

February 2015

AQUACULTURE

NEW ZEALAND

SHARING THE LOVE

at the Auckland Seafood Festival



Social License with
Kate Brooks



Golden Bay
Aquaculture Academy



O&A with
Andrew Selby



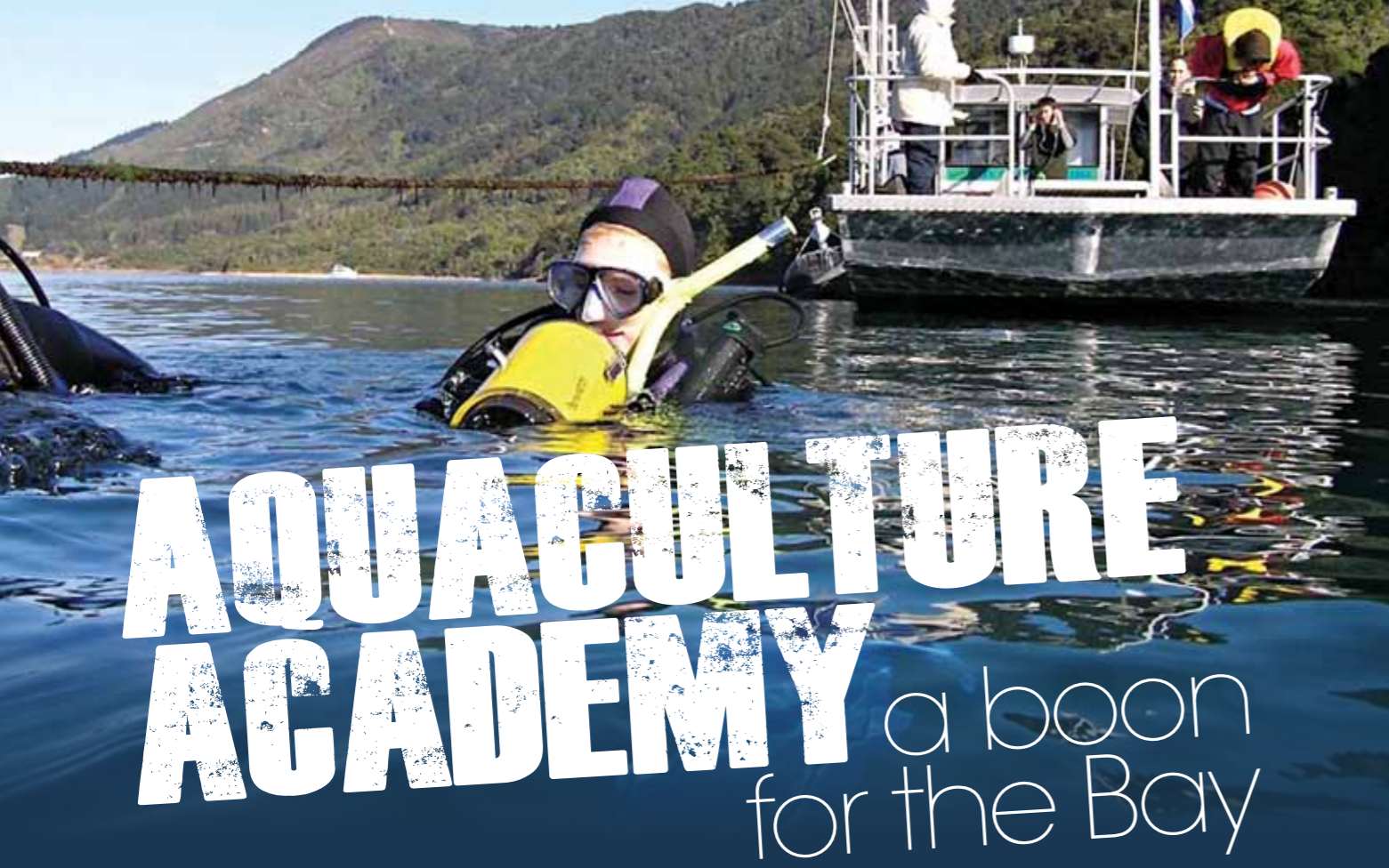
LOVEMUSSELS



LOVENZSALMON



LOVEOYSTERS



AQUACULTURE ACADEMY

a boon for the Bay

A new Golden Bay High School Aquaculture Academy will improve local community support and understanding of the industry while helping prepare and upskill future marine farmers.

The academy is a joint initiative between the school and the Marine Farming Association and will give Year 11 and 12 students in the 2015 academic year, and year 13 students from 2016 onwards, the opportunity to study a practical course to prepare them for a career in the industry while contributing to their NCEA requirements.

It will also bring the school community a lot closer to the industry, according to MFA Executive Officer Graeme Coates.

"The aquaculture industry is a significant and growing employer and contributor to the regional economy in Golden Bay and moving forward we want to be a part of the local community and we want the community to be knowledgeable about marine farming," he said.

