

MFA Mussel Restoration Project – March 2021 Update

International news

A global news network CGTN Europe aired a documentary on the mussel restoration project in Pelorus Sound. It tells the story of the recycled shell experiment, which included help from many industry members including Aroma and Sandford.

Here is the link if your interested in watching it: https://youtu.be/ncNqCctRa_o

Larval supply

Throughout this autumn season we will be placing down spat collectors, like the ones used for the MFA spat sampling, at the five locations of the first mussel experiment to look for larval supply to the mussel plots. We will put three frames on the mussel plots and three 50 m away as a comparison at each site. The results from these frames will tell us if there are mussel spat looking to settle to the restored beds.

Havelock mussel festival

A mussel restoration stand at the Havelock mussel festival was a great way to share the project with the public, as well to catch up with industry members. Many people were interested in hearing more about the work we are doing and were very interested to see the results from the first year of the project. Trevyn presented his work on a new experiment testing how spat prefer to settle onto different types of seaweeds with a family-friendly interactive component (Figure 2).

Third mussel experiment

Our resource consent for the third mussel deployment is with the Marlborough District Council. Once we get approval, this experiment will be underway ideally in early May, and will take place in Kenepuru Sound as that is where our restored mussels are surviving the best.

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.

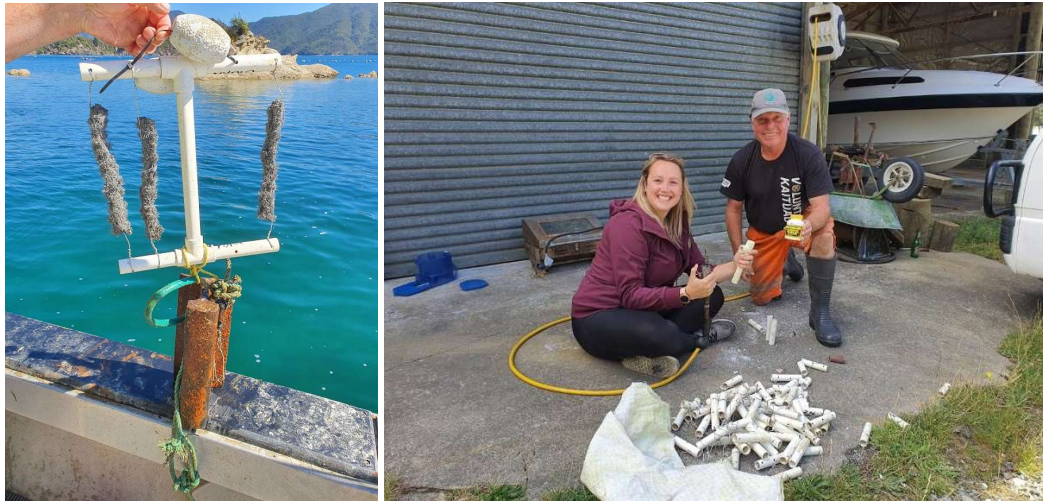


Figure 1: Left: Spat frames placed at each location to look for larval supply on the mussel plots versus control areas 50 m away. Right: Gary Orchard helping Emilee create spat frames at his workshop in Kenepuru Sound.

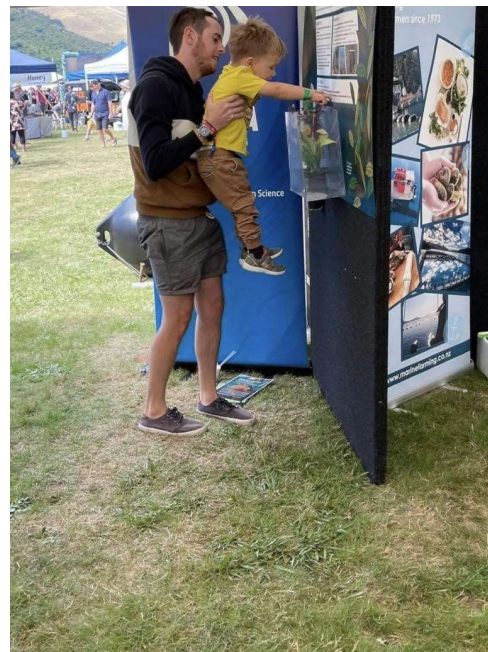


Figure 2: Top: Emilee with her poster from the Havelock Mussel Festival. Bottom: Trevyn with his poster and assistant at the Festival and his interactive spat display.