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MESSAGES FROM ECSA / ECSA EVENTS

47th ECSA Annual General Meeting

The 47th Annual General Meeting of ECSA is to be held in the Board room of the Port of Poole Offices at 2pm on the 17th May 2017 and all members are welcome to attend.

At the AGM we will hear reports of the society's activities over the last year and elect the society's Council who are responsible for running the affairs. The Agenda and papers are available through the ECSA website. If you wish to be

elected to the council or to nominate someone, please complete the form available through our website and send this to the secretary Dr Gillian Glegg at the email below.

The meeting should last no more than an hour and if you want to join us via Skype we will do our best to accommodate you – please contact Gillian Glegg with your Skype name if this is your intention.

Gillian Glegg - gglegg@plymouth.ac.uk

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Peter Jones Memorial Prize Winner 2016

The Peter Jones Memorial Prize for last year was won by **Peter Muller** for his article 'Plants mediate soil organic matter decomposition in response to sea level rise' (PETER MUELLER, KAI JENSEN and JAMES PATRICK MEGONIGAL) published in *Global Change Biology* (2016) 22, 404–414, doi: 10.1111/gcb.13082

Global Change Biology

Global Change Biology (2016) 22, 404–414, doi: 10.1111/gcb.13082

Plants mediate soil organic matter decomposition in response to sea level rise

PETER MUELLER¹, KAI JENSEN¹ and JAMES PATRICK MEGONIGAL²

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Abstract

Tidal marshes have a large capacity for producing and storing organic matter, making their role in the global carbon budget disproportionate to land area. Most of the organic matter stored in these systems is in soils where it contributes 2–5 times more to surface accretion than an equal mass of minerals. Soil organic matter (SOM) sequestration is the primary process by which tidal marshes become perched high in the tidal frame, decreasing their vulnerability to accelerated relative sea level rise (RSLR). Plant growth responses to RSLR are well understood and represented in century-scale forecast models of soil surface elevation change. We understand far less about the response of SOM decomposition to accelerated RSLR. Here we quantified the effects of flooding depth and duration on SOM decomposition by exposing planted and unplanted field-based mesocosms to experimentally manipulated relative sea level over two consecutive growing seasons. SOM decomposition was quantified as CO₂ efflux, with plant- and SOM-derived CO₂ separated via $\delta^{13}\text{C}$. Despite the dominant paradigm that decomposition rates are inversely related to flooding, SOM decomposition in the absence of plants was not sensitive to flooding depth and duration. The presence of plants had a dramatic effect on SOM decomposition, increasing SOM-derived CO₂ flux by up to 267% and 125% (in 2012 and 2013, respectively) compared to unplanted controls in the two growing seasons. Furthermore, plant stimulation of SOM decomposition was strongly and positively related to plant biomass and in particular aboveground biomass. We conclude that SOM decomposition rates are not directly driven by relative sea level and its effect on oxygen diffusion through soil, but indirectly by plant responses to relative sea level. If this result applies more generally to tidal wetlands, it has important implications for models of SOM accumulation and surface elevation change in response to accelerated RSLR.

Keywords: blue carbon, carbon sequestration, marsh organ, priming, *Schoenoplectus*, soil elevation, tidal wetland stability

Received 20 March 2015 and accepted 20 August 2015

Find the article at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.13082/abstract>

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Marine Protected Areas Conference on Science, Policy & Management, Poole, May 2017



Joint ECSA Local Meeting with Poole Harbour Study Group - Science & Management of Marine Protected Areas.

Climate change, policy developments such as Brexit and progress in marine science all contribute to a fast changing context for MPA's.

This conference aims to examine the current issues from a variety of perspectives at a time when questions on the future approaches to MPA's are the subject of policy development.

Find out more at:

ECSA/PHSG Conference Website - <http://www.pooleharbourstudygroup.org.uk/2017-conference/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/PHSG2017>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PHSG2017/>

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ECSA Focus Meeting “Where Land Meets Ocean”, Shanghai, China, October 2017

ECSA 2017, Where Land Meets Ocean: The Vulnerable Interface

16-20 October 2017, Shanghai, China

The conference is jointly organised by ECSA and the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC).

Rivers run into the sea loaded with sediments, chemicals, detritus and organisms while at the same time seas often transport them in coastal direction. This means that estuaries and coasts are “rich interfaces” between land and ocean. This interface hosts a rich diversity of species varying from birds, fishes, and small benthic and pelagic species that not only rely on water but also on the extensive tidal flats and saltmarshes of profound ecological value. The coastal zones also have high economic values since they are the “home” to millions of people, and provide a linkage and access to water transportation and recreational activities. Nature and human compete for space and resources within a sometimes extremely dynamic coastal zone. This requires in-depth knowledge of the functioning of these coastal systems and it asks for human wisdom to find the balance and harmony between nature and use. How to compromise the benefits for multiple stakeholders under increasingly intensified human intervention and global

climate change forms the challenging situation with many critical questions to be answered by coastal scientists and policy makers.

In conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Research, East China Normal University, we organize this conference and invite worldwide leading scientists to Shanghai to discuss cutting edge research questions and potential solutions for the vulnerable interface between land and ocean.

Key topics:

- Hydrodynamics and coastal dynamics: Effects on physical, chemical and ecological functioning
- Sediment transport and morphodynamics
- Regime shift of estuaries and deltas under changing environment
- Harbors and navigation channels: engineering issues
- Interactions between estuarine/coastal processes and oceanic processes on the shelf
- Pollutants transportation and transformation at estuaries and coasts
- Bio-geochemical processes
- Mechanisms controlling harmful algal blooming
- Reclamation and Exotic species invasion
- Ecosystem restoration
- Ecosystem based coastal management
- Progress in bridging fundamental coastal sciences, policy making, management and legislation
- Communicating messages to policy makers and politicians
- Public involvement in decision making

Find out more [here](#).

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OTHER FEATURES/EVENTS OF INTEREST

SAMS helps shape seaweed cultivation guidelines



The Scottish Government has published the first set of policy guidelines for the commercial cultivation of seaweed in Scotland. SAMS scientists were consultees on the policy.

This development will create opportunities to grow Scotland's seaweed industry by providing clarity over where seaweed may be grown, along with what kinds of developments will be approved.

Find out more at <https://education.sams.ac.uk/news/sams-news-michele-stanley-on-seaweed-cultivation.html>

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The 1st International Eel Science Symposium, London (Jun 2017)



The 1st International Eel Science Symposium: 'Science into Management' June 13th – 15th 2017: Huxley Theatre, ZSL London Zoo

[Registration Now Open](#)

The Institute of Fisheries Management, along with the Zoological Society of London and the Environment Agency are hosting this three day international eel science symposium at the world famous ZSL London Zoo.

The Symposium will provide a global forum for scientists and researchers to present the latest data and initiatives on the biology and management of anguillid eels. It will foster and develop international links between key academic, policy, industrial and other stakeholders to promote better understanding of the issues, parallels and conservation opportunities for these iconic species.

The symposium will bring together speakers and delegates from around the world for three days of presentations, posters, panel sessions as well as a number of social events including an evening reception on the River Thames.

Symposium sessions will cover:

- *Species and Regions
- *Marine Phase Studies
- *Monitoring and Stock Management
- *Monitoring and Stock Management (Restocking)
- *Threats
- *Aquaculture and Genetics

We are pleased to announce that the multi award winning writer and broadcaster Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall will be providing the official conference opening on the morning of June 13th. Hugh is famous for his hard hitting TV campaigns that include the hugely successful Fish Fight which brought about changes to law at the European level.

Key note addresses will be presented by:

- *Dr. Alan Walker, Cefas (UK) and Chair of ICES Working Group on Eels – Challenges of management from a scientific perspective
- *Dr. David Righton, Cefas (UK) – Extreme swimming: eels on their oceanic spawning migration
- *Dr. Olga Haenen, Wageningen University (Holland) – The most important diseases of European eel in Europe in the last 30 year

Full programme and registration details can be found on the [IFM website](#)

Conference website:

<https://ifm.org.uk/events/event/1st-international-eel-science-symposium-science-management/>

AZTI Summer School, San Sebastian, Spain (Jun 2017)



Find out more [here](#)

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MEDCOAST 17, Malta (Oct-Nov 2017)



In collaboration with



Call for Abstracts

The Thirteenth MEDCOAST Congress on Coastal and Marine Sciences, Engineering, Management & Conservation (MEDCOAST 17)

31 Oct. – 04 Nov. 2017, Paradise Bay Resort Hotel (**), Mellieha, Malta**

The biennial MEDCOAST congress in Malta is the thirteenth event of the series that was started in 1993 for contributing to coastal and marine sciences, engineering, management and conservation in general and particularly for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The thirteenth MEDCOAST congress in Mellieha (Malta) takes place at a time when the European Union is keenly involved in facilitating programs for Mediterranean and the Black Sea in the fields of Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The Mellieha congress will provide excellent opportunities for discussing national and regional efforts and capabilities in these and related fields as well as the future needs and directions. The meeting will also be a good occasion for networking and collaboration initiatives.

