



MARINE FARMING ASSOCIATION
To Promote & Nurture Sustainable Marine Farming

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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IMPORTANT DATES

- National Census**
7th March 2023
- Havelock Mussel Festival**
11th March 2023
- First ECSC of the year**
17th March 2023
- Board Meeting**
31st March 2023

GM's Comment

February 2023

Firstly, happy New Year from the team at MFA! I hope the break treated everybody well. It's always this time of year that I curse the number of tasks I labelled as '2023 problems' late in 2022 – it makes for a congested start to the year. Perhaps there is a learning opportunity here?

Anyhow, 2023 is shaping up to be another busy year, with the release of the Variation 1 decision looming and a general election in the mix; not to mention the potential for a global recession and the raft of legislative reform underway here in NZ. There's plenty to keep tabs on.

It has certainly been a summer dominated by La Niña weather patterns – with lots of easterly winds, cloud cover, and very few nor'westers. Several climate models are now predicting La Niña conditions to ease in February. We can only wait and see what the weather god's have in store for us.

Water temperatures in the Top of the South fared better than many parts of the country through December and early January - but are now heading for marine heatwave territory. What we do know, is that it has been very difficult to find a 'fat' mussel and our sourcing crews have been searching far and wide. Hopefully this is only a blip and conditions allow for consistent harvesting over the coming months.

As alluded to above, the MEP Variation 1 decision will be released in 2023. I'm reluctant to offer a date, as only weather forecasters and economists can get away with being wrong most of the time... Our best guess is Q2. There will be plenty for marine farmers to do once the decision is released – primarily checking on how the decision has treated their individual consents. MFA/AQNZ will be tackling the big-ticket issues by way of appeal (as required).

On the project front, we have two applications before the SFFF at present; one is the extension of the mussel restoration efforts, which includes additional work in the Pelorus, but also extends into Tasman and Golden Bay. The second is centered around developing a cost-effective feed for spat that can be used in nursery and hatchery systems. We all know that efforts to make better use of our spat resources are needed – this application is just one avenue.

The Better Beaches Project is now up and running – with Darren Clarke doing an excellent job of signing up participants. This project involves seeking external sponsorship to increase the number of beach cleans we perform in the Top of the South. Companies & individuals can offer sponsorship at a range of levels which correlate to the number of cleans

performed on one or more nominated beaches. It's great to have so many companies on board already – thanks to those who have signed up.

The Havelock Mussel Festival is all go for the 11th of March – with some excellent food and entertainment on offer. It is shaping up to be a great event, so jump online and grab yourself a ticket (details on page 28). A big thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers that make the event possible!

All the best for 2023,

Ned.

Marine Farm Compliance Audit Programme

Declarations are Due
30th April 2023

If you have not sent in your declaration for the 2nd quarter, please do so as soon as possible



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May, June, July (3)

August, September, October (4)

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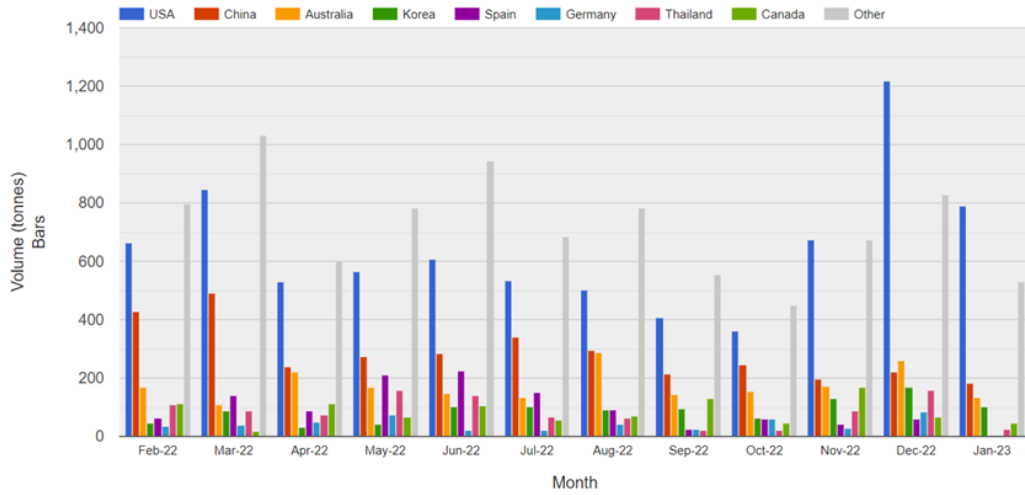
AQNZ Export Data



