



MARINE FARMING ASSOCIATION  
To Promote & Nurture Sustainable Marine Farming

## JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### Board Meeting

19 July 2023

### ECSC Meeting

28 July 2023

### Award nominations due

28 July 2023

### MFCAP Q3 declarations due

31 July 2023

### MFA / MSQP AGM and conference

25 August 2023



# GM's Comment

The tail end of the 'triple dip' La Niña has certainly delivered some rain to the top of the South - perhaps we can think of these recent harvest closures and biotoxin events as parting blows? The swing through neutral and into to El Niño conditions should be accompanied by more westerly patterns, extended dry periods and hopefully the return of some more favourable growing conditions.

There is also cause for optimism in the export data, with pricing for all three major species remaining steady at pre-covid/near-record levels. That said, volume was down across the board which does highlight some of the climate-related production challenges. Here's hoping the combination of improved growing conditions, strong pricing and falling inflation will set the industry up for a good 2024/25.

By the time this Newsletter reaches you the MFA/AQNZ joint appeal on MEP Variation 1 will be filed and the Section 274 process underway. The Hearing Panel released their decision on the 19th of May 2023, and it was largely positive for marine farmers, with much of the MFA/AQNZ mapping adopted and Controlled Activity Status offered for most consent renewals. MFA members can expect further updates in the coming weeks on the nature of the other appeals lodged and how to join an appeal via the Section 274 process.

MFA continues to work with the University of Auckland and the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFFF) Fund to get two new research projects up and running. One application is centred around further mussel restoration efforts and the second project is aimed at improving spat performance. I hope to be able to provide a further update on both projects in the next Newsletter.

After several years of work behind the scenes, and a lengthy pre-consultation process, MPI have recently released a discussion document on the 'policy proposals' that would facilitate the strengthening of marine biosecurity requirements (from 2025) under the new Aquaculture Biosecurity Programme. All marine farmers should review the proposals and participate in the consultation process - as the new regulations will have operational impacts. Further information on the Programme and how to make a submission can be found here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/policy-proposals-for-the-aquaculture-biosecurity-programme/>

After what feels like a long wait since the July 2021 and August 2022 flood events, the initial findings of the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study were released mid-June and included a list of 'emerging preferred options' for public consultation. The devil is in the detail, especially for those of you

with property in the Sounds, but from an industry perspective it is reassuring to see that road access to important wharf facilities such as Okiwi Bay, Elaine Bay and Oyster Bay will be maintained. For all the of Study findings and advice on how to provide feedback, please visit the MDC website: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/marlborough-sounds-future-access-study>

With the year flying by, we are quickly approaching the MFA AGM and Conference, which is to be held on Friday the 25th of August. Once again, we will be holding the event at the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club, and hopefully this year we can avoid the need for turbulent flights in small aeroplanes on account of flood closures affecting two State Highways. As we are nearly at capacity for both the day session and dinner event, please get in touch with Nicola Russell ([office@marinefarming.co.nz](mailto:office@marinefarming.co.nz)) ASAP if you would like tickets.

All the best,

Ned.

## Marine Farm Compliance Audit Programme

Declarations are Due  
**31st July 2023**

If you have not sent in your declaration for the 3rd quarter, please do so as soon as possible



ONE **DECLARATION FORM PER SITE**  
DUE BY THE END OF EACH PERIOD

November, December, January	(1)
February, March, April	(2)
<b>May, June, July</b>	<b>(3)</b>
August, September, October	(4)

