**Divergent postbreeding spatial characteristics of sympatric albatross species in the North Pacific**

Dallas Jordan\*1, Scott Shaffer2, Melinda Conners1, and Lesley Thorne1

1) School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11773, USA

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. While foraging at sea during the nonbreeding phase of their annual migratory cycle, Laysan (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) and Black-footed Albatross (*P. nigripes*) face heightened mortality, particularly due to incidental by-catch of fisheries. While habitat use and foraging behavior of these species during the breeding period is well-described, data characterizing spatial distributions during this critical nonbreeding period is more limited. An improved understanding of spatial distributions during the nonbreeding phase may provide insights into drivers of foraging behavior and habitat use of these species. Here, we present geolocator data and on nonbreeding at-sea distributions of sympatrically breeding Laysan and Black-footed Albatross from Midway Atoll and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands between 2008-2012 and consider the degree to which foraging area segregation persists into the nonbreeding period. We generated kernel density estimates for modeled tracks and calculated the utilization distribution overlap index at the 95th distributional contour between species across all years and breeding sites. Preliminary results show that key summary trip characteristics such as trip duration and maximum range differed between species and breeding colonies, and that interspecies spatial segregation persists to a high degree both within and between breeding site populations. Within and among species comparisons of overlap indices during nonbreeding revealed significant interannual changes in foraging behavior. We observed that not only do degrees of overlap vary annually, but that the winter foraging grounds accessed by both species show high degrees of variability. Our research helps characterize foraging behavior and habitat use of Laysan and Black-footed albatross, as well as highlights the changes in habitats accessed between species and colony sites during the nonbreeding period.