

QUARTERLY PROGRESS SUMMARY:

April to June 2015

SPATNZ



Summary of progress during this quarter

The second quarter of 2015 saw the transfer of the 2015 breeding cohort transferred from hatchery to sea, and the engraving of 80 mussel families produced in 2014. The 2014 families have been deployed to a range of sites where they will remain until harvest. In this quarter we also successfully transferred to sea the first two batches of mussel spat produced in the new hatchery facility.

The new hatchery facility offers a fantastic platform to develop methods for reliably producing mussel spat at the scale required by industry. Trials commenced comparing two contrasting rearing systems – 24000 L tanks without continuous water exchange and 170 L tanks with higher larval densities and continuous water exchange.

In the reporting quarter staff of SPATnz and the Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) jointly delivered a hatchery principles module of the NMIT Aquaculture course. This immerses 2nd year aquaculture students in the challenges of rearing mussels from egg through to settlement. The module runs for nearly a month and is a great introduction to hatchery work.

Two additional hatchery technicians were recruited to add capacity in the hatchery team. One was from the NMIT Aquaculture course which operates on site, offering a great opportunity to meet and recruit employees with training specific to our needs.

Key highlights and achievements

- SPATnz's hatchery facility was officially opened by the Minister for Primary Industries on the 2nd of April. The event attracted considerable media coverage and public interest.
- The breeding programme families produced in 2014 were engraved and deployed to a number of farms for growing through to harvest.
- The first two batches of mussel spat reared in the new facility were successfully transferred to the sea
- SPATnz staff facilitated a month-long "hatchery principles" module as part of NMIT's Aquaculture training. Two new technicians were recruited – one from the NMIT Aquaculture course.

Upcoming

- Production of selected mussel strains for benchmarking against wild mussel controls
- Commencement of market research

Investment

Investment period	Industry contribution	MPI Contribution	Total investment
During this Quarter	\$0.28 M	\$0.28 M	\$0.56 M
Programme To Date	\$5.74 M	\$5.74 M	\$11.48 M

SPATnz hatchery technicians Ellie Kerrisk (top) and Ashley Millar (bottom) are both products of the Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) Aquaculture Diploma. The course is taught on site at the Cawthron Aquaculture Park with input from SPATnz staff. Ellie is checking out flasks of micro-algae that will be scaled up as food for baby mussels. Ashley is size grading millions of larvae – the swimming stage of the mussel life cycle.

