



QUARTERLY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2006

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NAFC Marine Centre

Juvenile Lobsters Released by NAFC

The lobster hatchery project completed its final release of lobster juveniles on 13th October. Almost half of these lobsters were at stage V or VI of their development, meaning that these were larger than the normal stage at release (stage IV) and therefore with a better chance of surviving to adulthood in the wild. Lobster juveniles have been released at seven different locations around the entire coast of Shetland.



Juvenile lobsters ready for release

The lobster hatchery project is carried out during the summer months, to take advantage of higher water temperatures. It is expected that the project will continue at a larger scale during the summer of 2007. All broodstock lobsters used were released into the wild under the V-notching conservation programme.

Many thanks go to the SSMO for the support provided for this project, and to all the fishermen who provided broodstock lobsters and who assisted in the release of juveniles into the wild.

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Fish Catching Skillseekers Get Lifejackets



Back left to front right: Leslie Tait, Lecturer, Daniel Christie (Venture), Mark Arthur (Arcturus), Malcolm Reid (Venturous), Ian Shearer (Defiant), Caroline Hepburn, SFTA Training Co-ordinator, Louis Polson (Resilient), Stuart Polson (Adenia).

In June this year, 6 young Shetland men started training which will lead to SVQ Level 2 Marine Vessel Operations (Fishing). This training is co-ordinated by Train Shetland and delivered at NAFC Marine Centre, with on the job instruction provided on board their training vessels.

This year, thanks to additional financial support from Shetland Development Trust, Shetland Fishermen's Association and Shetland Fisheries Training Association, the boys can all be paid a small training allowance during their time at sea. This helps reduce the cost to the boat and it is hoped it will encourage more Skippers to take part in the scheme by offering training places to applicants.

As well as helping with the training cost, this additional funding has provided lifejackets for all the boys to wear whilst at sea. Safety is of paramount importance and much of their training concentrates on maritime health and safety issues. Caroline Hepburn, SFTA Training Co-ordinator said "for many years we have tried to secure additional funding to provide protective clothing and lifejackets for the boys, I am delighted that we have now been able to do so and thank SDT and SFA for their support".

Leslie Tait, Fisheries lecturer at NAFC Marine centre commented that "Personal safety is very much a way of life at sea and it is best that the boys get into the habit of wearing life-jackets at this early stage in their careers". He went on to say that this was an excellent group of students who work well in class and are keen to learn as much as possible. Their studies take place in NAFC's practical facility at Blacksness pier where there is plenty of room to spread out all the nets and equipment required.

The boys are all enjoying their course but unanimously agreed that the time spent at sea on fishing with their vessels is the best bit! Apart from that they rated the Sea Survival and Firefighting courses as "excellent and good fun" with the net mending and construction being "most interesting".

New development notes enclosed

NAFC Marine Centre

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

Simulator Update makes New Course possible for Ferry Crews

The SSNS simulators were upgraded early this year to integrate SIC ferries' models and controls within the existing simulator facilities. The upgrade was partly funded by SIC ferries to train masters and other shipboard deck officers. The models are based on the following three classes of ferries currently operated by SIC:

- Dagrie Class – Twin Azipod (one at bow and stern each)
- Linga Class – Twin Azipod in addition to bow thrusters
- Filla Class – Twin Screw (controllable pitch propeller) with Becker rudder (independent or tandem control)



Azipod is a unit fixed on the outside of a ship that combines the functions of propeller, rudder and stern thruster in one unit operated from the bridge and driven by ship's engines. It can be seen from above that the controls used in all of the above classes of ferries are highly sophisticated for which officers require continuous and ongoing training for manoeuvring, particularly for situations where any of the controls fail, machinery breaks down or for extreme variations in environmental conditions.

SSNS have been able to provide the training through this purposely developed course by Captain Andy Sandison who is an ex-pilot with extensive knowledge and experience of ship handling. At the moment the training is being given to the serving masters as well as the masters of tomorrow i.e. the mates and other junior officers.

The one-day course is divided into four sessions: Introduction to the model of ship and controls, Contingency Planning, Exploring environmental conditions such as extreme wind, swell, rain or restricted visibility due to fog and Equipment and machinery failure to explore limits (of both the master and ship).

