

MASTS Fisheries Science Forum Grant Report

FSSG11 Title: Analysis of smooth-hound discards in Scottish waters

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I attended the Fisheries Society of the British Isles 2015 conference, which took place from the 27th to the 31st of July at the University of Plymouth. This year, the symposium was on the “Biology, ecology and conservation of elasmobranchs”. The aim of this conference was to bring together scientists interested in the study of various aspects relating to elasmobranchs, such as biological characteristics, evolutionary and ecological relationships, as well as conservation and management.

The meeting covered many different topics, which were structured into nine different themes: genomics and molecular biology; developmental biology and evolutionary ecology; physiology and adaptations to changing environments; movements, behaviour and habitat use; population genetics, structure and distributions including phylogeography; ecological relationships, community and food web ecology; fisheries biology, ecology and management; conservation; methodological advances (e.g. biotelemetry/biologging, molecular markers). My poster presentation was entitled “Analysis of smooth-hound (*Mustelus* spp.) discards in the Scottish fishing fleet” and was presented as part of the theme “Fisheries biology, ecology and management”.

Attending this conference enabled me to gain a good sense of the elasmobranch research that is currently being undertaken in various parts of the world. Additionally, it allowed me to network with other shark scientists and establish future collaborations, which will be greatly beneficial to my PhD project.

I would like to thank MASTS for the financial support that enabled me to attend the 2015 annual symposium of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles.

