



European Workshop for PhD and Post-Doctoral fellows on *Salmo salar* & *Salmo trutta* Research

7th - 10th April 2015, Galway, Ireland.

The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway (www.theardilaunhotel.ie)

Report for financial partners

The NoWPaS network

NoWPaS stands for International - formerly known as Nordic - workshop of PhD and post-doctoral researchers working on anadromous salmonids. The annual workshops aim to build and maintain an international network of young scientists working on migratory salmonids, such as Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). The workshops have helped facilitate the sharing and dissemination of salmonid science. They have also been instrumental in initiating new international collaborations, as well as in identifying novel and timely research topics for the coming years.

The first NoWPaS workshop was held in 2005 in Norway, and was followed by others in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, England, Scotland, France and Wales. Although it started out as an initiative for Nordic researchers, it quickly expanded to cover all of Europe and has now become a global meeting, with Canadian and US early stage researchers regularly attending.

The 2015 NoWPaS workshop

For the first time since its creation, we were excited to bring the 11th NoWPaS workshop to Ireland. The workshop was hosted by the National University of Ireland, Galway. The workshop was also based in Galway, located on the west coast of Ireland by the shores of Lough Corrib, known for its brown trout and salmon angling fishery. There is a long tradition of salmon fishing in Ireland, and salmon have a significant role in Irish culture and mythology. The decline of salmonids in Ireland and across their range has resulted in a significant amount of scientific research on these species in order to develop effective conservation strategies. Ireland is committed to continuing this research and developing relationships within the scientific community.

This 2015 NoWPaS workshop comprised 18 PhD students/post-doctoral researchers and 4 invited speakers. The invited speakers were Ian Fleming (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Paul Kemp (University of Southampton), Dorte Bekkevold (Technical University of Denmark) and Philip McGinnity (University College Cork).

There were 6 delegate sessions: Habitat and Environment, Genetics and Molecular Biology, Behaviour and Physiology (two sessions) and Migration and Movement (also two sessions). Many of the presentations were related to the mitigation of anthropogenic migration barriers, highlighting this as a research area of current great importance. Once again, the workshop provided a platform for networking at an international level, not only with fellow early stage researchers, but also with world renowned keynotes.

The NoWPaS AGM was also held in Galway. It was decided that the 2016 meeting would be held in Canada, hosted by the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Quebec. This is the first time the workshop will be held outside Europe; further confirmation that the network is now truly global.

The total budget for the 2015 workshop was £9,657.00

Acknowledgments

One of the main principles of this workshop is that it is free to attend for all participants (keynote speakers included). Transport costs are covered for the invited scientists and greatly subsidised for the majority of delegates. To our knowledge, no early stage researcher has ever been unable to attend a NoWPaS workshop due to financial constraints. This is something we are extremely proud of and this principle would not be possible without the generous support of all our sponsors, shown below.

NoWPaS 2015 has been made a possibility largely in thanks to the dedication of the organising committee who have contributed their time and efforts to ensuring the continuation and success of the workshop. However, the workshop would not be possible without the contributions of the delegates whose presence and support is the lifeblood of the network. Further thanks go to keynote speakers for their oral presentations and for giving up their time to participate and interact with the network.

