

David McKenzie, the new Honorary President and Senior Scientist at the CNRS, Centre for Marine Biodiversity Exploitation and Conservation, Montpellier, France introduces himself and outlines his objectives



I am pleased to write to you as the new Honorary President of this dynamic and brilliant learned society. Having been Vice-President for the last two years, I am very enthusiastic to continue to work with FSBI Honorary Officers and Council, towards our many charitable objectives. I think there has never been a more important time to support research into fish biology and fisheries, and to increase public understanding through outreach activities. I am especially happy to continue working with Holly Shiels, an exceptional President who now becomes our Past President. Holly and our outgoing Past President, Colin Adams, developed initiatives that have modernised our Society, notably an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy,

a new Outreach Grant, and a Sustainability strategy. Holly will be a hard act to follow but I look forward to doing that.

I am a fish ecophysiologicalist based in Montpellier, France, where I am employed by the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and work in the Centre for Marine Biodiversity Exploitation and Conservation (UMR Marbec). My PhD, some time ago now, was fundamental research into the respiratory physiology of an air-breathing fish, supervised by Dr Dave Randall at the University of British Columbia, Canada. I then worked in various European countries until joining the CNRS, where my research mainly focuses on applications of fish environmental physiology for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Although I am a member of FSBI and was an editor at the Journal of Fish Biology for many years, I had not served on Council until being elected as Vice-President. It is extremely fulfilling to work with my fish biologist peers on the multiple activities that the FSBI undertakes. I have particularly appreciated contributing to the EDI committee, so ably chaired by Katie Longo (Marine Stewardship Council, UK) alongside Holly Shiels and Molly Kressler (University of Exeter, UK), more recently joined by Melanie

Smith (Atlantic Salmon Trust, UK) and Martha Rincón Díaz (Centro Nacional Patagónico, Argentina). We now have an established EDI strategy in our Society, as described by Molly Kressler in an article in the Summer 2025 Newsletter. Important milestones since 2024 include the FSBI EDI statement on our website; increasing transparency about how our grants are assessed, and a membership survey to identify EDI objectives such as the development of a mentoring scheme piloted by Melanie Smith. The workshops that preceded the FSBI annual symposia in Bilbao 2024 and Belfast 2025 will become a fixture to engage with you, our members, to identify and work towards common objectives in the multifaceted aspects of EDI.

I just participated in the excellent 2025 FSBI Symposium in Belfast, held jointly with the Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM): "Turning Science into Strategy: Advancing Fish Conservation and Management" and organized by Sarah Helyar (Queen's University, Belfast, UK) and Ewan Hunter (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland, UK). The symposium had a packed program of talks over four days, ranging from strategies and uncertainties in fishery management, to understanding ➤

fish habitat dynamics, to inclusive outreach. There were three fascinating keynotes with the Jack Jones Lecture given by Robert Rosell (AFBI, Northern Ireland, UK). The symposium was global in coverage and the overall picture that emerged, of how and why human activities are disrupting fish communities, was not happy and often alarming. The many excellent presentations by early career researchers were, however, encouraging – scientists who are so engaged in advancing fish conservation and management in these very challenging times. This first FSBI-IFM symposium was a great success, the more research-oriented approach of the FSBI and the clear management focus of the IFM are highly complementary. I look forward to strengthening our partnership further, notably through mentorship schemes for our members and expansion of our engagement with the public.

One highlight of the Symposium was the signing, at our FSBI AGM, of two new international Cooperation Agreements with sister societies, the Iberian Society of Ichthyology (SIBIC) and the Korean Society for Fisheries

and Aquatic Sciences (KOSFAS). The two CAs were signed by our President Holly Shiels and Estíbaliz Díaz, President of SIBIC, and Jung Hwa Choi, President of KOSFAS. The consensus at our Council meeting in Belfast was that, while we should extend our reach as an international society, we must develop a strategy to do this that ensures we effectively support and promote fish biology and fisheries research globally.

