



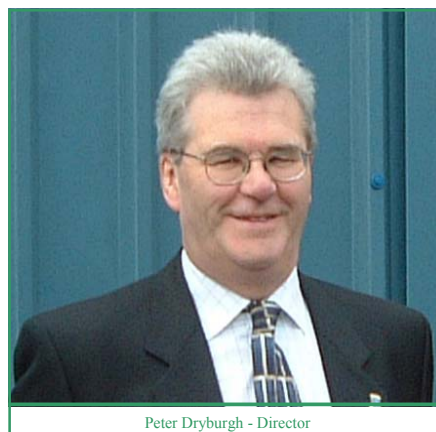
NAFC QUARTERLY UPDATE

Directors Notes

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On the 1 March I will celebrate my second anniversary in post as Director of the NAFC Marine Centre. There have been changes in staff and activities over that time but I am pleased to report that we are still pursuing a very wide range of topics for the benefit of the people of Shetland.



Peter Dryburgh - Director

Highlights over the past quarter have been -

- Publication of our first ever Annual Report which details our activities in 2004/05. We intend to make this an annual publication form now on.
- Our annual student awards ceremony held in conjunction with Train Shetland was a great success and it was good to see so many young people receive vocational awards.
- Our new research fishing vessel, the Atlantia II, arrived in January. The vessel was purchased through a gift from the Shetland Development Trust and will be used for innovative fisheries trials and training of young fishermen.



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I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and thank you for your support.

Peter A Dryburgh
 Director NAFC

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 20,322

Two Deck Cadets Head for Hong Kong

All of the Deck Cadets who started their training at NAFC in September 2005 are off at sea.

Michael Eunson of Whalsay and Matthew Smith of Lerwick received the most far flung destination and joined their first ship in Hong Kong harbour on Sunday 13th November.

Michael and Matthew are both sponsored by Clyde Marine and are on this first trip together on board MV 'CP Master.' The remainder of their class have gone to various different places closer to home, but the engineer cadets will have to wait a little longer as their first college block is not complete until March.

The boys are away for four months and have spent Christmas at sea.

Before they went, Michael said "I knew we were going to sea, but I didn't expect it to be so soon, or so far. It's a great opportunity to see the world. I'm definitely looking forward to it." Matthew is looking forward to the climate and commented that "It will

be fine to go where it's warm. I will not miss the winter here."

Both cadets agreed that their experience on the cadet programme so far had been a good one. Michael said: "The tutors are good. We have a laugh with them as well as getting the work done"

Jan Rigden, Head of Shetland School of Nautical Studies, said "It's great to see our cadets going out into the worldwide shipping industry – this is excellent news for Shetland, and I am sure Matthew and Michael, as well as all the other cadets being trained here, will be terrific ambassadors



Matthew Smith, Michael Eunson and Jan Rigden



New Benthic Camera Technology Trials

In December NAFC Marine Centre welcomed a group of researchers from Aberdeen University for a day-long visit that included a tour of the college facilities and a boat trip to some of the salmon farms located among the Scalloway Islands.

The aim of the visit was to assess the suitability of NAFC to host and support a field study of the benthic impact of sea lice treatments. The research team, headed by Professor Ken Kilham, will combine laboratory studies with *in situ* observation of benthic communities using a state-of-the-art technique called Sediment Profile Imaging (SPI). The system will allow the "footprint of impact" to be mapped around farms of various sizes while laboratory studies will focus on

the biological availability and interaction between sea lice treatments. The project is fully funded by the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum (SARF).

The day culminated in a presentation of their research to a public audience which included representatives from the aquaculture industry. This generated interest and the potential for collaboration with the local salmon farm companies.

The variety of salmon farm sizes and locations in a relatively small area makes Shetland an ideal place to conduct this research. The team hope to return to NAFC in April to conduct the fieldwork.

Local Vessels Participate in Monkfish Tally Book Project



Dr Chevonne Laurenson (NAFC) discussing the monkfish tally book with James Anderson, skipper Alison Kay.

The NAFC Marine Centre is co-ordinating the participation of Shetland vessels in a Scottish wide monkfish tally book project involving FRS Marine Laboratory Aberdeen, NAFC and both the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and the Fishermen's Association Limited.

