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4th International Conference on the Effect of Noise on Aquatic Life

Dublin, Ireland 10-15 July 2016

I was very fortunate to be awarded the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society First Overseas Conference Travel Award in 2016. The funding allowed me to attend and present both a speed oral presentation and poster on the 'sounds and acoustic localisation of feeding work-ups' at the 4th International Conference on the Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life in Dublin, Ireland.

This international conference happens once every three years and is at forefront of underwater sound ecology, making it so worthwhile for me to have attended as a young researcher. The conference brought together over 300 scientists, policy makers and industry professionals to discuss the contemporary topic of effect of noise on invertebrates, fish and marine mammals alike. During the week, there were 4 invited papers, 65 talks and 60 speed talks as well as 155 posters on display. I relished the opportunity to attend all presented topics with just one concurrent session for all delegates as well as to interact with other researchers during the poster sessions. I particularly enjoyed the invited paper presented by Daniel Owen, a distinguished lawyer on 'the regulatory and legal environment of underwater noise'. With increasing research being conducted on underwater noise the legal standards are continually being updated, it was therefore interesting to hear his predictions for how the world's governments will have to include noise in policy.

I gained a vast amount of knowledge from the range of presentations given. Furthermore, as I enter the final year of my PhD at the University of Auckland it was very helpful to present both a speed talk and poster on some of my research which is still in progress and receive positive comments and feedback. Importantly, attendance at this conference also provided invaluable networking with many well respected, international scientists and gave me the opportunity to discuss postdoctoral opportunities and future collaborations.

I left the conference enthusiastic and inspired. I am working on the comments given about the research I presented and I will be submitting an article to the conference proceedings to be published by the Acoustical Society of America.

I would like to thank the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society once again for giving me the opportunity to attend and present at my first overseas conference. Without their generous support, this fantastic experience would not have been possible.