Mussels – All Exports

All countries

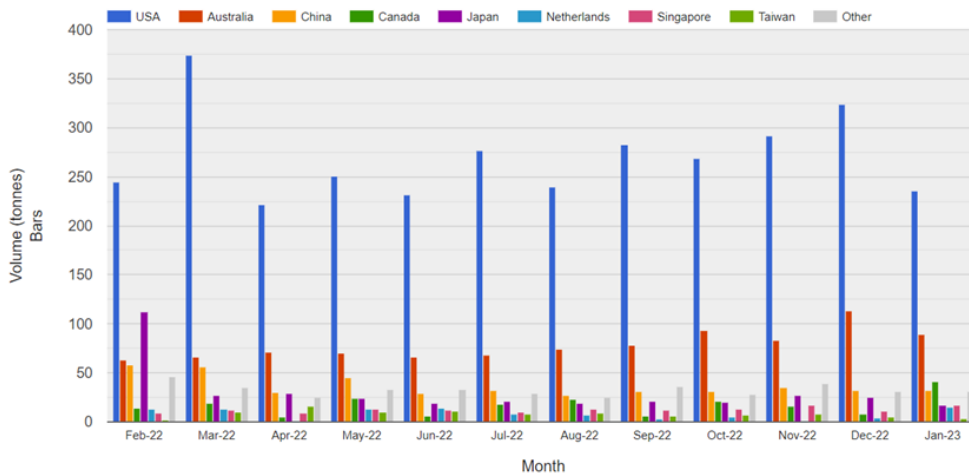
\$301.8m ↑0% 26,541 tonnes ↓20%



Salmon – All Exports

All countries

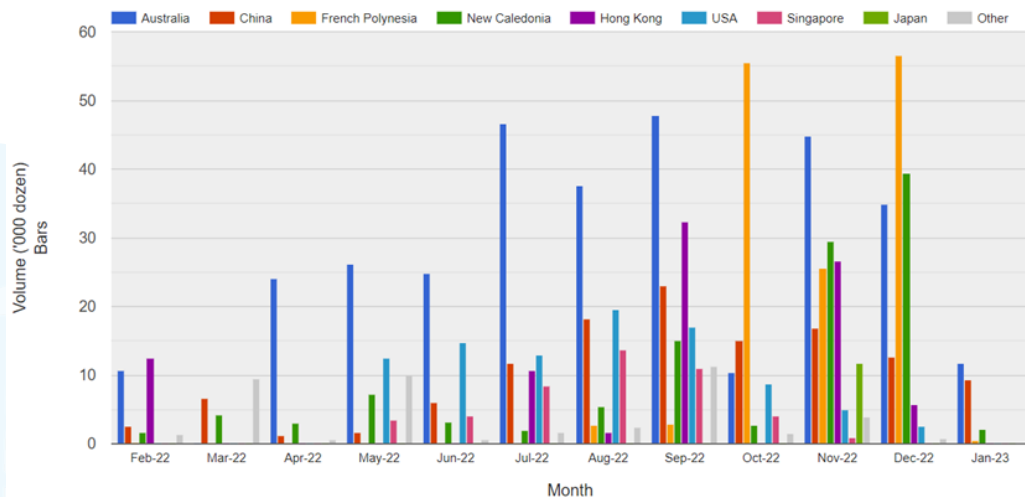
\$149.3m ↑5% 5,910 tonnes ↓23%



Oysters – All Exports

All countries

\$14.9m ↓16% 987 '000 doz ↓25%



Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Summer Survey

The summer survey of recreational vessels for 2022/2023 is almost complete and the data is being analysed.

“This year the focus was on finding active vessels that could be spreading harmful organisms” said Dr Barrie Forrest that heads the survey team. “We put more effort into finding visiting vessels that were out and about, and less on resident boats that are on moorings and don’t move much.

As usual the majority of the boats from outside the Top of the South came from Wellington and Mana marina. A recent find of Mediterranean fanworm on a vessel in Seaview Marina made us especially vigilant about those boats. As it turned out they were generally well maintained, the skippers were aware of the risks and requirements, and had taken the necessary steps to keep their vessels clean. As a result, the only pests on those vessels were the seaweed *Undaria* (aka Wakame), and the clubbed tunicate *Styela clava* in low numbers.

We also used AIS (marinetraffic.com) to track vessels arriving from Northland, Auckland and Lyttelton, which are an ongoing risk for introducing Mediterranean fanworm to the Top of the South. We found



Peter Lawless

two vessels with fanworm, one from Lyttelton and one from Auckland. The Lyttelton vessel was a large liveaboard yacht. This had mature fanworm that were reproductive but had not yet spawned. The owners agreed to go directly to Waikawa and were lifted and cleaned the same day. The other vessel was a large, powered vessel in the superyacht range that had come from Auckland. It had been inspected by divers there and cleared as clean. Unfortunately the divers had missed fanworm in the stern thruster. We are following up with the dive companies. The other category of vessel that came back into the survey this year was international vessels that had cleared the border at Opuha. None of these was carrying pests, but some had failed antifouling coatings and we are also following up on this issue. ” More on the summer survey results in the next newsletter once the numbers have been crunched.



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A century-plus link to the Sounds

Gary Orchard and his wife Ellen started farming mussels more than 40 years ago, continuing a Sounds connection that goes back more than a century.



His grandfather Jack moved to Kenepuru Sound in 1912 on a contract to operate a mail delivery service. When Jack went off to fight in WW1, his teenage son Fred Orchard (Gary's father) ran the boat – a job he continued doing till 1973. Gary grew up operating the service as did the next generation. "My children have all delivered the mail."

His two sons are now both Master Mariners. Daniel is a marine pilot in Port Hedland and Zane is acting First Officer on the Interislander.

Gary's knowledge of the Sounds as a third-generation charter boat operator – he still lives at Nopera - is hard to beat. "Our family's telephone number in the Sounds was No1." He was hired by then MFA Executive Officer Paul Lupi 30 years ago to collect spat samples. "He also sent me out to do water samples, plankton tows and ciona (sea squirt) monitoring."

Gary is still doing once a month spat runs from November to April, though earlier it was one or even two runs a week. Some days he can still do 250km, usually in the 6m Shuttle which he had purpose-built in 1990 for mussel work. The 14m Western Break is used less often. Earlier he operated the wooden launch Toroa (built 1954) and it's still used by Gary for eco tours and weddings.

He's only missed three sample runs in those 30 years through bad weather, rightly believing the information is critical to the industry.

"People used to live by it." In the early days, counts used to be broadcast on the Marlborough radio station 2ZE.

One week there can be 700 GSM spat on a metre of line, then 1500 a week later and 5000 the week following but over the last three years Gary's samples have shown the reducing numbers of spat.



Gary at the helm of Western Break



Shuttle doing a spat rope collection on Xmas day with a mate in the Sounds

He puts it down to pine pollen, which can be 30mm thick at times on the surface of the water, combined with run-off affected by pine needles which jointly contribute to higher levels of acidity in the Sounds. He's worried for the future of the industry when it is so dependent on spat.

His own involvement with spat catching goes back to when Ellen and he got their marine farming licence in 1981, putting two lines in the water at Grant Bay in Pelorus Sound.

In two weeks, they hand-seeded 2,000m of line using Kaitaia spat. He believes he was the first to have a go at hanging out 200mm rope on a spat sampling frame, working at Nopera with John Young and the late Jim Jenkins.

