

Biomonitoring Environmental Contaminants in Pacific Seabirds and Marine Mammals

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has been involved in environmental specimen banking since 1979 through various sponsored programs. In 2010, NIST expanded its' biodiversity banking capabilities and resources to the Pacific Island region.

The Seabird Tissue Archival and Monitoring Project (STAMP) component of the Marine Environmental Specimen Bank collects eggs from various species including Laysan and black-footed albatross. Eggs were collected in 2010-2011 from various regions around the main Hawaiian Islands and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. These samples were analyzed for mercury and persistent organic pollutants.

The NOAA sponsored Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP) has historically collected tissues for the National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank (NMMTB) and coverage has expanded to Hawaiian cetacean species and Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*). These samples were analyzed for essential and toxic non-essential trace element concentrations.