

Fish flocking to restored mussel and shell habitats

Last month, we deployed underwater cameras to look at the fish communities on the restored mussel and shell habitats in Penguin Bay, Pelorus Sound. The early footage is in, and PhD student Altan Ní Mhurchú has spotted plenty of fish making themselves at home!

Frequent visitors include gurnard, triplefin fish, and spotties, and during the camera deployments, we saw both juvenile and adult snapper cruising over the restored habitats.

Altan is looking for volunteers to help review the footage. If you are keen to spot fish and observe their behaviour, get in touch—your help would be greatly appreciated!



Top left: Juvenile snapper and spotties next to a restored mussel and shell habitat.

Top right: Triplefin fish making its home in the mussel shells.

Bottom left: Snapper on a restored mussel and shell plot and a larval fish sampling device (SMURF).

Bottom right: Un-baited camera in the restored mussel and shell habitat.

Please feel free to get in touch with any questions or if you'd like to get involved: Altan Ní Mhurchú: anim823@aucklanduni.ac.nz; Emilee Benjamin: emilee.benjamin@auckland.ac.nz.