Now there are 16 different spat-catching sites operated by MFA at Skiddaw, Garnes, Beatrix, Clova and Crail bays. "When the spat numbers increase in the relative bays, then the industry hangs out their spat catching rope."

He and Ellen are still managing their 3.6ha mussel farm at Grant Bay. Initially they grew for NZ Marine Foods, a cooperative which had a factory on the Havelock site now owned by Sanford. Initially when the coop folded only bigger growers were taken on but Don Mitchell brought the Orchards on board in the late 1980s and they continue to supply Sanford.

Gary is unsure if there'll be a fourth generation living in the Sounds but he's proud of what his family has contributed in 100 years + and he's not hanging up his ticket any time soon.

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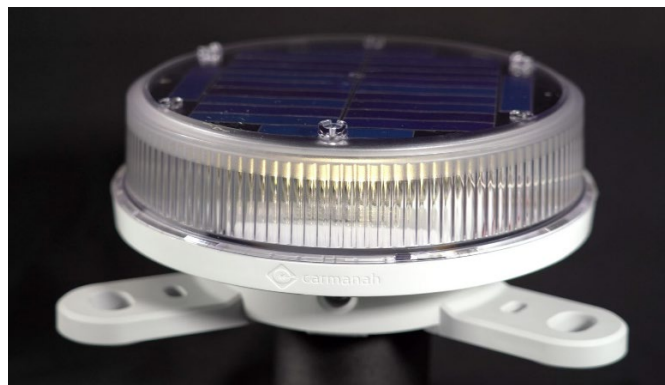
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MacLab Tasman lifeboat drill brings some real learnings

Stoney Bourke, manager of MacLab Tasman, has skippered and worked on boats big and small in 35 years at sea but it wasn't until just before Christmas that he'd ever taken part in a practical lifeboat drill in the sea water.

His JV partner MacLab had a couple of expired life rafts, so they decided to use them in a real-life type drill involving their vessel, Vanguard, for which Stoney is manager and lead skipper.

They engaged Milo Coldren, a director of Skipper Training NZ, to run the drill. Milo says most Man Overboard drills simply see a life ring thrown to somebody in the water, with fire and abandon ship drills just talked about.

“While these can satisfy a requirement, they aren't practical and have limited learning opportunities.”

The Vanguard drill involved three scenarios; the skipper had fallen overboard and had to be rescued by the crew; the vessel had then gone beam on and a fire had started in the accommodation; when the fire became uncontrollable, the order came to abandon ship.

“We made it realistic with a smoke machine,” says Milo.

Both Vanguard's skippers, Brent Shone and Hone Abraham, took turns in the water.

“They had to be rescued by their crews. They took the drills really seriously which was great to see.”



Vanguard skipper Brent Shone went overboard in the role play



Crew member Robbie McGing is assisted by Keagan Jones as smoke billowed through crew quarters

Milo was assisted in running the exercise by Phil Bishop a survival expert and Lucinda Lindsay, a leadership consultant and experienced sailor.

Milo believes this maybe the first time a New Zealand mussel industry boat had trained to this level.



Robbie McGing is helped into the life raft by crew member Joe Johansen



“Due to time constraints, a lot of drills are just discussion-based with a life ring chucked over the side. This limits the learnings when it comes to the debrief, as systems and procedures have not been fully tested.”

Stoney Bourke says apart from being exposed to a life raft in a swimming pool during his skipper training, he's never seen a life raft used in the water, even while working on 100m fishing boats.

“I've never put one off a boat and it was worth every cent. We got a lot out of it. I'd recommend it to anyone. Other companies must have expired life rafts. You just can't beat that sort of drill.”

After the exercise, there was a classroom evaluation and plenty of learnings emerged.



One key change for the Vanguard is to move its life raft from on top of the wheel house where traditionally they sit on many vessels.

Stoney says this proved impractical as it takes two people to throw a life raft into the water.

Mark Burnaby, MacLab's Aquaculture Manager says part of the value was getting the crew used to launching and then being in a life raft.

"It's not as simple as throwing the life raft over and everyone getting on board into 5 star accommodation. Four guys huddling in a life raft isn't comfortable."

The crew pulled all the gear out and got to learn what's inside a life raft – a rainwater catcher, thermal blankets, a first aid kit, fishing line. "Probably the most important thing were sea sickness pills."

While the exercise took place in Nelson Harbour in calm daylight conditions, even experienced seafarers could get sick being tossed about in a lifeboat.

"This gave everyone confidence and that's what we wanted to achieve." Mark says MacLab is going to do further training as a follow-on.

"It's like the AB's – they practice and practice and they get really good."

He says the drill was one of the best investments MacLab has ever made in the health & safety of its crews.





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An ocean of opportunity

If you want to dip your toes into a fast-growing aquaculture industry, look at seaweed.



Clare Bradley helped form the Aotearoa New Zealand Seaweed Association (ANZSA) in late 2021 becoming interim chair; by last October it'd held its first one-day summit. Now, full board elections are underway as well as planning for a two-day 2023 summit.

Already, ANZSA has 57 industry members, slightly more than the Australian Seaweed Institute which in February is hosting the triennial International Seaweed Association (ISA) conference in Hobart. Based in Maine, ISA encourages world-wide R+D for seaweed and its products.

Hundreds of scientists and industry people from around the globe are attending the conference including Clare and a swag of other Kiwis, several of whom are presenting. Waikato University's Dr Marie Magnusson's presentation topic is: Seaweed aquaculture in Aotearoa New Zealand – from bucket science to implementation.

Clare says that's a good analogy for the current status of the industry. Although, AgriSea - the company she's CEO for - started more than 25



years ago, she says it's still early days for the sector.

That said, her view of its future is clear. Seaweed products made in Aotearoa NZ need to be of high-value, done at scale and representing New Zealand perspectives and values including Te Ao Maori.

Clare says there are a lot of people throughout Aotearoa looking at seaweed as a potential add-on to existing marine farming or as new ventures.

