

### **PEER Funds for Clive Fox and Paul Fernandes**

MASTS PEER funds recently supported Clive Fox (SAMS) and Paul Fernandes (University of Aberdeen) to attend a Horizons 2020 planning meeting in Hamburg Germany. The consortium, led by the Thünen Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries, is developing a proposal for the recent call on the impacts of the Discards Ban on European fisheries. The Discards Ban is a key part of the reform of the European Common Fisheries Policy and is the response to the high-profile public campaigns to end the practice of discarding in the fisheries. Discards arise for a number of reasons including lack of allocated fishing quota, catching under-sized fish and catching fish with low market value. Under the discards ban (technically called the landings obligation), fishers will be required to land to port all the fish (but only those species managed by quota) that they catch. There are also a number of rather complex exemptions and adjustments to this rule the consequences of which need to be examined.

Discards can be reduced by a number of approaches (i) changes in fishing practice, for example moving away from areas with high catches of unwanted fish (ii) improved gear modifications to avoid catching unwanted fish in the first instance (iii) finding alternative uses for unwanted catches which cannot be avoided and need to be brought ashore. The proposed project will examine each of these issues.