

NSCI 6900
MASTER'S RESEARCH FOR COURSE CREDIT

Term Spring 2009

Number of Credits: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. David Hyrenbach

MEETING TIME : TBA

STUDENT NAME Pamela E. Michael

TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL FOR STUDENT 360-789-1745 pamela.e.michael@gmail.com

TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL FOR INSTRUCTOR khyrenbach@hpu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION (include problem being addressed, general nature of work done, location of work, other pertinent information)

Pamela Michael will undertake the analysis of a dataset involving five years of vessel-based surveys (2004-2008) off Central California, including environmental variables as well as Black-footed Albatross sightings, as a part of her MS dissertation. The goal of this research project is to explore this comprehensive dataset and to outline the analysis methods / variables for a full analysis with the aim of creating a habitat model capable of albatross distribution given the underlying environmental conditions. The outcomes of this course will be: (i) evaluation of inter-annual variation in environmental conditions and albatross dispersion, (ii) identification of the strength and direction of environmental variables correlated to albatross dispersion as well as any co-relatedness, (iii) mapping albatross abundance and environmental data using Spatial Analyst (ArcMap software), and (iv) development of the analytical methods which Pamela will use for the full analysis of this dataset for MS dissertation defense. Pamela will meet with Dr. Hyrenbach (~4 hr / week) to discuss relevant papers, review analytical approaches and go over research progress and results.

(Print) K. David Hyrenbach (Sign) _____ (Date) Dec 1, 2008
THESIS COMMITTEE CHAIR

(Print) _____ (Sign) _____ (Date) _____
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAMS