After three years of working abroad and witnessing the increasing threats plaguing the marine realm whilst travelling, I yearned for improved insight and understanding of the challenges and current status of the world’s oceans. With a degree in Zoology and a keen interest in marine biology I chose the MEM course at the University of York to fulfil this desire. One of the most appealing aspects of this course for me was the array of module options we could pick and choose from to tailor to our own interests. The idea of statistics and GIS—spatial analysis was a particularly daunting notion for me but the module content and the lecturers were absolutely fantastic. I didn’t ever anticipate doing the spatial analysis module (optional module), let alone completing the course and continuing to do my dissertation on it. The effort and focus of every class was brilliant and encouraged a sense of enthusiasm and interest. Similar emphasis should be stressed for all course options I chose. Every class I attended was remarkably insightful and the level of professionalism demonstrated by the lecturers was very inspiring. The open door policy exhibited by all the lecturers in the department was something that really made the world of difference. The ease of being able to walk into your supervisor’s office when stress levels reach max really helped to cool things down and refocus my attention. This support was something I know all of the class members really appreciated since this is an intense course where time management is paramount. The opportunities made possible through the MEM course have been so rewarding, receiving both theoretical knowledge and practical experience in the field. In addition each module provides an opportunity to work independently and within a group with well-informed feedback to help develop skills in both spheres. Overall the modules I chose for this degree were very interesting and built on a lot of the background knowledge I had gained through my undergraduate degree. What I have learnt through this course has truly inspired a sense of increased enthusiasm and with this newly acquired understanding I am even more encouraged to use these new skills and knowledge to help work towards protecting and conserving the natural resources of the marine realm.