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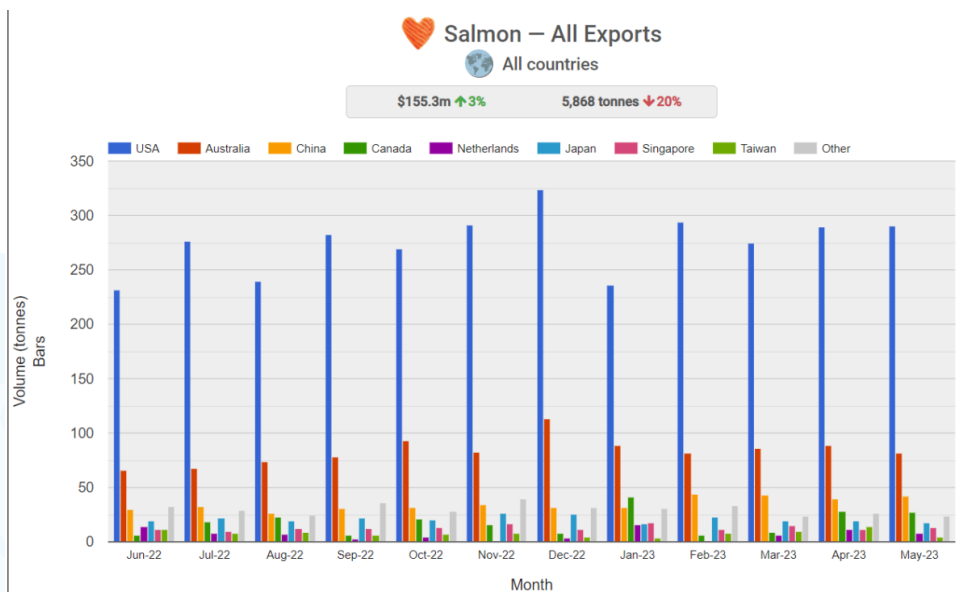
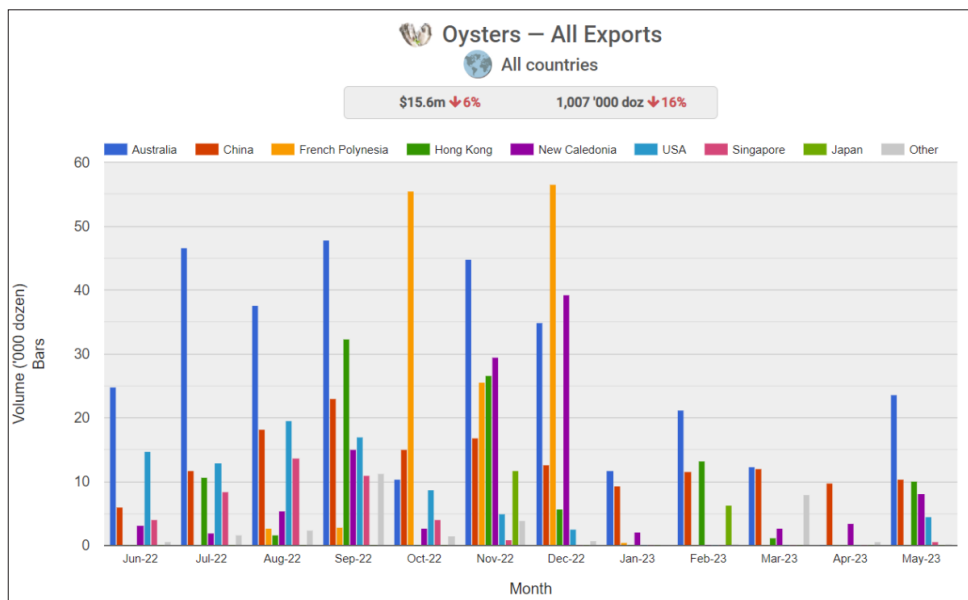
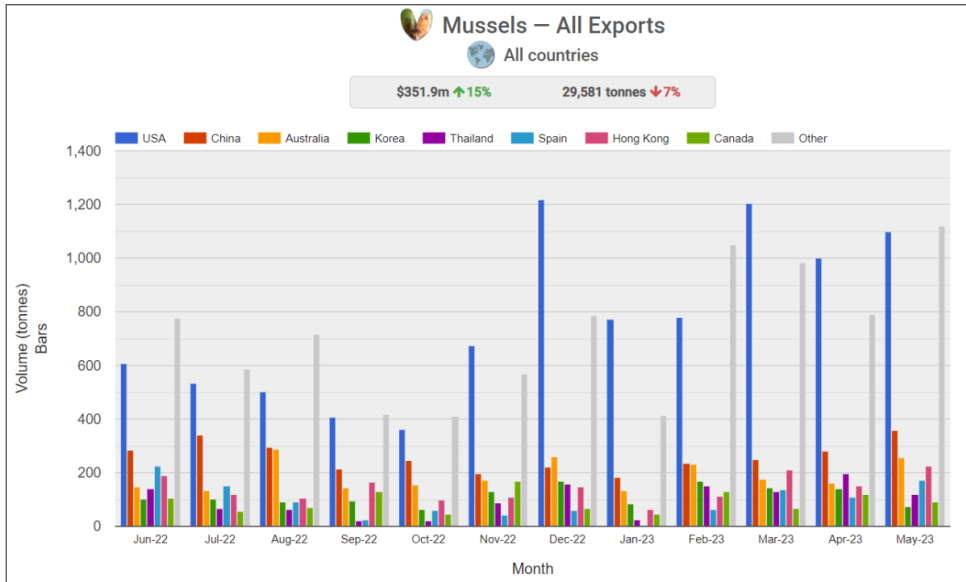
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# AQNZ Export Data



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# Smart+Connected Update

## New spat hatchery headlines S+C Aqua June meeting



The June Smart+Connected Aquaculture meeting brought back some familiar faces and names.

Zane Charman chaired the S+C Aqua Value+Innovation group as we got started and was active until the 2019 forum. There he and Pat Verryt saw the scale of demand for mussel spat.

We'd had a two-minute glimpse about their company - Aotearoa Mussel Ltd - at the April meeting but Zane returned in June to give us a full outline. They are building a commercial scale mussel hatchery with iwi Te Whānau-ā-Apanui in Eastern Bay of Plenty. They've achieved scale runs of GSM spat and are now in the labs producing high-quality stock (larvae/eggs). Contractor engagement is complete, and construction of the hatchery will commence later this year with an estimated 18 month build time.

Zane and Pat have canvassed every mussel grower in NZ about

their demand and have completed a ten-year forecast. Production output will be measured in "final equivalent" i.e., how many tonnes of mussels once fully grown out of all hatchery support. They are aiming for 35,000 tonnes p.a. and planning for it go into all regions. Watch this space.

Our second presentation was from Cawthron's Dr Matt Miller on the research he's led that has confirmed that Greenshell mussels can help reduce knee pain in older women and indicated they help muscles recover after intense exercise. Matt outlined how the results have the potential to reduce pain and increase mobility for millions of people, as well as boost our Greenshell mussel industry.

The clinical trials were rather delightfully known as MOVER, MINK and ROAM. These investigated human recovery from non-trained athletes (MOVER), elderly trials (sore joints, mobility issues etc) (MINK) and looked at GSM's effectiveness with Osteoarthritis (ROAM). All trials were fed the same 3 grams of mussel powder each day.

MOVER trial – saw untrained males doing repetitive exercise to cause stress on the body. They then had a placebo or Greenshell mussel capsule over a couple of weeks and completed pre-measurements. The indications are those fed mussel powder recovered better.

MINK – post menopausal woman. Osteoarthritis affects this demographic. Matt and team worked on seeing what results they could achieve for pain reduction and cartilage protection. They found greater results with Greenshell mussel over the placebo.

ROAM – still being written up but more evidence of cartilage protection.

Matt says Greenshell mussel powder sales could be leveraged off this and AQNZ has been leading talks about mussel powder standards to ensure they are of the highest quality.

Work is also being done on connecting this back to food and health claims.



Our third June speaker was Moananui's Chief Executive, Jodie Kuntzsch, who explained how the initiative aims at top of South becoming home of Aotearoa's blue water economy. Moananui is a collaboration to transform Aotearoa New Zealand into a world-leading ecosystem for developing and commercialising blue economy products, services, technology, research and capability.

Blue economy clusters are emerging in places like Iceland and Norway. Over the last year, Moananui has seen a group of nine companies coming together to secure a co-funding arrangement with the SFFF fund to establish the cluster. An expanded group partnerships and associated organisations is involving 15 to 20 entities, mainly project sector entities but also startups, companies with national reach in production or research support organisations, non-profits, and Government agencies.





