Environmental Studies

Assignment Description Form

Organization/Agency: US Geological Survey

Supervisor/Sponsor: Dr. Josh Adams

Supervisor/Sponsor title: Research Biologist

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Describe the internship assignment: Brief statement about the agency; role of the intern and specific objectives of the projects assigned to the intern; tasks to be performed.

The USGS seabird biology team in Santa Cruz is a branch of the USGS Western Ecological Research Center. Our research focuses on various aspects of seabird ecology, including seabird movement at sea. Understanding seabird movements is a complex problem due to the wide-ranging nature, long distances covered over foraging trips, and complicated at-sea behaviors of many species. Since the late 1970’s technology has been used to monitor seabird movement and behavior. Seabirds can now be equipped with a wide range of data loggers and location trackers in order to provide more complex information on seabird movement patterns, environmental conditions, and potential overlap between seabirds and anthropogenic threats such as offshore wind energy infrastructure.

We are asking for assistance in an on-going research project to examine past and present literature on seabird behavior and, in doing so, highlight how this research has developed through time. Of primary interest was uncovering trends in methodologies used to study seabird individuals and populations at sea. As an intern with our group, you will conduct literature searches and compile data on seabird behaviors, and the technology used to track such behaviors. You will learn database management in Microsoft Access, and expand upon our current Access database. You will also be encouraged to pursue aspects of the project that are of personal interest. While working with our group you will have the opportunity to connect with seabird biologists in the area and potentially foster relationships that could lead to future internships and work opportunities.

Prerequisites: Outline the skills and background information necessary to participate in this internship.

- Interest in marine biology, specifically seabird ecology
- Interest in scientific methods, and how methodologies develop through time
- Interest and/or experience in database management and Microsoft Access
- Experience in reading and analyzing scientific research papers
- Experience in using online search engines to find scientific papers (ISI Web of Science, Scopus, Jstor, etc.)

# of interns needed/Hours worked per intern: Fall Winter Remove your listing by
1 / 160 Spring Summer X Or keep on file for one year