

**SG209 Title: Support for attending 10th International sea lice conference, Portland Maine (Amount requested: £500)**

Portland, Maine was the location of the 10<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the international sea lice conference, which was attended by some 200 academics between the 31<sup>st</sup> August – 5<sup>th</sup> September. The aim of the meeting was the sharing the most recent developments in the multidisciplinary fields of sea lice science. Sea lice are an ectoparasite species which costs the Salmon farming industry in Scotland of some €30 - €40M y<sup>-1</sup>. Much of the control of sea lice is through the use of veterinary medicines, and production procedures. However, there is increasing incidences of reduced efficacy of medicinal treatments requiring alternative methods of control.

The meeting was structured in to the themes of: new tools and approaches for integrated pest management; epidemiology, modelling and analysis; sea louse biology; use of chemotherapeutics, modes of action, targets and resistance; sea lice in wild and farmed fish populations; host immune responses and sea louse immune-modulation. With the financial support of MASTS, I had the opportunity to co-chair the epidemiology session which contained presentations describing dispersal modelling studies in Norway and Chile, and also chemical resistance modelling. I also presented the results of Marine Scotland's sea lice modelling study undertaken in loch Linnhe. Furthermore, I presented two posters relating to oceanographic requirements for sea lice modelling and using management data for epidemiology purposes

The conference provided a perfect opportunity not only to learn about the fascinating developments in sea lice research but to develop new contacts and discuss possible future collaborations with researchers from around the globe.

I would like to thank MASTS for the financial support that facilitated my attendance at the 10th International Sea Lice Conference in Portland, Maine, USA.