Jodie says there is strong focus on support and coming together to develop a blue economy, social, cultural, and ecological value, not just growing GDP. A pilot programme - Blue Tomorrow - was finishing in June. It was designed to attract global learners to Blue Economy careers NZ through a four-week online learning programme, utilizing businesses at the Top of the South. Moananui is looking to have full work programme up and running by September.

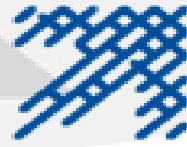
Meanwhile, Melissa McFarlane, who has been supported by Marlborough District Council to pick up some workstreams with Smart+Connected Aquaculture, has completed drafts of two documents.

Working with AQNZ and others, the documents are designed to update consumers on some of the health benefits of consuming GSMs, including the outcomes from the research that Matt Miller has been leading. Another document summarises the health benefits for those who market GSMs.

### **Brendon Burns**



**SABIK  
MARINE**



**Aquaculture Light Applications.**

**SPECIAL MARK**

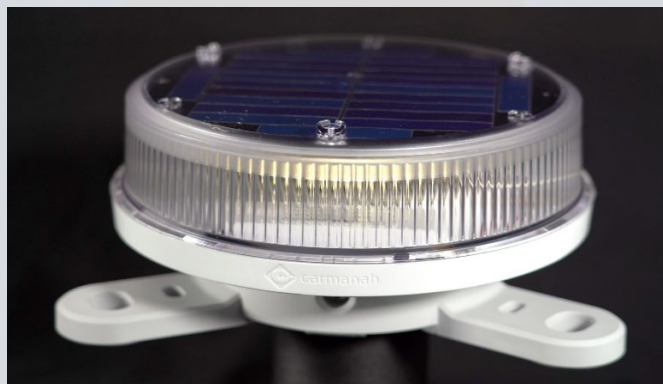
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# Anchor Watch Required on all Vessels

Following up on the new guidelines for fishing vessels, Maritime New Zealand director, Kirstie Hewlett, clarified the rule around anchor watch while speaking at the Marine Transport Association conference in Wellington.

She was specific about the requirement under Rule Part 22 that all vessels, including recreational and small commercial boats, must have a watchkeeper on deck while at anchor.

Maritime New Zealand is raising awareness through their new guidance, and a debate has arisen around the interpretation of what constitutes a watch at anchor.

We all know vessels must at all times maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

What is causing the stir is Maritime NZ defining “at all times” as “during the day, during the night, when travelling to and from fishing grounds, fishing, while at anchor, or drifting.”

Traditionally, skippers of smaller vessels assumed we were compliant at anchor by using GPS and depth alarms, weather forecasts, and local knowledge to select suitable anchorages and monitoring intervals to ensure we weren't dragging or encountering a change in conditions.

MNZ says the person on anchor watch may not need a qualification, but under HSWA, we're required to make sure our crew are adequately trained to undertake their role.

How can we ensure we are compliant with the rules while also managing fatigue?

Maritime NZ has said they are interested in finding ways to help operators comply. Be sure to give them your constructive input, ideally through your association or friendly local Maritime Officer

**Isabella Mersdorf - Skipper Training NZ**



# Roped In: Exploring Effective Methods for Mussel Spat Separation

Spat losses pose a persistent challenge for the Greenshell™ industry, resulting in stagnant annual production and revenue. Extensive research has highlighted a potential solution to this problem: the implementation of a nursery system that nurtures spat to a larger size prior to seeding. However, for this approach to be economically viable, a year-round supply of single-seed spat (i.e. spat not attached to any settling substrata) is crucial.

Coastal spat farms present a promising avenue for seed supply as they can consistently provide a dependable source of high-quality spat. Nevertheless, the current obstacle lies in the inability to easily and effectively separate spat from the catching rope to obtain individuals at suitable sizes for nursery culture.

To address this issue, our research endeavors have focused on exploring innovative methods to separate spat from catching ropes by conducting experiments utilizing various protease enzymes and chlorinated water. These treatments have been designed to weaken the connective threads that spat use to attach themselves to surfaces, such as catching ropes. This should enable spat to be safely separated and remain alive following a quick wash in seawater (Figure 1)..

Our initial findings have been encouraging, demonstrating that protease enzymes or chlorination can serve as effective approaches to separate, on average, 60% of spat at sizes of 3-5mm from catching ropes without causing any increase in mortality. The second experimental round then saw up to 90% of spat removed at the size of 0.5-3mm, however, with a lower survival rate of 48%. Further enhancements in the methods employed are likely to result in a higher rate of spat separation and survival.

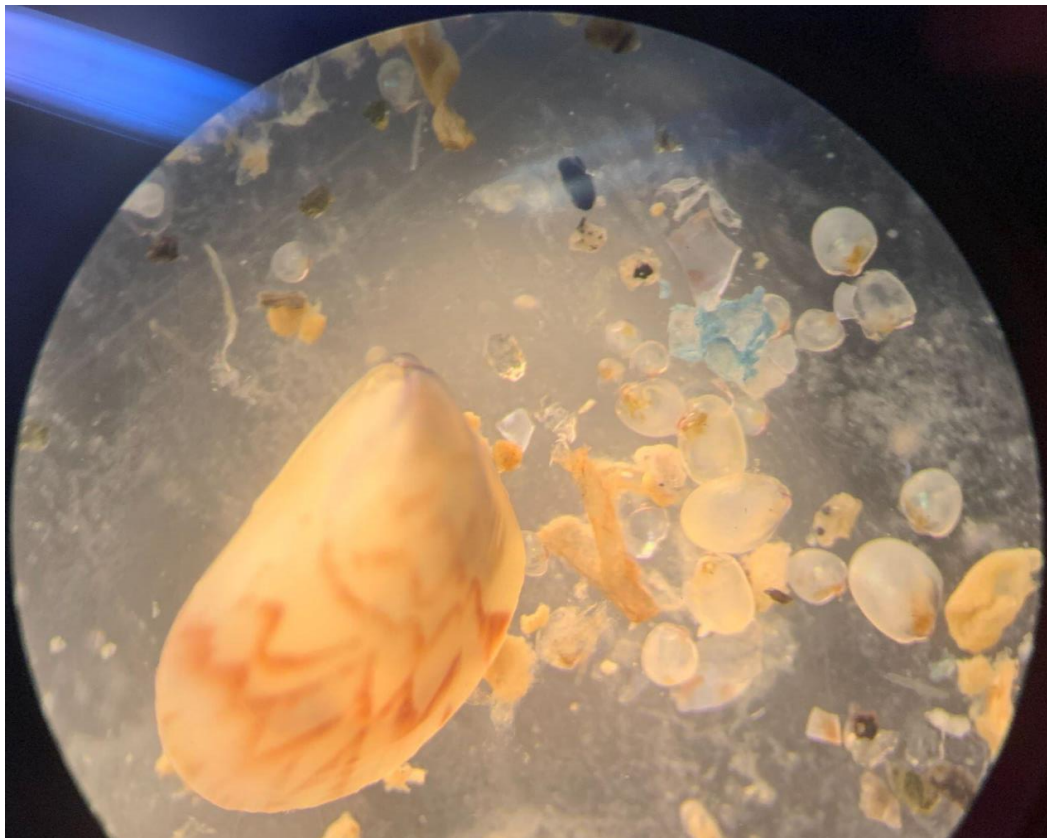
In summary, our research aims to address the ongoing problem of spat loss by investigating novel techniques for extracting spat from catching ropes.

