TITLE:
“Feasibility of cleaning oil from sea bird feathers using sea water”

APPLICANTS INFORMATION:

Principal Investigator:
Kerri Morgan *New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Massey University, Private Bag 11 222, Palmerston North 4442, NZ. Telephone +64-21-241 4227, email: K.J.Morgan@massey.ac.nz*

Co-investigators:
Helen McConnell *New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North, NZ*
Brett Gartrell *New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North, NZ*
Bill Dwyer *Dwyertech Services Limited, Palmerston North, NZ*

HYPOTHESIS:
That cleaning oiled feathers in seawater causes changes to feather structure.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To subjectively assess the effect that cleaning feathers in sea water has on waterproofing properties of sea bird feathers
2. To objectively quantify changes to feather structure following cleaning in seawater using light microscopy
3. To objectively evaluate feather structure following cleaning in seawater using electron microscopy, in particular to detect any crystalline particles forming on the barbules.