

Knowledge Exchange - Project 2

HKU's triploid oysters

Growers of Hong Kong and south China are producing over 30% of the world's edible oysters using the Hong Kong's endemic species. Recently, growers are experiencing unprecedented mass mortality of oysters in late-winter at the time of harvest possibly due to climate change – growers are worried. In response, we have identified a strain which is relatively resistant to winter-mortality and ocean acidification stress, named as “HKU's oyster”. In this project, we will work with local growers to demonstrate that triploid version of HKU's oyster is less susceptible to winter-mortality and explain them ways to reduce the mortality in a way that growers can understand. This knowledge is yet to be transferred to local growers and the project is in discussion stage. If this project is successfully launched, we are aiming to

1. bring local (from Hong Kong) oyster growers, government aquaculture governing officers (from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of HKSAR) and student entrepreneurs (from The University of Hong Kong - HKU) together to understand the importance of HKU's triploid oyster strain in reducing the risk of “unprecedented and devastating” mass mortality of HK's endemic edible oyster species in late-winter months.
2. empower local oyster growers with knowledge on triploid oyster aquaculture technology

This KE process is an important steppingstone towards collection of evidence for potential impact case study in near future



HKU's Oyster: Larvae and spat produced from Dr Rajan's research scale hatchery at HKU. These seeds have been proved to be having very high level of survival and growth rates, when compared to wild caught seeds under elevated temperature, salinity and carbon-dioxide.