UBC prof to document fishing factors

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VANCOUVER - A professor at the University of British Columbia has won a $150,000 three-year fellowship to document financial factors contributing to unsustainable commercial fishing around the world.

Ussif Rashid Sumaila, an associate professor at UBC's Fisheries Centre, is one of five recipients of the 2008 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation, which supports marine conservation projects worldwide.

With the award, Sumaila will create databases that detail the cost and ecological impact of commercial fishing that will form the basis for models to document the massive fiscal and environmental waste being caused by poor management of global ocean resources, the Pew Institute for Ocean Science said in a news release.

"Sumaila's Pew Fellowship project will provide concrete arguments for smarter policy making concerning fisheries management worldwide," Pew Institute executive director Ellen Pikitch said in the release.

The other four recipients are from United States, China, France and Australia.

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