

23 September 2011

Seafish awards IPF funding to Cefas for mollusc purification trials

Seafish, the authority on seafood, has awarded £23,750 from its Industry Project Fund (IPF) to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) for trials on the purification of oysters to identify ways of reducing the norovirus content of live bivalve molluscs.

The project will assess the effects of time and temperature in addition to two sterilisation techniques (UV and ozone treatment) with regard to the removal of norovirus, bacteriophage and E.coli from experimentally contaminated Pacific oysters.

If the data from this project is successful, then new guidance could be provided for industry to help producers reduce the presence of norovirus in products – with a corresponding reduction in the risk to consumer health.

Anna Neish of Cefas said: “It will be good to get this project underway so that the knowledge can assist industry in reducing risks with the processing of oysters and ultimately to increase food safety and customer confidence.”

The Seafish Industry Project Fund aims to support innovation and foster growth in all areas of the UK seafood industry. Now in its seventh year, to date it has supported more than 80 projects, providing a wide range of benefits to the seafood sector. With significant partnership funding, this year’s projects will be worth an estimated £1.5M to industry.

The IPF is currently open for applications for new project funding from its next round, which will start from April 2012. For more information please [click this link](#).

ENDS

For more information contact:

Seafish press office, T: 0131 524 8658 or Jennifer Butler or Stephanie Robertson, Weber Shandwick, E: jbutler@webershandwick.com T: 0131 556 6649 / 07809 665 773

Notes to editor:

- Hi res image available on request. Please credit the photo to Crown Copyright
- Seafish was founded in 1981 by an Act of Parliament and supports all sectors of the seafood industry for a sustainable, profitable future. It is the only pan-industry body offering services to all parts of the seafood industry, including catching and aquaculture, processors, importers, exporters and distributors of seafood and restaurants and retailers.
- Seafish is funded by a levy on the first sale of seafood landed in the UK. Its services aim to support and improve the environmental sustainability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the industry, as well as promoting sustainably-sourced seafood. Its services include technical research and development, responsible sourcing initiatives, economic consulting, market research, industry accreditation, safety training for fishermen and legislative advice.
- www.seafish.org