

**Invited Keynote Speaker – Travel funding for Professor Bella Galil for Environmental Hazards  
Session at MASTS Annual Science Meeting, Glasgow – Sept/Oct 2015**

**Report for MASTS Small Grant 2015**

**Dr Elizabeth Cook**

Dr Cook organised a special session on ‘Environmental Biohazards’ at the recent MASTS Annual Conference in Glasgow (30 Sept – 2 October 2015) and MASTS kindly provided the funding from their small grants fund to assist with the travel expenses of the keynote speaker for this session, Professor Bella Galil.

Professor Galil works for the National Institute of Oceanography, Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR), and heads the scientific committee of the National Parks and Nature reserves Authority, Israel. She is also a member of governmental committees on fisheries and nature conservation. She has over 340 peer reviewed publications and has been responsible for major research programmes in the Mediterranean Sea. She specialises in marine invasive species and is currently leading an international team of scientists in an effort to prevent the introduction of even greater numbers of invasive species through an enlarged Suez Canal that has recently been built by the Egyptian government.

Prof Galil was, as expected, a passionate and inspirational keynote speaker, who really set the tone for a great session at the meeting. Her talk was entitled “‘Double trouble’: the expansion of the Suez Canal and marine bioinvasions in the Mediterranean Sea”. Prior to and following on from the session, Prof Galil also discussed and debated with other researchers, PhD and Masters students (including those on the new Erasmus Plus Joint Master Degree in Aquaculture, Environment & Society (ACES)) the issues created by anthropogenic introductions of species into the Mediterranean. Prof Galil has also kindly agreed to be a Guest Scholar on the ACES Master Degree Programme.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Prof Galil was unable to visit SAMS during her stay, but we are in the process of finalising a paper, looking at potential solutions that could be employed to minimise the introduction of invasive species through the enlarged Suez canal. The total cost of the travel for Prof Galil was £1180.79 and I am very grateful for the funding provided by MASTS to enable her to speak at the meeting this year. The funding of her travel costs were as follows:

MASTS	499.95
ERASMUS Plus Joint Master Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society	680.84
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£1180.79</b>