

Malaspina University-College
NEWS RELEASE

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Centre for Shellfish Research Welcomes New Research Scientist

The Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR) at Malaspina University-College is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Penelope (Penny) Barnes as Research Scientist. Dr. Barnes is originally from British Columbia where she completed her B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Marine Biology at the University of Victoria. She left Canada in 1987 to complete her Ph.D. at the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom. Dr. Barnes returns to B.C. after 9 years as Staff Scientist with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. During her distinguished career, Dr. Barnes has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University and a Visiting Associate Professor at Princeton. In addition, she has held several other appointments, achieved an extensive list of honours and awards and an impressive funding record.

"We are extremely pleased that the CSR has been able to attract a scientist of Dr. Barnes' calibre" states Don Tillapaugh, Director of the CSR "and we are excited about the expanded research potential that her appointment provides".

"One of Penny's principal responsibilities with the CSR is to lead the Ecological Interactions Research program. This is a key area of research activity for the CSR - and for coastal communities" states Don. "Shellfish aquaculture is being touted as a significant opportunity for the economic revitalization of our coastal communities, yet there are concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of shellfish aquaculture activities. We need to answer these concerns with hard scientific information."

"The need to answer questions regarding the environmental sustainability of shellfish farming is echoed by the shellfish producers" says Pam Parker, Executive Director of the BC Shellfish Growers Association.

With a strong research background in marine molluscs and marine coastal ecology (particularly molluscan eco-physiology, sea grass ecosystems and sediment biogeochemistry) Dr. Barnes brings significant professional capacity to the CSR to undertake the necessary scientific studies. "Through Dr. Barnes' scientific leadership we will improve our ability to provide peer-reviewed scientific information to address critical research questions" states Dr. David Thomas, VP Instruction and Research, Malaspina University-College.

Dr. Bill Pennell, co-founder of the Centre for Shellfish Research, and Malaspina University-College professor, says he is delighted to have Dr. Barnes available to the Malaspina students. "Penny has an amazing breadth of knowledge in the marine field says Dr. Pennell, and she will be a great addition to the faculty and a valuable resource to the students at Malaspina".

Funding for the position was made available through support from the Advanced Systems Institute of B.C. and Western Economic Diversification.

The Centre for Shellfish Research was begun in the fall of 2001 with a mission to facilitate the research needs of the B.C. shellfish aquaculture industry, including enhancing industry competitiveness, investigating environmental interactions, undertaking socio-economic and policy research, training and technology transfer, and building shellfish research capacity in B.C.

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