“A lot of people are asking if seaweed is going to have a future.”

A quick Google might provide the answer. The global seaweed market size reached US\$7.5 Billion in 2022 and market analysts IMARC Group expect it to reach US\$14.3 Billion by 2028. Seaweed accounts for more aquaculture production internationally than any other species.

Several NZ companies are already involved in processing Undaria, which is considered an invasive species in New Zealand. Clare notes that Undaria is grown all around the world in large volumes but she is unsure about its export potential.

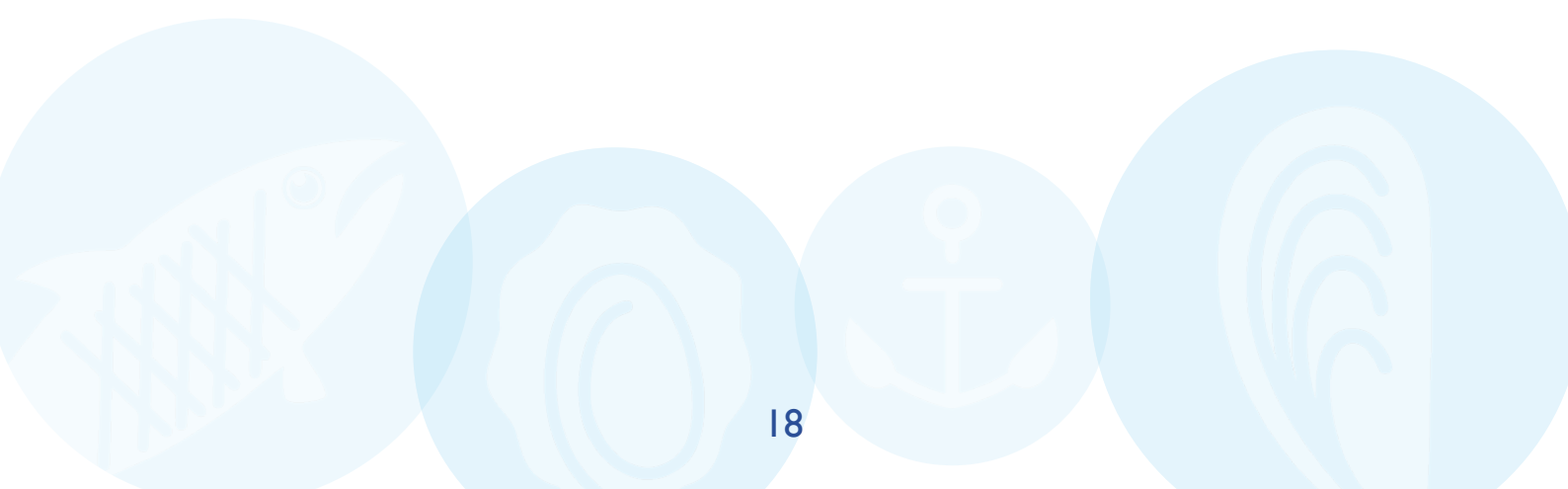
“Although Undaria is now widespread in Aotearoa, we have many other native species that are potentially of a higher value and we think the growth in the industry will come from other species.”

As an example, AgriSea itself started life providing seaweed fertilisers for the agriculture sector but is now focusing on higher-value products. At ANZSA, Clare is supported by a strong interim board: Blair Wolfgram who's helping companies grow *Asparagopsis* (red seaweed), paua and whitebait at Ocean Beach in Bluff, AQNZ's Technical Director Dave Taylor, MacLab's Gary Rountree, Hayley Fraser-Mackenzie, MD of seaweed products company, Pacific Harvest, Dr Haydn Read who's helping Te Whanau-a-Apanui develop a spat hatchery and aquaculture farms in Eastern Bay of Plenty and Ocean Foresters director, Graham Harris

She says the emerging industry needs collaboration and clear strategy. MPI is supportive, along with the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge. Before Christmas ANZSA met with agencies including MPI, MBIE, MfE, NZTE, Callaghan Innovation, research organisations and iwi in order to bring the various agencies up to speed and seek funding for the sector.

Among the challenges she sees facing the nascent industry are getting market recognition for unique NZ seaweed species so it can be sold for human consumption. There is also a need to get multiple products from one species. Aotearoa's reputation for high-quality food provides a good platform, though seaweed is not yet highly regarded by European palates. Clare says there's a sea of work ahead but if high-value, unique Kiwi seaweed offerings can be developed, the ocean may be the limit.

Brendon Burns





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Moana New Zealand Oyster Hatchery comes out of its shell

Media Release



A ground-breaking oyster hatchery opening in Nelson on Wednesday, December 7, will increase production capacity and ensure a reliable supply of oyster spat for New Zealand's largest oyster producer, Moana New Zealand.

The \$5 million venture is part of Moana New Zealand's \$21 million, five-year investment plan to grow its capacity, says Moana New Zealand chair Rachel Taulelei.

"This hatchery, Kirikiritatangi, is phase one, and it will help us achieve sales of 1.65 million dozen oysters per year by 2027," she says.

Rachel Taulelei says the hatchery, named Kirikiritatangi, will help provide end-to-end control of the oyster growing process, increasing consistency and reliability of supply.

"One of the critical success factors behind our growth plan is the reliability of spat supply, and the hatchery is key to this. The Pacific oyster industry started in the 1970s with farming methods based on catching wild spat on sticks. This is still standard practice in the industry but outcomes are difficult to control and very seasonal. Our selective breeding programme began more than 20 years ago and along with improved husbandry practices, it has enabled us to produce consistently high-quality oysters year-round."

The first commercial run from the new hatchery is due later this month, and when it is running at full capacity, Kirikiritatangi will provide high quality oyster spat to Moana's farming sites throughout the North Island.

Moana New Zealand is the first fully integrated oyster company in Aotearoa and is an example of Maori leading the industry.