Meanwhile the FSBI goes from strength to strength, with our membership at record levels. The *Journal of Fish Biology* is the jewel in our crown and it is fantastic news that Mike Kaiser has signed up for another five years as Editor-in-Chief, to continue his outstanding work in developing the journal. I would like sincerely to thank two outgoing officers. Colin Adams, our outgoing Past President, for his extraordinary service to the FSBI over the past 6 years, and for his excellent counsel among Honorary Officers and on FSBI Council. Then Ian Winfield, who has just completed his term as Secretary. Ian has been on FSBI Council since 1992 and held every Honorary Officer position.

No superlatives can describe how much Ian has supported the Society and how much we all appreciate his immense contribution. His knowledge and advice – sage, perceptive, uniquely well-informed and often very amusing – will be sorely missed in a Society that depends on continuity. I would also like to thank outgoing Councillors Domino Joyce, Brian Hayden, Ian McCarthy and Jimmy Turnbull, and welcome new Councillors Shaun Killen (University of Glasgow, UK), Jess Rodger (Atlantic Salmon Trust and University of Glasgow, UK), Naiara Rodríguez-Ezpeleta (AZTI, Spain) and Rohit Shukla (University of St Andrews, UK). A very warm welcome to our new Officers – Claudia Junge (Institute of Marine Research, Norway) Honorary Secretary, and Stefano Mariani (Liverpool John Moores University, UK) Honorary Vice-President - we are definitely now an international society for fish biology and I look forward to developing that even further.

Sincerely
David McKenzie



Delegates at the Bushmills Salmon Hatchery. The other half of the group were at the Bushmills Whiskey Distillery!.

Editorial

Location	COUNTA of Location
Plymouth	5
Norwich	4
Bangor	4
Aberdeen	4
Southampton	3
Hull	3
Belfast	3
Stirling	2
London	2
Leicester	2
Glasgow	2
Exeter	2
Cardiff	2
St Andrews	1
Nottingham Tre	1
Liverpool	1
Leuven, online	1
Lancaster	1
Galway	1
Essex	1
Conwy	1
cancelled due t	1
Cambridge	1
Bournemouth	1
Bilbao	1
	0
Grand Total	50

This table shows where the FSBI Annual Symposium has been held since 1977. The name of the Society, Fisheries Society of the **British Isles** meant that the Republic of Ireland is included. I do not know what inspired Jack Jones and Peter Tombleson, the prime movers in the founding of the Society, to include Ireland. I do know that Jones was a great friend

on Arthur Went who was a fisheries scientist and administrator in Dublin. Jones chose Went to be external examiner for all his PhD students until Arthur Cain was appointed as Professor of Zoology in Liverpool who decided to sit in on a PhD examination with Jones and Went and failed the student being examined. From then on Jones had to use a greater variety of external examiners. Went, was very active in ICES and wrote a history of the organisation.

Over the past ten year or more, the Society has tried to get away from the geographical element of the name but retaining the initials for the Society's name but calling itself an international society for fish biology. This is now reflected in the list of conference locations which are beginning to go beyond the British Isles. How far will this geographical spread go? The Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) started holding some of its summer meetings in Europe many years ago and the summer meeting for 2025 will be in Kolkata, India in combination with the International Ethological Congress. Will the FSBI follow in ASAB's footsteps?

I think there is a case to be made to retain the regional character of the Society but form links with similar societies in other

parts of the world. This approach is already well underway and has been for a while. The FSBI has had a link with the American Fisheries Society since at least the early 1990s and more recently there has been a good relationship between the FSBI and the Japanese Society for Fisheries Sciences. At the Belfast meeting new cooperative agreements were signed between the FSBI and the Korean Society of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences and the Iberian Society of Ichthyology. At one time there were moves to link up with the Australian Society for Fish Biology and this could also be something for the future.

Over the years the FSBI Symposia have broadened their scope and since the Exeter meeting in 2017 have no longer been focussed on one topic. I calculate that I have been to 26 of the meetings and it has been interesting to follow how the conference each year has mirrored the evolution of the Society. Not only are the conferences now much broader in their topics but the Society too has become more international but not at the cost of the Society losing its identity.

