

NEWS

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NEW RESEARCH TO EXPLORE HAWAII'S ECOLOGICAL PAST

Honolulu, HI: Today at the Hawaii Conservation Conference in Honolulu, Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI) announced the recipients of its 2008 Mia J. Tegner Memorial Research Grants in Marine Environmental History and Historical Marine Ecology. This granting program is one of the first of its kind to support efforts that look at past ocean conditions.

The program receives applications from around the globe, but 4 of the 10 awards given this year have a connection to the Hawaiian Islands. "We are announcing the awards here today in Honolulu to recognize the outstanding marine historical ecology being done in Hawaii" said Dr. Lance Morgan, program manager of MCBI's award program.

Two of these awards are being given to University of Hawaii graduate students. Jack Kittinger, in the Department of Geography, will be describing historic fishing practices in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and Ms. Jennifer Schultz, in the Department of Zoology, will be looking at the genetic diversity of the Hawaiian monk seal prior to its large-scale decline. "Focusing on the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal was one of our goals", explains MCBI's Hawaii Program Director Ms. Keiko Bonk, "and we are thrilled to fund two projects that will help protect the seal." Ms. Loren McClenahan of Scripps Institution of Oceanography will also be working on a project to detail the historical ecology of this seal, which is found only in Hawaiian waters.

Finally, researchers based in Hawaii, including Dr. Arielle Levine of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, will be collaborating on an inter-disciplinary project to document the marine environmental history of American Samoa.

MCBI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the science of marine conservation biology and securing protection for the world's marine ecosystems. Founded in 1996, MCBI is headquartered in Bellevue WA, and has offices in Honolulu HI, Glen Ellen CA and Washington DC.

Marine Conservation Biology Institute

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Full list of 2008 Mia J. Tegner Memorial Research Grant Recipients:

- 1) Dr. David Addison (American Samoa Community College, American Samoa), Dr. Arielle Levine (Pacific Island Fisheries Center, USA) and Marlowe Sabater (Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, American Samoa) , “Uncovering the historical ecology of marine conditions, resource use, and management in American Samoa: an interdisciplinary analysis of fishing activities through time;”
- 2) Jessica Carilli (U.C. San Diego, USA) “Reading the past from coral cores: a test of ecological resilience in the Line Islands;”
- 3) Drs. Ratana Chuenpagdee and Kurt Kornekis (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada), “Changing gears, changing grounds: An environmental history of changing fishing practices in Newfoundland, Canada;”
- 4) Jack Kittinger (University of Hawai’i – Manoa USA) “Quantifying historical anthropogenic impacts to ecosystem integrity in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands;”
- 5) Loren McClenachan (U.C. San Diego, USA) “Developing historical baselines for the Hawaiian monk seal;”
- 6) George Roff (University of Queensland Australia) “Shifting baselines on the inshore Great Barrier Reef – evidence of a historical collapse of coral communities following European settlement;”
- 7) Dr. Raphael Sagarin (Duke University USA) “The indelible stain of human impacts on *Plicopurpura pansa* populations in Mexico;”
- 8) Jennifer Schultz (University of Hawai’i – Manoa USA) “Status of the Hawaiian monk seal prior to human exploitation and management;”
- 9) Ruth Thurstan (University of York UK) “Overfishing in the early 19th century and the origins of the trawling controversy in the British Isles;”
- 10) Dr. Elizabeth Watson (University of California Davis USA) “Establishing historic and prehistoric baselines for tidal marsh extent in central Californian estuaries undergoing tidal marsh restoration and rehabilitation.”

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