

# Institute for Coastal Research Fellows Program

The VIU Institute for Coastal Research (ICR) has an interdisciplinary research mandate focusing on coastal communities of British Columbia, the Pacific North, and beyond. The ICR works towards synthesizing the bonds between local and academic communities and industry through discussion and research. The aim is to foster interdisciplinary research involving the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities as they relate to coastal study, research and dialogue. The focus is on understanding and promoting the resilience of our coastal social-ecological systems. The ICR mandate includes a range of research, scholarly activities and facilitating functions related to the coast.

The ICR recognizes that knowledge, leadership and benefits of collaboration for good coastal resource management exist in academic institutions, the private sector, government, amongst coastal and especially First Nations communities whose traditional connections with the coast provide essential perspectives, and within the not-for-profit sector. Therefore we are pleased to announce a new Vancouver Island University ICR Fellows Program open to any applicant with expertise and/or interest in BC coastal resource management issues. Applications will be received twice each year, March 1 and October 1. Each fellowship opportunity is for up to one year in length. Up to \$2500 is available per fellowship. (Successful candidates who are external to VIU will receive Visiting Scholar designation, which includes library access and other privileges). As an interdisciplinary program we encourage submissions from collaborators from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities disciplines. (In the humanities, this could include, for example: creative writing or the visual arts).

## **The Opportunity - ICR Aquatic Foods Initiative (AFI):**

We are initially seeking an individual who is interested in research or other activity that will help further the objectives of the ICR Aquatic Foods Initiative. The Aquatic Foods Initiative is a new ICR program whose mandate is to: “develop strategies that increase the economic, cultural, social and ecological values of BC’s aquatic food resources. Approaches to be taken by the Aquatic Foods Initiative will feature: 1) applied and interdisciplinary research; 2) engagement with First Nations and coastal communities, stakeholder groups, industry, government, researchers and others; and 3) a strong emphasis on the relationship between aquatic food resources and the well-being and resilience of coastal social-ecological systems

Seafood has sustained BC First Nations for millennia, and more recently, the modern seafood industry (both capture and farming) has played key roles in the evolution of both BC coastal and First Nations communities and economies. Today, demand for marine protein is growing at an unprecedented rate, but there are complex social, ecological, economic, and governance issues challenging the development of this resource in BC.

A recent two-day ICR 2011 Symposium (November 2011) drew 150 delegates from industry, government, NGO, First Nations and academic sectors to discuss opportunities in BC's seafood economy across five cross-cutting themes: markets and trade, environment and sustainability, culture and society and food security and health. An AFI strategic plan is now being developed to guide activity over the next few years. The AFI Fellow will play a contributing role in helping deliver results within this new program.

### **ICR Fellowship Benefits**

This is a competitive fellowship and the successful applicant will receive the following benefits:

- Designation as a Visiting Scholar
- Up to \$2500 to cover time and expenses

### **ICR Fellowship Expectations:**

As project team members, the ICR Fellows will be expected to:

- Undertake directed research or other activity within the mandate of specific programs as described
- Communicate and, where appropriate, collaborate with ICR team members
- Participate in and support ICR events where possible
- Produce a final report on your involvement as an ICR Fellow
- Include ICR acknowledgement in all products related to ICR projects
- Deliver one public presentation about the Fellow's research or activity during a VIU campus 'lunch and learn' event

### **To apply:**

Please send CV, cover letter, names and contact information for 3 references and a maximum 2-page concept paper to: Michele Patterson, AFI Program Lead: [michele.patterson@viu.ca](mailto:michele.patterson@viu.ca), by March 1, 2012.

The concept letter should address the expectations outlined above and contain:

- Description of your interest and involvement in BC's Aquatic Foods sector
- Proposed project objectives, approach and methodology
- Clear explanation of activity, deliverables and timelines for the project
- Funding amount requested and budget justification
- Explanation of how the proposed contributions will contribute to the development of the AFI program

For more information on the AFI program, please see: [www.viu.ca/icr](http://www.viu.ca/icr) or contact Michele Patterson at 250-740-6296 or by email at: [michele.patterson@viu.ca](mailto:michele.patterson@viu.ca)