

GlobalSeaweedSTAR Capacity Building Fund

Completion Report

Awardee Details

Grant reference ID	GSS/CBF/024
Full name/title	Harrison Catherall
Position held	PhD Student
Organisation	Newcastle University



Details of Capacity-Building Activity

Name of activity	12th International Phycological Congress 2021
Date held	22 nd March 2021 – 26 th March 2021
Organiser/provider	International Phycological Congress

Biography

My name is Harry and I am a PhD student at Newcastle University. I kicked off my education in marine biology in 2015 with an undergraduate degree in Marine & Freshwater Biology at Aberystwyth University. I continued my studies and completed a Master of Research degree at Plymouth University and the Marine Biological Association before moving to Newcastle to start a PhD with Prof. Pippa Moore on kelp ecology.

My research interests are focused around the effects and subsequent remediation of anthropogenic stressors on nearshore marine environments and my PhD builds on this by investigating the structure, function and restoration of kelp forests in north east England and south east Scotland. The study will attempt to gain a clearer understanding of the structure and functioning of kelp forests in the area, as well as investigating research techniques that can be successfully implemented on exposed coastlines to restore lost kelp habitats. Data will be collected via intertidal, subtidal SCUBA and aerial surveys as well as in-situ and ex-situ experimental restoration trials.

Report on Capacity-Building Activity

The International Phycological Congress is a quadrennial meeting that attracts scientists and professionals with an interest in phycology from across the world. In light of the global pandemic this international meeting was moved online for 2021.

As I am at the beginning of my PhD programme, I attended this meeting for participation and to gain an insight into the current research being carried out in this field. It was greatly beneficial to have the opportunity to listen to the talks relating to my PhD project and think about shaping my proposed research around what is currently being done.

I particularly enjoyed listening to the talks by Gina De La Fuente and Annalisa Falace on the restoration of *Cystoseira* spp. due to their relevance to my work and the methods they utilised, and it was great to have the opportunity to listen to talks from both leaders in the field as well as friends from different institutes. One of my favourite aspects of this conference was the availability of all the talks for 30 days after the event, allowing me to watch at my own pace and re-watch any particularly interesting or relevant talks.

Overall, this conference was extremely interesting with a wide variety of presentations from all aspects of phycological research. The knowledge I have gained through my attendance will be of unequivocal benefit to me moving forward with my PhD research.