



QUARTERLY UPDATE

MARCH 2007

NAFC Marine Centre

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Shetland Fisheries Training
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Council.

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SC003715

NAFC Marine Centre is an
academic partner in the
UHI Millennium Institute

Industry Review

NAFC Director, Peter Dryburgh wishes to thank all those who gave their valuable comments and opinions through answering questionnaires or taking part in interviews for the industry review at the end of last year.

Management at NAFC are now using the information from the recent industry review in order to help build plans for the future. A report on NAFC's responses to the results of the review will be included in the next issue of the newsletter in June.

A prize draw took place to encourage those who had been sent a questionnaire to respond. The lucky winner of the £100 voucher for Da Haaf restaurant was Alan Ockenden of Blaaskjell Ltd.

Students' Success Celebrated



Photo © Jim Nicolson. Back left to front right: Sean McCaffrey, Aaron Leask, Richard Arthur, Duncan Cumming, Fraser Simpson, Michael Anderson and Neil Anderson.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 20th December, Peter Dryburgh, Director welcomed invited guests and students to the sixteenth annual student awards ceremony at the NAFC Marine Centre.

Peter Dryburgh congratulated all students who had completed courses this year – a total of 794 enrolments on 131 Courses before Port Missioner for Lerwick for the RMNDSF presented the trophies and awards to the seven prize winners:

- Richard Arthur, Arcturus – The Tammy Laurenson prize for best student on the Fishing Vessel Class 1 Engineering course
- Aaron Leask of SIC Marine Operations - The Castrol prize for outstanding shore based engineering modern apprenticeship
- Sean McCaffrey (Scottish Seafarms Ltd) - The Jim Tait Memorial prize for best student on the SVQ Level 2 Aquaculture course
- Fraser Simpson (SIC Ports and Harbours) - The Forbes Watt prize for Navigation
- Duncan Cumming (Aalskere) - SVQ Level 2 Fish Catching trophy
- Neil Anderson (Venturus) - The Jeanette Williamson prize for Navigation

Snippets from last quarter (full details on www.nafc.ac.uk)

- ◆ **Big Old Buckies.....**A study was carried out to look at differences in the age and growth of buckies from east and west Shetland. Buckies from the south of England were also compared. The results showed that buckies from around Shetland were much bigger and older than those from the south of England. Differences were also found between east and west Shetland. The catch from east Shetland was found to be made up of larger, older animals which had a greater average flesh weight and reached the Shetland minimum landing size of 75 mm at a slightly younger age of six years than animals from west Shetland.
- ◆ **Survival of Discarded Velvet Crabs.....**Research undertaken by staff at the NAFC Marine Centre has shown that there is a high survival rate of velvet crabs discarded from the local fishery. The study looked at whether discarding crabs was likely to result in mortalities and have an impact on the stocks as a whole. Velvet crabs are sensitive to exposure to air, so to minimise the potential impacts of discarding at sea they should be handled with care and quickly returned to the water.
- ◆ **Working Towards Improved Links Between Fishermen and Scientists.....**NAFC were visited by the Chair and Secretary of the North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC). The main purpose of the visit was to discuss how NAFC could take the lead on the continuation and further development of the North Sea Stock Survey (NSSS) and to find out if NAFC would be interested in joining a network of similar institutions involved in marine training around the North Sea. NAFC looks forward to working with the NSRAC to help forge the link between fishermen and scientists and we are seeking funding from Europe, with the NSRAC's support, to expand and improve the North Sea Stock Survey of fishermen's views.
- ◆ **NAFC supports fisheries and aquaculture.....**As well as the on-going vocational training we offer, we recently ran a highly successful Sea Lice identification workshop 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 the 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.

Support continues for the Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO) through extensive data collection. The 3rd annual Shellfish Stock Assessment is due to be published in April, 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 a detailed report on the findings will be published later in the spring, this will form a practical guide for local fishermen interested in this fishing method.

