

## Marine Farming Association - April Monthly Update - for Industry Advisory Group

### Location differences

The deployed mussels are experiencing different levels of turbidity and predation. Each of our five deployment locations are unique in the amount of sediment that settles onto the mussel beds, the amount of turbidity in the water, and the number of starfish that migrate to the beds. Although we have spent the month working from home, we are working hard going through data and current literature. Below are close-up images, taken in February during our last mussel check, that show the different sedimentary regimes the mussels are experiencing (Fig. 1). We are very interested to understand how the mussels respond to these different environments and to use that information to inform successful future restoration decisions.

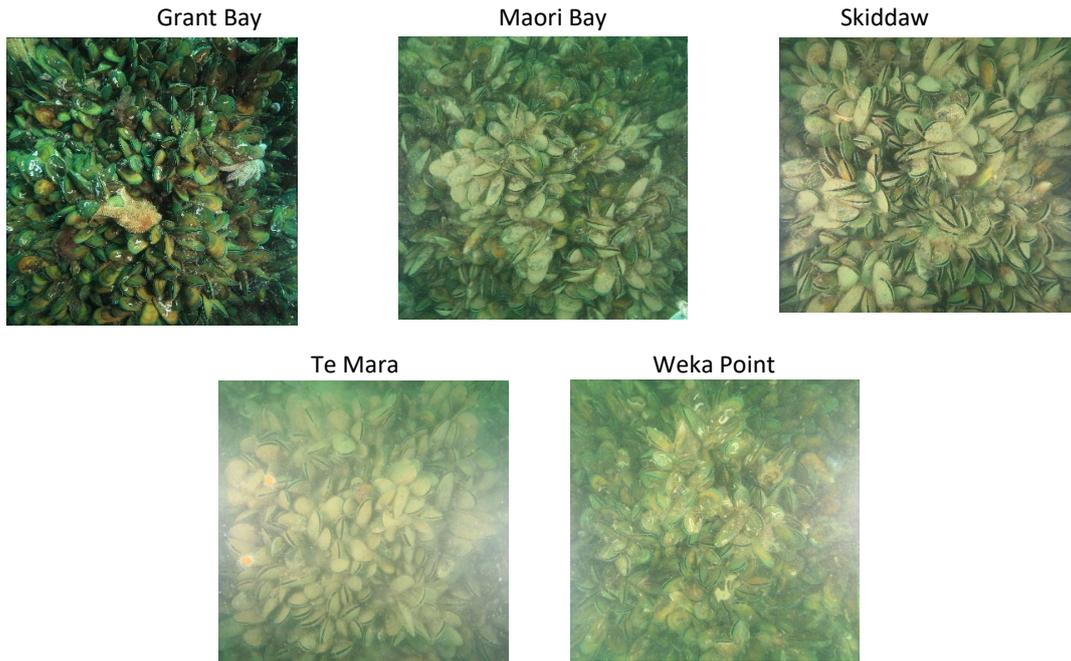


Figure 1: Close-up image taken of the mussel plots at each location.

### Farewell Vaughan

This month we said farewell to Vaughan Ellis, one of the most vital contributors to the project (Fig. 2). We wish Vaughan well as he transitions into new life experiences and we are very grateful for his drive, insight and dedication he brought to this restoration project.

### New website

In other news, the shellfish restoration lab from the University of Auckland has launched their website that you can access here: <https://benthicscience.wixsite.com/shellfishrestoration>. They will frequently have updates on mussel bed restoration that is going on throughout New Zealand, including this project.

