

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 17, 2010

## **VANCOUVER AQUARIUM RESEARCHERS WITNESS BREEDING OF DEPLETED BLACK ROCKFISH IN STRAIT OF GEORGIA**

**VANCOUVER, BC** – Vancouver Aquarium researchers rejoice the successful transfer and breeding of depleted black rockfish in West Vancouver. The discovery comes at a pinnacle time as the decline of rockfish stocks has hit a high point and the health and sustainability of these populations are in jeopardy due to overharvesting.

Vancouver Aquarium researcher Dr. Jeff Marliave and team transplanted 200 rockfish yearlings to rock clusters off Point Atkinson in 1997 as part of a research study to help recover and manage black rockfish stock. Additional maturing fish were added to the area in 2004 and 2005.

“Overharvesting of black rockfish in the Strait of Georgia has diminished the populations to dangerous levels in the Greater Vancouver area from what was once an abundant supply,” said Dr. Jeff Marliave, Vancouver Aquarium vice-president of marine science. “Having studied black rockfish for 14 years at this particular site and observed the population decline, to see a successful transplantation in our own backyard is encouraging.”

The Aquarium’s work has only begun, as black rockfish need decades, if not centuries, to multiply and become self-sustaining populations. This is where rockfish conservation areas play a critical role in protecting delicate ecosystems where rockfish may have a chance to survive. As part of the ongoing research to better understand rockfish and breeding patterns, Marliave and team are also rearing them at the Vancouver Aquarium.

### **About Vancouver Aquarium**

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, conservation, education, research, and direct action. Learn more at [www.vanaqua.org](http://www.vanaqua.org)

--30--

**Editors:** Dr. Jeff Marliave is available for interviews.

### **About Dr. Jeff Marliave**

Dr. Jeff Marliave is vice-president of marine science at Vancouver Aquarium. Marliave is a renowned marine biologist and has produced over 70 scientific and technical publications on marine biology. Marliave is also a member of the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council and the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society.

### **Media Contacts**

Samantha Kent  
Public Relations Coordinator  
604 659 3752  
[samantha.kent@vanaqua.org](mailto:samantha.kent@vanaqua.org)

Charlene Chiang  
Director of Communications  
604 659 3453  
[publicrelations@vanaqua.org](mailto:publicrelations@vanaqua.org)