Topics of the MEDCOAST 17 congress are:

- * Coastal systems, Conservation issues
- * Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)

- * Coastal management issues
- * Sustainable development of coastal/marine areas
- * Coastal engineering, Modelling, Decision support systems, Data management

DEADLINES

Abstract submission: May 29, 2017
 Acceptance notification: June 19, 2017
 Manuscript submission: Aug 07, 2017

Find out more at <https://conference.medcoast.net/>

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CERF 2017, Providence, RI (Nov 2017)



The CERF 2017 scientific program offers four days of, timely, exciting and diverse information on a vast array of estuarine and coastal subjects. Presentations will examine new findings within CERF's traditional science, education and management disciplines and encourage interaction among coastal and estuarine scientists and managers. Additionally, the Scientific Program Committee plans to convene special sessions and workshops that promote intellectually stimulating discussions. Join us and over a thousand of your colleagues to network, celebrate our work, learn from each other and grow within our amazing profession.

Registration will open in February 2017.

Further information at the conference website <http://www.erf.org/cerf-2017>

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International Flatfish Symposium 2017, Saint Malo (Nov 2017)



Agrocampus Ouest and the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) are pleased to announce the venue of the 10th International Flatfish Symposium (<http://www.flatfishsymposium.com/international-flatfish-symposium-2017>) convened from **11 to 16 November 2017** in Saint-Malo (France).

Objectives

Following the previous meetings, the 10th International Flatfish Symposium, entitled “Ten International Flatfish Symposia and 30+ Years of Advanced Research: Flatfish Ecology in 2017” will:

- Present emerging research on the biology and ecology of flatfish species across the globe,
- Quantify linkages between flatfishes, atmospheric, oceanographic, and other abiotic and biotic components of the ecosystem,
- Explore management tools for assessing and improving the sustainability of flatfish populations and related human activities (fisheries and aquaculture).

Themes

The 10th International Flatfish Symposium will include topics in all areas of research concerning flatfish ecology.

Contributions are encouraged on:

- Ecology (spatio-temporal connectivity along the life cycle, essential flatfish habitats, understanding short to long term changes),
- Interspecies comparisons (flatfish versus flatfish; flatfish versus other species),
- Experimental ecology and evolution (observations in the field, common garden, caging, etc), biotechnology, and other research technologies, including aquaculture and other applications,
- Anthropogenic pressures (multi-stress, e.g., global change, eutrophication and pollution) in addition to (or excluding) fisheries, and
- From local to global - scaling issues in research and ecosystem-based management

In addition, proposals out of the suggested theme sessions, or using multidisciplinary approaches, will be examined.

All suggestions for oral and poster presentations have to be submitted on <http://www.flatfishsymposium.com/international-flatfish-symposium-2017> from 1st March 2017 and will be considered for inclusion in the symposium program **until 3rd June 2017**.

Participation

The symposium is open to all interested participants. Those who wish to attend the symposium without making a presentation are welcome. Students are encouraged to participate.

Location

Saint-Malo is a fortified city located in Brittany, in northwestern France on the English Channel. It became notorious as the home of the corsairs, French privateers and sometimes pirates, and is the setting for the recently published and bestselling historical novel “All the light we cannot see” by the American author, Anthony Doerr. This historic and maritime great city is an acclaimed regional scenic area, tourist destination, and event hotspot. As in every French self-respecting city bordered by the sea, Saint-Malo also offers gastronomic delights.

We hope to see many of you in 2017 for a fruitful 10th gathering of the International Flatfish Symposium.

The organizing committee: Anik Brind’Amour, Marie-Laure Bégout & Olivier Le Pape

Visit the symposium website : <http://www.flatfishsymposium.com/international-flatfish-symposium-2017>

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FELLOWSHIPS/JOB POSITIONS/OPPORTUNITIES

PhD position in Science and Management of Climate Change, Venice, Italy



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

From: Elisa Furlan <elisa.furlan@unive.it>

Date: 10 April 2017 at 10:33:51 BST

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to draw your attention on the PhD program in Science and Management of Climate Change that is available at Ca' Foscari University: <http://www.unive.it/pag/20822>.

We are looking for a highly-motivated and research-oriented candidate to start a PhD in our research group (<http://www.ecraunit.com/>) working on environmental risk, with the aim to investigate the impact of climate change and anthropic pressures on water quality and related ecosystems. A previous experience including hydrological modelling, possibly related to climate change risk/impact assessment, will be considered preference title.

The ideal PhD Candidate should have a Master degree in environmental sciences/engineering, or in natural sciences (e.g. chemistry, biology), and fluent in speaking and writing English. In addition to the scientific skill, proficiency with MS Office, good organizational capability and high attitude to interpersonal relationship. Knowledge of, or experience with, the SWAT model (<http://swat.tamu.edu/>) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be an added value.

Fellowships are available at Ca' Foscari for a maximum period of four years for completion and the reading of the PhD, starting from September 1st, 2017.

The announcement, deadlines and rules for application are published at the following website: <http://www.unive.it/pag/20822/>.

Please let me know if you can spread the information to the ECSA network (**deadline: April 27th, 2017**).

