CAPOD Funding Report

Please complete this report and submit by email to your authorising signature from your School/Unit and capod@st-andrews.ac.uk

Personal details will not form part of the uploaded report to CAPOD webpage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event /Course Title</th>
<th>International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Annual Science Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of event</td>
<td>18-21 September 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) is a global organization comprised of representatives from 20 member countries on both sides of the North Atlantic. The mission of the organization is to increase scientific knowledge and understanding of the marine environment and use this to provide unbiased advice on policy and management of marine resources. I presented a poster at this year’s ICES Annual Science Conference summarizing my Masters dissertation in which I developed a technique for using 3D photogrammetry to estimate the biomass of epifauna/flora in the context of North Sea oil and gas decommissioning.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

I attended a workshop for early career scientists on effectively communicating your research to the public. This workshop highlighted multiple tools and techniques (including social media, stakeholder engagement, and interpersonal communication) for communicating science and the importance and applications thereof while engaging and building connections with an audience. Building these skills is increasingly important for scientists at all career stages as public interest in and understanding of science has been eroded by biased and/or unreliable content.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

Attending this conference has given me exposure to a wide range of current marine science research and the applications thereof. I also have a much better sense of which institutions are performing research that is related to my work and of interest to me. This knowledge will inform my career path and future education. I have also discussed the application of my work with other researchers, contact that may lead to future collaboration or knowledge exchange.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).

I received a great deal of interest and positive feedback on my project, both in the poster session as well as questions following my mini-talk. Several contacts approached me to chat about continuing my work or how to apply the technique I developed to their work.
Social media coverage of the conference can be found on Twitter using #ICESASC17.

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

I got a lot of practice in effectively communicating the subject and application of my research in a short time span and in a way that is accessible to people not familiar with the techniques. While travelling to the conference, I learned that I had been allotted a 5 minute time slot to give a brief talk summarizing my poster. This gave me practice dealing with ambiguity, as well as preparing/practicing a talk on short notice. I also feel I learned a lot about networking and “how to conference” that is transferable to my future academic and professional career. My only previous conference experience was overwhelming and intimidating. I had a very different experience this time and found that people were encouraging of early career scientists like myself and were quite happy to discuss their (and my) work.

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

This event felt very welcoming to early career scientists. There were several events and programs specifically for early career scientists, including a communications workshop, and a conference mentoring program to aid in networking with the international marine science community. The conference also provided an excellent opportunity to see how the themes of my degree program (the intersection of marine science and ecosystem management) are implemented in the “real world”. I would certainly recommend the ICES ASC to other marine science students!