



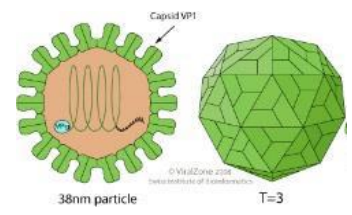
A Research & Innovation initiative supporting the development of the shellfish sector in Wales

Shellfish Centre



# SC-01: Assessment of virus infectivity in mussel and oyster

Noroviruses are responsible for the majority of shellfish-borne outbreaks and hence the detection of these viruses in oysters, mussels and other edible bivalve shellfish is essential. To date there is no reliable culturing system for human noroviruses to assess the infectivity levels of noroviruses in bivalve shellfish, hence molecular (qPCR-based) approaches are used to detection. Nonetheless, qPCR only detects a short segment of the viral genome and hence often overestimate viral concentrations and the associated health risks.



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

## Impact

We will use cutting edge approaches to investigate norovirus infectivity in shellfish by addressing the integrity of the virus particles. We will also assess the usefulness of novel, culturable viral indicators to assess viral survival in bivalve shellfish during depuration. The results will significantly improve the effectiveness of depuration processes currently used in the shellfish industry.



### Project Officer

Dr Kata Farkas is the lead researcher for SC-01

### Project Partner

Menai Oysters



### Contact Us

[www.shellfish.wales](http://www.shellfish.wales) or [shellfish@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:shellfish@bangor.ac.uk)

Marine Centre Wales, Bangor University, Menai Bridge. LL59 5AB

