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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**JAMES DELGADO TO LEAVE MARITIME MUSEUM AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS:
LONGEST SERVING DIRECTOR IN MUSEUM'S HISTORY TO HEAD INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY**

VANCOUVER, BC - March 21, 2006: On March 15, James Delgado resigned as Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum Society and as Executive Director of the Museum. His last day at the Museum will be June 30. He will then join the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA). He describes his new position as "a life long dream come true, and an opportunity I could not turn down." Founded in 1973, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) is the world's leading organization dedicated to understanding humanity's history of interaction with the sea, which it accomplishes through the science of nautical archaeology. A not-for-profit, it is headquartered at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas and at Bodrum, Turkey. INA is dedicated to meticulous fieldwork in the survey, excavation and analysis of shipwrecks in the tradition of its founder, Dr. George F. Bass.

INA's projects, conducted by its professional staff and students, span the globe and thousands of years of history. INA provides support for the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M, publications, and other avenues of scholarly and public outreach throughout the world, including support of the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, which is operated by the Government of Turkey in Bodrum. As it approaches its thirty-fifth anniversary, INA is developing a new strategic direction and initiatives in response to evolving technologies, public needs, challenges and opportunities. As its executive director, Delgado will remain in British Columbia, but will travel extensively as he works to raise awareness, find new projects, and raise funds for INA.

Delgado comments that while the new position is an exciting opportunity to work globally and return to his professional roots as an archaeologist, the past fifteen years at the Vancouver Maritime Museum "have been a time in which I have experienced a number of wonderful opportunities, made a number of friends, and had a chance to make contributions to the Museum for which I shall always be grateful and remember with fondness." During Delgado's tenure, the Vancouver Maritime Museum was transformed from a quiet, local museum into an internationally renowned institution and a Greater Vancouver landmark with a reputation for a family-friendly approach and a commitment to the community. Delgado's frequent media appearances, his regular columns in the Vancouver Sun, and his five years as host of National Geographic television's "The Sea Hunters" gave the Museum a high profile and benefited its programs and fundraising.

The last three years have been challenging and also rewarding as the Museum worked through the various phases and studies to find a more sustainable model and reinvent the institution, which suffers from lack of public access, over-crowding and inability to showcase its many treasures and the stories surrounding those treasures. Those studies have resulted in the January-announced National Maritime Centre in North Vancouver.

Delgado announced his departure to staff and volunteers late last week, noting that it was his association with them that he would miss most. "At the end of the day, it is the people who make the difference, not just the building or the things we preserve and interpret," he told them. For Delgado, the reasons he loved working at the Museum were "the smiling faces of children who visit and who stand enthralled in the tugboat in the Alcan Children's Maritime Discovery Centre, the grandparents who bring their children and grandchildren, the scholars who slowly exhale in wonder as a rare document or photo is placed before them in the Chung Library, the tourists who gain a better sense of how and why this community is linked to the sea."

The Vancouver Maritime Museum's Board will be working to fill his position and to continue working toward the goal of a stronger Museum that has increased opportunities to better serve the community and preserve the maritime past. Delgado believes there is a bright future for the Vancouver Maritime Museum, and he noted that he is committed, within the limits of his new position, to assist the Vancouver Maritime Museum in achieving that goal.

The Vancouver Maritime Museum tells the stories of Canada's ties to the Pacific with an emphasis on Canada's gateway port communities in the greater Vancouver region. As a centre for life-long learning, the Museum interprets our ongoing interaction with the sea through exhibitions and programs for people of all ages.

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