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**DR. EXEQUIEL EZCURRA OF THE SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
NAMED A PEW FELLOW IN MARINE CONSERVATION**

Miami, Florida, USA – A respected expert in the ecology of deserts and coastal ecosystems of Baja California and the Sea of Cortés, Exequiel Ezcurra, Ph.D., director of the Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias at the San Diego Natural History Museum, has won the world's most prestigious award in marine conservation.

One of five awardees of the 2006 Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation, Dr. Ezcurra will receive \$150,000 to conduct a three-year conservation project and becomes part of the world's premier network for ocean science and marine conservation. Now celebrating its 16th anniversary, the Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation has, since its inception, selected 94 Pew Marine Conservation Fellows from more than 20 countries who have completed projects across the globe. Their fellowships are funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

“In the tradition of the Pew Fellows, Dr. Ezcurra's work in the ecology of deserts and coastal ecosystems has distinguished him as a pioneer of marine conservation, discovering new solutions for protecting and preserving our oceans worldwide,” says Ellen Pikitch, Ph.D., a Pew Fellow herself and executive director of the Pew Institute for Ocean Science at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

Dr. Ezcurra's Pew Fellowship will focus on developing a regional plan to manage the Sea of Cortés as a whole, single ecosystem in order to reduce the region's increasing environmental degradation. The Argentine native received his Ph.D. in mathematical ecology at the University of North Wales in Bangor, United Kingdom, and a degree in natural resource management from the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

An international committee of marine specialists selected the 2006 Pew Fellows, based on their potential to protect ocean environments. The other 2006 Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation are Narriman Jiddawi, Tanzania, jointly with Glenn-Marie Lange, USA; William Kostka, Federated States of Micronesia; Robert Richmond, USA; and Enric Sala, USA.

Photographs and more information about each of the 2006 Pew Fellows are available upon request. Detailed information about all Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation is available at <http://www.pewoceanscience.org>.

The Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation is part of the Pew Institute for Ocean Science, in partnership with the University of Miami. The Pew Institute for Ocean Science strives to undertake, sponsor, and promote world-class scientific activity aimed at protecting the world's oceans and the species that inhabit them.

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