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STORY

UBC professor honoured

FISHERIES I Scientific American includes Daniel Pauly in influential list

Matthew Ramsey

Vancouver Sun

Saturday, November 15, 2003

University of B.C. fisheries professor Daniel Pauly has been named one of the 50 most influential research scientists in the world for 2003 in the December issue of Scientific American magazine.



Daniel Pauly of the University of B.C. has been chosen as one of the world's most influential scientists.

CREDIT: Peter Battistoni, Vancouver Sun Files

Pauly, 56, is the director of UBC's Fisheries Centre and has studied declining fish stocks for more than 25 years.

He is also the mind behind FishBase, a global database, with information on more than 27,000

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fish species, and Ecopath, an ecosystem modelling program that predicts how fish may respond to environmental pressures.

He joined the UBC Fisheries Centre in 1994 and has headed the The Sea Around Us project since 1999.

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The project looks at the impact of fisheries on the Earth's marine ecosystems. Pauly was named director of the Fisheries Centre this month.

He was elected to the Royal Society of Canada this year and also presented a paper to the Quebec City convention of the American Fisheries Society warning of a growing crisis in the world's fish stocks.

He proposed that Canada take the lead on the world stage and establish no-fishing areas in order to allow stocks to rejuvenate.

"Fishing vessels now can and, indeed, will catch, unless restrained, the last fish concentration in the world ocean," Pauly argued.

In 2002, Pauly and other fisheries researchers produced a report warning that if current fishing trends continue, preferred fish stocks will be all but non-existent in 10 years.

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The study showed that over the past 50 years, the catch of preferred fish, such as cod, tuna, haddock, flounder and hake, has fallen by more than half, even though the effort put into fishing has tripled.

At the time, Pauly compared the study to a weather map.


"The map shows really bad weather over the North Atlantic," he said.

He was in San Diego Friday and not available for comment.

Profile of Daniel Pauly.

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