THE SHELLFISH CENTRE
CANOLFAN PYSGOD CREGYN

SC-22: Offshore longline mussel float assessment

North Wales has one of the largest bottom production areas in the UK of the blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*). A big issue in the mussel fishing industry is the lack of a reliable source of mussel seed. This has led to research globally to develop novel reliable methods of seed collection, including offshore longlines. This has proved successful in other parts of the world and could enable growth of the mussel sector in north Wales. JFC have developed an offshore mussel float for use in offshore environments. It is key for both research and industry to understand technical specifications to yield the greatest seed settlement at sites suitable for mussel seed collection.

Impact

The Welsh Marine Plan aims to identify and develop suitable areas of Welsh water suitable for aquaculture, with a specific aim of identifying suitable offshore locations to increase use of the available marine environment away from coastal areas where space is increasingly limited. Aquaculture in exposed and offshore areas is practiced globally but environmental conditions can alter the set up of a culture site. Therefore we can provide a case study on what constitutes proper flotation at the designation. This information can be disseminated to industry and producers of aquaculture products to aid in expansion into offshore aquaculture.

Project Officer

Dr. Julie Webb is the lead researcher for SC-22.

Project Partner

JFC Marine Ltd

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

The Shellfish Centre is a research and innovation initiative supporting development of the shellfish sector in Wales. The Centre will collaborate with businesses to deliver science to support growth. The main focus of the project is shellfish aquaculture and the related supply chain, with scope also for research to support new/ underexploited shellfisheries and aquaculture of non-shellfish species that are compatible with shellfish production

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A Research & Innovation Initiative: Supporting the development of the Shellfish Sector in Wales

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