

Dr. Leigh Torres leads the Geospatial Ecology of Marine Megafauna Lab (GEMM Lab; <http://mmi.oregonstate.edu/gemm-lab>) at OSU and is seeking a qualified master's student to undertake a collaborative and multi-disciplinary project that will examine the spatial ecology of California sea lions and their prey off the Oregon and Washington coasts. Candidates should have strong analytical skills or the interest in gaining these skills. Previous experience with GIS and R are a plus. Applicants should also be interested in ecology, conservation, and outreach.



Photo by Craig Hayslip

You will:

Work with a diverse group of scientists, learn valuable spatial ecology tools, and conduct research on a pressing conservation issue to answer these questions:

- What patterns in the ocean influence the distribution of California sea lions?
- Does the distribution of sea lions match the distribution of their prey?
- Do predator and prey distribution patterns change with oceanographic shifts?
- How will climate change impact the ecology of sea lion predators and their prey?

Interested students should send a cover letter, CV, GRE scores and unofficial copies of transcripts to Dr. Torres (leigh.torres@oregonstate.edu). Enrollment will start January 2015.

This project is funded by the Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (www.umes.edu/lmrcsc). The mission of the LMRCSC is to conduct research congruent with the mission of NOAA fisheries. The Center aims to recruit students from under-represented groups and train them in marine & fisheries science for careers in research and management.