

## Sea Grant researcher creates Pacific Fishing History Project

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Carmel Finley is a storyteller at heart. These days, some of the stories closest to her heart involve the history of commercial fishing in the Pacific—and with Oregon Sea Grant's help, the longtime journalist-turned-historian hopes to rescue those stories before they vanish in time.

Finley, a lecturer in the Department of History at Oregon State University, has launched the Pacific Fishing History Project, an attempt to unearth the story of the ocean fisheries of the Pacific, and their development in the years after World War II.

"We are at a point when the industry is changing and the science is changing," said Finley. "We need to gather the remnants of what was, before they are gone. We need to get those memories and put it on record: what happened, where, when, and why."

With funding from Oregon Sea Grant, Finley has launched a Web site, <http://oregonstate.edu/pacific-fisheryhistoryproject/>, in hopes of establishing "a virtual community of people interested in the history of fishing throughout the Pacific."

Turning ideas into reality is Oregon Sea Grant in action. The program works to serve the public by supporting research and initiatives that have tangible impacts on society. One way it does that is through Program Development Grants—modest grants of under \$10,000 made available to individuals or



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institutions that need help to get a good idea rolling. Unlike Sea Grant's highly competitive biennial omnibus grants, Program Development Grants are available year round and are typically awarded to projects that address a pressing problem or a gap in present knowledge.

A core element of Dr. Finley's Pacific Fishery History Project is to involve students in piecing together the story of the west coast trawling industry. She intends to expand the project so that students throughout Oregon are involved in interviewing fishermen and their families for their stories.

"I believe the information is out there," said Finley. "People are always willing to talk—old fishing families know who built the boat, they know who the deckhand was.

There used to be a boat yard on every corner in coastal towns."

The project complements Finley's book, *All the Fish in the Sea: Fish, Fisheries Science, and Foreign Policy, 1930–1960*, due out in fall 2011 from the University of Chicago Press. The book examines the role of government fishing policies in the post-WWII expansion of the Pacific fishing industry and investigates how these policies influenced the development of American fisheries science.

Among the other innovative projects that have received Oregon Sea Grant Program Development Grants:

- Elize Granek, of Portland State University, is examining how environmental protection projects at the watershed level might help protect the rocky intertidal from damage.

Dr. Granek hopes her work will inform the process of selecting and designating marine reserve sites.

- Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute's Dr. Markus Horning and Kim Raum-Suryan are analyzing how often sea lions become entangled by debris off the Oregon coast. The researchers hope to determine what materials entangle sea lions so they can develop a way to reduce such occurrences.
- Oregon Sea Grant's Shawn Rowe, an assistant professor in Free-Choice Learning at OSU, is working to promote collaboration between Sea Grant Extension faculty and researchers to broaden the impact of research grants by building outreach components into grant proposals. Rowe is creating a series of Webinars in which Sea Grant faculty can discuss how they can help research-

ers make meaningful impacts on society.

- Mark Zabriskie, a professor of pharmacy at Oregon State University, is investigating chemicals from bacteria on deep-sea vents for potential use in the medical field. His work targets the development of anticancer pharmaceuticals.

*For more information about Sea Grant's Program Development Grants, see <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/funding/programdevelopment.html>. Oregon Sea Grant accepts proposals for Program Development Grants on a rolling basis. If interested, please contact Eric Dickey ([eric.dickey@oregonstate.edu](mailto:eric.dickey@oregonstate.edu); 541-737-2715).*



Visit the Pacific Fishing History Project at <http://oregonstate.edu/pacificfisheryhistoryproject/>.