"Iwi are our shareholders and remain at the heart of everything we do. As a proudly indigenous commercial business with long-term views, our people are engaged throughout our oyster business. At Moana New Zealand, manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga are two of our key values and we take them really seriously. We work collaboratively and contribute to our local communities, not only through employment opportunities but by improving the way our kaimahi work. We engage local suppliers, as we did here in Nelson, and we continue to showcase our premium kaimoana to the world."

Rachel Taulelei says Moana New Zealand is using innovation right across its business.

"As New Zealand's largest tio (oyster) producer, we recognise that innovation will sustain us into the future. Along with our breeding

programme and state-of-the-art hatchery, we've also begun removing existing tio farming infrastructure and replacing it with semi-automated farming technology. So instead of old timber rack structures, we have floating tio baskets on longlines. This not only creates better working conditions for our kaimahi, but it has less impact on te taiao, the environment."

About Moana New Zealand

Iwi are the true guardians of the world's most pristine and sustainably managed fisheries. Moana New Zealand is the largest Maori-owned fisheries company in Aotearoa. It has a deep sense of responsibility to all people, respect for kaimoana and kai ora, and is dedicated to the wellbeing of future generations. It connects the world to the taste and magic of New Zealand's best kaimoana.

Please see the video link to the Moana New Zealand Oyster Hatchery video with the lower third key. <https://vimeo.com/778274139> (password, Moana2022).

Please see the video link to the Moana New Zealand Oyster Hatchery video without lower third key. <https://vimeo.com/778262913> (password, Moana2022).

Images for download: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OgAUcdrH938CazzStC7ESYY8yqHg76Ch?usp=share_link

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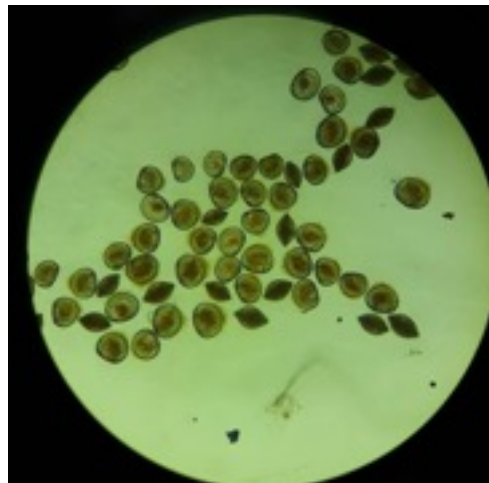


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Aquaculture training success stories from 2022

Denise Hearn. Programme team lead NMIT Aquaculture and Marine Conservation.



So here we go 2023 is upon us! Its exciting times for us in the aquaculture training space as we prepare for the year ahead. 2022 saw record student numbers for us in the Aquaculture and Marine Conservation department at NMIT. With the most interest coming from our new certificate programmes which started in 2021. It's been a wild year with NMIT's transition to Te Pukenga (the new nationwide polytechnic) but great to see that all the programmes are full steam ahead as we head into 2023.

We now offer a large range of levels for aquaculture and marine conservation training at NMIT; from slightly lower-level certificates to a new master programme (starting this year). This takes our range now from level 3 right through to level 9 (level 5 is normally where a degree would start – for reference).

With our certificate programmes now entering their 3rd year we have an opportunity to sit back and reflect about how its all been going.

We run 2 programmes – one at level 3 and one at level 4. These are offered as courses onsite here in Nelson and also as online programmes (with a 2 week residential block with us in Nelson). In 2022 we also delivered these as part of an iwi partnership programme with the Muriwhenua up in Kaitaia.

“a highlight of doing the certificate is how practical a lot of the classwork was. We learnt both the theory and the hands-on aspects of a lot of things. I also think the work placement is a highlight of the course. We get to go out and make connections with people in industry and learn on the job. That's really important” Sarah Harrison. NMIT Aquaculture Certificate student 2022 (based in Nelson).

“After my experience with aquaculture training with my current class today, I've found my purpose and what skillsets needed to accomplish my goals”. Elton Hohaia, NMIT Aquaculture Certificate student 2022 (based in Kaitaia).



The level 3 is essentially an introduction to aquaculture taking the learner from an introduction to growing systems in aquaculture - learning about basic recirculating systems and all the common growing methodologies used for all our key species in New Zealand. Then we move onto hatchery work, where we dive into learning about the early life stages of the key NZ species and where and how the industry is currently operating in this space. We then move into key husbandry practices, covering water quality, feeding needs and health requirements of all key species in NZ. Finally, the course finishes with a pathway course into industry and into jobs – here we work with students on opportunities in Aquaculture in New Zealand, where aquaculture can take you, CV's, work etiquette and expectations and job applications (for those not already in the industry).

The level 4 certificate builds on the experience from the level 3 – or from any prior industry experience. Students are required to have either of the above to be able to enrol. In level 4 we look deeper into the key roles of technicians in the aquaculture space and the positive impact that they can have on production. We carry out health checks for all key species – really getting students familiar with being able to pick up when something isn't right on a farm, we cover biosecurity – the importance of following biosecurity requirements and why we must be vigilant in this space. We then get stuck into where the industry is headed, new technology, new growing systems, and inspirational stories from NZ and overseas.



"I think the certificate is a fantastic place to start for anyone new to aquaculture and wanting to learn different skills and apply learned knowledge, with the potential to get straight into work after the course or carry on with further study. It is a very opportunistic short course, you get out what you put into it." Kyle Faram NMIT Aquaculture Certificate student 2022 (based in Nelson).



"The knowledge I have gained is a taonga/gift to pass on to others, my whanau and my mokopuna. My advice to anyone considering doing this course is to DO IT!!!" Tammy Peri NMIT Aquaculture Certificate student 2022 (based in Kaitiaia).

The students then get into some project management practice whilst combining it with key hatchery practices for shellfish and finfish. They finish off the course with an industry placement where we are lucky enough to team up with so many great industry partners who take on our students for a few weeks. With this chance to work in the industry the vast majority get job offers from this experience.

