

PEER funding awarded to Niall G Fallon (University of Aberdeen)

MASTS PEER funding was awarded to Niall G Fallon (University of Aberdeen) in July 2016 in order to travel to and attend a Horizon 2020 application planning meeting in Madrid, Spain. A consortium of 26 partners (universities, research institutions, and enterprises) was assembled and led by Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, the Spanish National Research Council) to develop an application for funding under the research topic “Advancing basic biological knowledge and improving management tools for commercially important fish and other seafood species” under the project title IMPROFISH.

IMPROFISH was designed to improve fisheries management for commercial fish and shellfish as well as the long-term performance of fisheries in European seas, by closing biological and socioeconomic knowledge gaps. These aims were to be achieved using innovative, multidisciplinary approaches to deliver better scientific management advice and enhanced data collection, stock assessment and management implementation, to facilitate European and global food security.

The proposal, which was refined during the Madrid meeting, outlined a project composed of five work packages (filling knowledge gaps, improved assessment, improved management, project impact assessment and benchmarking, stakeholder engagement and knowledge transfer) which would incorporate nine case study species across European waters. This would ensure the development of knowledge which is practically applied to current areas of difficulty/interest to management, while addressing key goals of the EU Common Fisheries Policy such as the implementation of Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management. There was also a strong emphasis on co-creation and the practical concerns of key fishery stakeholder groups.