

NZMSS – First Overseas Conference Travel Fund

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) conference overview:

This past month, I was given the opportunity to present a 15 minute presentation at the CERF conference that was held in San Diego, California, USA. The CERF conference hosted over 1000 delegates that represented over 30 countries, making it an ideal platform to interact with scientists in my field from all over the world. The conference covered many estuarine topics which were highly relevant to my research area, in particular the session titled “Resilience in Coastal Ecosystems, Part 3: Resiliency of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and the Services they Provide”. This session was also highly relevant to New Zealand, as New Zealand coastal and marine ecosystems are subject to similar pressures than those experienced globally. My research linked in very well with this theme and I presented on the impact of detrital matter on the biodiversity of estuarine systems and function or services they provide. I met many international as well as New Zealand scientists at the conference, and it was interesting to see that research from all over the world focus on similar key questions. I also had the opportunity to go on a fieldtrip and visited the Birch Aquarium and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Overall, I really enjoyed the conference and my time in San Diego.

I would like to sincerely thank the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society for the financial contribution that they made that enabled me to attend the CERF conference this year. The presentation experience I gained and the opportunity I had to network was invaluable and I am very grateful to have had this experience.

Sincerely,

Clarisse Niemand