- ◆ **ASDA's Decision to Ban Sales of Monkfish - Show us the Evidence!.....**The NAFC Marine Centre challenged ASDA to make public any scientific evidence that it has to justify its recent decision to ban sales of monkfish. NAFC has been at the forefront of research on this species for the last decade and its' staff have participated in a number of collaborative monkfish research programmes with the FRS Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen and other European research institutes. Commenting on ASDA's decision NAFC Director, Peter Dryburgh, stated: *"It is disappointing that ASDA has chosen to ignore the growing body of scientific evidence that, far from declining or being threatened, monkfish stocks are actually healthier now than they were five years ago"*.
- ◆ **Shetland Student one of the best again!.....**Shetland student Richard Arthur from Whalsay, who recently achieved the qualification of Class 1 Fishing Vessel Engineer has been chosen as one of the finalists in the National Seafood Awards Trainee of the Year category. All the worthy finalists were assessed in an extensive judging session which drew expertise from all areas of Seafood business and all corners of the UK and chose the very best the industry has to offer. Richard has now been invited to attend the awards ceremony in London on 22 March, where the National winner will be announced.
- ◆ **Detailed map of coastal waters in Shetland.....**NAFC have drawn up the first detailed digital map of coastal waters out to the 12 mile limit, to help planners work out the best future for the marine environment. The digital map has been collated from more than 100 separate maps of the sea and seabed from 27 different organisations, as part of the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative (SSMEI). Shetland is one of four parts of Scotland carrying out pilot SSMEIs, and is six months ahead of schedule in producing its first report on its work so far. The SSMEI annual report is available at www.nafc.ac.uk
- ◆ **Farmed Herring? – NAFC Marine Centre finds silver darlings in its nets!.....**The NAFC Marine Centres has recently harvested four boxes of herring from one of its experimental fish farm sites in Clift Sound Shetland. Farm Manager, Stewart Sales explained that while changing nets in 2005 a shoal of over 100 small herring was inadvertently caught in the nets. Workers had initially thought they were sprats when they were seen feeding at the waters surface. The last batch of salmon from this growth cycle was harvested earlier this month and staff were pleasantly surprised to see that some very fat herring had survived and thrived well amongst the salmon.

New Start

Bernie is filling the position of lab technician in the Microbiology lab at Shetland Seafood Quality Control (SSQC).

He recently graduated and moved up from

Glasgow in December. He hopes to gain valuable experience in microbiology through his new post. Bernie currently prepares all media for the microbiology lab where tests for salmonella and e-coli are carried out.

He is really happy to be in Shetland and is looking forward to touring around in the summer.



Bernie Boyle

Cadets Home From Their Travels



Back left to front right: Njal Christie-Henry, Murdanie MacLeod, Matthew Smith, Glenn Tonner, Liam Gray, Michael Eunson and Sean Sinclair

The second year Merchant Navy deck cadets have recently come home after their second sea phase, this sea phase has given them a taste of the travel aspect of their future employment and a chance to work on a variety of ships.

Njal Christie-Henry went to sea with Shipping Company Zodiac Maritime Agencies on the containership Hyundai Discovery. He said *"The crew was made up of all nationalities. I am very pleased with my trip since I learned a lot and got a lot of reports written."* His route consisted of two, eight week round trips from Rotterdam to the Far East (South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong) to London.

Murdanie MacLeod and Glen Tonner were also with Zodiac Maritime Agencies and they were on the Holsatia Express. Murdanie commented *"It was great missing most of the winter. It was sunny wherever we were."* Their route included the Panama Canal, the Mississippi and the following ports: San Francisco, both Mexico Coasts, Long Beach, Japan, Taiwan, 3 in China, South Korea, West Coast of the US, Houston, New Orleans, Miami, Caucedo in the Dominican Republic, Santos, Rio Grande and Imbituba (where the ship was on TV as it was the largest they had ever had in port), River plate, Montevideo and Uruguay.

Michael Eunson and Matthew Smith were with shipping company Allocean Ltd on the oil tanker M.T. Priya. Their route took in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh and India. Matthew said *"This trip was very hot and very educational. We learned a lot about oil tankers as this was the first one we'd been on."*

Liam Gray was with shipping company District Offshore on the platform supply vessel Skandi Buchan. He said *"The crew were half Norwegian and half Polish. My trip was a bit less exotic but I got home for Christmas and New Year and could have constant contact with home, whereas the others didn't have that luxury."* His route included: the ports of Aberdeen and Peterhead and the oil platforms: Dunbar, Allan, Ninian, Sedco 714 and 706 (all contracted by Total). Christian Kidd was also with District Offshore. He was on the platform supply vessels Porta Salvo and Highland Pride (contracted by BP).