In each of these sessions, students are given complete freedom to use ships' machinery and equipment to explore their abilities and limitations. Emergency scenarios such as steering, main engine or other equipment such as radar failure or failure of one or both azipods or rudders can be simulated to test ability to cope with the situation. This not only provides a means to see how the vessel can be manoeuvred in emergencies but also provides a 'just about' real situation for the masters to handle the situation with available resources. It can be argued that the shipboard drills can also provide a means to train officers. The drills however can only 'assume' a breakdown whereas in the simulator, the event can be actually simulated where the behaviour of ship itself or the environmental conditions can be varied according to the situation. In addition, if any wrong decision is made due to for example, a misjudgement, the mistake can be rectified without any potential damage or injury that is not possible in shipboard drills.

Industry Review

The industry review is used by NAFC to gauge industry opinion, receive feedback and gain industry's recommendations for future provision. AB Associates have been asked to perform the research this time. It was considered that using a third party allows for complete confidentiality and makes it easier for respondents to give a fair answer.

The process is now underway but the percentage of questionnaires returned is lower than required. All those who received the questionnaire are urged to return it and assured that their responses will not be seen by NAFC staff. All those who return the slip which accompanies the questionnaire will also be put into the draw for a £100 voucher for Da Haaf,

AB Associates will submit a final report. NAFC Staff will plan how best to respond to the needs highlighted NAFC Marine Centre will distribute feedback when the appropriate decisions have been approved by the director. Peter Dryburgh would like to thank those who responded to our questionnaire which in turn, enables us to tackle the issues you raised.



**NAFC Marine Centre
wishes readers
A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year.**

**NAFC Marine Centre will be closed
from the 23rd of December to the
8th of January 2007.**

The NAFC Marine Centre is committed to achieving equality of opportunity in all aspects of its work and study and therefore operates an Equal Opportunities Policy.

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NAFC is a partner in UHI Meridian Institute

Recent new starts at NAFC



Margaret Nugent

Margaret Nugent has recently filled the position of Technical Manager, Microbiology left vacant by John Clayton. Margaret spent the last 5 years as a chemist working at the Sullom Voe UKAS accredited laboratory. She has spent several years working in medical laboratories both in the UK and abroad.



Daniel Stone

Daniel Stone joins the Marine Farms Services Division of SSQC as a trainee Marine Environment Modeller. Dan is a Marine Biology graduate from Plymouth University and has recently spent three months in Guatemala as a volunteer at a turtle sanctuary. Dan has moved to Shetland from London. His interests include diving and he is a welcome addition to the Marine Centre football team.



Richard Shelmerdine (Des)

Richard Shelmerdine recently joined NAFC Marine Centre as a shellfish Fisheries Technician. He was previously based in Oban at the Scottish Association for Marine Science undertaking his PhD in "Large scale forcing of coastal communities". Prior to that he was in Aberdeen where he completed a M. Res. in Marine and Fisheries Science. His project examined the catch and biology of the African angel shark at the Natal Sharks Board, South Africa.



Kenny Gifford

Kenny Gifford joins as Aquaculture Instructor/Lecturer, replacing Trevor Meyer (who now works for a US company managing cage farming in Panama, the Bahamas and Belize). Whilst working as a commercial diver, Kenny was introduced to salmon farming when it arrived in Shetland in 1982. Realising that this was an ideal industry for Shetland he set up his own farm in 1984/5 which he ran successfully and sold in 1994. During this time he served as a member of the executive committee of the Shetland Salmon Farmers Association. Kenny stayed on within the new company (which is now Hjaltland Seafarms) as diving operations manager.



Laura Donaghy

Laura Donaghy replaces Rachel Hope (who now works for Hjaltland Seafarms) as Marine Surveyor. She graduated with an honours degree in Zoology from the University of Glasgow and has just completed an MSc in Aquatic Ecosystem Management at Napier University. Projects included using macro-invertebrates to test water quality for the Clyde River Foundation and Foraging Behaviour in Wasps.



Sue Smith

Sue Smith joins as Quality and Academic Manager. She is from Clowne in Derbyshire. Her background is in Further Education and she has sixteen years experience in this area. She has worked all over the UK in a variety of roles including Quality Manager. She is married to Martin, who will be moving up to Shetland shortly.

Mussel Training Course Heralded Great Success

Feedback has been extremely positive from all those who attended the Sea Fish Industry Authority/Irish Sea Fisheries Board (BIM) practical workshop last Thursday and Friday (23 and 24 November).

Around 20 mussel farmers and representatives of NAFC gathered at the NAFC Marine Centre to find out more about collecting, identifying and counting mussel larvae and hear Dr Susan Steele of BIM deliver an overview of Irish experiences in rope-mussel culture and recent BIM trials in collecting seed on collection ropes placed on the sea bed.

Lindsay Angus of Cribba Sound Ltd said: "There are many techniques involved in calculating spat and this introductory workshop has outlined the best way to do this. It is now up to us to follow these procedures and develop our systems."

Michael Laurensen of Blueshell Mussels added: "Since we began mussel farming we have based everything we do on our experiences from year to year, but now the industry has developed to a level where we need to be more scientific. The course has been very worthwhile, not only in providing us with the tools to build a successful procedure to use in successfully identifying and counting spat fall, but also in presenting us with a valuable networking opportunity."

The short course was delivered by Dr Steele, BIM's aquaculture and fish quality training officer, together with Martin Syvret of Seafish. Both were extremely complimentary about the staff and facilities at the NAFC Marine Centre and all who took part. Dr Steele commented: "The facilities and staff at the NAFC Marine Centre are fantastic. I believe that the mussel farming industry is now ripe for short training courses and Shetland has the ideal training facilities at the NAFC Centre to deliver these."

"Feedback from the workshops has been extremely positive," added Martin Syvret. "It was a real pleasure to hold the courses for what were very enthusiastic participants. I would like to thank everyone on behalf of Susan and myself for their help throughout the two-day event. The level of enthusiasm and support certainly made it one of the best workshops that I have been involved with on behalf of Seafish."

Free Certificates of Competency for Skippers

NAFC Marine Centre urges existing skippers of fishing vessels less than 16.5 metres registered length to take up the offer (for a limited period only) of free training courses which constitute a certificate of competency.

The courses are designed to fit in with new proposed safety regulation requirements. Under current legislation, skippers of vessels under 16.5 metres don't require any training. This is about to change. The certificate of competence can be made up as follows:

Competence	Certificates Required
1. Communication	1-day GMDSS Short Range Certificate
2. Safety	1-day Basic Sea Survival 1-day Basic Fire Fighting & Prevention 1-day Basic First Aid 1-day Safety Awareness
3. Navigation	Up to 20 miles: 2-day Seafish Bridge Watch keeping Beyond 20 miles: 5-day Seafish Bridge Watch keeping
4. Stability Awareness	1-day Intermediate Stability Awareness
5. Engine/Machinery Operation	2-day Seafish Engine room Watch keeping

Completion of the requirements for all five competences would lead to the award of a certificate.

To book your free place on the above courses, contact:

Caroline Hepburn, NAFC Marine Centre, Port Arthur, Scalloway, Shetland, ZE1 0UN,
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Spaces Are Available On The Courses Below

Month	Course	Date	Price
December	Personal Survival & Social Responsibility	14th	£75
	Stability Awareness	15th	£50 (fishermen free)
January	Workboat Skipper (Part 1)	22nd – 2nd Feb	£300
	NARAST Operational	29th – 2nd March	£600
February	Personal Survival Techniques	2nd	£100
	Workboat Stability	6th – 7th	£130
	Workboat Skipper (Part 2)	12th – 14th	£200
	Medical First Aid Aboard Ship	12th – 15th	£165
	Elementary First Aid @ Sea	16th	£50
	GMDSS SRC	21st – 22nd	£112
March	Class 1 (FV) to OOW Unlimited Conversion	21st – 20th March	£350
	Efficient Deck Hand	19th – 23rd	£200
	Personal Safety & Social Responsibilities	22nd	£75
	Personal Survival Techniques	23rd	£100

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Signed.....

Print name.....

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