Its been amazing to see the development of our onsite students – arriving and not knowing what a shellfish is to running larval rearing projects, operating complex RAS and identifying health issues in a range of species.

The students who did the online versions of the courses have given us some great feedback for the year as well. A real highlight was the residential block here in Nelson. Heaps of practical work and lots of industry visits. Lots of laughing in the labs and a great vibe with a fantastic team of tutors and students. Many came from industry but for a large proportion this was their introduction to the industry – and they are hooked. A great 2 weeks of industry connections, practical work and learning.

So if any of this sounds of any interest – this might be the next step for you, or someone you work with or if you manage a team perhaps this could be a good option for some professional development? Enrolments are open now for a February intake.

Any questions please contact Denise Hearn on denise.hearn@nmit.



havelock mussel and seafood festival '23

11 MARCH 2023, 10AM-6PM, HAVELOCK DOMAIN

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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 info@marinefarming.co.nz for consideration.

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

NOT ON THE BACK BONE
CONTROL YOUR WASTE

BUNDLING FLOATS

Best practice to avoid losing floats

- Use >24mm Rope
- Use tight bunches
- Tie first and last float securely to >24mm rope (This will ensure if the rope chafes off the backbone or warp, the bundle will stay together)

Skipper Training with a Twist

SiS is continuing to deliver our successful Skipper Restricted Limits (SRL) Training in 2023, with a twist!

The NZ Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations is commonly known as the Skipper Restricted Limits, or SRL. Having your SRL allows you to operate commercial vessels of up to 12 metres or 24 metres with endorsement, in restricted limits. We also provide the Passenger Endorsement.

SiS Training & Consulting Ltd is an NZQA-approved Category 1 training provider. Our SRL course has been designed to be very user-friendly and effective for both students and employers that put their staff members through the qualification.

Prior to the block course, students must first complete their hard-copy Student Activity Workbook. This is within an 18-week timeframe and must be completed before the block course start date. A support tutor is available 7 days a week to assist with completing the workbook.

The 5-week block course takes place in our classroom, and onboard a training vessel. During the block course students complete their Maritime NZ Training Record Book with the guidance of a tutor who assesses and signs off completed tasks.

Instead of delivering the block course in Nelson, for 2023 we will be delivering courses in Havelock/Marlborough and Te Anau so students won't need to be based in Nelson for the five week block course. Another bonus is that we will be using local companies' vessels for training so local students will likely already be familiar with these sorts of vessels!

Our dates for 2023 are:

Activity Book Completion	Block Course	Location
13 February to 16 June	19 June to 21 July	Havelock- filling fast
3 April to 4 August	7 August to 9 September	Te Anau - filling fast

Feedback from our SRL Students:

"I would do this again in a heartbeat. Was the best course I have ever done"

"Very lucky to be learning one day and doing practical on a vessel the next day"

I liked the "TRB completions in house. Never would have completed the TRB as a working diver"

*"I love how practical the course is, it makes it way more enjoyable"
I liked "the relatable knowledge to our area and the waters we'll be working"*

"The tutors were great, really good communication and really clear, easy to understand learning"

"Easily approachable and made sure everyone was understanding & involved regardless of level"

"I don't want the course to end"

Please visit our website to read about our Skipper Restricted Limits (SRL) Training.

To discuss SRL training please contact Martin Mongan on 027 4360116, or email martin@sisnz.co.nz.

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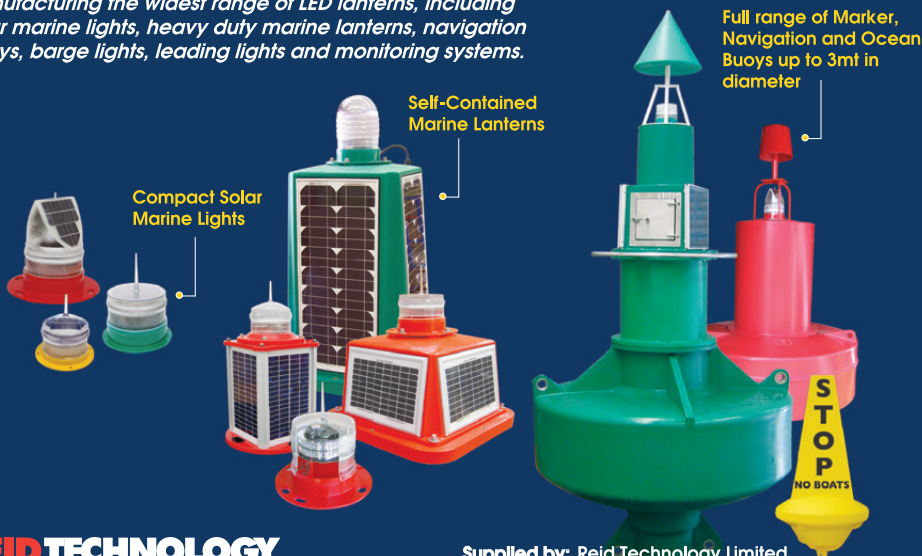


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First Shellfish Aquaculture Research Collective Strategy Meeting



Mussel Spat Workshop – 8th Feb 2023

A research strategy meeting organised by NIWA and Cawthron Institute, with a focus on mussel spat was held at the Cawthron Aquaculture Park on Wednesday 8th February. Attendees included representatives from research institutions (Auckland University, Cawthron, NIWA), industry bodies (MFA, Aquaculture NZ, CMFA) and Government (MPI, MBIE). The meeting was called to assess research progress in relation to industry and government goals.

In 2020, Aquaculture New Zealand released the 'NZ Greenshell Mussel Spat Strategy' (<https://www.aquaculture.org.nz/resources/general>), that detailed industry goals around: 1) Securing and diversifying spat supplies, 2) Optimising spat use and 3) Increasing hatchery production, to enable industry growth and to realise the \$3bn goal of the Governments Aquaculture Strategy by 2035. In 2022, MPI also released the 'Accelerate the Aquaculture Strategy: Investment Roadmap' document, identifying key infrastructure and research investments that are required to accelerate delivery of the Aquaculture Strategy.

