

## *Chinese Environmentalist Wen Bo Awarded 2009 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation*

### *Three-year Project Seeks to Reduce Poaching and Illegal Trade of Endangered Ocean Wildlife*

WASHINGTON – Wen Bo, co-director of Pacific Environment’s Beijing-based China Program, has been awarded the 2009 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation for his project to help conserve and protect endangered marine species in East Asia. To achieve this goal, Wen Bo will develop a network of marine conservation groups and collaborate with marine researchers and other experts in the region. Wen Bo is the second person from China to receive this award.

“I am particularly excited about this opportunity to become a part of the Pew Marine Fellowship Program and to work with other Fellows around the world to protect our valuable marine resources,” said Wen Bo. “Fisheries, turtles, corals and marine mammals are being depleted at an alarming pace. Our livelihood depends on the health of our oceans.”

Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation receive \$150,000 to conduct a three-year conservation project designed to address critical challenges to healthy oceans. Wen Bo’s project will focus on protecting endangered species, including spotted seals, sea turtles, corals, sharks, salmon and various seabird species from poaching and illegal trade throughout China, Japan and South Korea.

Wen Bo will work to strengthen marine conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in China and foster a network of marine conservation groups throughout East Asia to address this problem. In addition, he will research the issues related to poaching and trade of endangered ocean wildlife and work to help preserve these valuable natural resources.

“Wen Bo’s project uses the power of community action to prevent illegal poaching of valuable ocean wildlife,” said Joshua S. Reichert, managing director of the Pew Environment Group. “Through such widespread efforts, we can win the fight against the wasteful killing of many endangered species.”

Wen Bo joined Pacific Environment in 2001. He has supported more than 40 environmental grassroots groups in China through small grants, exchange programs, workshops and presentations, and organized the first student environmental conference in China in 1995. Prior to joining Pacific Environment, he worked as an editor and journalist for China Environment News. Wen Bo graduated from Zhongnan University in Changsha and the China School of Journalism in Beijing. He received his master’s degree in international relations at the KDI School of International Policy and Management in Seoul, South Korea. In 1997, he attended a

three-month certified course at the Center for Environment Education in Gujarat, India and participated in a six-month environmental internship program under the National Committee on US-China Relations in 1998.

The Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation funds science and other projects that address critical challenges in the conservation of the sea, including communication of project information to increase awareness of global marine issues. Through a rigorous nomination and review process, an international committee of marine specialists selects Pew Fellows based on the strengths of their proposed projects, including their potential to protect ocean environments. Five unique and timely projects led by outstanding professionals in their fields are chosen annually. Since 1996, the Pew Marine Fellows Program has awarded 110 Fellowships to individuals from 29 countries. China's first Pew Marine Fellow was Fan Meng, deputy director of the Guangdong Forestry Administration.

Photographs and more information about each of the 2009 Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation are available at <http://www.pewmarinefellows.org/2009>.

The Pew Environment Group is the conservation arm of The Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-governmental organization that applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improving public policy, informing the public and stimulating civic life.

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