The utilization of protease enzymes and chlorination has shown promise in achieving a significant separation of spat, contributing to the commercial viability of a nursery system, subsequently improving overall production efficiency. Continuous refinement of these methods is expected to yield even more favorable outcomes.

### **Kayleb Himiona**

khim984@aucklanduni.ac.nz

Andy Ritchie Scholar, 2022



*FIGURE 1: Spat of various sizes successfully separated from catching ropes.*



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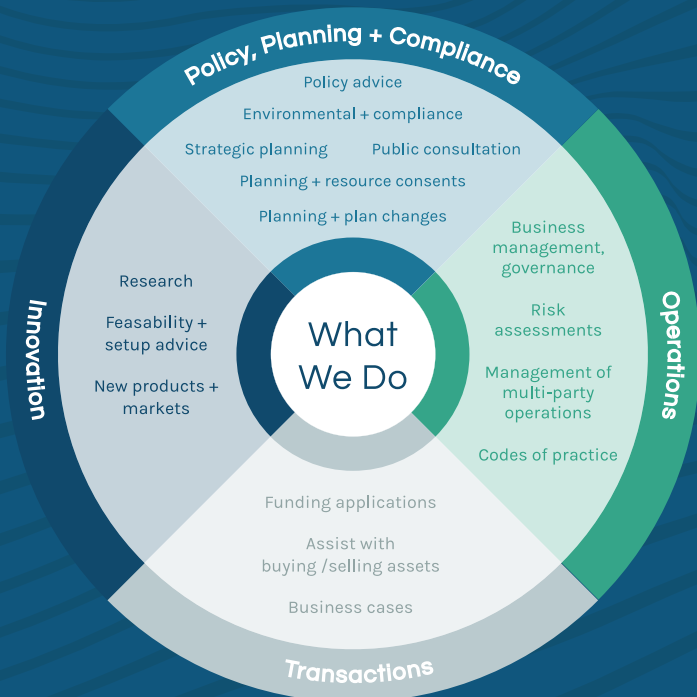


## AQUACULTURE DIRECT

Aquaculture Direct believes that New Zealand can benefit from the economic, cultural and environmental opportunities that sustainably managed aquaculture can deliver.

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# What does *Caulerpa brachypus* mean for the Top of the South?

The invasive seaweed *Caulerpa* has been headline news in the top of the North Island.

The Northern Advocate on 19 May led with this:

*The invasive seaweed caulerpa has been found at Rāwhiti in the Bay of Islands, just days after Northland authorities slammed the Government for being too slow to deal with what it calls the world's worst marine seaweed pest.*

*The find is the first time the “foot and mouth” of marine seaweed pests has been found in the country outside of its Great Barrier Island stronghold.*

Its relative *Caulerpa taxifolia* has caused adverse impacts over thousands of hectares in the Mediterranean and South Australia.

How it got to New Zealand is not known but certainly involved human mediated spread to jump between countries. Spreading from Great Barrier to the Bay of Islands probably went the same way, as storm carried material should have turned up further south as well.

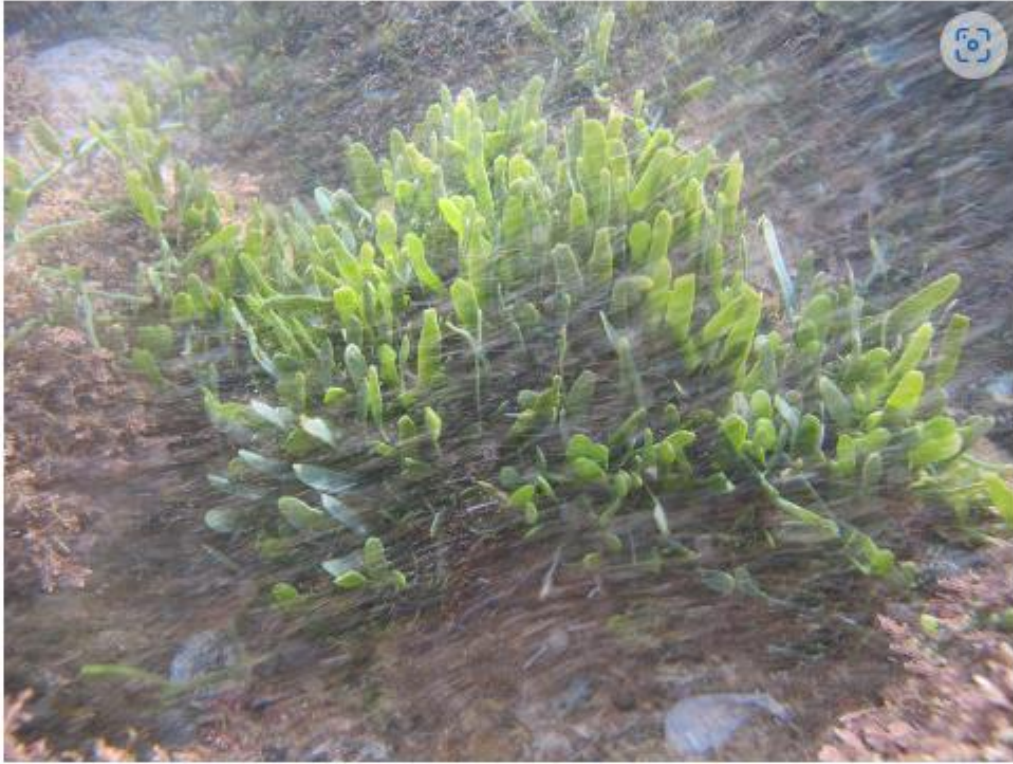
MPI is predicting that our waters are too cold for this species to establish, but we will be asking everyone moving from the top of the north to the top of the south to take extra care. This species can spread by fragments, so gear and bottom gear such as anchors and chains should be washed before moving, not when arriving!

