

Reprint **Island Tides**

Visit www.islandtides.com to read the current edition and more find more interesting articles on other BC, national & international topics in our extensive archive of newspapers and articles.

Reprint from Volume 20 Number 9

May 15, 2008

Salmon research centre proposed

A Canadian research centre is needed to deepen our understanding of how climate affects salmon in the North Pacific, says the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC). The idea was floated in a report released on May 5, 'Climate Effects On Pacific Salmon In The Ocean: Creating A Canadian Focus.' The report reviews research on Pacific salmon from the leading research institutions and universities that conduct significant salmon /climate projects.

'The North Pacific Ocean is a vast ecosystem undergoing climate changes that affect salmon populations, so successful stewardship of Canadian Pacific salmon will depend on better understanding of these changes,' says Paul Leblond, chair of the PFRCC. 'A centralized Canadian research group would help us better understand and manage salmon populations, whether such a group has a virtual or physical centre.'

Authored by Dr Dave Prescott, the first part of the report reviews existing research on Pacific salmon and notes some predominant themes, including carrying capacity, fisheries and predation, the influence of salmon hatcheries, the effects of competition and density-dependence, and changes in salmon growth.

The second part of the report examines the various groups involved in salmon climate research and policy. It notes that research and management of Pacific salmon in Canada has tended to focus on short-term changes such as annual or high/low stock cycles in relatively small geographic areas like watersheds and rivers, but more recent research has made it possible to take an ocean-ecosystem view with longer timeframes.

The report, which can be downloaded from www.fish.bc.ca, concludes that creating a Canadian-based research institute designed to provide timely and useful advice to relevant federal and provincial ministries, user groups, and the public at large would best foster proper stewardship and management of salmon populations.

By hosting such an institute, Canada could easily become the world leader in this new research field, while building the vital capacity to understand how climate changes the populations of Canadian salmon stocks. ☞

Created in 1998, The Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council is an independent advisory body whose mandate is to alert and inform the federal and provincial governments and the public on issues that threaten Pacific salmon and their habitat.

© Island Tides Publishing Ltd. This article may be reproduced with this attribution, in its entirety, with notification to Island Tides Publishing Ltd.

'This article was published (May 15, 2008) in 'Island Tides'. 'Island Tides' is an independent, regional newspaper distributing 17,500 print copies in throughout the Gulf Islands and the Canadian Strait of Georgia from Tsawwassen to Campbell River, BC.'

Island Tides, Box 55, Pender Island, BC, Canada. Phone: 250-629-3660. Fax: 250-629-3838.
Email: islandtides@islandtides.com. Website: <http://www.islandtides.com>
