

**Re: SG398 Title: Specialist equipment for microplastics extraction (Amount requested: £3,000.00)**

Awarded 8 June 2017

Dr Angela Capper

ICIT, Heriot-Watt University, Back Road, Stromness, Orkney KW 15 3AW

The award allowed for the purchase of a Purair P20 Ductless Fume Hood and filters (total cost including VAT was £3,366.00) through Air Science Technologies.

The fume hood was utilised by Dr Capper and two students for their MSc projects. The projects looked at microplastics in Orkney fauna (six species of Cnidaria and Ctenophores; and three species of commercially important crabs). The fume hood provided a 'clean' air environment to determine the presence of microplastics in tissues. Both studies are currently being drafted for publication. The fume hood will continue to be utilised by Dr Capper to look at microplastics in seal gut contents and seal prey items (in association with the Dr Andrew Brownlow at the Marine Mammals Stranding Network and Dr Ailsa Hall at St. Andrews University). Student projects will also capitalise on the fume hood presence for further projects on microplastics and for any chemical work carried out in the laboratory.