Paul J B Hart
Leicester, August 2025
Next deadline: 1st November 2025



Coffee break in the centre court of Riddell Hall.

Belfast 2025. Turning Science into Strategy: Advancing Fish Conservation and Management

Since 1977, the FSBI has held a symposium or conference every summer in locations around the British Isles (as the name of the Society signifies). Only recently has the Society begun to hold its annual meeting outside its original geographical area although the first one scheduled for Leuven in Belgium had to be online only because of Covid. A table shown at the meeting of the location of

all the conferences has Plymouth as the most popular location. This year Belfast was the place to be and the Society has been there twice before.

The 2025 edition was a new departure as it was a joint effort between the FSBI and the Institute for Fisheries Management. These two organisations had a similar origin but took different paths. It has long been recognised that they

have much in common and thanks to Nigel Milner on the FSBI side, joint activities have now begun to increase. The two people who led the organisation were Ewan Hunter from the Northern Ireland Agriculture -Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and Sarah Helyar, Queens University.

In the early days, conferences were focused on one topic such as Polar fish biology (Cambridge, 2000) or fish population biology (Aberdeen 1989). Since the 50th anniversary meeting in Exeter in 2017 the topics have been broader attracting a larger number of delegates and the meeting this year was no exception. The meeting's theme was *Turning science into strategy: Advancing fish conservation and management*. This attracted 163 delegates creating a vibrant atmosphere and many useful interchanges of ideas and opinions.

The meeting was opened by the Northern Ireland Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Andrew Muir. He was followed by Robert Rosell who gave the Jack Jones lecture on *The big*



Ewan Hunter & Sarah Helyar



Andrew Muir



Robert Rosell



Rachel Cavanagh



Nicholas Dulvy

fish of Belfast – reintroduction of salmon in the River Lagan Northern Ireland. Given the nature of Jones' research and interest, this was an appropriate topic for this lecture. There were two more keynote talks, one on Wednesday by Dr Rachel Cavanagh from the British Antarctic Survey who spoke about integrating climate change with ecosystem-based management in the Antarctic and on Thursday Dr Nicholas Dulvy, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada, talked about global uncertainties and a more just future for fisheries.

The bulk of the proceedings were filled by 10 minute talks by a range of speakers at all stages in their careers, ranging from postgraduate students to retirees. Such a tight schedule did not give much time for discussion, but this is the way with conferences these days. At the 1992 conference in Liverpool, which celebrated 25 years since the Society was founded, talks were 30 minutes which meant people spoke for about 20 – 25 minutes and then left time for questions and discussion. As an aside, this Liverpool conference saw the inaugural Jack Jones lecture given by Geoff Parker who had been a colleague of Jones in the Liverpool University's Zoology Department.

The lack of discussion after talks was compensated for by long coffee and lunch breaks which were in the Riddell building, a Victorian construct that contrasted with the very modern building (see the picture) containing the lecture theatre, both set in beautifully kept grounds. The food on offer was plentiful and varied so no one starved.

On the Monday afternoon there were three workshops, all well attended. Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Fish Biology*, Mike Kaiser, together with a representative from Wiley, talked about how to get research outputs published. Kirsty Bradley

from CEFAS then introduced the concept of graphical abstracts and provided valuable tips as to how to produce them in a way that would enhance one's paper. Finally, Ivan Arismendi from Oregon State University, USA talked about improving equity in scientific networks and in publishing.

The conference wouldn't be the same without social events. On Monday evening delegates walked to The Parlour, where we occupied the first floor for the, now traditional, pub quiz. The compere for the evening was Will Perry who also set the questions and we were fed pizzas to keep us going. The venue was very noisy and I have to report that my team left halfway through the quiz, which was

somewhat antisocial of us!

Tuesday evening was devoted to a poster session followed by an (indoor) BBQ. We were served a variety of vegetarian burgers with accompanying salads. Both the poster session and BBQ were held in the Riddell building with the food being served in a covered central area of the building which at one time must have been an open courtyard.

