



## The *Porcupine Marine Natural History Society Bulletin* Student Prize

In order to encourage student marine natural historians the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society (PMNHS) Council has instituted an annual prize for the best scientific paper published in the Bulletin each year. The rules governing the award of this prize are as follows:

1. **One prize of £100 will be awarded annually.** The prize will be for a paper published in the Bulletin that is, in the judgement of a panel, a significant contribution to marine natural history.
2. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for consideration for the award, the author should be: A student or recent ex-student at the start of his/her career (young professional). It is anticipated that in many cases this award will be for a paper originating from an undergraduate, master's or doctoral thesis. Normally this will be restricted to persons under the age of 28 at the time of submission of the manuscript or, in the case of a paper publishing research previously submitted in a thesis (graduate or postgraduate), within 3 years of the date of submission of the thesis. The award could also be for a description of a field excursion, marine natural history observations or other contributions accepted by the Bulletin. For consideration of the Judging Panel, papers should normally be sole-authored. For jointly authored papers to be eligible, at least the first author must be the student/young professional. Recipients of the award shall not be eligible for further awards. The Judging Panel will adjudicate on all matters of eligibility and their decision is final.
3. **The composition of the Judging Panel** will be three members of the PMNHS Council or two members of the Council and a co-opted ordinary member. The persons on the Judging Panel will be agreed by the PMNHS Council. The panel will be selected to ensure that there is no conflict of interest. Members of the Judging Panel are not eligible for the prize.
4. In **judging the worth of a paper**, the Judging Panel will take cognizance of:
  - a. The originality of the piece of work and its contribution to marine natural history.
  - b. The quality of the writing, graphical and tabular presentations, photographs and diagrams and the overall standard of communication.The Judging Panel reserves the right not to award a prize in any given year, if it is judged that no paper is sufficiently meritorious.
5. Recommendations of the Judging Panel will be forwarded to the PMNHS Council for approval.
6. The prize will be awarded at the annual conference of the Society.

When submitting a paper please make it known to the editor that you are eligible for the prize. We encourage students/young professionals to contact the PMNHS for help and advice on types and suitability of submissions. Contact details can be found on the website <http://pnmhs.co.uk> or via FaceBook.

We hope that students submitting pieces to the Bulletin will consider presenting at the annual conference.