

# Research Day | March 15, 2017

**Title:** Making connections: The 2011 Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris Collection in Royal BC Museum

**Presenter:** Dr. Henry Choong, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology

**Abstract:**

Natural history collections are vital to our understanding of biodiversity, evolution, and other aspects of life on earth as repositories of biological information over time and space, as well as being vast resources for hitherto unrealized knowledge and loci of new discoveries.

Recently, the Royal BC Museum was chosen by The Northern Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) to become the repository for the 2011 Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris (JTMD) specimen collection. This collection represents the first study in marine biological history to look at ocean-scale rafting of a vast debris field over multiple years.

As being scientifically vital, collections can be positioned to engage our publics, highlight museums' relevance to contemporary (as well as historical) issues, and raise awareness internationally about the RBCM and its collections. Outputs already produced or in process, include research articles, partnerships and collaborations, engagement and learning programs, realized funding potential, and exhibits.

