



Building a resilient future for New Zealand oyster aquaculture



Snapshot

Industry partner:
Aquaculture New Zealand

Project length: 5 months

Start date: October 2019

Estimated completion date:
March 2020

Industry funding: \$15,000

MPI funding: 45,000

Aquaculture New Zealand is developing a business case to establish a commercial-scale oyster hatchery system.

The opportunity

Oyster farming is an integral part of many communities, providing jobs for local families, supporting a raft of services and underpinning regional economies. However, the resilience of the oyster industry is challenged by the seasonal supply of spat (juvenile oysters).

The solution

Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures is supporting Aquaculture New Zealand to develop a business case to establish a commercial-scale oyster hatchery system that would provide a strong foundation for sustainable growth of New Zealand's oyster industry. Ideas for growth include selective breeding and novel hatchery and nursery technologies that enable year-round production. Successful implementation could help the industry regain its position in the world market and grow to an industry value of more than \$100 million.

The benefits

If successful, this project will benefit New Zealand by:

- building capability and capacity in the oyster industry;
- deploying new hatchery technology for producing and providing a year-round spat supply;
- improving biosecurity management;
- adopting novel nursery technologies;
- providing resilience against changing climate conditions.