It has been well publicised that monkfish are one of the most important components of Shetland's whitefish catch but under the current fisheries management system the amount of monkfish that can be caught exceeds the quotas held locally. This results in vessels having to lease quota at the rate of around £400 per tonne in order to land their monkfish catches. Scottish

fishermen and their representatives are seeking an increase in the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for monkfish arguing that the stock has increased since the late 1990's and that the current TAC does not reflect the present stock levels.

Although monkfish have been the focus of a number of research projects at NAFC since 1997 it is recognised that the status of the monkfish stocks in most of the areas in the north-east Atlantic are poorly understood. It was agreed at the December 2005 meeting of the EC Council of Fisheries Ministers that scientific evidence will be reviewed by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) and this review may result in the Commission granting an increase in monkfish quota. This review is dependent on the collection of scientific data by scientists undertaking an observer programme and from data collected from the tally book scheme.

Chevonne Laurenson from NAFC stated that "the NAFC was set-up to meet the needs of local Fisheries Industries and the monkfish project that we are involved with exemplifies this role. Although it will be extremely busy for us during the next few months it is rewarding to know that our work is of real importance to the local industry"

Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnostics Course

Aqualabs - Advanced laboratory training in Aquaculture is run by AquaTT funded by the European Commission. Saro (hatchery technician at NAFC) was lucky to be selected within the 25 funded places (covering the fees, accommodation and food) among the 130 applicants worldwide. The course was run at Stirling University for 2006, it was a 6 day crash course in **AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTICS** held between January 15th and 20th January.

Thirty people of 15 different nationalities participated, both from the continent and the UK, along with people from as far as the USA, Australia and New Zealand. The class was mostly made up of PhD students, with a few vets and general fish researchers.

It covered a variety of diseases in current aquaculture practice in Europe, and their diagnostic methods. The course was well balanced between theory and hands on.

The Stirling Institute of Aquaculture has recently developed a rapid ISAV test kit to test ISA virus from fish kidney or spleen in 5 minutes, (a useful tool for fish farmers). Saro was impressed with their facilities, achievements and service to the aquaculture industry. He found the course very useful as there are quite a lot of techniques which can be used at NAFC both in service to industry and in research. The course has increased Saro's interest in disease diagnosis.

If anyone would like further information, please contact Saro at the address on the



"Scientific evidence will be reviewed by the (STECF) and this review may result in them granting an increase in monkfish quota."

NAFC and Train Shetland Celebrate Students' Success



From left to right: Caroline Hepburn, SFTA; Michael Anderson, MFV Antares; Gary Sandison, MFV Arcturus; Leslie Tait, NAFC

“NAFC Fish Catching SVQ Level 2 Deck Trophy and a gift voucher to Gary Sandison.”

On Monday 19th December in a packed lecture theatre, Peter Dryburgh, Director of the NAFC Marine Centre welcomed, invited guests to the fifteenth annual student awards ceremony, which was a joint event between NAFC and Train Shetland.

Peter congratulated all students who had successfully completed courses in 2005, then introduced Leslie Tait, Fisheries Technology Manager who presented the NAFC Fish Catching SVQ Level 2 Deck Trophy and a gift voucher to Gary Sandison. There were four students in this class, Gary Sandison (MFV “Arcturus”), James Shearer (MFV “Serene”), Ivan Garriock (MFV “Sunbeam”), Robert John Polson (MFV “Serene”) all of whom successfully achieved certificates, however Gary had shown the best overall abilities in each area of training.

A non-college award was next when Caroline Hepburn presented the National Seafood Award Trophy, medal and certificate to Trainee of the year (Seagoing) to Michael Anderson from Whalsay. This prestigious prize was awarded at an Oscar style ceremony held in London earlier this

year which Michael was unable to attend due to work commitments. Caroline accepted the award on his behalf at that time and said she was now “pleased to hand them over to their rightful and worthy owner”. Michael is a crewman on the Whalsay pelagic vessel “Antares” and intends to return to NAFC in April 2006 to commence training towards the Class 1 Deck Certificate of Competency.

