Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This exercise is worth 2.5 points out of 25 for the project total. If you need help figuring out what data to use, where to get them try two avenues: (i) discuss this proposal with your thesis advisor, and (ii) come to see me in office hours. Ideally, you should have a dataset involving at least 30 observations involving one response variable and at least three explanatory variables measured at the same place or time (120 values total).

To submit this assignment, add your name to the file name and email it back to me (khyrenba@gmail.com) by the end of October 8, using “BIOL 6090 – proposal” as message title.

Your task for completing this project is to analyze a dataset and to report your findings in written and oral format. For this proposal, answer the following questions:

1. Do you have an available dataset? (circle one) Y / N

If you do not, please tell me what inroads you have made to get data and how I can help. Paste relevant web-sites and citations, for reference.

If you do, describe the data you have collected / found online as best you can. Explicitly report the following details (+0.2 each):

* Spatial / temporal coverage of your dataset:

Question: Are you done collecting data or will you sample more in the next month?

(NOTE: If you are sampling more, list separately data in hand / to be collected).

* Sampling method: Are these random / systematic / haphazard samples?

Are the samples aligned along transects / a grid?

Are the same sites are repeatedly sampled over time (time series)?

* Sample sizes (number of samples / variables or species):
* If you have species data, are they: presence / absence / abundance / relative abundance? What is the unit of sampling effort?
* If you have associated environmental data for your samples, list the variables (showing their units) below:
1. Describe your “big picture” rationale for analyzing this dataset:

Briefly outline the empirical / theoretical background that stimulates the analysis, explain what relationships you expect to find, and (if relevant) provide a working hypothesis. Write 200 – 500 words and provide a minimum of 5 references

(+1 point for text and +0.5 points for references).