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

The European Elasmobranch Association hosts an annual conference each year in a member country providing a high-profile discussion and a presentation forum in the elasmobranch science and conservation context. It is a meeting forum for all European researchers currently involved or interested in the research of elasmobranch fishes with a focus on managing them effectively with the goal of conservation.

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

The conference provided an opportunity for me to network with other researchers working within the field of elasmobranchs. This allowed for discussion on how I can develop, both in terms of new collaborations but also novel and new analytical approaches to existing data.

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

After discussion with colleagues at the meeting how to frame my research for publication, I will be aiming to produce a publication based on feedback from my talk. Getting feedback from a community of researchers working in the same area has proved invaluable in helping me direct my focus with regards to disseminating the results from my research.

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).

No post conference material has been produced and there was no book of abstracts.

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

I found presenting a piece of work that I was a little unsure about and required feedback on was beneficial as colleague direction really helped me in clarifying how best to frame the work for publication. I would have found presenting a perfectly ‘polished’ piece of work less beneficial at this time.

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

For me, it has been important to attend the same conference over multiple years as this has allowed me to continually develop a strong international network and helped me develop my research based on the latest field specific techniques. It is also an invaluable forum to discuss my work with others in the same field, helping me to maintain enthusiasm and passion for my subject.