Duncan Kidson, Head of Engineering, told the audience how the September 2001 intake of engineering Modern Apprentices, managed by Train Shetland, had significant positive effects on what is now available at NAFC. “Twelve of those 22 modern apprentices were embarking on what was then a ground breaking programme which led to the introduction of the HNC in Engineering Practice and the Technician Modern Apprenticeship”. The course involved a great deal of collaboration between BP, AMEC, the Wood Group, Train Shetland, NAFC, Shetland Enterprise and UHI Millennium Institute, with Scottish & Southern Energy and other local engineering firms participating with work placements. Shetland should be justifiably proud

.....Continued



Back left to right: Richard Robertson, Steven Nicolson, Shaun Powell, Alec Priest, Ryan Johnson, James Jamieson. Middle left to right Richard Hobbin, Martin Work, Laurence Tulloch, George Thomason, Neil Hay, Eric Manson. Front left to right Christopher Dean, Craig Nicol, Duncan Kidson, Neil McCracken, Janice Leask, Liam Thomson

of this unique co-operation between so many organisations to produce our engineers of the future.”

Duncan then introduced Neil McCracken, Terminal Manager at Sullom Voe, who presented certificates to all the successful modern apprentices. A further prize of £100 donated by Castrol Marine was awarded to Ryan Johnson of Wood Group Engineering. This is given annually to an Engineering student who shows merit or initiative in their course. Throughout his training Ryan demonstrated commitment, the maturity to take responsibility for his own learning, a real determination to succeed and a pride in producing high quality work. Ryan will continue to work offshore for Wood Group.

To conclude the proceedings NAFC Director Peter Dryburgh gave a brief overview of the past year, highlighting the fact that despite funding issues necessitating some painful cutbacks, real progress has been made in other areas. In the near future, NAFC will have some new projects underway which will involve collaboration with

various government, academic and industry partners.

The afternoon was rounded off with all guests enjoying a seafood buffet provided by Da Haaf Restaurant.

The Engineering Apprentices receiving their certificates were:

Wood Group – Steven Nicolson, Laurence Tulloch, Richard Robertson, Ryan Johnson, Christopher Dean, Shaun Powell.
 Scottish and Southern Energy – Martin Work and Liam Thomson.
 HNP Engineers – Eric Manson and Neil Hay.
 LEF - Richard Hobbin.
 BP – James Jamieson, Alec Priest, Craig Nicol, George Thomason
 Not in the photo Wood Group - Liam Tait and Andrew Boyd.



“£100 donated by Castrol Marine was awarded to Ryan Johnson of Wood Group Engineering.”

NAFC Publishes First Ever Annual Report

The NAFC Marine Centre has published its first ever Annual Report covering the main activities of the centre for the year 2004/05 under the leadership of its new Director Peter Dryburgh.

The review highlights the great diversity of activities carried out by the centre in addressing its core mission to support the Shetland fisheries industries which are key components of the Shetland Economy.

Peter Dryburgh explains that although 2004/05 had been at times a difficult year for NAFC with funding restrictions leading to a review of activities, the Centre continued to provide a comprehensive range of training and education in fisheries, engineering, nautical studies, aquaculture and related fields. In addition applied research and development in fisheries and aquaculture;

coastal zone management; and an extensive range of commercial services for the fisheries and aquaculture industries were delivered. The annual report highlights a number of key achievements including:

- *Over 670 students enrolled on over 120 courses covering 48 topics*
- *The successful introduction of the Merchant Navy Cadet programme, for both deck and engineering officers, which blends academic education and time at sea*
- *Production of the first results of the shellfish stock assessments for the Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation*
- *Commencement of Monkfish fishery observer pro-*

gramme in collaboration with FRS Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

- *The beginning of a Jig fishing project to assess the practicalities and economics of Jig fishing in inshore waters around Shetland*
- *UKAS accreditation for laboratory services in SSQC leading to the award of the Shellfish Harvesting Area Classification contract*
- *Establishment of the Food Innovation Centre*

Copies of the annual report are available for download on the NAFC Marine Centre web pages (<http://www.nafc.ac.uk>) or can be collected from the NAFC Main Reception Desk.



“Highlights the great diversity of activities carried out by the centre in addressing its core mission to support the Shetland fisheries industries.”



NAFC

Marine Centre

Annual Report 2004/2005

New Research Vessel Arrives Safely



The Eileann A Cheo/Atlantia II comes in past NAFC for the first time

NAFC Marine Centre has been in need of a new research vessel for some time as the "Atlantia" was no longer suitable for the range of functions required. A gift from Shetland Development Trust of £105,000 allowed the purchase of a replacement for the "Atlantia", which was also used as part exchange.

