



NATIVE OYSTER NETWORK

UK & IRELAND

Introducing the Native Oyster Network: How we aim to facilitate *Ostrea edulis* restoration across the UK & Ireland

Celine E. Gamble^{1,2}, Alison Debney¹ and Joanne Preston²

¹ Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY 1. Email: celine.gamble@zsl.org
² Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, PO4 9LY 2. Email: joanne.preston@port.ac.uk

NativeOyster@zsl.org ; www.nativeoysternetwork.org



Who are we?

The Native Oyster Network is a community of academics, conservationists, oystermen and NGO's who are working to restore self-sustaining populations of native oysters.

The network was established by Dr Joanne Preston & Alison Debney in 2017, to support the growing need of the species, habitat and those working to restore *O. edulis* in Europe.

Supported by the **John Ellerman Foundation**

Projects and partnerships

- **7 Native Oyster Restoration Projects**
 - 1) Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative
 - 2) Solent Oyster Restoration Project
 - 3) The Wales Native Oyster Restoration Project
 - 4) Galway Bay
 - 5) Loch Craignish Native Oyster Restoration
 - 6) Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project (DEEP)
 - 7) Humber Estuary
- **9 Fisheries and Production Companies**
- **15 Organisational members**

Achievements to date

- Growth from 40 members in Oct 2018, to 120 members in July 2019
- Created our new website : www.nativeoysternetwork.org
- Hosted our first network meeting in Dec 2018, to address the needs of our stakeholders
- Monthly e-newsletters & regular email updates
- Press launch ? Raised awareness
- Shell collection pilot scheme

Next steps

- Monitoring recommendations for restoration projects
- Produce a UK & Ireland Handbook for Native Oyster restoration and monitoring
- Baseline report on Native Oyster Restoration in the UK & Ireland. Created from project questionnaire.
- Educational and outreach materials

Aims

1. Facilitate an ecologically coherent and collaborative approach to native oyster restoration in the UK & Ireland

- Nationwide plan and recommendation handbook of best practise
- Support new restoration sites & ensure that MCZs designated with native oysters as a feature
- Communicate new research

2. Promote information sharing and effective communication of matters relating to native oyster conservation

- Connect key stakeholders and facilitate collaborations, joint projects, funding bids and publications
- Internal information flow: project successes (& failures), plans & strategies via updates/internal communications
- Put us on the map! External facing website, social media pages

3. Increase awareness of the cultural and environmental value of native oysters

- Develop volunteer and outreach programmes- e.g. shell recycling and oyster garden initiatives
- Advocate for sustainable Government policy relating to the native oyster and its associated ecosystem restoration

Join the network...

NativeOyster@zsl.org
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Correspondence:
Celine.gamble@zsl.org

