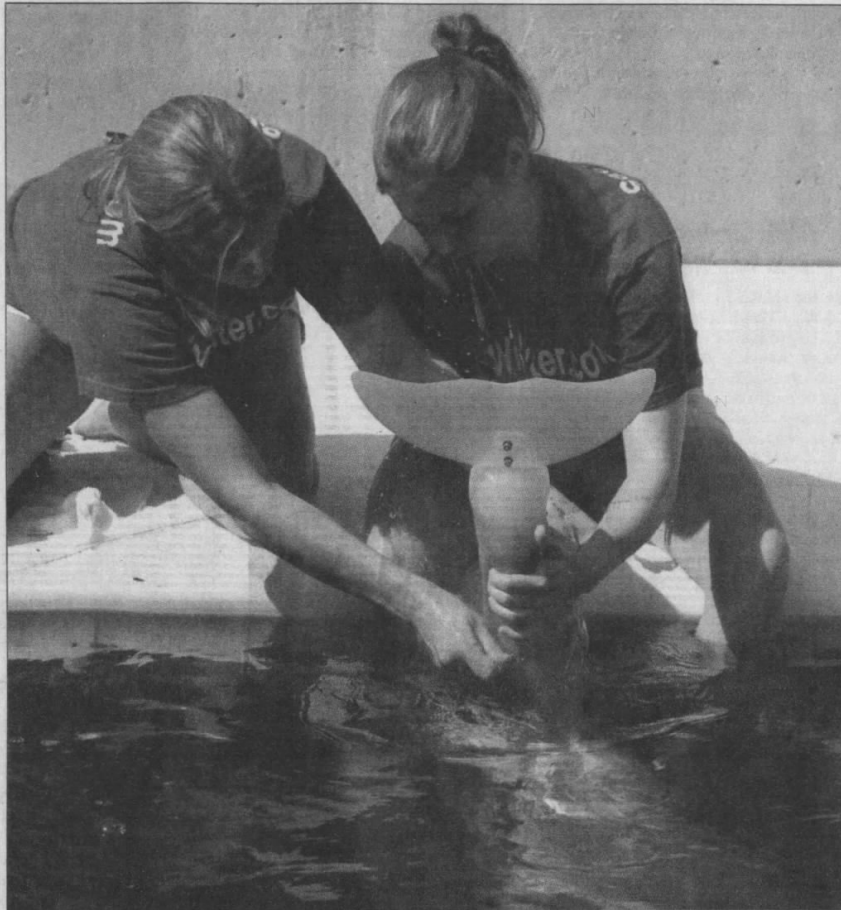
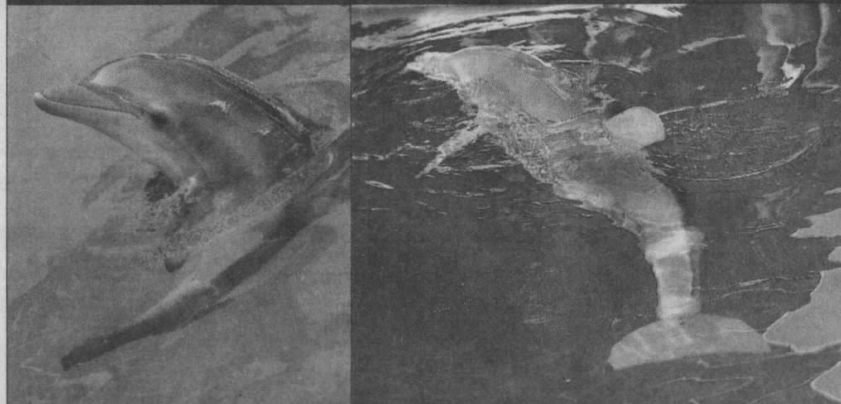


A TAIL OF 2 SPECIES



News Channel 8 photos by PAUL LAMISON

Diane Young, left, and Abby Stone attach Winter's prosthetic tail at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The disabled dolphin took to the new fin like ... well, a dolphin to water.



BEFORE AFTER

It's not just a fluke:
The principles
behind this dolphin's
prosthetic fin may be
used to help human
amputees as well.

By CARLOS MONCADA
The Tampa Tribune

CLEARWATER — A new chapter opened Thursday in the tale of a dolphin who lacks one.

For the first time since she was a baby, 2-year-old Winter swam almost normally, with the help of a prosthetic rear fin.

After trainers at Clearwater Marine Aquarium slipped the device onto her, Winter swam around with an up-and-down motion.

She even did a somersault under water, apparently trying to get a better look at the strange attachment.

"She'll bend and look at it," head trainer Abby Stone said.

"She wants to check it out."

Winter isn't the only one who will benefit from the attention. The research is expected to assist other aquatic mammals, as well as human amputees, said David Yates, chief executive officer of the aquarium.

For instance, a gel sleeve developed for the dolphin also has been used to soothe injured troops' painful prostheses.

"What's happening here at Clearwater Marine Aquarium is benefiting Iraqi war veterans and young kids getting prosthetics," Yates said. "It's really exciting."

The device is designed to wean

FOR 'WINTER' VISITORS

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium, a nonprofit research and rehabilitation center, is open seven days a week.

HOURS

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

ADMISSION

Adults: \$9
Children 3-12: \$6.50

PHONE

(727) 441-1790

ADDRESS

249 Windward Passage

See **HAPPY ENDING**, Page 10 ►
Winter wasn't expected to live.