**DIVERGENT POSTBREEDING SPATIAL PATTERNS OF SYMPATRIC ALBATROSS SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC**

Dallas Jordan\*1, Scott Shaffer2(scott.shaffer@sjsu.edu), Melinda Conners1(melinda.conners@stonybrook.edu), and Lesley Thorne1(lesley.thorne@stonybrook.edu)

1) School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11773, USA (\*presenter: dallas.jordan@stonybrook.edu)

2) Biological Sciences, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192-0100, USA

Understanding the at-sea movements of wide-ranging seabird species is essential for conservation and management efforts. Laysan (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) and black-footed albatross (*P. nigripes*) face heightened mortality during the nonbreeding phase of their annual cycle, particularly due to incidental by-catch in fisheries. Habitat use of these species during the breeding period is well-described; however, distributions during this critical nonbreeding period are less understood. Improved understanding of albatross distributions during the nonbreeding phase may provide insights into drivers of foraging behavior and habitat use. Between 2008-2012, we deployed geolocation devices on Laysan (n=81) and black-footed albatrosses (n=58) from two colonies in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands - Midway Atoll and Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals. Location estimates derived using a probabilistic algorithm were used to characterize at-sea distributions. We generated kernel density estimates from modeled locations and defined habitat use using the 95th density contour. Utilization distribution overlap indices of the 95th contour were compared between species, years, and colonies. Trip characteristics of nonbreeding migrations differed between species and colonies, and we found interspecies spatial segregation to persist into the nonbreeding phase both within and between colonies. Population-level metrics such as the degree of overlap between the two species and geographic patterns of space-use showed low consistency across years. This preliminary work will increase our understanding of the spatial patterns and habitat use of Laysan and black-footed albatross during a critical, but often overlooked, phase in their annual cycle.

**Topic:** Tracking & Distribution