



Mia J. Tegner Memorial Research Grants in Marine Environmental History and Historical Ecology

Marine Environmental History and Historical Ecology

Many marine ecosystems experienced drastic changes long before we acquired scientific understanding of the pre-impact state. Environmental history and historical ecology are studies that reveal the baseline conditions crucial for identifying appropriate conservation targets. They link the past to the present and provide a blueprint for potential guidance in restoring ecosystems.

Dr. Mia J. Tegner

The late Dr. Mia J. Tegner, esteemed marine biologist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, studied the ecology of kelp forest communities, sea urchins and abalone populations. Dr. Tegner was particularly interested in understanding how marine populations and ecosystems have changed as a result of human activities. Her dedication to marine biology and contribution to a seminal paper on historical ecology inspired Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI) to create this program to honor her legacy.

Research Grants

Goal- To fund studies examining past ecosystem conditions (i.e., historical baselines). This work should be relevant to policy makers and conservationists in their efforts to restore and conserve marine biodiversity.

Scope- The program will focus on projects from both natural and social scientists that seek to uncover interactions between natural and human history in the marine and estuarine environments worldwide. MCBI is particularly interested in studies that seek to describe systems prior to large-scale human impacts and industrialization. Research may draw on sources ranging from culturally and geographically derived data, to biological and physical data. Examples of possible information resources include fishery data, letters, journals, interviews, oral histories, historical documents, maps, photos, field surveys, etc.



Programmatic Focus – MCBI seeks proposals that will study historical marine ecology in one of the following areas:

- studies combining scientific with traditional knowledge, and/or the significance of traditional resource management systems in maintaining biological and cultural diversity, especially in the regions of **Northern Australia, South Pacific, Sea of Cortez and Gulf of California**.
- Documentation of **deep-sea marine populations** prior to the onset of modern deep-sea fishing (especially fishing on the High Seas)
- Ecological connections between **diadromous fish** that depend on a river habitat and the populations of offshore predators such as tunas, billfish, bluefish, and sharks that relay on diadromous species as primary prey.

Eligibility- MCBI invites individuals and collaborative teams from academic institutions and non-governmental organizations to apply. Preference will be given to graduate students and post-graduate researchers. Visit www.mcbi.org or contact Dr. Lance Morgan at lance@mcbi.org

Application Guidelines- The deadline for submission is **September 29, 2006**. MCBI will notify awardees by the end of 2006. Grants can range up to a maximum of \$10,000 (USD) for a period no longer than one year. We encourage electronic submissions. To minimize MCBI processing time, applicants must limit proposals to 2 pages, plus supporting documents.

Please include:

- 1) A concise project description, summary of methodology, justification for the proposed project, expected impacts, and the project's relevance to marine conservation (max 2 pgs).
- 2) Supporting documentation should include:
 - 1 pg. budget (with justification and detail on additional sources of funding, if any)
 - estimated timeframe
 - complete list of project collaborators and their affiliations
 - curriculum vitae for the principle investigator
 - letter of support from primary academic advisor (if applicant is a student or postdoc)
 - contact information for at least one referee or reference

Applicants are responsible for submitting all proposal materials by the deadline via email (PDF documents preferred, but MS Word and Excel documents are acceptable). Please submit applications to: Angela Morgan, Historical Ecologist, at angela@mcbi.org.

Past recipients can be found at <http://www.mcbi.org/Advancing/Advancing.htm#mia>