

NZMSS – First Overseas Conference Travel Fund

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I would like to thank NZMSS for the valued assistance in attending my first overseas international conference. I have been a Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) member for a few years now, and feel as though I am constantly reading articles from the journal “Estuaries and Coasts”. When the conference came up, I was very excited to attend, and hear from some of the scientists working in coastal and estuarine ecology.

The conference was a great experience! I was able to present my studies of sediment erodibility within New Zealand estuaries to an international audience. Although nervous, I delivered my research investigating: *Interactions between microphytobenthos and macrofauna regulate intertidal sediment stability*. After the talk a few people asked questions. It was nice to be asked questions so specific to my research; they were well thought out, and it felt good to be able to answer them. Because this conference was so specific, I was able to go into a lot of detail and it really felt great to have people understand and show interest in my research! It was also wonderful to meet the students and scientists conducting research similar to my own and be able to discuss new ideas.

My favourite part of the conference was attending talks from other scientists. The most difficult part was deciding which talks to attend. Some of the sessions relevant to my research included: *the ecology of macrobenthos and sediment, hydrodynamics and sediment dynamics in estuaries and coastal seas, the ecology of benthic ecosystems, and biophysical interactions*. While listening to other talks I was able to see how my research fits in and is applicable on a global scale. I was also really interested on how different states in the US and different countries had some distinct objectives in terms of management goals and priority issues that shaped some of the research topics. In the end I was very impressed and happy to represent New Zealand at the conference.

Again, I would like to thank NZMSS for the support. I really appreciate the experience, and I hope that NZMSS will continue the travel fund to provide other students with this opportunity!