



SC-03: Assessment of a potential Razor Clam fishery in NW England

Razor clams (*Ensis* sp.) are a high value and under-exploited live bivalve mollusc species within the Welsh and English portion of the Irish Sea. There may be a significant economic opportunity for a sustainable fishery to be established.

However, there are significant knowledge gaps about the abundance, distribution and stock structure of razor clams, with a need for development of standardised survey methods to help support evidence and inform management decisions. At the same time, enabling sustainable exploitation of these species, which live buried in sea-bed sediments, requires investigation of the environmental impacts and selectivity of fishing gear on target and non-target species.

Due to this lack of evidence, commercial fishing of razor clams is currently not permitted in Welsh waters or off the coast off north-western England. This project represents an example of a progressive collaboration between scientists at Bangor University, the North Western IFCA and a Welsh fishing company that will seek to tackle some of the knowledge gaps required to assess if a viable and sustainable fishery can be opened.

Impact

We will refine and assess use of electro-dredge gear under special derogation from the Marine Management Organisation and develop appropriate survey methodologies for assessment of exploitable razor clam biomass and habitat preferences in Liverpool Bay.



Project Officer

Dr Claire Szostek is the lead researcher for SC-02

Project Partner

Deepdock 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

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

www.shellfish.wales / [@shellfishcentre](https://twitter.com/shellfishcentre)