### June check-up

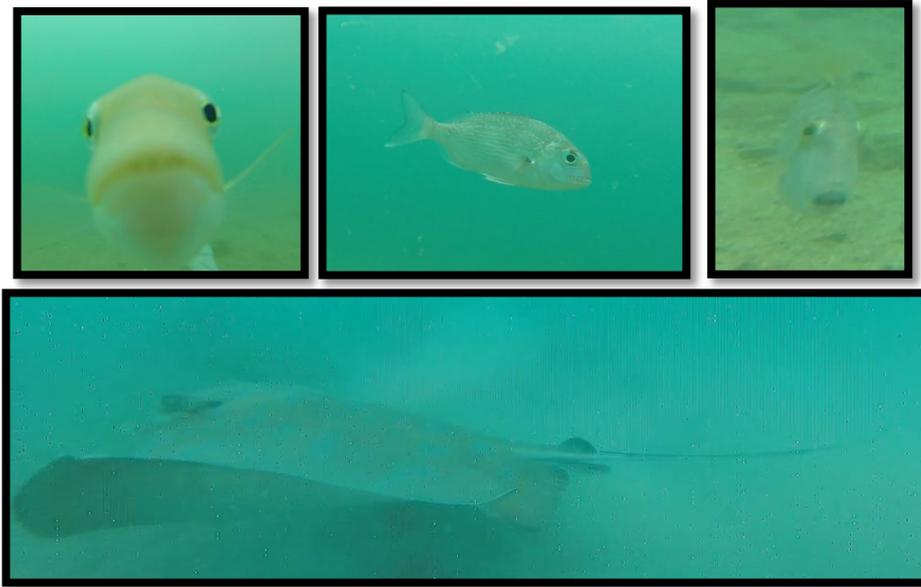
My aim is for our next mussel check to be in early June once we are in level 2, if not sooner. I hope Industry members all stay safe, and as always if you have any comments or feedback on this month's progress, please feel free to reach out via email at [egol669@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:egol669@aucklanduni.ac.nz).

Thank you for all your help and your time with this project. 😊 Emilee Benjamin

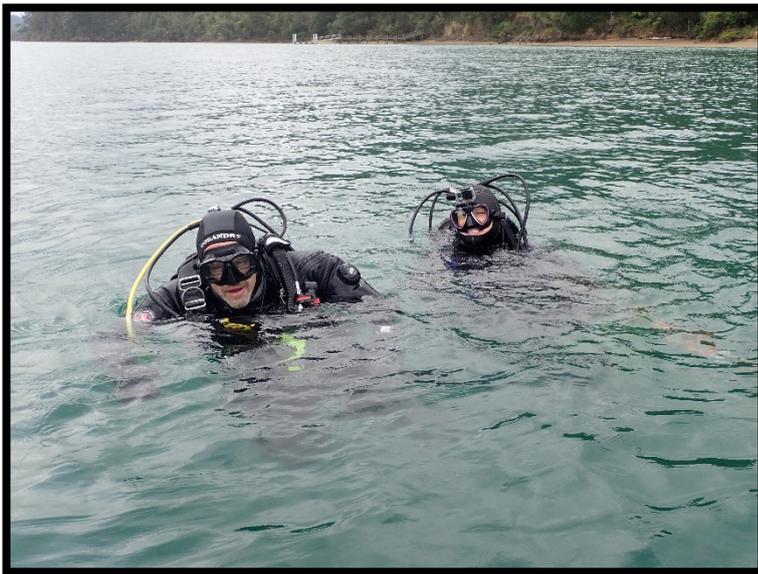


Figure 2: Photo of Vaughan Ellis when he took us on the boat last year to look at possible restoration locations. Here he is checking the condition of a mussel.

## Project Photos



*Figure 3: These photos were taken with a GoPro that we dropped to record the fish at each location before we deployed the mussels. Top: Left: Curious spotty captured at Maori Bay, Middle: Snapper from the Grant Bay location, Right: Leather Jacket captured from Grant Bay. Bottom: A stingray captured at the Skiddaw location*



*Figure 4: Sean and Emilee back in February coming up from a SCUBA dive after checking on the mussels.*



*Figure 5: Beautiful yellow 'local' Marlborough Sounds broodstock.*