THE SHELLFISH CENTRE
CANOLFAN PYSGOD CREGYN

SC-10a: *Bonamia ostreae* and water quality screening Conwy Estuary

North Wales once had a prolific fishery for the European native oyster, *Ostrea edulis*, which succumbed to overexploitation and disease, most notably the parasitic infection, *Bonamia ostreae*, which remains a threat. Currently, only mussels are harvested from natural seed beds in the Conwy Estuary using traditional techniques to respect their product and the environment it grows in. Local fishers have expressed an interest to also reinstate the European native oyster in North Wales to restore historical habitat and improve the surrounding marine environment.

Impact

We will use genetic analysis of vector species to determine the prevalence of *Bonamia ostreae* within the Conwy catchment in order to investigate the disease dynamics and establish the most suitable disease resistant/resilient strain of potential native oyster broodstock. Conwy Mussels Company are working with the Shellfish Centre to explore the viability of reinstating the native oyster both for ecological enhancement and to diversify the active fishery.

Project Officer

Dr. David Smyth is the lead researcher for SC-10a

Project Partner

Conwy Mussels Company

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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