Peter Lawless

Coordinator TOS Marine Biosecurity Partnership [www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz/](http://www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz/)



Exotic *Caulerpa brachypus*



*Caulerpa brachypus* growing in Blind Bay



A dense mat of *Caulerpa brachypus* in Blind Bay.

Photo Credit: Ministry for Primary Industries

If you have any questions about *Caulerpa*, email [Caulerpa@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Caulerpa@mpi.govt.nz)





# New Zealand Ocean Acidification Conference

## Climate Change Resilience in Aquaculture Symposium

17 - 18 August 2023, Nelson | [nzoac.nz/conference](http://nzoac.nz/conference)

The Cawthron Shellfish Aquaculture Platform and the NZ Ocean Acidification Community are hosting two events in August. Registrations are now open, and we encourage any interested aquaculture industry representatives to attend.

Registration is free and the conference will be catered.

The deadline to register for all events and to submit your abstract for the Ocean Acidification Conference is 16 July.

**Spaces are limited, so please get in quick if you are interested.**

**17th August - NZ Ocean Acidification Conference:** A traditional conference-style event inviting abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Subthemes will be determined based on submissions, and abstracts across all disciplines are welcome (e.g. social sciences, biological sciences, chemistry, technology, government etc.).

**18th August - Climate Change Resilience in Aquaculture Symposium:** This 1-day symposium will feature invited speakers representing a wide range of stakeholder groups (industry, science institutions, government, iwi groups and universities) to discuss our climate change challenges in the aquaculture industry, and our adaptation and mitigation options.

Further information and the registration form can be found on the conference website: <http://nzoac.nz/conference>.

Please get in touch with Jess Ericson ([jess.ericson@cawthron.org.nz](mailto:jess.ericson@cawthron.org.nz)) or Joanna Copedo ([Joanna.copedo@cawthron.org.nz](mailto:Joanna.copedo@cawthron.org.nz)) if you have any additional queries.

# The future is now!



*Students connect with aquaculture staff at the Aquaculture Interactive Workstation at Future of Work 2023*

*(Photo credit: Richard Briggs Photography)*

The Marine Farming Association and aquaculture industry were out in full force at the Future of Work conference recently!

Over 1,800 local students (and families) attended the Future of Work youth conference on 14th June for a day of inspiration and eye-opening opportunities. Students got to hear from a stellar speaker line-up, then come over to the Interactive Workstation Zone to connect with businesses and tertiary providers. Over 80 businesses and organisations were there to showcase the wealth of career pathways in each industry – including New Zealand King Salmon, Marlborough Oysters, and Sanford representing aquaculture.

Unlike your traditional 'career expo', the Interactive Workstation Zone is all about interaction, not brochures, says Kelvin Watt (from the Graeme Dingle Foundation Marlborough). Kelvin explains – "by having an activity or challenge on each industry station it helps break the ice. It draws the students in, and allows conversation about careers to flow out of that. Once we have got the students talking and engaging, they feel confident

to ask questions and find out more. It's all about breaking down those barriers between our young people and industry, and helping them to discover jobs they may never have heard of before!"

For the first time, the colleges merged their separate career events with the Future of Work, to create a one-stop shop for students and families, and reduce the number of events industry is asked to take part in. Although the event evaluations are still being processed, the feedback so far has been "overwhelmingly positive", Kelvin says. "The colleges are reporting students who have re-engaged with school after finding something they were passionate about, and even a business who has hired a young person after connecting with them at the event".

Mark Watson of Robinson Construction noted "we know that we're not necessarily going to hire someone directly as a result of being here today (though we know some businesses have). Future of Work is about giving back to our community by being here to inspire our young people – and 'planting a seed' for the medium- and long-term benefit of our industry and region! Just like planting an acorn – it won't grow into a mighty oak overnight, but that doesn't mean you don't plant it!"

The organisers - the Graeme Dingle Foundation and Marlborough District Council - have sent through their enormous thanks to all involved for helping make it such a success, and for planting some 'acorns' which will one day grow to giant oaks.

### **Graeme Dingle Foundation Marlborough**

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## **MFA Newsletter Stories**

If you have a story that you would like to see published in our newsletter, please forward it to [Office@marinefarming.co.nz](mailto:Office@marinefarming.co.nz) for consideration.

Our newsletter comes out every two months – February, April, June, August, October, and December.

# Kono Seafood – third asset sale in a year

The sale of Marlborough-based Kono Seafood, to Talley's in May marked another divestment by its owners Wakatū Incorporation.

Kono Seafood had employed around 300 staff across its three sites in Blenheim, Golden Bay, and Havelock.

Kono NZ Chief Operating Officer Andy Wotton said the organisation was really pleased that Talley's was taking on the overwhelming majority Kono staff and that the roles will stay within the region.

Wakatū said the sale formed part of a wider strategic reset to ensure its portfolio of businesses align more closely with its 500-year vision Te Pae Tawhiti and put Wakatū in a strong position for the future.

