

## Heriot-Watt University

### Deposit of Native Oysters, Firth of Forth two sites.

#### Monitoring Plan V1 – November 2023

This document sets out the monitoring to be undertaken by Heriot-Watt University in respect of the deposit of Native Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) on two plots within the Firth of Forth.

The information contained in this table has previously been submitted to and is under discussion with NatureScot in respect of the Non-Native Species Translocation Licence issued for the project.

Target Date	Reason	Method
Summer 2023	Baseline Biodiversity Survey	Replicated 25m Transects with in situ recording of conspicuous species and their abundance by trained scientific divers in a swath 1m either side of the transects. In situ records supplemented with voucher collection National Museums of Scotland archive. - Underwater Visual Census following Marine Nature Conservation Review Methodology.
Summer 2024	Post Deployment Biodiversity Survey	
Summer 2023	Baseline Video Survey	To supplement the above surveys in situ video recording of the seabed 25m x 0.5m will be undertaken for quality assurance and validation purposes and for recording important benthic substrate characteristics.
Summer 2024	Post Deployment Video Survey	
Summer 2024	Post Deployment Oyster Density	Counts of oysters along replicate transects (above) and size class measurements.
Late Summer 2024	Post Deployment Oyster Survival	Counts of survival from tethered oysters on replicated 15m lines pinned or weighted to the seabed. Lines deployed shortly after the deposit will be revisited for sampling late summer 2024
Ongoing Spring 2024 onwards	Environmental characteristics	Temperature and salinity measured by HOBO loggers pinned to the seabed at one end of a tethered oyster line. Recovery and redeploy of logger as required during licence period to upload logged data.