"By participating with the college we are educating a new generation of students and showing parents that the industry is a positive and sustainable activity.

"It's all about learning and building community support."

The MFA worked with the school over the past year to develop the programme, which is based on the highly successful Queen Charlotte College (QCC) model, and will be co-ordinating industry involvement going forward.

"We've developed a long-term business plan and generated interest

among the community and the wider industry," Graeme said.

"The MFA's role is not to manage the academy, but to coordinate industry support and funding for the activities of the academy. And to that end, we'll be asking farmers in Golden Bay to contribute time, spot and equipment for the academy lines.



ABOVE: Kris and Julie Solly

"The response from industry has been unanimously positive.

"The MFA has earmarked two lines in stage three of the Golden Bay ring road project which will be donated to the school to fund the programme. In the meantime, we're hoping to loan a couple of lines from an individual company."

MFA Environment Officer Darren Clarke, who is also a trustee on the school board, has been a key advocate for the programme.

"This is good for the school, good for the local community and good for the industry," Darren said.

"There are not many employment

opportunities for local kids who want to stay the region, but aquaculture gives them a rewarding career path to follow without having to leave the region to study at university.

"The course will give the kids experience and qualifications in lots of different areas - from earning skippers and diving tickets to hatchery and on-water farming."

The on-water farming component will be supported by local marine farmer Kris Solly who has generously volunteered to host the students on his vessels to work on the lines.

"I'm a born and bred Golden Bay boy and I see this as a fantastic way for the industry to give something back to the community," Kris said.

"When I was a kid at school here, I was never an academic but I loved all the practical work.

"For me this is an opportunity to share the hands-on learning experiences with other like-minded kids.

"This programme will give them a taste of what's available not just in our industry - but a range of skills that they can use in whatever industry they choose to enter."

School principal Roger File said the programme would be an asset for the school that wouldn't be possible without the support of the local industry.

"Golden Bay has a growing aquaculture industry and it's a big player in the economy, so we wanted to see our students taking advantage of that and we also wanted to support the growers in the Bay," he said.

"We're excited to offer this course. It's a great way to learn.

"Who knows where this will lead." ■

Techni-col

Aquaculture New Zealand Technical Director Dr Colin Johnston turns the microscope on biosecurity, market assess and technical workshops



Dr Colin Johnston

Bliadhna mhath ùr, or for those of you not fluent in Scots gaelic, Happy New Year and welcome to 2015

BIOSECURITY

This year will be important from a biosecurity point of view for industry as a whole. We now have five signatories to the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) deed; the Ministry for Primary Industries, kiwifruit, pork, pipfruit and just recently the equine industry. Just before Christmas, AQNZ sent out the first batch of information on the GIA and we indicated that this year we would be asking you, as levy payers, to vote on whether the salmon, mussel and oyster aquaculture industries should sign up to the GIA deed through AQNZ.

There's also been some work on biosecurity best practice and tools going on in the background with MPI, and we plan to hold a number of workshops around New Zealand covering biosecurity tool options and GIA implications in association with MPI. Keep a look out for dates and locations coming soon.

Later in the year you will have the opportunity to vote as an industry whether to sign the GIA deed. This will use the same mechanism as the levy order voting process.

MARKET ACCESS

Often flowing on from biosecurity findings are market access issues. Last year, following a range and species extension of the parasite *Perkinsus olseni*, AQNZ helped change international standards on the parasite host range, providing the Pacific oyster industry with live access into new markets. We will continue to provide assistance with MPI where possible on market access issues.

Of course, market access goes both ways, and last year AQNZ



The highly successful 2014 Technical Day. LEFT: Kevin Marshall (SIL), Merv Whipp (Ngai Tahu) and Hamish Menzies (Pegasus Bay). BELOW: Cawthron's Zoe Hilton and Norman Ragg.

together with the New Zealand Salmon Farmers Association worked with MPI to amend interim salmon importation controls. We will continue to keep pressure on in this area this year as the rules are more permanently re-written.

AQNZ will remain vigilant regarding import health standards to help protect our valuable industry.

TECHNICAL DAYS

With three very successful *Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Series* technical days already held in the last 2 years, we plan to keep going with this new initiative. Together with MPI, Cawthron, NIWA, Plant & Food Research and Seafood Innovations, we are working on two more events this year. Further details to follow when it is all tied down, but expect another Technical Day just before the Aquaculture Conference this year. Just as a reminder, conference is being held earlier this year (16-18 September).

Keeping with the research theme, AQNZ will be engaging



and monitoring movements with the proposed New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre (NZFSSRC) to ensure that the valuable outputs from initiatives such as the Safe New Zealand Seafood programme are protected.

The efficient use of the mussel spat resource is important to the industry; improving productivity provides financial returns and promotes investor confidence, which is only good for growing the industry. So this year AQNZ is working with a number of other groups to encourage and focus research effort and funds in this important area. ■

FUNDING AVAILABLE

FOR SEAFOOD INDUSTRY RESEARCH PROJECTS

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