

Mussel Restoration Project for the Marlborough Sounds – July 2021

Subadult/Adult mussel experiment

In early July we placed down 20 tonnes of subadult mussels, supplied by Sanford, and 10 tonnes of adult mussels, supplied by Jonathan Large, at two depths in Kenepuru Sound. The aim of this experiment is to test the benefits of restoring adult mussels (90-100 mm in length) with subadult mussels (50-60 mm), as subadult mussels are thought to be more adaptable, have stronger byssal networks attachment threads, and provide more mussels per tonne than adults.



Figure 1: Left: The crew and Emilee on the Lady Marie that performed the mussel deployment after the deck was cleared of the 30 tonnes of mussels! Right: A bag of mussels being prepared to be deployed onto the mussel plots.

This deployment was our largest yet and was made possible through amazing teamwork and collaboration! This effort has appeared in many places in the news including the Marlborough midweek newspaper, Stuff, and videos are being made by Sanford and NIWA to share their contribution with the public. Here are a few links:

- <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125842384/promising-signs-for-wild-mussel-restoration-project>
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sanford-limited_sanford-supports-the-mussel-bed-restoration-activity-6823441244656668672-12I



Figure 2: Left: One of the shallow intertidal mussel plots. Right: Marlborough Midweek Newspaper article on the mussel deployment.

As always, if you have any questions or comments on this project, please feel free to reach out to Emilee Benjamin via email at egol669@aucklanduni.ac.nz