“Not only does the timing of this sale allow us to put our people in the position to secure ongoing employment with a well-known and experienced operator in the region, but we are also able to realise the value of our significant seafood asset, positioning us well for the future.”

Talley's CEO Tony Hazlett said he was pleased to welcome in the Kono team, recognising the commitment both organisations have to the region. “With national and global demand for Greenshell™ Mussels, we were looking at how to meet that demand through our state-of-the-art Blenheim-based mussel plant, which can have up to 450 staff working there on four product lines.

“With capacity at our mussel facilities we are thrilled this deal with Kono will enable us to employ hundreds of skilled local people, keeping them in our region. We have created more than 250 roles for Kono seafood staff. As well as Blenheim, we also have opportunities for people to work with us in Havelock, Motueka and Golden Bay, and potentially in other parts of our food business as well.”

The sale of Kono Seafood was said not to impact other Kono businesses. Kono Horticulture, Hop Federation and Tohu wines were to continue to operate as usual.

In February, Kono had announced the sale of its Blenheim-based business Annies (which made fruit leather) saying it hadn't met performance requirements over a number of years and wasn't sustainable long term.

In July last year, Kono announced the sale of sustainable seafood company Yellow Brick Road. It had been purchased in 2015 with a reputation as a world class provider of kai moana to restaurants and customers throughout Aotearoa.

Clearwater Mussels Ltd will be farming the newly acquired waterspace on behalf of Talley's and have agreements in place to utilise most of the former Kono vessels and employ the vessel crews.

Clearwater Operations Manager Mike Holland said "There is real sense of excitement in the business – picking up the Kono waterspace, vessels and staff brings a range of new opportunities Clearwater.

Talley's have also advised that they are thrilled to see the Blenheim factory operating much closer to it's full potential.

We wish all of the parties well with these new endeavours.

**Brendon Burns**

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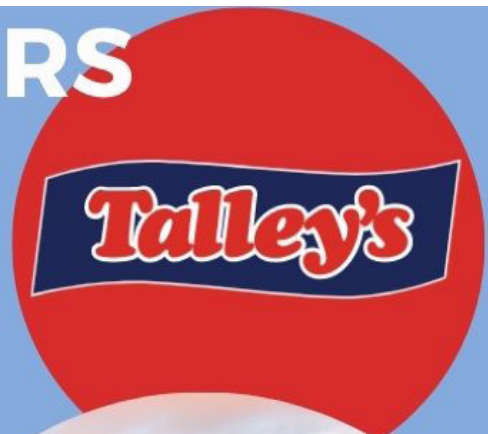
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[Jordy.Taylor@talleys.co.nz](mailto:Jordy.Taylor@talleys.co.nz)



# Bam the spat man (and marlin catcher)

Ross Bellingham – known to most as Bam for his preparedness to stand his ground – built a family mussel spat catching business which remains one of the big three operating off Ninety Mile Beach.

In the early 1980's his keen interest in both commercial and recreational fishing, especially marlin, brought Bam from south of Auckland to Pukenui, half an hour north of Kaitaia.

The Greenshell mussel industry in the Marlborough Sounds was getting underway and spat off the beach was quickly becoming the key to industry expansion.

Rob Pooley, then operating an aquaculture JV from Elaine Bay with Chris & Sue Godsiff, got a call after Bam rang the Havelock phone exchange and spoke to party line operator Joan Helem.



*Bam and Adrianne*

"It was the mid-1980s. He rang the exchange looking to be connected to a mussel farmer. Joan rang me."

Bam and Rob formed a solid working relationship that was to span the next 40 years.

"At one stage we were probably the biggest players. Bam was an incredibly perceptive collector of spat and in the early days was also a fisherman. This enabled him to "spot" spat on weed long before any other collectors, because it would come up on his longline hooks."

Rob reckons Bam could signal spat was coming as much ahead as two-three weeks before stranding occurred.

"He was one tough hard-working man and thrived on the collecting of



*Bam inspects a Sounds line seeded with spat he supplied*

spat by hand in the early years. He remains a friend of mine and I will forever remember him as a never back down, old school man who can be immensely proud of his contribution to the growth and development of our industry."

There is a strong inter-generational element as Rob's son Simon continues to work closely with Bam's step son-in-law Greg Gemmell. He now runs the family business Kadj Fishing with his mother Adrienne (Bam's partner of many years) and Greg's partner Kara. Bam also keeps an eye on things every day, though the onset of Parkinsons for the 76 year old means he's not able to do as much as he'd like.

Greg came into Kadj more than 20 years ago after earlier working for another pioneering mussel-spat collecting family the Hensleys.

"He's named Bam or Bam Bam for a reason. Back in the day, it was a fairly competitive industry. On the beach he wasn't afraid to stand his ground."

MFA President Jono Large has been good friends with Bam since 1999 and has only ever sourced Kaitaia spat from the Kadj family business in his 24 years in the industry.

"It's probably fair to say Bam didn't have a really long fuse."

But he came to have the highest regard for Bam and his family's generosity as hosts and the intense focus on quality spat. Bam was the first to move away from simply packing spat in plastic bags and chilling them with ice. Under this method, the spat often arrived too cold, squashed



*Bam and Adrienne, Greg and Kara (at rear) in packing shed*



and decomposing, even if flown in planes as happened initially. Bam started single stacking the spat in fish bins on refrigerated trucks.

Jono says everyone had got so used to the “smell” of Kaitaia spat and assumed that was normal.

“When the first truckload of bins arrived there was no smell at all so I rang Bam and said something was wrong there’s no “Kaitaia spat smell.” He said it didn’t smell because it was still fresh and not decomposing and he was right.”

Greg says Bam was always focused on quality and that continues.



*Some high-quality seaweed with spat*

“Sometimes we look at the spat coming in and say that’s not worth taking. Bam’s taught me to wash it. You look at the colour and size.”

Greg says there are three grades - expletive deleted, good and very good. In some seasons, as much as 80% of material may need sorting and discarding to produce 20% of spat-bearing weed to maximise the potential for uptake on the lines.

