



The UK and Ireland Regional Student Chapter of the Society
for Marine Mammalogy

 #UKIRSC21



23rd-25th June 2021

Our 15th annual conference will be hosted ONLINE
by the Sea Mammal Research Unit

Conference Programme



Sea Mammal
Research
Unit



infohackit
University of
St Andrews



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AQUA



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UKIRSC 2021

Wednesday 23rd June – Friday 25th June 2021

Wednesday 23rd June

14:00-16:00 Workshop #1 Coding club

BREAK (1 hr)

17:00-19:00 Icebreaker

17:00-17:15 Short introduction

17:15-17:45 Speed networking

BREAK (15 mins)

18:00-19:00 Pictionary

Thursday 24th June

09:00-09:15 Welcome to UKIRSC 2021 from your committee

Cynthia Barile, Izzy Langley, Laura Oller Lopez, Laura Palmer, James Robbins

09:15-09:45 SMRU Director and professional sponsor of the UKIRSC – Dr Carol Sparling

09:15-09:35 “My career journey: from SMRU PhD student to Director”

09:35-09:45 Q&As with Dr Carol Sparling

BREAK (15 mins)

10:00-11:00 Invited speakers

10:00-10:20 **Dr Saana Isojunno** – “Community power and digital games for marine mammal research: How citizen science can shed light into elusive predator-prey interactions and their conservation.”

10:20-10:40 **Dr J. Chris McKnight** – “Moving forward through collaborative science: Bridging the gap between technology, medicine and marine mammal research.”

10:40-11:00 Q&As with invited speakers

BREAK (15 mins)

11:15-12:15 Session #1A Acoustics Part A

BREAK (15 mins)

12:30-13:00 Session #1B Acoustics Part B

BREAK (1 hr)

14:00-15:00 Poster session

BREAK (15 mins)

15:15-17:45 Workshop #2 Methods in Acoustics



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Friday 25th June

09:00-09:15 Welcome to day 2

09:15-10:30 Session #2 Marine Mammals and Human Interactions

BREAK (30 mins)

11:00-12:45 Session #3 Health, Physiology and Genetics

BREAK (1 hr)

13:45-14:55 Session #4 Population Biology and Foraging Ecology

BREAK (20 mins)

15:15-16:45 Workshop #3 – Science Communication Panel Discussion

BREAK (15 mins)

17:00-17:15 Conference close and prize giving

BREAK (2 hrs 15 mins)

19:30-21:30 The UKIRSC 2021 Quiz



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Speaker schedule

Thursday 24th June

11:15-12:15 Session #1a Acoustics Part A

Cynthia Barile, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology - Temporal acoustic occurrence of sperm whales *Physeter macrocephalus* and long-finned pilot whales *Globicephala melas* off western Ireland

Ellen White, University of Southampton - Dolphins and Deep Learning: Automating the detection of biological and anthropogenic marine sound sources from long-term PAM data in West Scottish waters.

Emma Longden, University of St Andrews - Effects of the COVID-19 lockdown on the soundscape of a heavily used coastal bay home to a resident bottlenose dolphin population

Helen Hiley, UHI/SAMS - Behavioural reactions of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) to startle-eliciting stimuli: movement responses and practical applications

Josephine Brown, University of St Andrews - Temporal Change in Caribbean Humpback Whale Song

12:30-13:00 Session #1b Acoustics Part B

Laia Garrobé Fonollosa, University of St Andrews - Spatial and temporal distributions of sperm whales in the Balearic Sea using a Deep Learning click detector

Katie Rapson, University of St Andrews - Can bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) exhibit species recognition based on whistles alone?

Madalina Matei, University of St Andrews - Automatic classification of echolocation clicks of the Southern Resident Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca*)



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09:15-10:30 Session #2 Marine Mammals and Human Interactions

James Robbins, University of Portsmouth - Spatial overlap between cetaceans and shipping in the north-east Atlantic

Marc-Alexander Gose, University of Edinburgh - Distribution, demography and disease status of white dolphins: Combining marine strandings with genomic data to inform conservation management

Emily Hague, Herriot-Watt University - 'Many a mickle makes a muckle': considering cumulative stressors on marine mammals

Harrison Tan, University of Leeds - Modelling spatio-temporal characteristics of breeding-sites and pup production in the endangered ice-dependent Caspian seal (*Pusa caspica*)

Jack Clarkson, University of St Andrews - The drivers of resting behaviour in sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in north Norway: behavioural, environmental and anthropogenic context

Philippa Wright, University of St Andrews - Does anthropogenic noise influence foraging efficiency in grey seals?

11:00-12:45 Session #3 Health, Physiology and Genetics

Alexandra Tranganida, Abertay University - Effects of polychlorinated biphenyls on insulin-induced Akt (PKB) phosphorylation in blubber of grey seal juveniles

David Orr, University of Leeds - Evolution of lactation-related adaptations of Pinnipeds

Eva-Maria Bønnelycke, University of St Andrews - Wearable near-infrared spectroscopy as a physiological monitoring tool for seals under anaesthesia

Kristina Steinmetz, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology - Population genetic structure of seals in Irish waters – informing the delineation of appropriate Assessment Units

Laura Oller, Abertay University - Molecular shifts induced by hypoxia in grey seal blubber: an in vitro approach

Lauren Arkoosh, Abertay University - Pinnipeds as sentinels of antimicrobial resistance: an analysis of antimicrobial resistance genes from pinniped fecal samples in UK waters

Rosie Williams, Institute of Zoology at Zoological Society of London - Polychlorinated biphenyls are associated with reduced testes weights in harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*)

Noah Locke, University of Plymouth - Quantification of Domoic Acid in Stranded Marine Mammal Species Around Scotland



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Friday 25th June (*continued*)

13:45-14:55 Session #4 Population Biology and Foraging Ecology

Andrew Roberts, Swansea University - Estimates of population-level resilience in the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) may be affected by the spatial scale of census data aggregation

Georgina Whittome, University of St Andrews - Investigating population parameters of blue whales in the Gulf of California

Tessa Plint, Herriot-Watt University - Dietary niche overlap among pelagic dolphins in Scotland

Nicole Todd, University College Cork - Understanding foraging ecology of a marine predator: drivers of feeding activity within passive acoustic monitoring derived occurrence data

Izzy Langley, University of St Andrews - Diversification in the dietary niche of harbour seals: evidence of competition with grey seals?

Maeva Terrapon, University of St Andrews - Enigmatic apex predators: investigating the ecology of tropical killer whales in the Indian Ocean

With thanks to:

