcase its one-of-a-kind zoological collection. The company's theme parks feature a diverse array of rides, shows and other attractions with broad demographic appeal which deliver memorable experiences and a strong value proposition for its guests.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment is a wholly owned subsidiary of SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., a publicly traded company. Visit www.seaworldentertainment.com for more information.

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