



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NAFC Subcontracted To Sample Shetland Mussels**

The Food Standards Agency are introducing nation-wide changes to the Official Control Sampling of live bivalve molluscs from classified harvesting production areas. From the first of April 07, the samples which are currently collected by farmers will have to be collected by Environmental Health Officers or Sampling officers. In Shetland the NAFC Marine Centre has been subcontracted by the Environmental Health department of the SIC to carry out this Official Control Sampling for two years.

The NAFC Marine Centre is now seeking to recruit a sample collection co-ordinator and three part-time sample collection officers. They will collect all of the samples for the Food Standards Agency monitoring programmes for shellfish harvesting area classification and bio-toxin monitoring. Regular weekly samples of live mussels and water will be collected at designated sampling points around Shetland and transported for analysis at the recognised testing laboratories.

The work will involve close co-operation with the shellfish farming industry and NAFC welcomes the closer relationships with industry that this will bring. Staff at NAFC are pleased to get this opportunity to enhance existing links with the SIC Environmental Health department and the Food Standards Agency.

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