

2010 MacArthur Fellowship



Kelly Benoit-Bird

Associate Professor,
Biological Oceanography

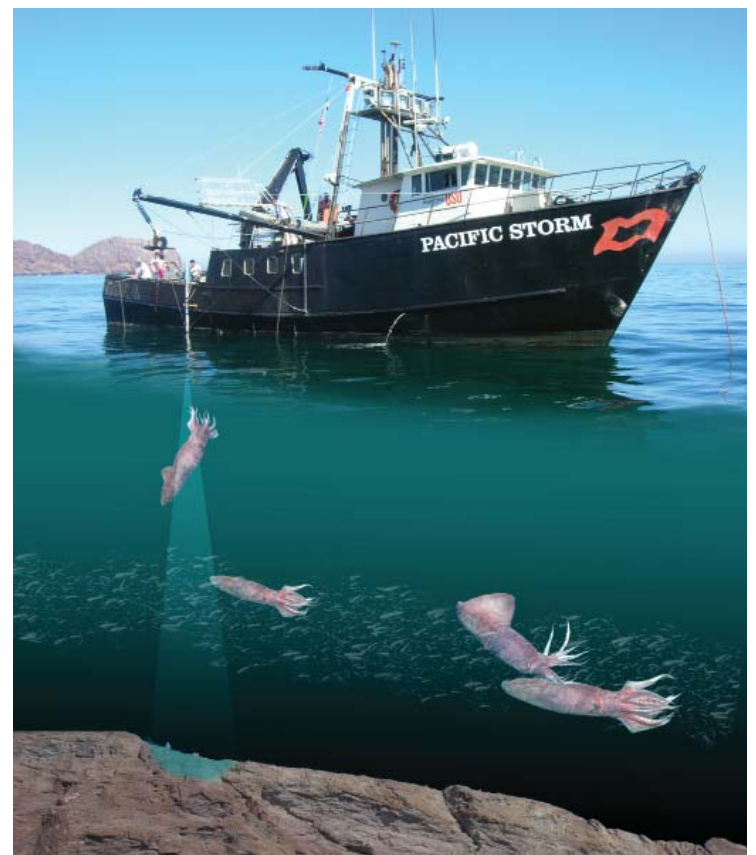
Kelly Benoit-Bird, has been selected as one of 23 recipients nationwide of prestigious 2010 MacArthur Fellowships. Popularly called “Genius Awards,” the fellowships include a \$500,000 stipend to further the recipient’s scholarship. They are presented annually by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Benoit-Bird studies how different marine species from zooplankton to whales relate to each other in marine environments. Her wide-ranging research includes projects on forage fish assemblages in the Bering Sea, schooling behavior of pelagic fish, ecology of jumbo squid in the Gulf of California, predation effects on zooplankton, foraging of dusky dolphins and sperm whale diets.

Much of her work utilizes sophisticated sonars that allow her

to track, for example, the balletic movements of foraging spinner dolphins at night when the use of cameras and lighting would be intrusive and too short in range to be effective. Her innovative uses of sonar in tracking marine creatures from Humboldt squid to spinner dolphins have led to new discoveries about their feeding behavior, movements and even communication.

Benoit-Bird joined OSU in 2004 after receiving her PhD in Zoology from the University of Hawaii. In 2005, Benoit-Bird received the Young Investigator Award from the Office of Naval Research. The next year, she was honored by the White House with a prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. She also has received the Ocean Sciences Early Career Award from the American Geophysical Union, and was honored in 2009 with the R. Bruce Lindsay Award for achievement by the Acoustical Society of America.



“One of the things I enjoy most about being in the interdisciplinary field of oceanography is working as part of a group of scientists whose strengths complement each other, bringing about ideas and results that would not have been possible without teamwork. I have been fortunate to collaborate with wonderful people who both challenge and inspire me.” — Kelly Benoit-Bird