Sean Sinclair was with shipping Company Odfjell on the chemical tanker Bowchain. His route included the Suez and Panama canals and ports in: Holland, the Mediterranean, China, South Korea, Japan and America. Sean had a bit of a scary moment on the Chemical tanker, when he slipped, cracked his funny bone and passed out for a few seconds until six Phillipinos lifted him up. However, he said: *"Everything on the Bowchain is very safety conscious. Even though the chemicals carried on board a chemical tanker are very hazardous to human health, I never had any concerns with being aboard due to the strict safety controls and procedures in place"*.

Head of Shetland School of Nautical Studies, Jan Rigden, commented. *"It's brilliant to have such a mix of experiences in the class as it has allowed the cadets to share their knowledge and help others to understand working practices on vessel types that they may not have sailed on. The cadets will be returning to sea in May for their final sea phase, and expect to graduate as Deck Officers during their final term at NAFC Marine Centre during the summer of 2008."*

NAFC Gains External Funding

NAFC is constantly looking for external funding opportunities and has recently gained the following projects:

Fisheries Analysis Project

The principle objective of this project is to identify, collect, collate, and summarise readily available data on the fish stocks and fisheries in the NWWRAC's West of Scotland Area (ICES area VI), and to use this information to characterise the fisheries and stock complexes that could form the basis for long-term management plans.

Shellfish Sampling Programme

The NAFC Marine Centre have been subcontracted for two years by the Environmental Health Department of the Shetland Islands Council to do the official control sampling of live bivalve molluscs from classified harvesting production areas in Shetland. The programme is part of the Food Standards Agency enforcement work to ensure the safety of shellfish products and consists of the main sampling requirements: DSP, PSP, ASP in flesh and toxins causing phytoplankton in water samples from shellfish growing areas, e-coli in both flesh and water samples.

Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Project in Aquaculture

NAFC Marine Centre and Hjaltland Seafarms have been awarded the first ever Aquaculture Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Project. The 18 month project will investigate a range of commercial farmed salmon diets specifically formulated for Shetland waters to identify a diet containing ingredients from the most sustainable resources which is the most digestible: giving the best feed conversion rates and flesh quality.

Da Haaf Restaurant

Delicious fresh locally caught and processed seafood

Traditional Shetland and top quality modern cuisine

Carefully selected fine wines

Meat & Vegetarian dishes

Oil rich fish and healthy options

Disabled access and car park

Relaxed family friendly surroundings

Attentive service with value for money

Fish Fiesta 16th March
Polish night 11th April
Italian night 16th May
Russian night 13th June
Jamaican night 18th July

Monday 8am-6pm, Tuesday - Friday 8am to 9pm
 Lunch 12.30pm to 2pm, Evening 6pm to 9pm

Teas, coffees, snacks and homebakes served all day

Call to book a table with a view of the harbour on
01595 880747

Da Haaf Restaurant
 NAFC Marine Centre, Port Arthur,
 Scalloway, Shetland
 Tel: 01595 772480

Spaces Are Available On The Courses Below

| Month | Course | Date | Price |
|-------|---|----------------|--------------|
| March | Master <3000gt (Orals Prep) | 5th – 23rd | £350 |
| | Efficient Deck Hand | 19th – 23rd | £200 |
| | Personal Safety & Social Responsibilities | 22nd | £75 |
| | Fishermen Safety Awareness | 22nd | £50 |
| April | OOW <500gt NCV | 2nd – 6th July | £825 + exams |
| | Class 2 (FV) CoC | 2nd – 6th July | £600 + exams |
| | Class 1 (FV) CoC | 2nd – 6th July | £600 + exams |
| | Basic Fire fighting & Prevention | 3rd | £90 |
| May | Medical First Aid Aboard Ship | 21st – 24th | £165 |
| | Elementary First Aid @ Sea | 25th | £50 |
| June | Medical First Aid Aboard Ship | 4th – 7th | £165 |

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Signed.....

Print name.....

Address.....

E-mail..... Tel.....