



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT

Laurel Kellner
(510) 350-1892
laurel.kellner@oceansciencetrust.org

California Ocean Science Trust Announces Dr. Liz Whiteman as New Executive Director

Oakland, CA -- After a comprehensive national search, Dr. Liz Whiteman has been named as the new Executive Director of California Ocean Science Trust, an environmental non-profit established by state legislation to provide science to inform decisions for the future of California's coasts and oceans.

Dr. Whiteman--who brings a decade of experience leading innovative programs on the West Coast in science, policy and natural resource management--assumes this role in an organization practiced in working at the intersection of science, communities, and government. Currently the Director of Science and Strategy at California Ocean Science Trust, Whiteman brings deep experience with environmental issues affecting California's coast and ocean including sea-level rise and ocean acidification. Over the past decade, she has built strong partnerships with the State of California and philanthropists to advance urgent environmental policy work in service of all Californians. Early in her tenure at California Ocean Science Trust, Whiteman led an innovative program to monitor the statewide network of marine protected areas which was successfully transferred to state partners.

"Our collaborative work with state partners is moving California forward as a leader on some of the most important issues facing our coast and ocean today. With Dr. Whiteman accepting the appointment to Executive Director at the California Ocean Science Trust, we're honored to be taking our thought leadership in this arena to the next level," said California Ocean Science Trust board chair Nancy Sutley. "We're thrilled to welcome her into this new role building on a track record of connecting robust science to solve management challenges for our ocean resources."

Throughout her career, Dr. Whiteman has built partnerships at the nexus of research, technology and local knowledge systems, making her a natural fit to lead an organization that distills much-needed science for the management and protection of California's oceans. Whiteman earned a doctorate in marine evolutionary ecology from the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom and spent a decade as an academic scientist in the Caribbean.

Dr. Whiteman's expertise ensures the ongoing success of [California Ocean Science Trust](#) as a thought leader for policy-relevant ocean and coastal science on the West Coast and a valuable partner to the State of California. Her participation in essential work at the intersection of science and policy, like last year's widely circulated "[Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea-Level Rise](#)," will be instrumental in elevating the state's continued leadership on climate, including [California's Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Task Force](#).

"This is a critical time for our oceans, as illustrated by the work underway in California's Fourth Climate Assessment and the inclusion--for the first time--of oceans as an essential resource. I am honored to be leading an inspiring team to support strong science for the West Coast," Dr. Whiteman stated.

"I am delighted that Dr. Whiteman has been selected as Executive Director of California Ocean Science Trust. She has been an outstanding thought partner with Ocean Protection Council and I enthusiastically look forward to continuing to work together. As we take action to address the threats posed by climate change, California Ocean Science Trust is a valued partner in working at the boundary of science and policy in California to effectively steward our ocean and coast," said Deborah Halberstadt, Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Matters at California's Natural Resources Agency.

Dr. Liz Whiteman's appointment to Executive Director begins on June 1, 2018.

California Ocean Science Trust (OST) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance a constructive role for science in decision-making by promoting collaboration and mutual understanding among scientists, citizens, managers, and policymakers working toward sustained, healthy, and productive coastal and ocean ecosystems. A unique asset to the State of California, OST was established under the California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act (CORSA) of 2000. For more information please visit us at www.oceansciencetrust.org, on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#), or call (510) 350-1892.

###