



United Kingdom and Ireland
Regional Student Chapter of the
Society for Marine Mammalogy

12th Annual Conference University of St Andrews 17th - 19th January 2018

TIMETABLE



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UKIRSC Conference 2018 Timetable

WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY

1500 – 1700 **Careers Panel: “Early, early career: After the MSc”** (Bute Building, Lecture Th A)

Hosted by Dr Luke Rendell. All welcome.

2000 onwards **Icebreaker Event** (St Andrews Brewing Company)

Mini book launch and signing of “Whales: their past, present and future”

THURSDAY 18th JANUARY

0840 – 0900 **Registration** (Bute Building, Lecture Theatre A)

0900 – 0905 **Welcome from the UKIRSC Committee**

0905 – 0915 **Welcome from Prof Ailsa Hall**, Director of the Sea Mammal Research Unit

0915 – 1000 **“Work-life balance and challenges for a career in marine science”**

Invited speaker: Dr Sascha Hooker, Reader at the Sea Mammal Research Unit

1000 **ACOUSTICS SESSION**

1000 – 1015 **Kalliopi Gkikopoulou** – “Getting below the surface: density estimation methods for deep diving animals using slow autonomous underwater vehicles”

1015 – 1030 **Ilias Foskolos** – “Where’s the air? A novel way to find out how wild echolocating whales manage air for sound production in deep dives”

1030 – 1035 **Mikhail Barabanov** – “Sperm whale localisation using passive acoustic monitoring”

1035 – 1040 **Amelia Johnson** – “Fine scale foraging behavior of harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*)”

TEA & COFFEE BREAK

1110 **MARINE MAMMAL & HUMAN INTERACTIONS SESSION**

1110 – 1125 **Aude Benhemma-Le Gall** – “Long-term Static Acoustic Monitoring of harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) at the Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site in Ireland”

1125 – 1140 **Cian Luck** – “The effect of water turbidity on seal-fishery interactions”

1140 – 1145 **Julie Devoisins** – “Analysis of North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) behavioural responses to playbacks using DTAGs”

1145 – 1150 **Katherine Whyte** – “Behavioural responses by seals to offshore energy activities”

1150 – 1205 **Joseph Onoufriou** – “Experimental determination of a mortality threshold for collisions between marine mammals and tidal turbines”

- 1205 – 1220 **Leah Trigg** – “Exposure of diving grey seal pups (*Halichoerus grypus*) to shipping noise in the Celtic Sea”
- 1220 – 1225 **Texa Sim** – “The purpose of porpoises around Scottish fish farms”
- 1225 – 1230 **Nicholas Horne** – “Quantifying the impact of marine renewable energy devices on harbour seals: a multifaceted approach to plugging knowledge gaps on fine-scale habitat use in a tidally active environment”

LUNCH BREAK

1340 POPULATION BIOLOGY SESSION

- 1340 – 1355 **Clare Lacey** – “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: modelling the distribution of deep diving cetacean species in the North Atlantic”
- 1355 – 1400 **Kellie Heney** – “Predicting grey seal pup (*Halichoerus grypus*) stranding events along coastal Irish waters”
- 1400 – 1405 **Ruth Pontin** – “Photo-identification of Azores Sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*)”
- 1405 – 1410 **Emily Hague** – “Assessing the Potential for Photogrammetric Assessments of Pregnancy in Free-Living Harbour Seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*)”
- 1410 – 1415 **Vanessa Simons** – “Spatial ecology and population biology of Mediterranean sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in the Balearic archipelago”

TEA & COFFEE BREAK & POSTER VIEWING SESSION (Bell Pettrigrew Museum, Bute Building)

(See poster titles at end of timetable)

- 1500 – 1700 Coding Club Workshop:** Manipulation and visualisation of spatial and population data (Bute PC Lab, Bute Building)

Hosted by Gergana Daskalova, University of Edinburgh

2000 onwards Conference Meal at Zizzi’s Restaurant

FRIDAY 19th JANUARY

- 0900 – 0940 “Individual based models- Seals in silico”** (Bute Building, Lecture Theatre A)

Invited speaker: Dr Bernie McConnell, Senior Research Fellow at the Sea Mammal Research Unit

0940 PHYSIOLOGY & GENETICS SESSION

- 0940 – 0955 **Joanna Kershaw** - “Not just fat: Investigating the proteome of cetacean blubber tissue”
- 0955 – 1000 **Aubrie Booth Onoufriou** – “Assessing resilience of beaked whale populations to human impacts: population structure and genetic diversity in impacted and semi-pristine areas”

- 1000 – 1005 **Kristina Steinmetz** – “Non-invasive isolation of pinniped DNA from scat and moulted hair”
- 1005 – 1020 **Rachel Ball** – “Assessing the mitochondrial phylogeography of long-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*) stranded around the British Isles, with evidence of new haplotypes”
- 1020 – 1025 **Laura Oller** – “Characterising fat tissue structure and function in grey seals, an animal model of extreme fat deposition and mobilisation, using novel in vivo and in vitro approaches”

TEA & COFFEE BREAK & POSTER VIEWING SESSION (Bell Pettrigrew Museum, Bute Building)

(See poster titles at end of timetable)

1110 BEHAVIOUR AND MOVEMENT SESSION

- 1110 – 1125 **Sonja Wild** – “Climate Change and Culture in Bottlenose Dolphins: the Emergence of Innovations to cope with Extreme Weather Events”
- 1125 – 1140 **Kayleigh Jones** – “Sexual segregation in Antarctic Fur Seal Pups, *Arctocephalus gazelle*”
- 1140 – 1145 **Clara Douglas** – “Investigation of blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus intermedia*) diving behaviour in a patchy krill (*Euphausia superba*) landscape”
- 1145 – 1200 **Sara B. Tavares** – “The role of kinship in the sociality of herring-eating killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in Iceland”
- 1200 – 1205 **Ana Couto** – “Determining the Ecology and Physics of Tidal-Stream Habitats (DEPTH): Understanding the link between the physical attributes and animal distribution in tidal-stream habitats and how to best monitor their interactions with marine renewable developments”
- 1205 – 1210 **Nathalie Houtman** – “Social interactions in island-associated bottlenose dolphin populations”

LUNCH BREAK AND BEST TALK/POSTER VOTING

1315 – 1330 Prize giving (Parliament Hall)

1330 - 1700 Workshop: Promoting yourself and your research (Parliament Hall)

Hosted by Dr Kelly Robinson, Dr Saana Isojunno, Dr Monica Arso Civil and Dr Ellen Garland

With a coffee break included to keep you going right to the end!

1700 Finish

POSTER TITLES

Ashleigh Kitchiner – “Population structure of long-finned pilot whales in Ireland”

Eilidh Siegal – “Predicting prey capture attempts from movement signals”

Janneke Ransijn – “The relationship between prey availability and consumption by harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the southern North Sea”

William Kay – “From brick to bullet: using Computational Fluid Dynamics to design bio-logging tags with minimal drag”

Heather Vance – “Reconstructing behaviour: using posture to resolve modes of foraging in diving harbour seals”

Elouise Cartner – “Stereotypic flipper-sucking behaviour of a California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) increases after feeding”
