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Streufert Steps Down as Salish Sea Expeditions Director

September 12, 2011

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA—Salish Sea Expeditions announced today that Stephen Streufert, its executive director for the last six years, will be leaving Salish effective November 4 to take a position with the nationally recognized organization NatureBridge.

Salish's Board has appointed Matthew Eldridge as interim executive director while the nonprofit conducts a search for a new Executive Director. Mr. Eldridge joined the Salish Board in early 2011 and will take a leave from the Board while serving as interim director effective November 5, 2011.

Streufert will take a senior leadership role with NatureBridge, serving as the director of the campus in Olympic National Park, and leading efforts to explore expanding programs that connect youth, science and nature in the Pacific Northwest from the organization's Seattle office.

"Stephen's been a great advocate for supporting science education and the health of Puget Sound, a great representative of Salish, and a great leader who has built and strengthened the organization," said Eric Laschever, Board President.

"I love the work that Salish does, and there has never been a more important time for organizations like Salish to help students connect strong science and strong stewardship," said Streufert. "Salish is well-positioned for growth."

"While we will miss him, we are pleased that someone from Salish will be helping a national leader such as NatureBridge further its mission," Laschever continued, "and we look forward to a continued partnership with him in the shared goal of expanding science and environmental education opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. "We are excited to have Matt Eldridge manage the organization while Salish recruits its new executive director."

Mr. Eldridge currently serves as Executive Vice President- Partnerships at Emergency Water Relief.org, a supplier of sustainable, solar-powered water filtration systems to disaster survivors worldwide. He is a Co-Founder and former President of Online Video Service, a leading provider of transparency solutions to U.S. federal and state agencies. He holds a B.A. from Stanford, a M.A. from the University of Cape Town and an M.B.A. from Yale. A graduate of Gig Harbor High School, Matt grew up sailing on the waters of Puget Sound.

Under Streufert's leadership since 2005, the organization has doubled student participation numbers, created the Salish Sea Student Science Symposium, established an eminent Council of Advisors, launched a supporting watershed science program and solidified significant funding relationships with federal and state agencies and area foundations.

The organization is conducting a national search for its next executive director. Details will be available beginning September 14, 2011 at www.salish.org/exdirsearch2011 .

About Salish Sea Expeditions

Salish Sea Expeditions, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 1996 to develop curiosity and confidence through student-led scientific research and adventure on the waters of the Salish Sea. Since then, over 7,000 students (grades 5-12) and 1000 teachers have participated in our innovative 3-5 day programs. 75% of our students attend public schools and over 25% are from schools serving low-income populations. Teachers report that Salish programs support their efforts in the classroom to meet state learning requirements.

To learn more about our programs and how to support this growth, please visit www.salish.org, call 206-780-7848 or email info@salish.org.

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