

Scandinavian bivalves — conservation status and interactions with invasive Pacific oysters

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Our study organisms — Pacific oysters (*Magallana gigas*), European oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*)

Our bivalve research group can offer several types of projects in conservation biology for GU-students, both at BSc- and MSc-level,

Possible topics (a non-exhaustive list)

1. Population control and management of Pacific oysters through commercial activities such as harvest of wild populations and population modeling
2. Efficiency of the Norwegian efforts to remove Pacific oysters from popular beaches
3. Interactions between Pacific oysters and native bivalves and restoration trials to enhance native bivalve populations
4. Literature studies to determine the baselines for determining conservation status and future management actions to protect native blue mussels and European oysters
5. The geographic range expansion of the invasive Pacific oyster and its effects on local communities along a salinity gradient
6. Development of new culture protocols for both native bivalves and Pacific oysters using submerged culture systems
7. Alternative methods for stock enhancement of flat oysters

Work place

Some of the projects can be computer-based (e.g. 4) and can thus take place anywhere with frequent contact with supervisors through email and Skype. Other projects can be based entirely at Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Science at Kristineberg or Tjärnö (e.g. 3, 6, 7). Here we have a standing collaboration with University of Gothenburgh to register students on GU courses that provide free accommodation at SLC. A substantial part of the field-based projects (e.g. 1 and 2) takes place around the Oslo fjord (Bohuslän, Østfold, Vestfold, Agder), but some of the projects (e.g. 5) will venture further south along the Swedish west coast and

the Danish archipelago. We have funds to cover field work expenses, but we encourage prospective students to apply for scholarships.

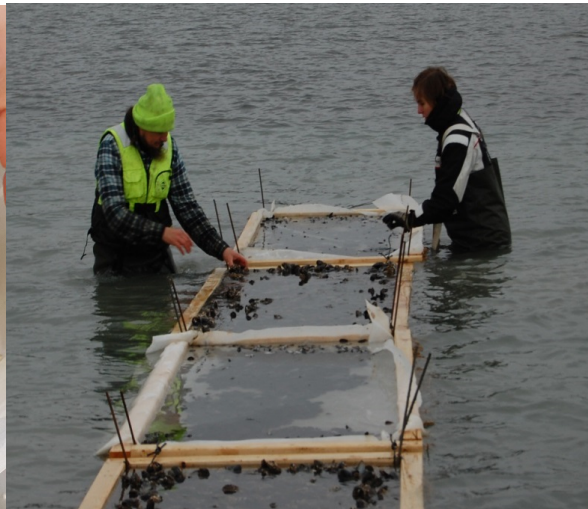
The group

We have a long-standing collaboration on Scandinavian bivalve communities and have a long track-record on supervising students with different backgrounds and interests. Don't hesitate to contact us for an informal discussion about what we can offer and to tailor a project that suits your interests.

Contact

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Left: European oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) spat for population restoration trials. Right: Experimental setup for blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) restoration trials



Left: Looking for Pacific oysters in Skåne. Right: Pacific oyster reef in Bohuslän