Mussel spat workshops have been held every 2-3 years and help to identified knowledge gaps that need to be tackled to protect and grow the mussel industry. Historically, individual researchers have worked closely with industry, but the funding mechanisms and regulations under which different entities operate have sometimes inhibited rather than fostered such collaborations between different research institutes. This latest workshop was held with the aims of promoting more efficient use of the resources that individual institutions and industry may be able to mobilise to overcome the individual and collective challenges that each faces. During the workshop attendees sought to collectively identify industry needs and

began to explore means by which the respective strengths and resources of each party could be synergistically mobilised to develop industry-led, solution-focussed projects to enable NZ's aquaculture industry to continue to grow in an environmentally sustainable manner.

At the meeting, Andrew Jeffs (University of Auckland), Niall Broekhuizen (NIWA) and Paul South (Cawthron Institute) presented an overview of the mussel spat research at each institution, highlighting the different capabilities of each institution. A brainstorming session that followed identified the collective vision of the group, the diverse set of capabilities, and key areas of research where all three research institutions (NIWA, Cawthron and University of Auckland) and industry could collaborate. The three most important areas of research, based on voting by the delegates,



were: 1) causes of spat loss, 2) identifying good sea-based nursery sites, and 3) effects of climate change on wild spat survival. Other areas of research identified in the meeting were: biofouling, mapping wild spat sources, selective breeding for climate resilience, best practices for spat transport and quality check of spat, marine environment forecasting, rapid assessment tools for spat viability, resilience and condition, and spat feeds for land-based nurseries.

Overall, this meeting/workshop helped catalyse communication among researchers. It is anticipated that a new collaborative research entity will be formed with representatives from research NIWA, Cawthron and University of Auckland, as well as government and industry representatives.

This new entity will be driven by Aquaculture New Zealand.

For more information or if you have any questions please contact:

- Natali Delorme – Shellfish Physiologist
Cawthron Institute; natali.delorme@cawthron.org.nz
- Paul South – Marine Ecologist
Cawthron Institute; paul.south@cawthron.org.nz
- Niall Broekhuizen – Principal Scientist
NIWA; niall.broekhuizen@niwa.co.nz
- Andrew Jeffs – Professor, University of Auckland
a.jeffs@auckland.ac.nz

Dave Taylor – Technical Director

Aquaculture New Zealand; dave.taylor@aquaculture.org.nz

Natali Delorme



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**Our SRL training
schedule is now
confirmed for 2023**



MARITIME

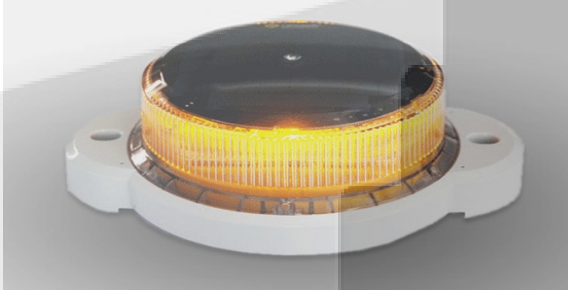
**Please follow the link for
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www.sisnz.co.nz/skipper-course-srl/

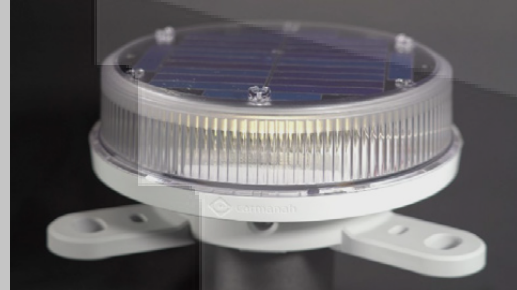
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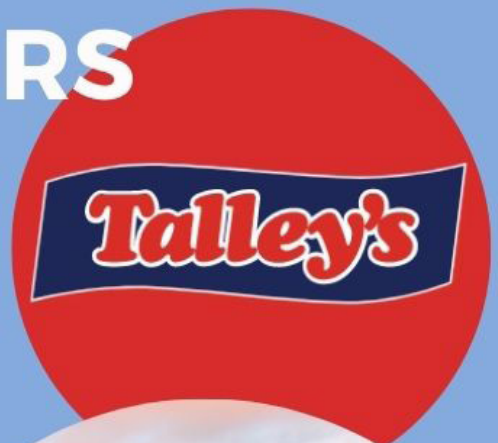
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FirstMate supporting Marine Farmers

FirstMate is a charity set up to support the health and wellbeing of people like you and your whanau. We are here to give guidance, direction and support to navigate what's ahead - mentally, physically, financially and legally.

We are huge champions of the commercial seafood sector and know firsthand that this industry can bring some very specific sources of stress too. FirstMate can connect you to financial, advisory, wellbeing and regulatory services that you may need. But more than that, we have a team of 15 navigators across the country, who work in the sector and truly understand what you might be going through. Our navigators are passionate about your wellbeing and are on hand for a yarn any day of the week and for free.



Our newest Navigator, Mike Holland, has worked in marine farming for more than 30 years and brings invaluable insight into the world of aquaculture - an industry firmly anchored in New Zealand's primary sector that looks set to keep on expanding.

As the operations manager at Clearwater Mussels, Mike is fully aware of aquaculture's significant contribution to regional economic growth and to the seafood sector as a whole. He is also no stranger to the challenges and hardships people in the industry may face.

"I was brought up on a farm in South Otago and left school at 14 to learn



Mike Holland

the trade of shearing sheep,” he says. In 1988 Mike decided to let go of his farming dreams and start his mussel industry career as a deck hand on a mussel boat based out of Havelock.

“A year later I sat my Skipper’s Ticket and ended up skippering a mussel harvester through to 2007, when I was offered a management job ashore - my current position. Having done my time on the water, I felt I had the right skills and experience to oversee Clearwater Mussels’ operations.”

Mike manages all operational activities, from sustainability initiatives to compliance issues.

