



Media Advisory

Speaker looks at how to protect freshwater fish

PRINCE GEORGE—The impacts of introduced fish species on freshwater conservation efforts will be the subject of a lecture February 4 at the University of Northern BC.

Dr. Eric Taylor, Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of BC and Associate Director of UBC's Biodiversity Research Centre, will present the lecture, hosted by UNBC in partnership with the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (PFWWCP). Dr. Taylor will discuss the role that introducing non-native aquatic species might have in causing population declines and extinction of native BC freshwater fish.

"The native fish faunas of central British Columbia, including that of the Mackenzie River drainage, are relatively unimpacted," said Dr. Taylor. "Examples from other areas in BC, however, highlight the need for vigilance to guard against the introduction of non-native fishes in what are still relatively pristine environments, and for a province-wide conservation plan."

"We are pleased to be developing a partnership with UNBC on this and a number of other projects," said Arne Langston, natural resources specialist with the PFWWCP. "It is gratifying to see someone of Dr. Taylor's stature come to Prince George to talk about this very important issue."

"UNBC and the PFWWCP share a strong commitment to fish and wildlife resource issues in Northern BC," said Dr. Max Blouw, UNBC's vice-president of research. "It's a natural fit for the two organizations to work together to improve the depth of aquatic research in the region, and we welcome Dr. Taylor's expertise and contribution to the PFWWCP."

Dr. Taylor's lecture takes place in Room 7-238 at UNBC on Friday, February 4 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. There will also be an opportunity to meet PFWWCP biologists during a reception following the lecture.

The PFWWCP is a joint initiative of BC Hydro and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. The program was established to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources affected by the creation of the Williston and Dinosaur reservoirs in north central BC. The fish program's mission is to provide naturally diverse and abundant fish populations in a healthy ecosystem. For more information about the PFWWCP visit our website at: www.bchydro.com/pwcp/

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