



**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Bay Foundation's Victoria Ippolito Speaks at TEDxLSU on the Importance of Creating Oyster Hatcheries**

(Los Angeles, CA – May 15, 2014) Marine scientist Victoria Ippolito of The Bay Foundation, where she works on education and restoration issues affecting the Santa Monica Bay, spoke recently at the second installment of TEDxLSU, and her talk, "[The Oyster Is Your World,](#)" is now posted on TEDxLSU 2014 on YouTube. At the non-profit event devoted to "ideas worth spreading", Ippolito outlined the origins of her fascination with sea life—namely, oysters—to illustrate the importance of utilizing oyster hatcheries in Louisiana for seafood production and habitat restoration. The talk was hosted on the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus.



**Talk URL: <http://youtu.be/sBIGhE0BA-A>**

As the nation's leader in oyster production, Louisiana has been able to maintain one of their most thriving industries for decades. However, Ippolito described how habitat destruction, acidification, drought, and erosion are all putting the state oyster population at risk. In turn, this reduction of oysters poses a threat to Louisiana's economy, putting over 3,600 people at risk of losing their livelihood as well as the state at risk of losing

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\$317 million each year. "For these people, the oyster truly is their world," she states. In addition to maintaining the economy, Victoria explained how a flourishing oyster population confers benefits through improved water quality, ecosystems that foster other marine life, and the food that they produce.

Ippolito's passion for marine biology originated as a child growing up in New Jersey. After digging for sand crabs, she had her first interaction with shellfish when she serendipitously dug up eight little purple and white clams. "That's when I knew I was going to be a marine biologist," she recalled. From that moment on, her excitement for the ocean and marine life grew, taking her from Roger Williams University where she achieved her B.S. in marine biology, to LSU where she earned a master's degree in fisheries science and minor in environmental science.

Returning to her alma mater for TEDxLSU, Victoria joined a diverse group of innovative thinkers from the university and region, including poet/playwright Dominique Ricks, the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Stephen Moret, and finalist of Bravo TV's top chef Chris Wadsworth. The theme of 'enactment' guided the afternoon's speeches, all of which aimed to address humanity's fundamental concerns, explore issues across disciplines, and seek simple, tangible solutions. "To us, *enact* includes the promotion and creation of ventures that will help shape the future of our region and state in a positive manner," said Joey Watson, TEDxLSU curator.

The TEDx program is a subset of TED, and shares in TED's spirit of ideas worth spreading. It brings together thought leaders and entrepreneurs with the goal of inspiring action across communities.

Currently, Ippolito works with [The Bay Foundation](#) where she helps educate the public, connect with boaters, manage grants on restoration and pollution projects, and restore the population of abalone.

Her TEDxLSU talk can be found at <http://youtu.be/sBIGhE0BA-A>

### **About The Bay Foundation (TBF)**

The TBF is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula) and local coastal waters. The Foundation is the non-profit partner of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, raising and expending funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts and other priorities identified in the Commission's *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan*. As advocates for the Bay, TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and scientists, to implement innovative policies and projects that clean up the waterways, create green spaces and natural habitats in the Los Angeles region. The TBF conducts research and mentors student intern and volunteers through its Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

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