

## Mussel Restoration Project for the Marlborough Sounds – May 2022

### **Students on the water days**

The MFA hosted high school students from Marlborough for on the water days in April and May this year. These days provide the students with a first-hand experience of the aquaculture industry and the different job opportunities the industry offers. Jono and Kris (Marine Farm Management), Denise Briggs and Craig Prichard (NMIT), Alex (MFA), and Emilee gave talks to the students about career paths and different opportunities they might be interested in. In Pelorus we took the students to a New Zealand King Salmon farm where Charlie took them through a day in the life working on a salmon farm. Then there was a visit to a mussel farm that gave the students an opportunity to dig into the biodiversity that lives on the mussel lines. From Nelson we took the students to Marlborough Oysters to learn about the innovative flip farming method of farming oysters.

It was great to share the mussel restoration project with these students and there were a few students that wanted to join the industry or wanted to be a marine scientist! Students have even reached out since for meetings to discuss starfish and the restored mussels further. These events are so important for outreach in the community and to show students different career paths they can take!

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](mailto:egol669@aucklanduni.ac.nz).



Figure 1: A group of high school students that all ate a raw mussel and then made the mussel shells into hearts with Emilee.



Figure 3: Jono, Emilee, and Denise Briggs from NMIT picking up students at Marlborough Oysters flip-farm.