

MASTS Small grant scheme report

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The 2012 Ocean Sciences Meeting, jointly organised by the American Geophysical Union, the Association for Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography and The Oceanography Society, took place at the Salt Palace Convention Centre, Salt Lake City, Utah from the 20th – 24th February 2012.

The meeting included over 3000 oral and poster presentations and five plenary presentations. With up to 14 parallel sessions, this is the largest marine-focused conference worldwide, making it an ideal networking opportunity. In addition to the presentations there were also a number of lunchtime and evening workshops and discussions ranging from careers advice, public outreach and future scientific strategies.

I was lucky enough to have an oral presentation in a session dedicated to 'The response of marine calcifiers to global climate change and ocean acidification'. The session was very well attended, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase my work to a large audience. I presented work from my PhD research where I have predicted future biogeochemical changes in the coastal ocean around eastern Canada given projected increases in hurricane frequency. The talk was well received with some great questions, comments and discussion.



Some specific meeting highlights for me were:

- The plenary lectures, particularly from Dr Kelly Benoit-Bird, 'Causes and consequences of heterogeneity of organisms in the ocean: from phytoplankton to dolphins'
- Sessions dedicated to phytoplankton fluorescence and chemical signalling – particularly relevant to my PhD research
- The mixer and poster events for networking opportunities

I would like to thank MASTS for their kind financial support that contributed towards my travel costs. This funding gave me the opportunity to present my research to an international audience, promoting myself as an individual but also as a member of the MASTS community.