



MINI AQUARIUM CONSULTING

Bringing the ocean to eye level

## Bios

**Philip Bruecker (BSc)** is the Founder of the Ucluelet Aquarium Society and visionary for the Mini Aquarium Consulting. Philip's work with the Ucluelet Mini Aquarium started as a small, seasonal pilot project. Now in its third season of operation, the Ucluelet Aquarium is ten times the size, a sustainably designed building with over 50 marine life displays. The Ucluelet Aquarium is the key tourist attraction, a local favorite and is attracting more visitors and revenues every year. Because of Philip's success with the Ucluelet Aquarium, he has mentored two other mini aquariums to be developed across Canada – the Discovery Passage Aquarium in Campbell River, BC and the Petty Harbour Mini Aquarium in Petty Harbour, Newfoundland. Phil is also owner of Living Elements Ltd, a marine collection company which services aquariums around the world. As a published author, professional SCUBA diver and aquarist, Phillip has 35 years of experience creating displays with cold water Pacific and Arctic marine life. At 15 years of age, Phil volunteered at the Basel Zoo (Switzerland) and decided that working in Public aquaria was to be his career. On returning to Canada he advanced to the position of Chief Aquarist at the Vancouver Aquarium. While there, Phil also created the popular AquaVan, a truck with built in aquariums which bring live animals and education programs to schools across BC and Alberta. Phil lives in North Vancouver with his wife and black lab.

**Melanie Knight (BSc)** is the Founder and past Executive Director of the Petty Harbour Mini Aquarium in Petty Harbour Newfoundland. Now in its second season of operation, the Mini Aquarium, a thirty-tank public marine education center has been able to exceed its attendance, fundraising and programming benchmarks while igniting the community around it. Melanie and her team were able to secure \$217K in 6 months prior to the opening of the Mini Aquarium and created seven new jobs in the province. She completed her BSc in Marine Biology and a business minor at Memorial University of Newfoundland while working at the Vancouver Aquarium as a marine educator and manager of volunteers. For the past 10 years, Melanie has been working with the largest and the smallest aquariums in Canada to foster curiosity for the underwater world. Melanie is a project management consultant, public speaker and trainer. Melanie lives in Vancouver with her husband and K9.

**Mark Wunsch (PhD)** is the Founder and president of the charitable Discovery Passage SeaLife Society that was created to establish the Discovery Passage Aquarium in Campbell River, BC, and further venues and programs around ocean and coastal learning. The 700 sqft opened in

2013 and exceeded expectations with 12,500 visitors right away. Currently the society is developing a year-round education lab that will work hand-in-hand with the Aquarium to deliver programming about local aquatic life using creative and scientific techniques. Mark's passion is to connect people with their local places and to create a better understanding of the world around us. That is what he also does as the president of Greencoast Media Inc., a company specializing in the production of media and innovative exhibits for public outreach and learning. Products include films, websites, advanced touch screens and hands-on displays and the company has been working extensively with BC universities, municipalities, corporations and First Nations. Mark holds a PhD in coral reef ecology and a Diploma in biology and communication. Prior to moving to Canada in 2009, he worked for 2.5 years with the Phuket Marine Biological Centre and Aquarium to train staff in exhibition design, media production and marketing. Residing with his wife and 3 young children on Quadra Island, BC, Mark feels to be in the right spot to produce creative concepts and in depth media about BC's underwater life and rich ancient and recent history.

**But that's not all.** Our team also includes experts in aquarium design and management from around the world, interactive multi-media creators, engineers, leading education professionals, scientists, tourism marketing professionals, grant writers, architects and retail designers. Depending on your team's skills, we are able to draw on the knowledge of our peers to better support your project.

Aquarium websites:

<http://www.uclueletaquarium.org>

<http://miniaqua.org>

<http://www.discoverypassageaquarium.ca>