

## **SITE EXTENSION AT HOUBANSTER, COLE DEEP**

The site has been established for well over 20 years in the same location and was previously a salmon farm, but being a small site, was changed over to mussel production after 2003.

Although the East boundary of the site is slightly under the normal 500 metre separation distance from the adjacent site at Cole Ness, the reasons for this are that the adjacent site, had to be enlarged slightly by a retrospective application to be in concordance with the equipment on site.

Both sites are amongst the smallest sites in Shetland, by way of surface equipment and area.

The proposals for the Hobanster site, are just to lengthen the lines that are on the site and add an additional line which would remain in the actual permitted site, with only the 'extension' part going out with the site.

This will help operate the site as a more viable unit and will make to be more in line with the appearance of a typical site.

Mussels have been described as the 'super filters of the marine world'. Mussels can filter up to 25 litres of water per day, so the cumulative filtration generated by a longline of mussels, acts like a huge natural filtration system of the area.

There have been many recent studies which show that mussel farming, rather than tree planting, holds the key to carbon sequestration and the bid to battle global warming.

With little scope in Shetland for forestry, this is probably one of the best measures we can take at a local level to mitigate the greenhouse effect.