

## **Project Update: March 2009**

Dr. Pablo Borboroglu has been awarded the 2009 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation. Pew Marine Conservation Fellowships are regarded as the world's preeminent awards for marine conservation. The Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation provides fellowships to outstanding scientists and other individuals across the globe to support innovative, applied projects aimed at developing and implementing solutions to critical challenges facing the world's oceans. These grants are given to mid-career professionals whose future contributions to marine science will be significantly enhanced by the fellowship.

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

### **news**

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## ***Argentinean Pablo Borboroglu Awarded 2009 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation Three-year Project to Protect Threatened Penguin Populations***

WASHINGTON – Pablo Borboroglu, Ph.D., a biologist and researcher at the National Research Council of Argentina, was awarded the 2009 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation for his project to promote penguin conservation. He is the fourth Pew Fellowship recipient from Argentina.

“Receiving the Pew Fellowship is a tremendous honour. This fellowship provides a platform for me to push marine conservation forward locally as well as internationally,” said Dr. Borboroglu. “I am overwhelmed by the opportunity to work with other Pew Fellows who share a common vision of achieving healthy oceans and a shared conviction that nothing is impossible.”

Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation receive \$150,000 to conduct a three-year conservation project designed to address critical challenges to healthy oceans. Borboroglu will use his fellowship to establish an “International Penguin Society,” a broad coalition working toward protecting penguins throughout the Southern Hemisphere. This society will assess the status of penguin populations, promote the integration of new research into science-based conservation, advise governments on better management policies and develop media campaigns to educate communities about how to improve the quality of life for both penguins and people.

Borboroglu's project has broader implications for ocean conservation. Penguins travel very wide geographical areas in the ocean while foraging and migrating. Because they are particularly sensitive to changes in their environment caused by climate change, marine pollution and overfishing, these animals can serve as indicators of ocean health.

“Penguins are more than charismatic icons of Antarctic landscapes, they serve as ‘canaries in the coalmine’ for ocean environments,” said Joshua S. Reichert, managing director of the Pew Environment Group. “By working to eliminate threats to penguin populations in the southern oceans, Dr. Borboroglu is also helping to restore balance to marine ecosystems throughout the southern hemisphere.”

Borboroglu has spent 20 years in the marine conservation field and has published more than 40 articles on marine species in peer-reviewed journals and books. His research focuses on the ecology, behaviour and physiology of penguins and other marine species. Working for a project with the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society and the United Nations Development Programme, Borboroglu coordinated a community-based project to design and implement the first management plan for Punta Tombo, the world’s largest and most accessible Magellanic Penguin colony. Borboroglu studied biological sciences at the National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco and received his Ph.D., with honours, in biology from the National University of Comahue in Argentina.

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.

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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.