



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2009

CONTACTS:

Nancy Reichley, Education Specialist — 206-685-8302 or sgfellow@u.washington.edu
Dan Williams, Communications Manager — 206-616-6353 or dw7@u.washington.edu

Graduate Students Earn Stints with State through Washington Sea Grant Fellowship Program

Two graduate students, one from the University of Washington (UW) and one from Western Washington University (WWU), will be putting their marine science skills to work for Washington state agencies through Marc Hershman Marine Policy Fellowships.

Jessica Silver, from Seattle, is a master's candidate at the UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and will be working at the Department of Health. Michael Grilliot, from Lancaster, Ohio, is finishing his master's at WWU's Huxley College of the Environment. He will work with the Department of Natural Resources.

Silver's research focuses on microbial ecology and biogeochemistry and examines the effect of the invasive eelgrass *Zostera japonica* on microbial bottom communities and processes in Padilla Bay, Wash. Her research is part of a larger effort to quantify the ecosystem-level impacts of this invasive and help guide management and control strategies. She has conducted research in Hood Canal on the seasonal and spatial changes in the microbial ecology and its relationship to seasonal hypoxia. Her long-term goal is to pursue a career that uses her background in ecology to develop environmental policy.

At the Department of Health, Silver will be monitoring and assessing information about harmful algal blooms on the Washington coast and in Puget Sound. She also will coordinate educational outreach on emerging and historical marine toxins with state, tribal and local health officials.

Grilliot's thesis models sandy beach recession due to sea-level rise on San Juan Island. The model uses sea-level rise scenarios, wave height data and beach profiles to determine how

shorelines will move and change. He hopes the results will be useful to San Juan County coastal planners and stakeholders to plan for the effects of sea-level rise. Grilliot will bring his skills in understanding and interpreting coastal processes and marine environmental policy to the Department of Natural Resources to work on best-use practices for state-owned aquatic lands, submerged vegetation management and marine-reserve management planning. He is interested in a career in coastal research and marine policy.

Silver and Grilliot were among 12 applicants for 2009-2010 Hershman Fellowships. Washington Sea Grant created the fellowships to introduce students to ocean and coastal policy and enable state agencies to benefit from the students' knowledge and experience on those subjects. The nine-month paid fellowship places graduate students with Washington State Caucus agencies in Olympia. In addition to Washington Sea Grant, current members of the State Ocean Caucus include the Governor's Office; Department of Agriculture; Department of Ecology; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development; Department of Health; State Parks and Recreation Commission; and Military Department Emergency Management Division.

The fellowship honors Marc Hershman, who taught coastal and ocean law, seaport management and coastal management at the UW School of Marine Affairs and at the School of Law for more than 30 years. Professor Hershman served on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which recommended broad policies for managing the nation's coastal and ocean areas. He was also an active member of the Ocean Governance Study Group, an alliance of marine policy leaders at academic institutions across the United States. Marc Hershman died in 2008.

Based at the University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant supports marine research and education and works with communities and businesses to manage and protect marine resources. Visit www.wsg.washington.edu.