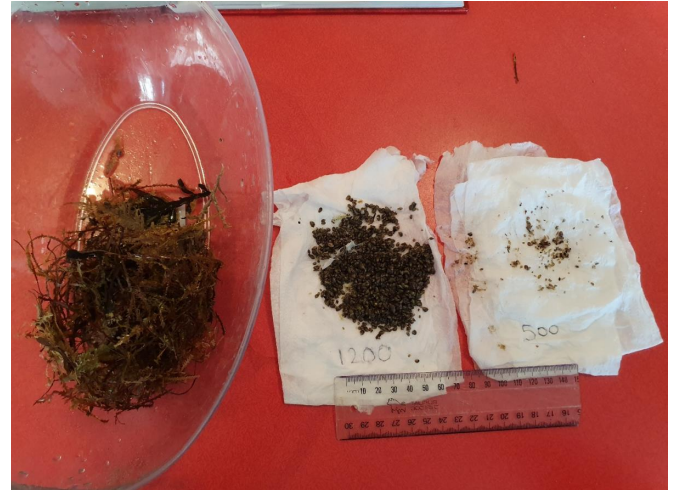
Many of the Kadj Fishing's customers are smaller mussel farmers who Greg says are less able to sustain non-performing lines.

“I think we deal with some of the fussiest mussel farmers in the industry. It took a while but they trust us now.”

When Bam started, he took seaweed off the beach with a Ford Falcon and

a trailer. “It was all hand-sourcing,” says Greg.

The seaweed was worked through in the garage of Bam and Adrienne’s home. Local people were asked to come and help – Bam even set up a bar “Bam’s Rat Pack” at one end of the garage – and free Lion Red helped bolster the team needed to sort and pack the spat. At the start, around 25 tonne a year was



*Seaweed and sorted spat sample to gauge quality.*



*Loaders at work on 90 Mile Beach*

harvested, rising to 40-50t after Bam replaced the early tractors everyone used with a fleet of loaders.

The next big change was when the purpose-built Hensley spat processing facility came on the market at Houhora, north of Pukenui in 2012. It was the closest packing shed to 90 Mile Beach and was bought by Kadj Fishing. Seaweed is sorted and packed and allows handling 30-40t of seaweed at a time, rather than the previous 5-10t.

“It transformed Bam’s business,” says Greg. As well as processing spat for the family business, it opened avenues to other mussel farmers seeking spat. The family went from processing 50t a year to 150t, confirming it was one of the three biggest suppliers.

Greg runs a fleet of five trucks to do work including taking spat to farms in the top of South and elsewhere. He also brings trucks down to Marlborough in autumn to cart grapes for harvesting, staying on Jono Large’s vineyard property.



*One of Kadj's trucks*

Bam is a mad keen game fisherman and his record for catching marlin was 42 in a week.

"Bam would go out on the water and just smell them." Greg reckons. Jono once took a wee snooze on the fishing boat bunks when things went a bit quiet – only to be woken up by Bam throwing a bucket of ice-cold salt water on him.

"When you were with Bam you never stopped. I never saw a fly on him."

Bam adapted a concrete water tank to smoke as many as 14 marlin at a time using Pohutukawa wood as well as mussels. Hours of vacuum packing followed. When the family recently went to Rarotonga on holiday, they took two fish boxes of mussels with them.

In the business, Greg looks after beach collections, transport and mussel farmer clients. Kara finds the 30-40 people who might be needed at 10 minutes notice when spat nears the beach and Adrienne feeds them.

"Bam still drives to the shed every morning when we are doing spat."

"It goes from sitting having a coffee to having to collect and process \$50,000 worth of spat."

Greg says with climate change it's getting harder to predict when this will happen.

Jono Large says with environmental change seeing poor results from the efforts of mussel farmers to catch spat in their local areas, supply from 90 Mile Beach is now even more critical.

"It is the only reliable source of spat from the ocean."

Bam's speech suffers a bit these days but he manages to make his feelings



*Kaitia spat like this more critical than ever*

clear on a few things, such as the Quota Management System.

“Worst thing ever” he says, “I was never one for bullshit.”

Greg acknowledges changes such as the QMS were probably inevitable.

“As an industry we have to keep everyone happy.”

He’s part of the GLM9 Working Group co-chaired by Jono Large and Far North iwi leader Kevin Robinson, charged with working through issues around the collection of spat.

Meanwhile, Bam has more time on his hands these days. That’s included the recent family holiday with Adrienne, Greg and Kara in Rarotonga.

While he’s not able to take his boat out anymore, he has bought himself a Kontiki torpedo. It’s not built to bring in marlin but he no doubt keeps a lookout for spat while he waits.



*Bam with Adrienne, Greg and Kara in Rarotonga*

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# Drill helps in real-life rescue

When the skipper of MacLab Tasman vessel Vanguard took part in a lifeboat drill last December, he didn't envisage some of the skills would soon be needed for a real-life rescue where three people were pulled aboard.

On Sunday February 12, Vanguard was mussel harvesting in rough weather near Port Taranaki in Golden Bay.

Skipper Brent Shone says winds were gusting 40 knots + from the west and 2m + waves were making harvesting marginal but there only about five bags to fill before he planned to head to port.

Then a call came on the marine radio for any vessels in the area who could assist with a small runabout in distress.

"We steamed straight out there. I was talking to the Westpac rescue helicopter on the way – they were hovering above the vessel."

After 25 minutes they reached a 5.5m aluminium runabout in trouble with three adults aboard. The conditions were so rough Brent says they had already seen the Harbour Master turn back to Port Taranaki.



*A screenshot of the rescue from the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.*

Vanguard is built for such seas. Its ballast tanks were full and 52 tonnes of mussels on the deck were further helping keep it stable.

A woman had already been tossed out of the runabout but had managed to get back on board. All three people were trying to keep the vessel afloat as waves washed over the sides. "They were flat out bailing."



As Brent pulled the Vanguard alongside, crew Bryn Stevenson, Aidan Ross and Callan Kotua reached out. “They grabbed them as the swell lifted up their boat. Everyone worked bloody well together.”

The trio were given hot coffee while the Vanguard’s heating was cranked up to 30 degrees to warm them up. Their runabout was then tied to the back and towed to Port Tarakohe.



