



Canadian Marine Biodiversity and the Consequences of Climate Change, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

**Thursday, February 2, 2012, 6:30 pm, Centre for Dialogue, SFU Vancouver
580 West Hastings St, Asia Pacific Hall**

A free presentation featuring the findings of the *Royal Society of Canada* Expert Panel on Sustaining Canada's Marine Biodiversity: Responding to the Challenges Posed by Climate Change, Fisheries, and Aquaculture. Presented by Dr. Jeff Hutchings (Dalhousie University), Chair of the Expert Panel and panelists Dr. Brian Riddell (Pacific Salmon Foundation) and Randall Peterman (Simon Fraser University).

Canada is an ocean nation. Our motto, *A Mari Usque Ad Mare*, means "from sea to sea". Eight of 10 provinces and all 3 territories — home to 86% of the Canadian population — are adjacent to salt water. Our coastline is said to be the longest in the world. Our oceans cover an area seven-tenths the size of our landmass. We are an ocean nation. But are we failing our oceans?

Canada's vast ocean geography carries with it global leadership and stewardship responsibilities to address stressors which threaten ocean health. In light of this, the *Royal Society of Canada* convened an Expert Panel to address questions such as: What are the past, current, and projected trends in marine biodiversity? What challenges do climate change, fisheries, and aquaculture pose to Canada's ability to sustain this biodiversity? Has Canada fulfilled its national and international obligations to sustain marine biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations?

The Panel concludes that the best strategy to restore ocean health is to (i) protect existing diversity, (ii) rebuild depleted populations and species to restore natural diversity, and (iii) sustain populations and species at levels that 'optimize' the ecosystem services that oceans provide in support of the welfare of Canadians and the global community. The Panel's Recommendations focus on (i) ways of increasing the pace of Canada's progress in sustaining marine biodiversity, (ii) mechanisms for establishing an effective framework of clear roles and responsibilities built on accountability and transparency, and (iii) new approaches, methods, and research initiatives to promote the sustainability of Canadian marine biodiversity and to support scientific advice given to decision-makers.

The *Royal Society of Canada* Expert Panel included those having expertise in areas such as oceanography, biodiversity, marine ecology, evolution, conservation biology, climate change, resource management, risk and uncertainty, fisheries, aquaculture, national ocean-related policies and statutes, and international biodiversity agreements and conventions. The Panel members include:

- Dr. Jeffrey Hutchings, Panel Chair (Dalhousie University);
- Dr. Isabelle Côté (Simon Fraser University);
- Dr. Julian Dodson (Université Laval);
- Dr. Ian Fleming (Memorial University of NL);
- Dr. Simon Jennings (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK);
- Dr. Nathan Mantua (University of Washington, US);
- Dr. Randall Peterman (Simon Fraser University);
- Dr. Brian Riddell (Pacific Salmon Foundation);
- Dr. Andrew Weaver (University of Victoria);
- Dr. David VanderZwaag (Dalhousie University).

DATE AND LOCATION

The lecture will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 2, 2012 in the Asia Pacific Hall in the Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University's Vancouver Campus: 580 West Hastings, Room 100.

RESERVATIONS

This presentation is free and open to the public but reservations are recommended as seating is limited. To reserve a seat, visit www.sfu.ca/reserve

Co-HOSTS

This lecture is co-hosted by the Centre for Coastal Science and Management and Continuing Studies in Science and Environment in the Faculties of Environment and Science at Simon Fraser University in partnership with the Shorefast Foundation.

SPONSORS (confirmed to date)

- Royal Society of Canada
- Shorefast Foundation
- Simon Fraser University
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Vancouver Aquarium and Marine Science Centre

ABOUT THE CANADA OCEAN LECTURE SERIES

Initiated in 2006, the Canada Ocean lecture series is a joint initiative between Shorefast Foundation and Simon Fraser University and other partners. The aim of the series is to create awareness of Canada's vast marine environment and its importance to Canadians. Lectures to date have been held on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in central Canada. For more information, visit:

<http://www.sfu.ca/cstudies/science/canadaoceanlecture.php>

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