In the early days of the FSBI conferences it was always the case that there'd be a field trip to some fish related location. This tradition has fallen out of fashion but I am glad to say that in Belfast there was a trip on Wednesday afternoon to the River Bush Salmon Station in Bushmills. For some, there ➤



was also a visit to the Bushmills Whisky distillery in combination with the hatchery visit. For those who did not visit the distillery there was also a short coach trip to Portballintrae and Bunkery Beach to see where the Bush River entered the sea. The idea was that after the visits delegates would be able to forage for supper in Bushmills but sadly there was not enough time for everyone to achieve a successful meal.

The final social occasion was the conference dinner held at the Belfast Harbour Commissioners Harbour Office, a very grand location opened in 1854. The dinner took place in the Barnett Room which is the central and largest room in the building. At the end of the meal, the various medals were presented to the awardees; Beverton – Colin Adams, LeCren – Oliver Crimmen, FSBI – Maria Jose Juan Jorda and the Huntingford medal – Rochelle Chan. Anna Sturrock also awarded prizes to the delegates who had minimised their carbon footprint in getting to the conference.

The Barnett Room has a large painting at one end which was hard to interpret at the time. It transpires that it was painted by Thomas Robinson, a Belfast artist. He hoped to charge people featured in the picture for their appearance and in the background he featured Donegall Place in Belfast. Sadly no one would pay up, so Robinson changed the background to Nelson's Column in Dublin and hoped to have people from that city pay for their inclusion. Again here were no takers so the painting was retained by the Robinson family until it was donated to Belfast Harbour.

On Wednesday lunchtime the Annual General Meeting of the Society was held with 44 members attending in the room or online. Reports were given by Holly Shiels, Hon President, Ian Winfield, Secretary and Rob Britton, Treasurer. There were also



Bunkery Beach with the Bush River in the foreground.



From left to right Rob Britton, Ian Winfield, Mari Kuroki, David McKenzie, Estibaliz Diaz, Miguel Garcia, Jung Hwa Choi, Holly Shiels and Colin Adams.

short speeches from the President of the American Fisheries Society, Miguel Garcia, a representative of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Sciences, Mari Kuroki, the President of the Korean Society of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, Jung Hwa Choi, and Estibaliz Diaz, President, Iberian Society of Ichthyology.

A new departure this year was the move of the April council meeting to the Monday morning of the conference week. This was designed to remove the extra trip for council members to London for the April meeting and to encourage council members to attend the conference. The change had the desired affect in that there was a good turnout of council members at the Monday morning meeting



The behind the scenes team who supported the smooth running of the meeting.

and all councillors stayed for most of the conference.

The officers of the Society are now, David McKenzie, Honorary President, Holly Shiels, Past President, Stefano Mariani, Vice

President, Rob Britton, Treasurer and Claudia Junge, Secretary.

Paul J B Hart, Leicester, August 2025.

Apria Valenza, a PhD. student at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, was the recipient of the 2025 International Fisheries Section (IFS) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Fellow Award



This fellowship is jointly funded by the IFS of AFS and the Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI). Each year, two students are chosen, one from AFS and another from FSBI, to attend the others' international, annual conference meeting. I feel privileged to be chosen this year, and to have attended the joint FSBI/IFM Annual

Symposium at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Not only was this my first trip to the United Kingdom, but it was also my first time attending an international conference. Truthfully, I was not anxious at all; I was nothing more than completely excited for this incredible opportunity. Immediately, I was greeted by the kindness of the

Irish people and felt so welcomed. The schedule for the symposium was packed with presentations from keynote speakers, award medal winners, international fisheries professionals and graduate students. The meeting opened with an inspiring talk by Dr. Robert Rossel, who discussed his experience stocking and reintroducing Atlantic Salmon in ➤



the Lagan River, here in Belfast. That same day, I was thrilled to give my oral presentation on changes in management intensity of NC's state-managed fisheries. I was so grateful for the interest the audience had in my research, and for all the compliments I received on my presentation.

