



PRESS RELEASE

NAFC Supports Fisheries and Aquaculture

NAFC Marine Centre Director, Peter Dryburgh, reported a high level of practical activity to support the fisheries and aquaculture industries.

In aquaculture, as well as the on-going vocational training we offer, we have run a highly successful Sea Lice identification workshop this week with over 50 industry participants. On the back of the similarly well attended mussel spat workshop before Christmas, the NAFC intends to develop more of these specifically focussed training events.

Preparations are also well under way to convert our fish farm site into an aquaculture trials unit. The trials cages have been purchased through research funding from the UHI Millennium Institute and Shetland Aquaculture have agreed to help fund nets and ancillary equipment.

In fisheries, we offer continued support for the Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO) through extensive data collection and the preparation of the 3rd annual Shellfish Stock Assessment due to be published in April which is based on 7 years of carefully accumulated data. This is the most accurate shellfish stock survey in the UK being based on 5 mile square blocks rather than the 25 mile square blocks used for national surveys. Also our jig-fishing project will be completed in March and the detailed report on the findings will be published later in the spring, which will form a practical guide for local fishermen interested in this fishing method.

We are delighted that one of our staff, Leslie Tait has recently been elected Chairman of the Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA) as this will strengthen links between the industry and the NAFC. When Leslie is representing Shetland at meetings in Shetland, the Scottish mainland or in Europe, the SFA will make a payment for Leslie's time enabling us to cover his duties.

NOTE: For further editorial information please contact Christena Irvine, Tel: 01595 772207. E-mail: christena.irvine@nafc.uhi.ac.uk

NOTE TO EDITORS:

In view of the increasing range and scope of the work being undertaken by NAFC, the decision was taken in September 2005 to change the institute's name from the North Atlantic Fisheries College to the NAFC Marine Centre.

Please note our correct title is now 'NAFC Marine Centre'. The 'NAFC' in our title identifies us with, and provides continuity from, our previous name – North Atlantic Fisheries



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College. In conversation 'NAFC' should be spelt out as 'N-A-F-C'. Similarly, we are no longer just a 'college', but a marine centre - providing education, research and commercial services to the marine sector.