**Dissertation - Written (PhD – Marine Science) Assessment Rating Scale – (PhD Outcome 3)**

Ranking will be based upon a five point scale (5 = Exemplary, 4 = Strong, 3 = Competent, 2 = Marginal, 1 = Unacceptable). The minimum successful score will be “Competent” or better from a majority of the Committee, with no score being “Unacceptable”.

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| **Student:** | **Date:** |
| **Committee Member:** | |

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|  | **Rating** | | | | |  |
| **Dissertation Sections** | **5**  **Exemplary** | **4**  **Strong** | **3**  **Competent** | **2**  **Marginal** | **1**  **Unaccept.** | **Comments** |

**Abstract**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Abstract contains a concise statement of the problem, significance of the study, and general description of the objectives and research approach. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Introduction**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The purpose of the study is described in a logical, explicit manner. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clearly demonstrates that the focus of the study is on a significant problem that is worthy of study. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The nature of the study, specific research question, hypotheses or research objectives are briefly and clearly described. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Literature Review**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The content of the review is drawn from acceptable peer-reviewed journals or sound academic journals or there is justification for using other sources. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The review is an integrated, critical essay on the most relevant and current published knowledge on the topic. The review is organized around major ideas or themes. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The review of related research and literature is clearly related to the research questions, hypothesis, or objectives |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The review of related research and literature includes:   1. Comparisons/contrasts of different points of view or different research outcomes 2. Relationship of the study to previous research |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Methodology**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Introduction describes how the research design derives logically from the stated problem. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The sample collection process and rationale are clearly defined. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The process by which the data were generated and treated is clearly described. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| How and when the data were collected and analyzed is articulated. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Results and Discussion (Separate Sections)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The results build logically from the problem and research design, and are presented in a manner that addresses the research questions. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A detailed discussion of the results logically explains the data collected. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Patterns and relationships described as findings are supported by the data. All salient data are accounted for in the findings. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Provides a brief summary of the research findings that can be drawn from the study. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Contains implications of the study and articulates the need for future research. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Holistic Assessments**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Dissertation:   1. follows a standard form and has a professional scholarly appearance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. is written with correct grammar, punctuation and spelling |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. includes appropriate citations |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. is written in a scholarly language that is clear and precise |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. is logically organized |  |  |  |  |  |  |