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**MEDIA CONTACT**

Laurel Kellner  
(510) 350-1892  
[laurel.kellner@oceansciencetrust.org](mailto:laurel.kellner@oceansciencetrust.org)

**Michael DeLapa Joins Ocean Science Trust as New Interim Executive Director**

Oakland, CA -- Michael DeLapa has taken the reins as Interim Executive Director at Ocean Science Trust, a non-profit organization established by state legislation to provide California policy-makers the best available science to maintain healthy, resilient, and productive coastal and ocean ecosystems. He began working at Ocean Science Trust on January 4 and will serve as Interim Executive Director until a permanent Executive Director is hired.

Michael, who brings years of experience working in resource management, organizational consulting, and tech startups, joins an organization bridging science, community, and government. A former director of the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, California Fisheries Fund and Environmental Defense Fund's Oceans Programs, DeLapa brings deep experience with environmental issues affecting the West Coast, including fisheries management and the conservation of marine ecosystems. DeLapa managed the process that helped establish the first network of marine protected areas in California's central coast. As the principal at DeLapa Consulting, he has led marketing, strategy and operations for a wide variety of technology companies, including Arena Solutions, Donordigital and the Cleantech Group. Michael is an alumnus of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business with a Masters in Business Administration and a Certificate from the Public Management Program.

Michael's expertise ensures the ongoing success of [Ocean Science Trust](#) in its current work, including the upcoming release of new products from the [West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Panel](#) and continuing management of an innovative program to evaluate the performance of California's statewide network of marine protected areas.

"With the reality of a changing climate and ocean, Ocean Science Trust is an invaluable partner in helping California build the science we need to effectively steward our natural resources. We're pleased to have Michael step into the role of [Interim Executive Director](#) to lead the organization," said Catherine Kuhlman, Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy at California's Natural Resources Agency.

**California Ocean Science Trust** works across traditional boundaries, bringing together governments, scientists, and citizens to build trust and understanding in ocean and coastal science. As an independent non-profit organization, we empower participation in the decisions that are shaping the future of our oceans. For more information please visit us at [www.oceansciencetrust.org](http://www.oceansciencetrust.org), on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#), or call (510) 350-1892.