

8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

October 02-04, 2017 Toronto, Canada

## Oysters not clamming up about rad new radula scrub

Candace Loy<sup>1</sup>, Craig Radford<sup>1</sup>, Jim Dollimore<sup>2</sup> and Andrew Jeffs<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>The University of Auckland, New Zealand<sup>2</sup>Biomarine Limited, New Zealand

Biofouling of baskets used for aquaculture oysters reduces access to food and flushing of wastes. Furthermore, the organisms growing on the baskets compete with the oysters for food. This study investigated the effect of co-culturing the oysters with a common grazing gastropod, catseye or *Lunella smaragdus* (Gmelin, 1791), on biofouling of oyster aquaculture baskets. *Lunella* were graded and matched to oyster baskets of three different mesh sizes (6, 12, 18 mm). Baskets of each mesh size were deployed with *Lunella* at three initial grow-out densities: 200, 350, 500 g per basket, in triplicate. Control bags had only oysters. Snails were measured and weighed, and oyster baskets examined and photographed every five weeks. Preliminary results indicate the presence of *Lunella* in oyster bags reduces biofouling when compared with control bags. Oyster bags with and without snails are visually identifiable. Repeated mixed model analyses on the effect of asking grazing gastropods on oyster survival and condition will be presented.

candaceloy@gmail.com