

Swedish Fisheries to Seek Salmon Killer

Alarmed by salmon dying from a mysterious disease, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is about to launch a 4-year, \$2-million research program to identify the killer and protect the country's \$60-million-a-year salmon industry.

The disease, called M74, strikes salmon fry 2 to 3 weeks after they hatch, causing hemorrhaging, enervation, and death within a few days. Although Swedish researchers first noticed the disease 20 years ago, salmon

mortality from M74 has escalated sharply in the last 2 years, reaching 90% of hatcheries fry last year. Officials expect a dramatic decline in the salmon harvest starting next year, the result of reduced numbers of 2-year-old fish being released into the Baltic Sea. "We could have a catastrophe," says parasitologist Jan Thulin, director of the Institute of Marine Research in Lysekil, Sweden.

Fisheries biologists are baffled over what may be causing M74. Recent findings rule out organochlorine pollutants such as PCBs

and dioxins: "All the organic contaminants in the fish are going down," says Stockholm University ecotoxicologist Bengt-Erik Bengtsson, chief scientist on the Swedish EPA project. Bengtsson speculates that some unidentified dietary factor might be causing M74, but he lacks evidence. Scientists at the five participating research institutes will look into such topics as reduced levels of carotenoids in the salmon diet and genetic variation of salmon, as well as examining reproductive problems in cod and other commercial fish.

Environmental Institute Faces Demise

Bucking a decade-long trend that inspired dozens of colleges to start environmental programs, the University of Washington (UW) intends to close its own Institute for Environmental Studies (IES) next June.

Established in 1972, IES, a granddaddy of environmental programs, enrolls about 1500 undergrads each year in courses ranging from "Conservation Biology" to "Toxic Chemicals and the Environment." IES also publishes a quarterly journal, *illahee*, devoted to Northwest environmental issues. Last month, however, UW administrators decided to terminate the budget of the \$700,000-a-year program. Five staff members, including two Ph.D. scientists, would lose their jobs.

One factor that hastened this decision, says Dale E. Johnson, acting dean of the UW Graduate School, is the turmoil that has wracked IES in recent months. Three of eight institute faculty members have resigned in the past year, and IES Director James Karr offered to resign last January, after becoming involved in a dispute with faculty over how to carry out the institute's mission. According to Johnson, it's time for the remaining IES faculty and staff to "move forward in efficient, effective, and collegial ways."

Karr, a conservation biologist, doesn't see it that way. Although Karr acknowledges that "serious problems" have plagued IES, he says UW administrators rejected his letter of resignation and asked him to rebuild the institute—a task he says he has accomplished. "The faculty and staff are re-energized," Karr says.

While the UW administration plans to terminate IES, the decision must still get final approval from a faculty committee, and it won't finish its review until March. Anything can happen between now and then, says Karr. "I'm confident the panel could be constituted in a way to assure our survival or constituted to assure our demise," he says.

Brandeis Center Beams Up Some Cash

The new Voland Center for Complex Systems at Brandeis University is light-years ahead of its time. To complement \$16 million in National Science Foundation grants, private donations, and pork-barrel funding, Brandeis officials have cut a deal with Paramount Pictures to funnel in all profits from the 17 November Los Angeles premier of the latest *Star Trek* movie.

Established this year, the Voland Center houses researchers from fields as diverse as computer science, neurobiology, and experimental psychology. Their mission: To go where ... wait, wrong mission ... to study the brain. Assistant provost Arthur Reis insists there's a logical con-



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Intergalactic charity. *Star Trek* movie premier will net Brandeis center beaucoup bucks.

nection between *Star Trek* and Voland. "*Star Trek* portrays a new frontier, and the Voland Center is a new frontier in the science of the brain and intelligence," he says.

Other connections, however, are less of a stretch. A Brandeis spokesperson says that rallying to the school's cause were

alumna Gates McFadden, who played Dr. Beverly Crusher on the "*Star Trek: The Next Generation*" TV series, and Brandeis visiting professor Sumner Redstone, chair of Viacom, which owns Paramount.

The gist of the new movie—without completely giving away the plot—is that a mysterious astrophysical phenomenon warps space-time, throwing together Captain Picard's crew, Captain Kirk's crew, and a dangerous alien played by Malcolm McDowell. The Brandeis spokesperson says the school expects to bring in \$100,000 to \$200,000 from the venture.

Brazilian Researcher Fined in Authorship Feud

A prominent Brazilian researcher has been ordered to pay another scientist \$115,000 for failing to properly credit her original contribution to his published work. The decree is a rare example of monetary damages being awarded in a dispute over scientific authorship.

On 3 September a local judge in São Paulo, Brazil, ruled that Butantan Institute virologist Carlos Augusto Pereira must pay "moral damages" for failing to cite Adolfo Lutz Institute researcher Yeda Lopes Nogueira in the footnotes to a 1990 article on the effect of the rabies virus on a line of laboratory cells called McCoy cells. The judge may yet award material damages to Nogueira in the case, which Pereira has appealed.

Pereira acknowledged in court that the idea for his work came from Nogueira, who first presented her findings in 1982 and updated them at the VII Interna-

tional Congress of Virology in 1987. The paper (*Journal of Virological Methods*, vol. 27, no. 3, 1990), which lists Pereira as the last of four authors, thanks Nogueira "for helpful comments," but Pereira told *Science* that his group "did not cite her because the work was never published." Pereira submitted the paper in May 1989, three months before Nogueira sent the journal a paper on the same topic; Pereira's was officially accepted on 10 November, three days before the journal rejected Nogueira's paper.

Officials at Elsevier Science, which publishes the journal, were meeting this week in Amsterdam to discuss the matter. Its editor, Arie Zuckerman, dean of the Royal Free Hospital Medical School in London, says he has "absolutely no plans" to intervene in what he called "a local dispute between authors."