The real pleasure of this trip for me, however, was meeting and chatting with all the MS and Ph.D. students from around the world. Hearing about their projects firsthand, talking about life in (and outside of) graduate school, and comparing programs and stories was such a fun and heartwarming experience. It truly made the world feel small and re-assured to me that the future of the world's fisheries is in good hands. Within a week of time, I made countless connections that I will be



Ridell Hall where the coffee and food was served along with social interaction during the breaks.

cherishing for years to come.

I could not be more grateful to both AFS and FSBI for this incredible opportunity to attend the 2025 FSBI/IFM Annual Symposium. I would not have been able to attend my first international conference without

their support. I had a remarkable time networking at the conference, exploring Belfast, and learning all about the incredible conservation research presented throughout the week.

Travel Grant Reports

Correction. In the February 2025 newsletter a report from Stefania Ásta Karlsdottir was included in Travel Reports but unfortunately the final element of her name i.e. Karlsdottir, was omitted. I reproduce the report here to set the record straight. (Ed).



Thanks to the FSBI and the Buckland Foundation, I was able to travel to Cape Town and present my master's research at the 7th International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC7, October 2024).

Attending IMCC7 was pivotal for both my academic and professional development. The event not only gathered the world's leading marine conservationists but also hosted several sessions specifically for early-career researchers, which I found very useful.

Presenting my master's research on this international stage was an invaluable experience, allowing me to share my findings with a wider audience. The networking opportunities were particularly beneficial—I connected with professionals from organisations I aspire to work with and laid the groundwork for future research collaborations. Attending various talks and sessions also broadened my knowledge, exposed me to innovative marine research and conservation strategies, and left me feeling hopeful about the future of our oceans.

Overall, attending IMCC7 provided me with a platform to

share my research, build valuable connections, and gain new insights that will significantly support my future career in marine conservation. I am deeply grateful for the support from the FSBI and the Buckland Foundation, which made this opportunity possible.

Alan Gojanovic, University of Western Australia, Oceans Institute Perth used generous support from the FSBI, to travel to Taiwan to attend the 2025 Indo-Pacific Fish Conference.

This was my first international conference. I presented an oral talk on my PhD research, which explores the Post-larval Capture, Culture, and Release (PCCR) conservation method. Specifically, I presented how short-term captivity and strategic release timing of coral reef fish larvae can improve their survival at a critical early life stage. Sharing these findings with an international audience of experts was both exciting and validating, and it



opened the door to thoughtful feedback and discussion. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to connect with researchers working across the Indo-Pacific, especially those focused on larval ecology, fisheries enhancement, and reef conservation. I had the chance to meet collaborators in person for the first time and form new relationships that may lead to future research visits or joint projects. The talks and poster sessions were inspiring and helped me situate my work within the broader conservation landscape.

Outside the conference, I visited the lab of a collaborator based at the Taichung University and gave a guest lecture to 2nd year Marine Science undergraduate students. Seeing their facilities and discussing ongoing research in person added another layer of value to the trip and helped solidify our future plans. I returned from Taiwan energised, full of new ideas, and more confident in my role as an early-career scientist. Thank you, FSBI, for making this unforgettable and formative experience possible.

Ava Sergio obtained a travel grant to attend the 2025 joint FSBI/IFM Symposium in Belfast.

Attending the meeting advanced my career development. The conference offered skill-building



workshops, inspiring talks, and networking opportunities that helped deepen both my technical knowledge and broader understanding of fisheries research. The workshops focused on science communication and publishing, where I gained practical tools for increasing the visibility and comprehension of my research, through both effective abstracts and graphical summaries. Many presentations showcased innovative modelling approaches to understanding species movement and habitat use under changing environmental conditions, which directly relate to and informed my own thesis work for my masters. I had several in-depth conversations with researchers working with telemetry and species distribution models, which helped clarify methods I'm currently applying. The conference also opened doors to future opportunities, including potential collaborations on publications, new analytical tools, and ideas for where to present upcoming work. I had a wonderful time at the conference and left feeling genuinely hopeful about the future of fisheries research thanks to the innovation, collaboration, and passion shared throughout the week. I'm very grateful for the support provided through the FSBI travel grant so that I could attend the joint symposium.

