

## NEWS RELEASE

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## TALES FROM THE SEA: LIVE STORIES FROM MARINE CONSERVATION SCIENTISTS

ST. JOHNS, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA (July 31) –

A live storytelling event will take place on July 31, featuring a group of marine scientists sharing short stories and personal accounts from their work. Our world is changing, and scientists are some of the first to witness those changes from the front lines. Their research tells us what is happening now, how things may be in the future, and what we can do to chart a course to sustain all species—including our own.

But while their work is relevant to all, typically only scientists themselves have access to academic journals and conferences where discoveries are shared. To help open the information gates, scientists and communication specialists from Oregon State University (OSU), COMPASS, Stanford University, and the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) have banded together with a common purpose: empower scientists to tell stories.

Stories are universal for sharing knowledge across cultures, backgrounds, and ages, but for many it has become a lost art. To revive these skills, a group of conservation scientists from around the world will learn how to describe their research with vivid imagery, lively characters, and even gut-wrenching suspense in a multi-day workshop at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC). Pushed far from their comfort zones, the intrepid participants will rise to the occasion, taking to the stage to share their carefully crafted stories during a free live event that is open to the public on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at the LSPU from 1:15 to 2:45 PM.

Come and hear the tales of adventure, discovery, success, and hope for the ocean's future told by workshop graduates from places such as British Columbia, Newfoundland, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

“Everyone has a story to tell”, says Kirsten Grorud-Colvert from OSU, who co-founded the ‘Tales from the Sea’ workshop at IMCC with colleagues Stephanie Green from Stanford University, and Erica Goldman and Heather Mannix from COMPASS. “Marine scientists have stories that can change the way we think about our ocean and how to protect it.”

“Conferences like this one gather scientists from all over the world who have witnessed some of the biggest changes on our planet. They have stories that

everyone should hear”, says Stephanie Green, “We hope that scientists and non-scientists alike will join us for the storytelling”.

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