



July 6, 2015

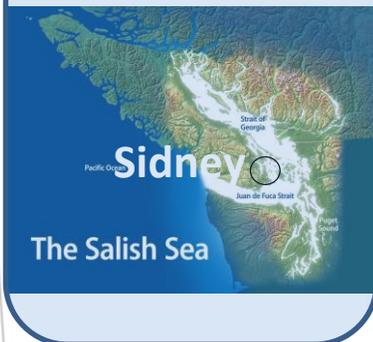
New Executive Director Selected for Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre

An aquarium and conservation centre of the Salish Sea in Sidney, BC, the **Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre** is a not-for-profit cultural and learning place welcoming 70,000 visitors annually.

The Centre's vision:
To be a champion for the Salish Sea and inspire all generations to explore, respect, and take action on behalf of oceans.

Over 3,500 animals, representing 160 species, offer a unique face-to-face experience with local marine life like wolf eels, jellyfish, and a giant pacific octopus.

The '**Salish Sea**' - named in 2008 to honour its original inhabitants, the Coast Salish Peoples - is a bio-rich, 110,000 sq km inland sea of BC and Washington State including the Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait and Puget Sound.



The Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Loria as its next Executive Director, effective July 15, 2015.

Loria brings a unique combination of business management, fundraising and not-for-profit leadership experience in arts, athletics, culture, and education and has been the Centre's Development Director since April. Previous roles include Vice

President, Development with the Glenbow Museum (Calgary) and Director of Development roles with the Victoria Conservatory of Music and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Other senior roles include Corporate Partnership Manager with the Arts Club Theatre Company (Vancouver) and General Manager with the Institute of Modern Art (Brisbane, Australia).

"Mark brings extensive knowledge of not-for-profit management in the cultural sector specializing in partnerships, membership and visitor experience," says Colleen Craig, Board President. *"We are very excited about his strengths in building relationships in the community, his passion for conservation, and his vision for the Centre."*

Loria has almost 20 years of management experience in both corporate and not-for-profit sectors and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Calgary and an Arts and Entertainment Management Certificate from Capilano University. He is well known locally with roles on several boards and advisory committees.

"I am honoured to be working with a motivated board and an amazingly dedicated group of staff, volunteers, and community supporters," Loria said. *"The Centre is a catalyst for learning about the Salish Sea and gaining awareness on how we all need to protect and conserve our local ocean and its wildlife – I look forward to sharing our message with the people of BC and beyond!"*

Loria replaces Alison Barratt, an aquarium and conservation specialist returning to her native England. Barratt has been an instrumental leader for the Centre in her 18 month tenure. *"Alison's expertise and measured control of the financials, marketing, and staffing, not to mention her vast knowledge of aquariums and marine life, allowed for a major stabilization of the Centre,"* said Craig. *"We thank her for her tremendous efforts and wish her only the best in the future."* Barratt will remain with the Centre until the Fall.

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Aquarium of the Salish Sea