“I wear a lot of different hats to support six vessels and 45 staff,” he says.

In 2011 Mike won the Marine Farming Association’s (MFA) annual Marine Farmer of the Year Award - “an unexpected honour” for him and his family. With many qualifications and accolades under his belt, Mike is also actively involved in several industry associations and bodies, acting as a voice for the marine farming industry.

“I’m excited to be joining FirstMate’s team of Navigators and I look forward to giving something back to the industry I’m so proud to be a part of,” he says. “I know how things can easily tip over and become overwhelming, and that’s when people might need a bit of help to cope. We are here to enable a mental wellbeing check-in and to provide some comfort to help you deal with whatever might be troubling you.”

Alongside the confidential services offered by our Navigators, FirstMate has also developed a series of free wellbeing resources that provide practical advice and coping strategies to marine farmers for when times get tough. Our free ‘Staying Ship Shape’ wellbeing resources are available at firstmate.org.nz/resources and marinesafe.nz/first-mate

Working at sea can be very challenging – and as things continue to change, it’s vital that people in industry have the support they need to adjust and thrive. FirstMate is here to provide reassurance that if you do find yourself struggling, you’re not alone and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Call 0800 ADRIFT any day between 7am and 10pm or email info@firstmate.org.nz to access the support you need.

Port Marlborough Update

Havelock Master Planning

Port Marlborough as the owners of Havelock Marina have commenced preparation of a Master Plan with consultants, Advisian. The objective of the Havelock Master Plan is to provide a roadmap for the development of facilities and infrastructure into the future. As part of this process, we have been engaging with MFA members over the past few weeks, who have provided valuable feedback on how the facilities/infrastructure currently provided meet their current needs, and how they could be improved for future needs.

Feedback from this process will be incorporated into the Havelock Master Plan, and we would like to thank everyone who has assisted us in this process so far. If you have any additional comments or questions please feel free to forward them to Property Manager Tom Lennon tom.lennon@pmnz.co.nz

Dredging – Havelock Marina

We are aware of some depth issues around the channel and in Havelock Marina. Port Marlborough are planning to dredge the entrance to the marina over winter this year.

Pokiki Wharf

Pokiki users will be pleased to hear that we have ordered two replacement cranes for the wharf, which are scheduled to be installed towards the end of 2023.

Connie Smith



SEED FUNDING OF UP TO \$40,000

Applications open on 1st April 2023 for aquaculture-based innovation projects. The fund is available to all New Zealand residents, citizens and those studying at New Zealand tertiary institutions.

The Marine Farming Association (MFA), supported by the Environment Committee and the Research, Development and Technology Sub-committee, are offering a contestable fund for those interested in developing products or services for the benefit of the aquaculture industry and MFA members.

Research priorities include,

- Spat retention.
- Spat health.
- Maximising the value of existing farmed species
- Addressing emerging issues
- Restoration of marine habitats and ecosystems
- Communicating the benefits of aquaculture
- Advancing restorative aquaculture practices
- Reducing plastic use
- Reducing vessel noise
- Minimising light spill
- Working towards zero waste from marine farming activities
- Recycling and repurposing marine waste, tools and equipment.
- Supporting the industry to adapt to climate change.



Greenshell Mussels



King Salmon



Pacific Oysters

The 2023 nationwide census will take place on the 7th of March. The census is the only nationwide survey that involves everyone and counts every dwelling in New Zealand. It shows us how our communities are changing and helps government, councils, iwi, community groups and businesses to make decisions about services and infrastructure.

A census form needs to be completed by every person in New Zealand including children, babies and anyone visiting New Zealand.

Everybody in New Zealand will receive a census form or an internet access code to complete the census on-line prior to census night 7th March. If you have any questions, please call 0800 CENSUS (0800 236 787) or go to www.census.govt.nz



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The advertisement features a large background image of a blue crane lifting a white bulk bag labeled 'SPAT' from a boat. In the foreground, several more white bulk bags are piled up. A person in a red jacket and white hat stands near the bags. In the background, there is a body of water and mountains. A smaller inset image in the bottom left shows a white truck with a blue tarp covering the cargo, driving on a road.



We're interested in buying your mussel farm

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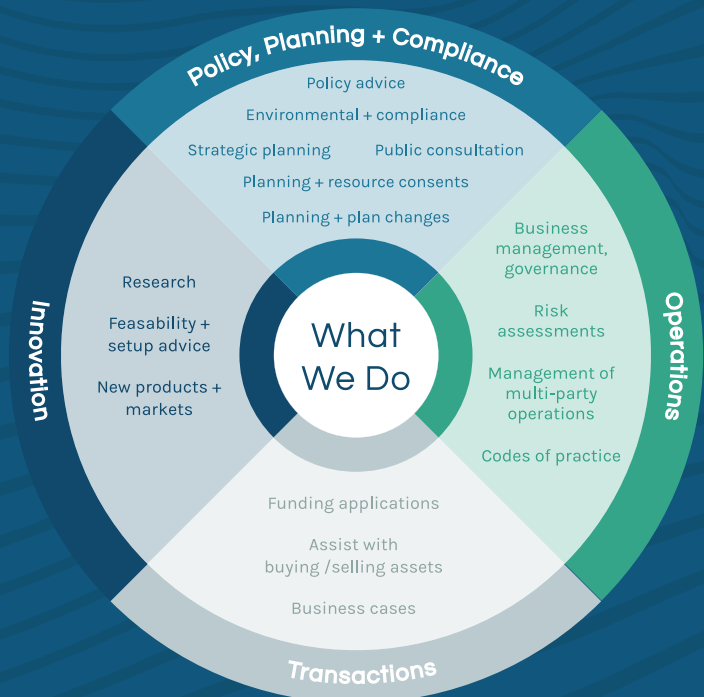


AQUACULTURE DIRECT

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

Our dedicated team of specialists have extensive experience over all aspects of the aquaculture industry - advising and supporting government, councils, policy makers, iwi, marine farmers, research agencies and new entrants into the industry.

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