

## Alana Alexander



Hailing from Auckland, New Zealand, Alana Alexander completed both her Bachelor of Science (Honors) degrees at the University of Auckland in biological sciences, with the support of several scholarships provided by the university and its alumni association. Her honors thesis investigated causes of low mitochondrial DNA diversity in the long-finned pilot whale, a species which often becomes stranded (beached) on or around the coast of New Zealand.

With the support of a 2008 International Fulbright Science and Technology Award, Alana is pursuing doctoral study at Oregon State University looking at the population genetics and evolution of the sperm whale. She is using a unique set of

non-lethal biopsy samples obtained during the five-year Voyage of the Odyssey, which were collected in order to look at baseline levels of pollutants in the world's oceans. Currently, Alana is based at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, where she is a member of the Hatfield Student's Organization.