Leslie Tait and Arthur Johnson steamed into Scalloway at 11:40am on Tuesday 10th January on the "Eileann A Cheo", having come up from Scrabster overnight. They left Shetland with the "Atlantia" on Sunday, taking advantage of the only weather window predicted this week to bring the new boat North. Leslie Tait said *"Although sea conditions were relatively poor, the boat handled admirably."*

The "Eileann A Cheo" came from Skye and is a 12.3m wooden hulled trawler built in 1999 at Thoms in Cornwall. She has a 8LXB Gardner engine, developing 170 horsepower. She is roomier than the "Atlantia" and in very good condition, with improved accommodation and deck area.

This new boat should make projects like the investigation into jig-fishing easier as there are better facilities for handling and storing fish and the accommodation will increase time at sea, allowing them to go further afield to try new areas.

Jig fishing is a method of fishing using

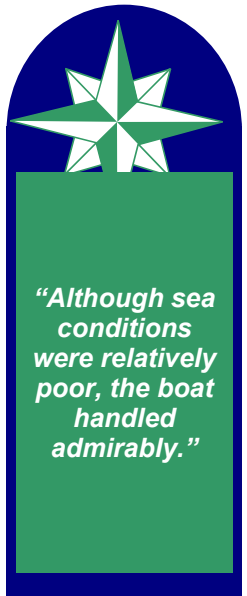
hooks with lures which are 'jigged' up and down in the water. The jigged lures resemble small fish and as a result attract larger predatory fish. It has been tried around Shetland on a number of occasions, and although past attempts have had their successes, it has never really taken off. In the current environmental and market conditions there is renewed interest amongst fishermen and early in 2004 the Shetland Fishermen's Association approached NAFC to undertake a pilot study.

The boat will also aid NAFC's support of the fisheries sector through the training of young fishermen.

Pupils at Scalloway Junior High School and NAFC Marine Centre staff were asked to suggest a new name for the vessel, with those who chose the winning name to be given a free trip round the harbour in the new boat.

Two members of staff and one school pupil put forward Atlantia II, which was chosen from the suggestions by the Board of Trustees.

The Atlantia II is currently being re-fitted to suit its purpose. When this has been completed, Leslie and Arthur will take the winners on their tour of the new boat and Scalloway harbour.



"Although sea conditions were relatively poor, the boat handled admirably."

Tamil Nadu

Saro of the Marine Science and Technology department of NAFC has returned from his fact finding visit with Drew Ratter and Emma Perring of the Shetland Islands Council Development Group to his birthplace, the tsunami hit Tamil Nadu.



It has been highlighted that rehabilitation and support are what is required and the government has requested that the SIC concentrate on education and training.

The SIC has started to get involved with non-government organisations, although they are doing this alongside the government by conforming to regulations, asking what's required, what measures are being taken and making sure the opinions of the local people are heard.

The trip was very successful as the SIC had talks with the HOPE foundation, which runs vocational

training in tsunami affected areas. Two people from the HOPE foundation are likely to be coming to Shetland to investigate what Shetland can offer.

The Anderson High School will become involved through a global classroom project. Two teachers will be visiting Tamil Nadu in the next couple of months. In the future they might link up with the higher secondary school in Tamil Nadu, as they already do exchanges in the Czech Republic, Japan and other countries.

Saro is very happy that it is all moving forward and that things are looking positive. "In general, myself and people in Tamil Nadu are amazed with the support of the people of Shetland. Everyone at the SIC is very helpful and behind the project. The skills exchange and global classroom, once it is set up, I'm sure will be fantastic for Tamil Nadu".

Places are available on the following courses

VHF Upgrade to SRC	22/2/06	£70
Personal Survival Techniques	10/3/06	£100
Workboat Skipper (Part 2)	20/3/06	£200
Workboat Stability	27/3/06	£130
Class 1 (Fishing Vessel) Certificate of Competency	3/4/06	£600 + Exams
Class 2 (Fishing Vessel) Certificate of Competency	3/4/06	£600 + Exams
Officer Of the Watch <500gt Near Coastal Vessel	3/4/06	£825
GMDSS Short Range Certificate	4/4/06	£112
Personal Survival Techniques	7/4/06	£100
Efficient Deck Hand	10/4/06	£200
GMDSS General Operators Certificate	17/4/06	£730
Personal Survival Techniques	12/5/06	£100

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