



This project aims to take a holistic catchment based approach to human pathogens and their interactions with shellfish. The focus is to produce Best Practice Guidelines to help all those involved with the industry and to provide rapid screening protocols. This research programme is led by Dr Shelagh Malham, Research Lecturer at Bangor University.

SHELLPATH Human Pathogen Interactions with Shellfish

The shellfish industry around the UK coasts consists mainly of small SME's who require consistent production of a good quality product to maintain a successful shellfish business. This project will enable the continuation of fisheries which could be potentially lost if human pathogens such as Norovirus were found during critical harvesting periods. The project is unique in its holistic look at pathogen fluxes.



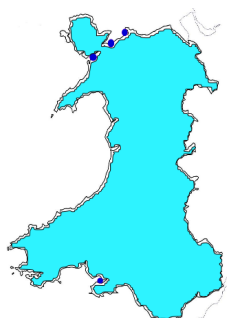
This collaborative project funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) brings together experts from within Bangor University working closely with stakeholders, policy makers and local agencies.



Analysis of sediment samples for bacterial and Norovirus contamination will be used to predict the likely hood of pathogen release and reactivation under varying environmental conditions. This data along with the investigation of water and shellfish will then be used to produce protocols for rapid screening of shellfish samples for pathogenic microbes.

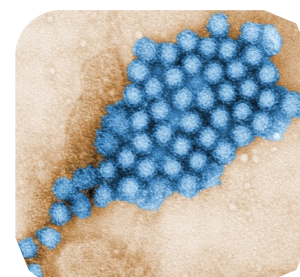


All samples will be taken regularly, seasonally and episodically from the Conwy, Menai Strait and Burry Inlet.



The research will also produce new guidelines for policy change not only for samples taken for shellfish hygiene but for also for bathing water quality.

Understanding of the pathogen status of mussels will be a valuable management tool preventing possible closures of the shell fish areas causing a potential loss of fisheries. Farmers will have more control over depuration and harvesting in relation to environmental conditions, strengthening sustainability.



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