Will marine invertebrates of the BC Coast survive climate change?

Abstract: The Northeast Pacific, along the west coast of North America, is a spectacular ecosystem with exceptionally high species diversity, high productivity, and high biomass, and this is largely due to the particular climate prevailing along that coast. But if the community of species on the coast is climate-dependent, then how will that community respond to a changing climate? Marine invertebrates, such as mussels, crabs, oysters and snails, have long been used as food by humans, but are also major participants in the coastal food web, connecting the primary producers (algae) to the upper levels of the food web (seastars, octopi, fish, marine mammals). This talk will explore research carried out over the last two decades to define climate-related changes taking place on the coast of BC, and responses of marine invertebrates to those