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MASTS Small Grant Report SG168

To Present PhD Research at the International Temperate Reefs Symposium, 12th-17th January 2014.

The MASTS Small Grant provided financial support for me to attend the 10th International Temperate Reefs Symposium (ITRS) in Perth, Western Australia. With 190 delegates from 25 countries, the ITRS was a great opportunity for me to present my PhD research to an international audience. The symposium covered topics ranging from biogenic reefs, ocean acidification, rocky reef ecology and man made structures. I presented my research during the “Environmental and biological drivers of ecological function” session.

For my oral presentation titled, “**Deposition on a biogenic reef and the impact of temperature**” I was able to explain how this project involved a collaboration between Heriot-Watt University and the Scottish Association for Marine Science as part of a MASTS PhD project. This aspect of my PhD was initially started at Heriot-Watt University, working with the Scientific Dive Team, and continued at SAMS using the aquarium facilities there. I was therefore able to promote the benefits of being part of the MASTS community in terms of my research and outputs.



The introduction to my presentation on biogenic reef deposition

I also took part in the poster presentation session, presenting a different part of my PhD. My poster, “**The functional role of a horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) reef as a habitat for the common whelk *Buccinum undatum***” received a great deal of interest from others in this field of research and the poster session was the perfect opportunity to discuss my work.

Attending the ITRS was a brilliant experience for me and provided excellent networking opportunities. I met a number of research staff and students that I will stay in contact with, and potentially collaborate with in the future. I am grateful to MASTS for contributing towards the cost of the conference and making it possible for me to attend.