

# QUARTERLY PROGRESS SUMMARY:

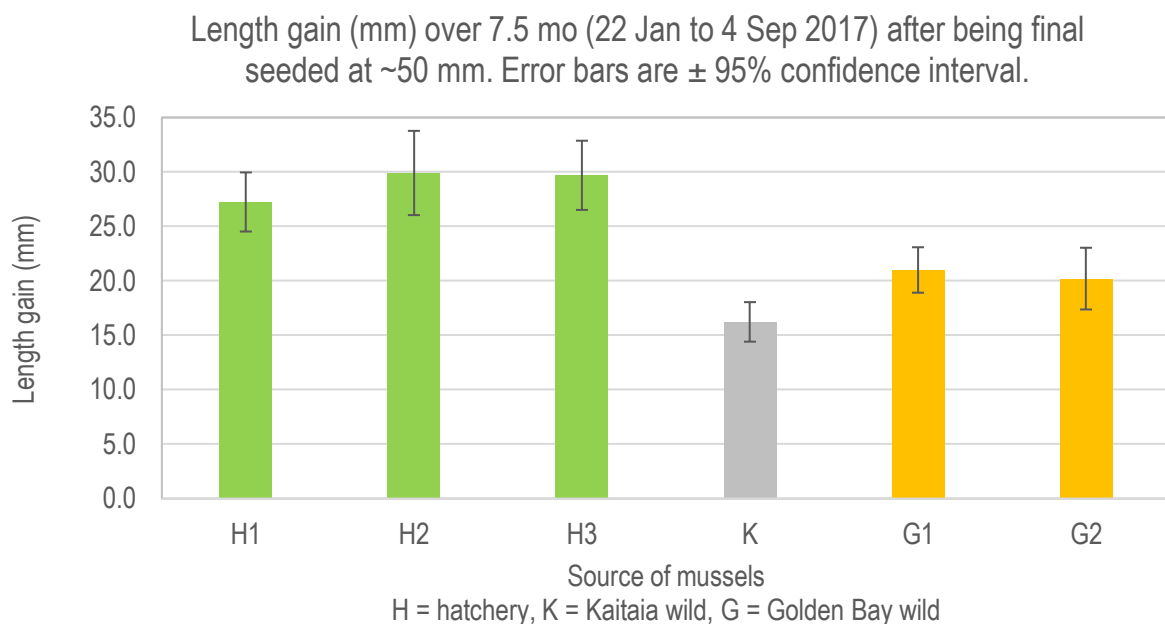
## Jul to Oct 2017

### SPATNZ



## Summary of progress during this quarter

We have lots of data on the performance of selected mussel families at small scale, but need to demonstrate their benefits with normal, full-scale commercial mussel farming methods. We've set up a big trial to compare three selected hatchery strains with 2 batches of Golden Bay wild spat and one batch of Kaitaia wild spat. Each of the 6 strains was final seeded at ~50 mm shell length onto 10 farms ranging from very poor to very good growing sites. After 7.5 months, 5,400 mussels were measured and the graph below summarises the length gain for the six groups of mussels, averaged across the 10 sites. On average, the growth rate (length gain) of the hatchery mussels over this period was 81% faster than that of the Kaitaia wild mussels and 41% faster than Golden Bay wild mussels.



Autumn and winter months are our most challenging time of year to rear mussel larvae. This quarter, we continued to demonstrate improvement over previous years with 860 million ready-to-settle larvae from two batches compared to 191 and 330 million in the same quarter of 2015 and 2016 respectively.

## Key highlights and achievements

- Robust data demonstrating the much faster growth of selected hatchery mussels relative to wild mussels using commercial farming methods
- Continued improvement of larval rearing scale and success relative to previous years
- SPATnz was recently awarded the 2017 New Zealand Innovation Award for the Agribusiness and Environment category



## Upcoming

- Begin to harvest and process mussels from the growout trials described above
- Plan the 2018 selective breeding programme, incorporating new genomic tools for the first time

## Investment

<b>Investment period</b>	<b>Industry contribution</b>	<b>MPI Contribution</b>	<b>Total Investment</b>
During this Quarter	\$0.23 M	\$0.23 M	\$0.47 M
Programme To Date	\$8.81 M	\$8.81 M	\$17.62 M