

*Stanford Associate Professor Fiorenza Micheli Awarded 2009 Pew Fellowship
in Marine Conservation*

Three-year Project Studies Multiple Threats to Mediterranean Ecosystems

WASHINGTON – Fiorenza Micheli, Ph.D., an associate professor at the Hopkins Marine Station at Stanford University, has been awarded the 2009 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation for her project to assess the cumulative impacts of human activity to Mediterranean reefs and marine ecosystems.

“As someone who fell in love with the sea while growing up in the Mediterranean, my greatest achievement would be to make a positive difference in the understanding, management and conservation of this unique and highly threatened region,” said Dr. Micheli. “As a Pew Marine Conservation Fellow, I will have the flexibility and resources to devote my energies and time to advancing marine ecosystem-based management within the Mediterranean with complete commitment.”

The collective effects of human activities increasingly threaten the world’s oceans. Habitat degradation from coastal development, destructive fishing practices, pollution and climate change are causing major changes to marine ecosystems. The Mediterranean Sea offers an opportunity to address the complexity of cumulative impacts caused by human uses.

Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation receive \$150,000 to conduct a three-year conservation project designed to address critical challenges to healthy oceans. Micheli will use her fellowship to provide valuable new data and practical guidance for addressing and reversing the collective effects of numerous human impacts on marine ecosystems of the Mediterranean Sea and other regions. She will also use her scientific research to improve the management of existing marine protected areas and help establish new reserves in the region.

“Our oceans suffer continual degradation from our relentless use of the resources they have to offer,” said Joshua S. Reichert, managing director of the Pew Environment Group. “Dr. Micheli’s project will serve as a model for better management of the oceans because it will look at the whole picture and addresses the cumulative effect of all human activities on the marine environment.”

Micheli is an Italian-born marine ecologist and conservation biologist who joined the Biology Department faculty at Stanford University in 2001. Micheli’s academic and professional goals are to make significant contributions to the basic understanding of processes shaping marine communities and to the science informing marine management and conservation. In addition, she wants to ensure that this information is available to decision makers and other stakeholders, and

she wants to help train future professionals to find solutions to environmental problems. She earned her Ph.D. in the U. S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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.

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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