

Orkney Scallop and Whelk Research project

Area – Orkney wide

Summary

The project is a collaboration between the fishing industry and OSF scientists aiming to establish and ensure the long-term sustainability of commercially exploited scallop and whelk stocks in Orkney. It is hoped that it will be the start of a long-term assessment providing information for fishery managers and fishing industry. To ensure sustainability and survivability of the local sector fishers' and fishery managers require a robust science to inform the potential for regionally based management plans.

The project will be managed by OSF and on a daily basis this project will be delivered by the OSF researchers. Heriot Watt University, ICIT will support this project by providing scientific advice to support data analysis and management measures.

The project will commence May 2019 and run for 20 months. It is envisaged however that this will lead to an ongoing research programme.

The project aims to:

The purpose of this project is to identify and understand the scallop and whelk population structure and dynamics within Orkney. Collecting data on the population dynamics of both species (age and size structure) combined with abundance data will contribute to understanding of the dynamics of the stocks in relation to fishing activities. Information on the scallop fisheries will be collected using fisheries independent dredges survey and underwater cameras. The whelk fishery will be monitored through the use of market sampling and at sea observer trips.

Financial Information	£	%
Total Eligible Costs	59,650.04	
Orkney Islands Council	13,576.47	23%
Orkney Fisheries Local Action Group Award	46,073.57	77%