Best regards,

Elisa Furlan

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Research Associate in Phylogenetic Comparative Analysis, Hull, UK



School of Environmental Sciences

We are looking to appoint a Research Associate in phylogenetic comparative analysis of parental care, who has or is presently working towards completing their PhD in Biology or related disciplines. The post is funded by the University of Hull.

The RA will be a member of the Evolutionary Comparative Ecology Group (<http://tinyurl.com/kswc4ac>) led by Dr Isabella Capellini (<http://tinyurl.com/icapellini>) that investigates fundamental questions on the evolution of animal diversity using state of the art phylogenetic comparative approaches, and offers a dynamic research environment in which the RA can further develop their skills. The successful applicant will be a core member of the 'Parental Care' cluster including Dr James Gilbert, Dr Lesley Morrell and 2 PhD students, with whom the RA is expected to work closely. Within the School, the successful applicant will also benefit from a rich and diverse research environment that includes the Ecology and Environmental Change Group, and the Evolutionary Biology Group.

This project extends our past work in mammals (West & Capellini 2016 Nature Communications) to amphibians and fish. The RA will compile a large dataset of parental care behaviours in amphibians and fish, lead the analysis using phylogenetic comparative methods to answer questions on the evolution of female and male uniparental care, and draft manuscripts. Depending on the RA's skills and interest, we may also investigate the project's questions with mathematical modeling approaches.

Essential: PhD in biology or related discipline near completion; knowledge of modern phylogenetic comparative methods, strong quantitative skills, evidence of work of publishable quality, excellent oral and written communication skills, demonstrable ability to work as an effective team member, and be reliable, self-motivated and well organized.

Desirable: PhD in biology or related discipline, experience with phylogenetic comparative methods, experience in testing hypotheses on phenotypic evolution across species, strong publication record, experience with R.

The position is fixed term for 3 years. The start date is 25th September 2017 and no earlier than the 1st of August 2017.

Salary range: £26,829 to £32,004 pa [Starting salaries according to qualification and experience.

You can learn more about this position and apply online at: www.hull.ac.uk/jobs (Vacancy ref: FS0302).

Applicants are required to submit a current CV and a covering letter detailing how their qualifications and experience meet the job description and specification.

Enquiries to Dr Isabella Capellini: I.Capellini@hull.ac.uk

Closing date 27th April 2017

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Open positions at JNCC, UK



A number of positions have opened with JNCC, including:

- * **Marine Assessment Scientist** (permanent)
- * **Seabird Ecologist** (fixed term)

JNCC is the public body that advises the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation, as well as having specific responsibilities for marine biodiversity conservation in UK offshore waters.

The closing date for applications is 09:00 on Monday 24 April 2017.

For more information about the competencies visit JNCC website <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/jobs> where you can download the details and the relevant application form and find out more about their work. If you have further questions, contact JNCC via recruitment@jncc.gov.uk.

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Open positions at Cefas, UK



There are a number of vacancies at Cefas, including:

- * **Environmental Economist**, at Lowestoft site. Closing 1st May 2017. Apply at: <http://ow.ly/BBaU30aPgJV>
- * **Research Computing Specialist**, at Lowestoft site. Closing 4th May. Apply at: <http://ow.ly/UZzt30aPg4x>
- * **Senior Research Scientist**, at Weymouth site. Closing 8th of May. Apply at: <https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/jobs.cgi?jcode=1537369>
- * **Facilities Manager**, at Lowestoft site. Closing date: 10th May 2017. Apply at: <http://ow.ly/DrYW30aPfOh>

Cefas is the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science provides world class science for the marine and freshwater environment.

Find out more at:

cefas.co.uk

<https://twitter.com/CefasGovUK>

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Marine Data Management Workshops



MEDIN are pleased to announce another series of their very popular and well-received workshops on marine data management, for the coming year. Eight free one-day workshops will take place over May 2017, August 2017, November 2017 and January and March 2018. These workshops are designed to help individuals and organisations make their marine data holdings discoverable and re-usable by future users.

The workshops are modular, with a morning session on MEDIN Data Guidelines and an afternoon session on the MEDIN Discovery Metadata Standard and tools. MEDIN are happy for users to attend either the full day or just the morning or afternoon session, as best suits individual needs.

MEDIN aim to personalise each workshop, with the Guidelines to be covered varying between attendees, depending on their individual data requirements. One session may therefore cover Data Guidelines ranging from bathymetry to biodiversity and/or geophysics, depending on who attends. MEDIN will contact registered attendees in advance of the workshops to identify which guidelines suit their data.

For full information on the workshops, please go to http://www.oceannet.org/marine_data_standards/workshops.html

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Website: <http://www.ecsa-news.org/>

ECSA is a registered charity (reg. no. 264006)

Compiled by: Anita Franco (A.Franco@hull.ac.uk)

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