

PRESS RELEASE

The seas around us – a pilot schools project



In partnership with SIC's Education Service, NAFC Marine Centre is piloting a project to deliver elements of the school curriculum at its campus in Scalloway. NAFC has made facilities available to display all manner of flora and fauna to be found in the seas and on the shores around Shetland. Initially the project is being trialled by Scalloway and Whiteness primaries so that lessons can be learned before widening to other schools and interested groups. The first 'live' displays will be in place during early May with the pilot running until early July, 2007.

Aquaculture Instructor Kenny Gifford said: *"From the outset we would like to make a visit to this project a memorable one, an entertaining and educational experience for the children. So as well as providing the marine displays, NAFC is planning to produce an activity pack to help pupils and teachers to identify and understand what they see in the display area, and how this relates to Shetland's use of the marine environment. The experience will continue with a visit to the excellent teaching laboratory in the John Goodlad Centre."*

At the end of this initial pilot a full assessment of the resources and commitments required will be made so that adequate funding can be sought to enable the project to run during the next academic year and be widened to include other primary schools and secondary pupils. The project then provides natural link to NAFC's delivery of the Scottish Progression Award (SPA) in Aquaculture and other vocational training programmes and helps ensure that youngsters are made aware at an early age the wide variety of exciting career opportunities that are available in the marine industries.

Anyone requiring further information should in the first instance contact NAFC's Liaison Officer, Caroline Hepburn on 01595 772000 or by email: caroline.hepburn@nafc.uhi.ac.uk



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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 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.