Amy Irvine from Oceans North based in Halifax, Canada used a travel grant to attend the One Ocean Science Congress (OOSC) and the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France from June 3-6 and June 9-13.



These events collectively brought together over 2000 scientists, 75 Heads of State and Government, and 14,000 delegates from 113 countries. Here, Amy connected with both renown scientists and high-level policymakers, which was eye-opening and helped her build interdisciplinary relationships to advance her scientific research and advocacy efforts on integrating climate change into ocean policy and decisions. Presenting her research poster at the OOSC was especially impactful as it bridged science and policy—it highlighted a new method for assessing projected climate change impacts on ecosystem functioning useful for building climate resiliency into fisheries management decisions. In addition to (literally) running between 100s of presentations that were neighbourhoods apart, Amy also co-hosted a Green Zone side event on June 12th with Oceans North, Dalhousie University, AquaMaps2.0, MigraMar, and Vizzuality. The event brought together participants to discuss perspectives on climate risk to fisheries, successful adaptive management strategies, and new and existing tools for assessing

climate risk to marine species. The key outcomes from this event have helped Amy and her team with development of an upcoming tool for assessing climate vulnerabilities to fisheries species in Canada. Ultimately, Amy's attendance and advocacy work at these conferences was made possible thanks to the support of FSBI.

Lucy Smith, University of Essex used an FSBI grant to enable her attendance at the FSBI Annual Symposium in Belfast 2025.



This event provided a valuable opportunity to present my research, engage with industry experts, and network with fellow early career scientists.

In support of the Symposium's first "Green Travel Awards", I took the greenest route available travelling by train, overnight ferry, and on-foot where necessary. These sustainable transport options contributed significantly to the overall cost of attending the Symposium, so without the support of the FSBI, I would not have been able to attend in-person to present my work.

I presented an 8-minute talk discussing how otolith chemistry, revealing important variation in size and age of Atlantic salmon at ocean entry, and the potential carryover effects on marine mortality. As a second-year PhD student, the opportunity to present

helped me to build connections and sparked valuable discussions with other delegates.

Overall attendance of this conference gave me an excellent networking opportunity with leading scientists in my field and has expanded my network of potential collaborators. I would like to sincerely thank FSBI again for facilitating my attendance at this event.

Natalie Koopman, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada used a travel grant to attend the first joint FSBI/IFM symposium in Belfast which truly lived up to its motto: *Turning Science into Strategy*.



As an MSc student from Canada researching the management strategies for conserving an iconic, yet singular species, this conference captured my interest and deepened my passion for pursuing a career in policy and management. It was inspiring to see the global reach of this field and the importance of people driving meaningful change. Highlights included talks from Maria José Juan Jordá on tuna fisheries and Nick Dulvy's insights on global shark data and proactive conservation measures. Colin Adams also offered invaluable advice on *Surviving a career in research* an encouragement to early-career researchers like myself. I was proud to present my nearly completed MSc research and honored to receive the

Best Student Talk award. This experience has reinforced my commitment to contributing to fisheries science and conservation through a more policy-oriented lens. The FSBI/IFM symposium connected me with brilliant researchers and solidified my desire to remain in this field and build management into my future work. Thank you to FSBI and IFM for hosting such a collaborative, inspiring event that is truly making waves in the fish world.

Going green. Anna Sturrock describes how delegates chose travel modes to reduce their carbon footprint in getting to Belfast for the annual conference

