

NEWS
For Immediate Release



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NEW MARINE RESEARCH TO STUDY OCEAN'S PAST

Glen Ellen, Calif. (Oct. 29, 2010) — Today Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI) announced the recipients of the 2010 Mia J. Tegner Memorial Research Grants in Marine Environmental History and Historical Marine Ecology. Funded through a partnership between MCBI and Holland America Line, this grant program is one of the first of its kind to support efforts to study past ocean conditions.

The grant program is a tribute to Dr. Mia J. Tegner, a marine biologist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who died in January 2001 while diving off the Southern California coast. Dr. Tegner studied the ecology of kelp forest communities and abalone populations, and was particularly interested in understanding how marine populations and ecosystems have changed as a result of human activities. The Mia J. Tegner Program was established in 2001 to support the efforts of promising young scientists and graduate students to document the composition and abundance of ocean life before large-scale human alterations. This information is essential for helping policy-makers, law-makers, regulators, managers and conservationists set appropriate targets for marine conservation efforts.

“We are proud to be advancing the science of marine conservation biology and historical marine ecology by supporting these efforts to better understand the history of our oceans,” said Dr. Lance Morgan, program manager of MCBI’s award program. He noted that this year there were an especially large number of deserving projects. “We received proposals from applicants to fund work in areas ranging from Antarctica to the Florida Keys, and the five projects we funded will help establish historical baselines of past ocean and coastal environments to inform conservation and management.”

The 2010 grants were made possible by a generous donation by Holland America Line.

The 2010 Mia J. Tegner Memorial Research Grant Recipients are:

1. Leslie Thorne, Duke University: “A retrospective analysis of the historical abundance of a pelagic shorebird: Unanticipated effects of fisheries management failures?”
2. Andrew Cohen, Center for Research on Aquatic Bioinvasions: “Assembling Historical and Archaeological Data on the Abundance, Distribution, Use and Decline of Target Biota for Restoration: Olympia Oysters (*Ostrea lurida*), Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) and Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*).”
3. Eleanor Partridge, Nature Bureau Ltd.: “The historical impacts of fishing in the Firth of Forth.”
4. Sarah Myhre, Bodega Marine Laboratory: “Establishing ecological and oceanographic baselines through past events of rapid anoxia.”
5. Kate McFadden, Columbia University: “The Ecological Role of Sea Turtles in Marine Ecosystems in the Central Pacific: Reconstructing the Past.”

As part of its “Our Marvelous Oceans” partnership with MCBI, Holland America Line has committed to provide three years of annual funding for Mia J. Tegner Memorial Research Grants. And as part of this program MCBI scientists will have the opportunity to conduct lectures aboard select cruises.

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, Wash., and has offices in Honolulu, Hawaii, Glen Ellen, Calif., and Washington, D.C.

About Holland America Line [a division of Carnival Corporation and plc (NYSE: CCL and CUK)]

Holland America Line's fleet of 15 ships offers more than 500 cruises 354 ports in 98 countries, territories or dependencies. Two- to 110-day itineraries visit all seven continents and highlights include Antarctica, South America, Australia/New Zealand and Asia voyages; a Grand World Voyage; and popular sailings to ports in the Caribbean, Bermuda, Alaska, Mexico, Canada/New England, Europe and Panama Canal.

Fleetwide, the company features Signature of Excellence enhancements, a commitment totaling more than \$525 million, that showcase the Culinary Arts Center presented by Food & Wine magazine — a state-of-the-art onboard show kitchen where more than 60 celebrated guest chefs and culinary experts provide cooking demonstrations and classes — Explorations Café powered by The New York Times, Digital Workshop powered by Windows, teens-only activity areas and all new stateroom amenities highlighted by flat-panel TVs and plush Euro-top Mariner's Dream Beds.

Marine Conservation Biology Institute

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