“Luckily for them we were the only other vessel in the area. The Westpac helicopter would have done their best but they would have lost their boat – or worse.”

He says the pre-Christmas drill and other drills had certainly helped him and the crew focus on what they needed to do. “Although we normally do drills when it is nice and calm.”



Vanguard skipper Brent Shone went overboard in the role play prior to the real life drama

A Golden Bay couple and their adult son have since sent a letter of thanks to the Vanguard crew.

The rescue is currently being considered as part of the First Responders television programme which uses rescue helicopter footage. If it's approved it would likely go to air on TV3 early next year.

## Brendon Burns



## We're interested in buying your mussel farm

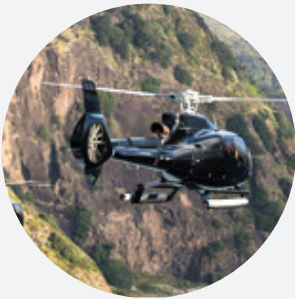
Thinking of selling? If your mussel farm is located at the Top of the South we are interested in purchasing your farm at a very competitive price.

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Our Skippers Restricted Limits (SRL) course is continually being reviewed to cater to industry needs and make the process as smooth and practical as possible for students to gain their New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations, and then go on to take the Maritime NZ exam. For example, in 2023 we have taken the course to both Havelock/Marlborough and Te Anau to make the 5-week block course component more accessible to companies and students in both areas.



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# Award Nomination Form

It's the time of year again when the Marine Farming Association offer all members the opportunity to nominate an individual or organisation for the MFA Annual Awards.

The Awards will be presented at the MFA Annual Awards Dinner, this year being held on at the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Please complete the details below and return your nomination to [office@marinefarming.co.nz](mailto:office@marinefarming.co.nz) by 5pm on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## Details of Nomination:

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Category:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Award                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Marine Farmer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Award          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Entrant Award      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research & Development Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Award           |

Reason for Nomination:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Award Categories



## **Merit Award**

Awarded to an individual or an organisation that has made significant and beneficial difference to our industry over a sustained period.



## **Environment Award**

Awarded to an individual or an organisation that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the environment through advocacy, leadership, best practice or just getting out and doing it.



## **Research & Development Award**

Awarded to an individual or an organisation that has demonstrated excellence in research and development, with measurable outcomes relevant to the understanding, growth, sustainability, or profitability our industry.



## **Outstanding Marine Farmer**

Awarded to a farming individual or an organisation that has made a significant contribution to the marine farming industry in the Top of the South over the last 12 months.



## **Recent Entrant Award**

Awarded to an individual who during the first few years of involvement in our industry has shown exceptional passion, commitment, and achievement.



## **Community Award**

Awarded to an individual who is an ambassador for the industry within the community in which we operate.

**Note:** The choice of the award recipients will be made by a panel of adjudicators. Their decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered. It will be the adjudicator's decision to whether all awards will be presented.

# Looking to the big blue to go green



Rossella Nicolai is an aquaculture tutor at NMIT | Te Pūkenga.

**Rossella Nicolai, aquaculture tutor at NMIT Te Pūkenga, came from Italy to New Zealand to study marine biology and ecology.**

Rossella is fascinated with algae and completed her thesis around problematic algae blooms.

“I have always been passionate about algae, macro and micro, so I leapt at the opportunity to work at Cawthron as a Senior Aquaculture Technician on *Asparagopsis*,” she says. *Asparagopsis* is a kind of macroalgae, or seaweed, that produces bromoform, a compound that can reduce the amount of methane a cow produces.

“People want to cultivate this seaweed to introduce it dry into cattle feed,” Rossella explains.

This has 'opened the pandora box', as Rossella looks at how to effectively scale the production of seaweed for this purpose. "Asparagopsis has quite a complicated life cycle, and we need to figure out how to induce each step to produce it at scale," she says. "Once this is achieved in a land-based hatchery, there are many other factors to consider to maximize yields in the ocean, and make the industry sustainable and economically viable."

Rossella has looked at different cultures for inspiration. Many Eastern cultures produce nori, ogonori and kumbu at scale, for food or for valuable seaweed-derived products like agar. In Ireland, seaweed was traditionally harvested from the wild and burned to make soap and glazes for pottery, and it still often features in the local diets.

"Seaweeds are the future," Rossella says, "there are so many opportunities and now is definitely a great time to get involved."

At NMIT, we are well positioned to benefit hugely in the aquaculture sector. Not only geographically, but also due to the many industries that are established in the region.

Our passionate tutors are also leading researchers in their respective fields, offering ākonga (students) the opportunity to learn from the best.

If you're looking at a unique approach to a career dedicated to a sustainable future, consider [aquaculture at NMIT | Te Pūkenga](#).

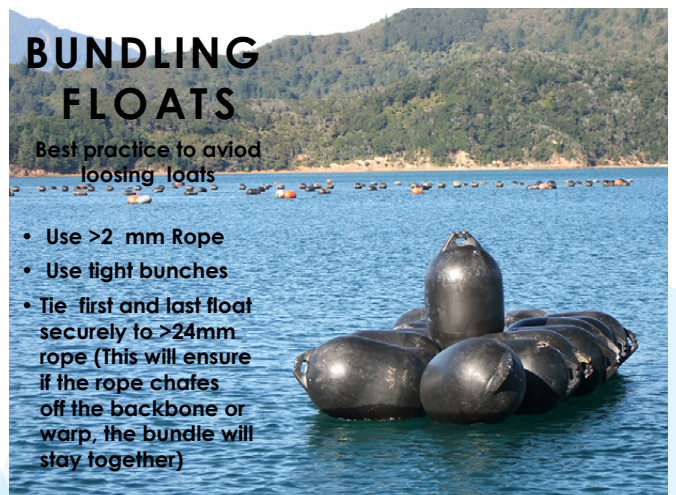
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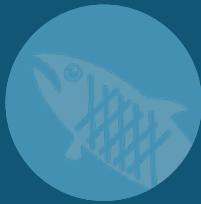
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