

## *Free Public Lecture*

# Infectious diseases of Pacific herring: relationships of the British Columbian herring industry, the environment, and the health of fish



**Dr. Jan Lovy**  
**Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, BC**

Pacific herring are an ecologically and economically important in British Columbia. Numerous pathogens, including parasites and viruses, occur in this species and natural mortality caused by infectious disease is known to occur. In many cases the pathogens remain in balance with their fish host to ensure survival of both host and pathogen. This balance may tip in favor of the pathogen during certain environmental conditions that stress fish and result in disease. In this presentation the status of Pacific herring in British Columbia and the herring industry practices will be overviewed. Several major herring diseases, including parasites and the virus causing viral hemorrhagic septicemia will be discussed in relation to industrial practices. Herring also commonly swim into and remain within Atlantic salmon farms. Considering that wild herring carry several diseases, including viral hemorrhagic septicemia, there is a risk that these pathogens can be spread to salmon. Current laboratory research being conducted to understand diseases in herring and their spread to other species such as salmon will be discussed.

*Dr. Jan Lovy is a researcher working in the fields of fish pathology and immunology. After receiving his B.Sc. from Unity College, ME, USA he worked for the Division of Fish and Wildlife in New Jersey conducting field work throughout the state and assisting with fish health studies in wild and hatchery-raised fish. He completed a Ph.D. at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), University of Prince Edward Island, specializing in fish pathology. Following his doctoral work he remained at the AVC as a postdoctoral fellow for three years researching fish pathology and immunology. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher funded by the Herring Conservation and Research Society, working at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. His research is aimed at understanding infectious diseases in Pacific herring.*

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109

*Sponsors: Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovations Council (MISTIC), Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC), VIUFA Professional Development Fund, Faculty of Science and Technology*