

Japanese foundation funds oceans research at University of B.C.

BY LARRY PYNN, VANCOUVER SUN DECEMBER 8, 2010

Japan's Nippon Foundation is donating \$13 million to the University of B.C. Fisheries Centre for a nine-year study into the future of the oceans, including monitoring of human impact on marine stocks.

The Nereus program will bring together international experts in such fields as fisheries, climate change, environmental policy, geospatial modelling, marine ecology and socio-economics.

Combining real-time and projected data as well as 3-D simulation, researchers will attempt to show scientists, policy-makers, fisheries managers and the public how different conservation and management scenarios could affect the ocean environment and people who depend on fisheries.

The Fisheries Centre believes overexploitation of the world's fisheries resources has caused major declines in fish populations and poses a serious threat to food security.

Professor Daniel Pauly is chair of the new research program, associate professor Villy Christensen the lead investigator.

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