

## HPU Tracks Winged Ambassadors Across the Ocean

*Research seeks to raise public awareness of ocean pollution*



*Dr. K. David Hyrenbach, HPU assistant professor of Oceanography, sits with an albatross. Researchers have been tracking movements of albatross with satellite-linked transmitters and mapping distribution of surface pollution in the ocean.*



*Hyrenbach participated in an educational cruise from Oahu to San Francisco over the summer to study the albatross and track pollution.*

To raise public awareness about plastic pollution in the marine environment, the Hawai'i Pacific University Pelagic Ecology

line, styrofoam, and colorful fragments of discarded items are especially attractive."

To better understand where and when seabirds ingest plastic at sea, researchers are

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

"Far-ranging seabirds are valuable samplers of marine debris in the open ocean," said Hyrenbach. "In particular, the charismatic albatross is an ideal ambassador to teach people about the pervasive problem of plastic pollution in the marine environment."

During this summer, researchers tagged albatross from Kure Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and Cordell Bank off central California with lightweight transmitters, to map their migration across the North Pacific Ocean. Albatross are threatened by human activities during these oceanic voyages, including the ingestion of marine debris.

During a cruise from Oahu

fish traps, oyster spacers and light-sticks littered the ocean surface northeast of Hawai'i.

Impacts to the environment from plastic pollution in the open ocean are difficult to measure and manage; however, many studies are documenting that the proportion of discarded consumer items that end up in the ocean is increasing. Through small changes in individual and community waste management behavior, this alarming trend can be reversed.

"Most people do not realize that we are all connected to the albatross – when a person litters, the trash makes its way out to the open ocean by way of rivers and currents," Hyrenbach said. "Ensuring that plastic waste does not make its way into the ocean is

*“Ensuring that plastic waste does not make its way into the ocean is everyone’s responsibility.”*

Lab is investigating the plight of oceanic birds in the North Pacific.

"Albatross and other seabirds ingest large amounts of plastic litter from the sea surface," said Dr. K. David Hyrenbach, HPU assistant professor of Oceanography. "Bottle caps, lighters, plastic

tracking the movements of albatross equipped with satellite-linked transmitters, along with mapping the distribution of surface debris. HPU is partnering with two nonprofits, Oikonos and Sea Education Association, and the State of Hawai'i and other co-managers of the

to San Francisco this summer, Hyrenbach documented a wide array of marine debris, ranging from small fragments of several millimeters to large nets of several meters. Large densities of consumer products such as toothbrushes, bottles, and fishery and aquaculture items including hag-

everyone's responsibility."

To learn more about this ongoing research, visit the HPU Pelagic Ecology lab Web site at: <http://www.pelagicos.net>.

*For more information on the HPU College of Natural Sciences, visit [www.hpu.edu/naturalsciences](http://www.hpu.edu/naturalsciences).*

### Admissions (544-1135)

September 24, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Associated Students of HPU Undergraduate Meeting

September 24, President's Host –

Nominations Due Today

September 24, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., C.I.A. Information Session, Career Services Center

September 25, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Be My Guest - Take Your Professor To Lunch

September 26, Last Day to Drop Classes Without W Grade

September 27, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Vegetarian Club - Welcome Potluck

September 30, 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Reason Club - Weekly Meeting

September 30, 12:00 p.m. – October 1, 11:45 p.m. ASHPU - Student Government Elections for All Undergraduate Students

October 1, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Associated Students of HPU

Undergraduate Government Meetings ASHPU

October 8, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., FBI Information Session

### Sports (356-5278 for information)



#### Cross Country

September 27, 8:00 a.m. BYU-Hawai'i Invitational, Laie

October 11, 4:00 p.m. Hawai'i Pacific University Invitational, Kaneohe

October 25, 8:00 a.m. Pac West Conference Tournament, Laie

#### Men's Soccer

September 27, 1:30 p.m. Men's Soccer versus UH-Hilo

October 9, 3:30 p.m. Men's Soccer versus BYU-Hawaii

#### Women's Soccer

September 27, 3:30 p.m. Women's Soccer versus UH-Hilo

September 28, 11:00 a.m. Women's Soccer versus Mesa State

October 9, 1:30 p.m. Women's Soccer versus BYU-Hawaii

#### Volleyball

September 26, 7:00 p.m., @ BYU-Hawai'i  
October 1, 7:00 p.m., @ Cal State Monterey Bay

October 3, 7:00 p.m., @ Notre Dame de Namur



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