



Vancouver Aquarium's effort to save amphibians

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Nearly half of the 6 000 species of amphibians are threatened with extinction due to habitat changes, climate change, pollution and invasive species. The 'Frogs Forever' exhibit at the Vancouver Aquarium introduces the issues facing amphibians to the public. More than 20 amphibian species have been bred at the aquarium, which is involved in direct conservation by maintaining assurance populations of the two most endangered amphibians in Canada, the Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF) (*Rana pretiosa*) and the Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*), as well as a Neotropical frog that is extinct in the wild.

In 2010 the Aquarium was the first institution to breed the OSF in captivity. Of the 3,000 tadpoles hatched in 2011, 300 were used for enclosure survival studies, 300 were retained for radio tagging studies, 50 were retained by the Aquarium to produce F2 generation, and over 2,000 were released into the wild. The Aquarium also assists the British Columbia Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Team by maintaining captive assurance population and expects to first breed and release young in 2012.