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Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
14th June 2021

The Shellfish Centre RD&I is part-funded by the EU's West Wales and the Valleys European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programme through the Welsh Government.

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Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting

14th June 2021

1. Welcome
2. Notes and actions from last meeting
3. Project Update
 - Project Extension / Covid / Progress
4. Workshops and events
5. Key areas for future work
6. Open discussion
7. AOB
8. Date of next meeting

Extension / Covid Progress

- Covid-19 restrictions have limited or delayed research activity to some extent
- Staff working from home for desk based, lab work continuing
- Most projects able to resume from June 2020, but some experienced considerable delays due to restrictions on lab and field work.
- No- cost extension negotiated with WEFO, new end date will be 30th November 2022

Shellfish Centre Operation Indicators	
Number of enterprises cooperating with supported research institutions	30 (actually = 15 projects)
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	25
Number of new enterprises supported	3
Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	£750,000
Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	3
Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	20
Employment increase in supported enterprises	20

Summary of collaborative projects active/in development (target = 15)

38 collaborations with **>20** companies explored/ screened

15 active collaborative projects

3 early stage new projects likely to start up

10 Not progressed



Summary of collaborative projects active/in development

WP2 Processing technology

- **Assessment of virus Infectivity and depuration in mussel and oyster (Menai Oysters & Mussels Ltd)**
- **Microplastic and depuration in mussels (Deepdock Ltd)**



Summary of collaborative projects active/in development

WP3 Coastal microbial water quality

Will come back to this in a minute!

- Water quality for offshore shellfish production in North Wales (active/paperwork in progress)

Three projects developed but on hold

- Environmental indicators of microbial contamination of shellfish in Conwy
- Microbial source tracking and environmental predictors: Menai East
- Environmental indicators of microbial contamination of shellfish and microbial source tracking: Burry Inlet cockle fishery



Summary of collaborative projects active/in development

WP4 Sustainable supply of seed/spat

- **Molecular ID tools for marine bivalve larvae (Deepdock Ltd)**
- **Validating particle models using bivalve larvae distribution data (Extramussel Ltd)**
- ***Taxonomic status of mussels of rope grown mussels (Fowey Seafoods)**

*pending collaboration agreement signature



Summary of collaborative projects active/in development



WP5 Environmental interactions of shellfish production

- Predictive modelling of possible *Crassostrea gigas* habituation (Tethys Oysters Ltd)

Summary of collaborative projects active/in development

WP6 Development of new production areas/processes

- Diversification of shellfish production systems Conwy estuary (Conwy Mussels)
- Longline flotation assessment (JFC)
- Comparative open water bivalve growth trials in Ramsey Sound (Car y Mor)



WP7 Diversification/new fisheries

- **Developing low-impact video survey methods for inshore scallop beds** (Welsh Fishermen's Association)
- **Assessment of potential razor clam fisheries** (Deepdock Ltd)
- ***Bonamia ostreae* screening Conwy estuary** (Conwy Mussels)
- **Optimisation of native oyster broodstock & settlement grounds for source-sink enhanced fishery** (Conwy Mussels)
- **History of native oysters** (Conwy Mussels)
- ***Hydrodynamic and biophysical modelling to inform native oyster restoration** (Boat Folk Ltd, ZSL, Blue Marine)

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- Native Oyster Restoration – NORA meeting (September 2020)
- Water quality – Shellfish Stakeholder Working Group, Norovirus Workshop (October 2020)
- Knowledge exchange workshop with Danish Technical University (February 2021)
- North Atlantic Mussel Organisation (NAEMO) - NSA workshop (April 2021)
- *Workshop/conference planning for 2022?*

Other wider engagement

- Covid-19 response: wastewater surveillance
- Newsletter
- Research publications
- Funding applications
 - Seafood Innovation Fund (two proposals, not successful)
 - UKRI Transforming Food Systems (two proposals, pending)
 - EMFF Native Oyster Hatchery (successful!)

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Summary of collaborative projects active/in development

Priorities for commitments of remaining time/resources

1. Water Quality and Shellfish Production Areas

- Concern from industry pre-Brexit on reliability of control regulations as applied
- Now critical issue for producers that depend on A class status for exports to EU

Projects in development

- a) Water quality in the Menai East Several Order area – identification of sources (sewage, agricultural) and scope for improvements and understanding variability to inform potential changes to application of official controls
- b) Extent of potential land-source contamination of offshore areas across N Wales with potential for development of shellfish production



Summary of collaborative projects active/in development

Priorities for commitments of remaining time/resources

2. Pacific oysters

- Key concern for oyster producers – continuation and renewal of oyster production areas
- Uncertainty/need for evidence for policy/consent

Project in development

Status of Pacific oysters in the Menai Strait, modelling of reproductive potential. Aim is to provide evidence of reproductive potential and mitigation to enable informed assessment of risk.

Parallels ongoing work with Tethys Oysters Ltd in Milford Haven

