

Forecasting and anticipating effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture (ClimeFish) - a H2020 proposal.

Alan Baudron (University of Aberdeen) recently benefited from MASTS PEER funds to support the cost of a consortium meeting in Copenhagen on 28th-29th November 2014. The consortium, led by the Mátis Institute in Iceland, is developing a project proposal (ClimeFish) to answer the recent call by the European Commission for research projects under the topic “Blue growth: Unlocking the potential of Seas and Oceans” (part of the Horizon 2020 funding programme, under the sub-call H2020-BG-2014-2015).

The ClimeFish project aims to investigate and anticipate the impact of climate change on European fisheries and aquaculture. It will examine the effects of the change in temperature and other climatic variables on several relevant case studies across Europe in both marine and freshwater environments, develop common concepts to assess the associated risks and opportunities, and forecast the implications for European fisheries and aquaculture which will ultimately allow for applying appropriate policies to maximise the use of aquatic resources.

The ClimeFish consortium involves two MASTS partners: the University of Aberdeen represented by Dr Paul Fernandes and Dr Alan Baudron, and the University of Stirling. The role of the University of Aberdeen within the ClimeFish project will be: (i) to examine the impact of the fast rising temperature on the North Sea ecosystem and commercial species, (ii) to predict the challenges and opportunities for the North Sea fisheries using ecosystem models, (iii) and to apply a management strategy evaluation to identify the best possible policy to maximise the production of the North Sea fisheries.

The MAST PEER funds allowed Alan Baudron to attend this consortium meeting by covering the cost of a return plane ticket to Copenhagen, a hotel room for one night, subsistence for two days and train/bus travels. Thanks to this MASTS initiative, the University of Aberdeen could be represented in person during the project proposal meeting.