MASTS Travel Grant Report – NoWPaS 2024

MASTS was kind enough to give me a travel grant of £200 to attend NoWPaS, an International network for early career salmonid researchers hosted this year in Cromarty Scotland, with delegates coming from across Europe and North America. This was a brilliant opportunity to discuss science and learn from researchers working on all forms of salmonid in very different environments.

The MASTS grant not only covered my flights to Inverness but also my hotel the evening before the conference started and alleviated the strain this conference would have placed on my thinly stretched research budget.

The conference was hugely beneficial for me, key notes delivered by Colin Adams, Thomas Bohn, Sam Beck, and Amy Elison expanded my knowledge of migration paths of Scottish salmon and how widespread and severe sea lice can be on Salmon and trout in Norway. I am currently working on understanding sea trout growth in Norway so this talk and a latter discussion with the speaker were hugely informative in how sea lice may be affecting and indeed reducing growth experienced by sea trout in Norway.

Furthermore due to the varied backgrounds of delegates I was able to meet with and chat to salmon fisheries managers and gain a much more practical understanding of what we know and where science needs to be focussed in order to achieve management outcomes.

Finally I presented my work looking at tracking brown trout movements throughout their life history, helping develop key presenting skills in a friendly setting while also engaging with the other delegates over how best to tackle and some of the issues I am facing to take forward this research.

Overall attendance of this conference gave me a brilliant networking opportunity with great scientists working in my field developing my network of potential collaborators. Indeed I found the event so useful I have volunteered to be on the organising committee next year and would like to thank MASTS again for facilitating my attendance of this event.