

PRM / RMP 2008 - 4th Ramon Margalef Prize in Ecology
Press note on the 2008 winner, Dr Daniel Pauly

The President of the Generalitat (Autonomous Government) of Catalonia, José Montilla, has chaired today the Management Board of the 2008 Ramon Margalef Prize in Ecology, in which the decision of the Jury to award the Prize to the French marine biologist Dr Daniel Pauly was ratified. On Monday October 6th, Dr. Pauly will receive the Prize in a solemn ceremony presided by President Montilla, in the Auditorium of the Forum, in the framework of the World Congress for Nature, held in Barcelona.

The Ramon Margalef Prize in Ecology, created in 2004 by the Generalitat of Catalonia, aims at the recognition of an exceptional career or a discovery in the field of ecology that has contributed to significant progress in scientific knowledge and thought or to the development of theoretical approaches for the sustainable management of natural resources, of land use or the sea. The Prize, worth one hundred thousand euros (€100000), is the first international award dedicated exclusively to ecology. Previous winners are: Professors Paul Dayton (2005), John Lawton (2006) and Harold Mooney (2007).

Dr. Daniel Pauly (Paris, France, 1946) has been chosen as the 2008 winner from among 17 high level candidacies vying for the Prize, which have been presented by competent qualified representatives of universities, other higher education schools, research centres, academies of science or their scientific subsidiaries, or by persons who have been awarded the Prize in previous years, or former Jury members.

Biographic itinerary

Professor Daniel Pauly was born in Paris, France, in 1946. He spent his childhood in Switzerland and studied in Germany, obtaining his doctorate in fisheries biology and biological oceanography at the University of Kiel. After spending several years at the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resource Management (ICLARM) in Manila, the Philippines, in 1994 he joined the Fisheries Centre at the University of British Columbia as a professor, being at present its Director. He is member of the Governing Board of OCEANA.

Daniel Pauly has been honoured with many prizes and distinctions, among them the International Cosmos Prize in Japan (2005), the Volvo Environment Prize (2006), the ECI Prize and the Ted Danson Ocean in 2007. Due to his dedication to the protection of the environment, in 2003 *Scientific American* included him in the list of the 50 most influential scientists in the world. In the same year *The New York Times* qualified him as an “iconoclast” and *Science* defined him as “the most prolific and cited fisheries scientist in the world”, adding “critical and often controversial, of modern fishing practices”.

Pauly is the author of many books and over 500 scientific articles. We could mention “On the Sex of Fishes and the Gender of the Scientist: a Collection of Essays in Fisheries Science” (1994), “Méthodes pour l'évaluation des ressources halieutiques” (1997), “In a Perfect Ocean: fisheries and ecosystem in the North Atlantic (2003) and “Darwin's Fishes: an encyclopaedia of ichthyology, ecology and evolution” (2004).

Scientific repercussions

Professor Daniel Pauly is a world authority in the study of the decline of fisheries resources and the responses of ecosystems to human pressures. He has developed and utilized new techniques that have made possible to analyze global impacts of fisheries on marine ecosystems. He has strived to make the public aware of the urgent need to protect and conserve marine ecosystems, pointing out at the destructive effects due to capturing fish at increasingly lower trophic levels.

Pauly has been able to quantify these impacts by means of a widely accepted “Marine Trophic Index” (MTI: the mean trophic level of fisheries landings). In 2004 the Convention on Biological Diversity declared the MTI as one of the eight biodiversity indicators for testing without delay. He has succeeded in making the “Ecopath Model” as one of the most frequently used modelling of ecosystems. . The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA (NOAA) has qualified this model as “one of the most outstanding achievements of the last 200 years”.