

Presentation of MAR-ECO Students

Name: Nicola King
Nationality: English



Institution: [OceanLab](#), [University of Aberdeen](#), Scotland

e-mail: n.king@abdn.ac.uk

Degree: PhD student

Supervisor: Prof. I. G. Priede (OceanLab)

Working title of project: *Deep sea fauna and environment of the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea*

Summary of Project: The Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) in the North Atlantic Ocean is a poorly explored area which features rough topography with similar depths to ocean margin regions. The MAR with different topography, absence of food supply from shelf regions and open ocean conditions is likely to have a distinct fauna with different behavioural characteristics. This project aims to investigate the influence of environmental factors on assemblages of mobile deep-sea benthic fauna in terms of their species composition, abundance, biomass, behaviour and activity, through comparison of contrasting locations along the MAR and in the Mediterranean Sea. Studies will be undertaken using lander vehicles equipped with cameras that descend to the sea floor and attract animals to within their field of view using bait.