FSBI2025 marked the inaugural year of the Green Travel Awards. In hindsight, starting in a year when most delegates needed to cross water in order to attend was perhaps not the wisest, but it made for some excellent stories! In short, the Green Travel Awards (#FSBIGreenTravel for the social media savvy among you) was developed after a conversation between me and Will Perry at the pub after a council meeting. I had recently become the FSBI Sustainability Officer and realising that the society's biggest environmental impact was by far and away comes from its annual symposium. After having co-convened the 2023 Symposium at Essex (where I initially baulked at Cefas very politely suggesting that we reduced the amount of 'swag' we handed out) I am now one of those annoying hypocrites that eats meat but waxes and wanes about the environmental footprint of a tote bag! In short, it is really hard to reduce your environmental impact, and the greener travel options are often painfully expensive, slow and unreliable. But these awards are primarily to get us all thinking more about our environmental impact and to try and start a ripple effect across the scientific community about making greener choices where possible (we realise that most workplaces won't let you have 3 weeks off to travel to a conference by container ship). It also means we have a stronger leg to stand on when we try and influence efforts higher up about environmental decision making. In brief, we saw some amazing efforts by symposium attendees. Even those with childcare commitments or travelling long distances took buses and trains when they would

have normally taken a taxi. But we have to give a special mention to the folks featured on our maps. Mara Fischer (University of Exeter) travelled 1059 km each way from Falmouth to Belfast by trains, buses and ferry, while Catie Gutmann Roberts (University of Plymouth) travelled about the same distance by trains, ferry and bicycle(!), starting her intense cycling training 5 weeks before the event. Quote from Catie: "A huge benefit of the green travel was visiting places en route, the lovely people I met on the way like the bike shop who fixed my broken panier rack for free and then gave me route advice due to a road closure and have inspired me to take a more scenic route back". Special mention should also go to my two PhD students, Peter Betts and Lucy Smith (University of Essex), Domino Joyce (University of Hull) and Will Perry (Cardiff University) for the convoluted train/tube/bus/ferry/e-car routes they all took from the east, north and south, and the team from Atlantic Salmon Trust that commandeered their CEO's e-car to travel together from Scotland by road and ferry. But the ultimate crown had to go to Maddi (Maji) Garate Olaizola, who had the ambitious plan to 'travel

green' all the way from Sweden to Belfast (2748 km!). Unfortunately, after multiple delays, train break downs, and an emergency e-taxi journey with strangers from Denmark to Germany, she missed the Eurotunnel and had to fly to London in order to make the train to Glasgow and her ferry to Belfast. While I'm sure it was pretty stressful at the time, her storytelling about the series of mishaps along the way (lost boarding pass, water leakage, child vomit) was hilarious, and well and truly earned her the top spot. Maji quote: "The final trip was not as green as planned, but still greener than if I had flown all the way, and now I have a memorable story to tell. When asked why I'm doing this I said "I want an adventure" and I definitely had it.". Hopefully not all future awards need to have such a stressful story behind them, but this really emphasizes the need to improve our public transport systems while during our efforts to decarbonise. Well done to everyone that took part this year and let's all start our travel planning early for Southampton 2026! Keep sharing your ideas and stories on social media with #FSBIGreenTravel and good luck!"



Routes taken by conference delegates who accepted Anna's challenge to reduce their carbon footprint in getting to the Belfast conference.

Notices



MASTS

Marine Science Coordination, Collaboration,
Cooperation & Communication

18-20 November 2025 –Technology & Innovation Centre (TIC),
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

Join us for the fifteenth MASTS Annual Science Meeting (ASM)–
a cross-disciplinary event that brings together members of the marine
science community, with the aim of promoting and communicating
research excellence and forging new scientific collaborations.

The first two days will bring together expert plenary speakers and contributed talks, panel sessions and e-posters outlining the latest research and management practices that address key topics related to marine science and management in the face of global climate change and a biodiversity crisis. Alongside our general science sessions, the event will include special topic sessions, and plenty

of opportunities to network. The third day is devoted to workshops. Early bird registration will open in early August.

Abstract Information

Abstracts for talks and posters are now invited for sessions on:

- General Science (any field of study related to marine science)
- Multiple Stressors
- Technological Innovation in Environmental Monitoring

- Coastal Science
- Applied Marine Bioacoustics
- Marine Mammals

For further details about the sessions and to download an abstract template, please visit our dedicated webpage.

The deadline for abstract submission is 1700 on Friday 29th August.

Information Desk

For all membership enquires please contact the FSBI office at:

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