

(re) introducing...

Northern Ireland's
Aquaculture Representative Group
(ARG)

Rod Cappell, ARG facilitator:
rod@aquacultureni.co.uk

Kindly supported by:



seafish



- ✓ Open membership for all seafood producers in Northern Ireland
- ✓ ARG enables two-way communication between the NI aquaculture sector, DAERA and other agencies or groups.
- ✓ Responds to consultations & enquiries on behalf of the NI aquaculture sector
- ✓ Supports members in addressing issues arising.
- ✓ Commissions research to benefit the sector, e.g. carbon footprint assessment

Northern Ireland Aquaculture (2021)

✓ Around 25 businesses: all are SMEs, most are micro-enterpr

✓ Employs 143 people (104 FT, 39 PT 130 M, 13 F)

● **Finfish:** 1,142 tonnes worth £7.3 million.

✓ 36 licensed sites (25 active)

✓ Export of ova important (thanks to NI's disease-free status).

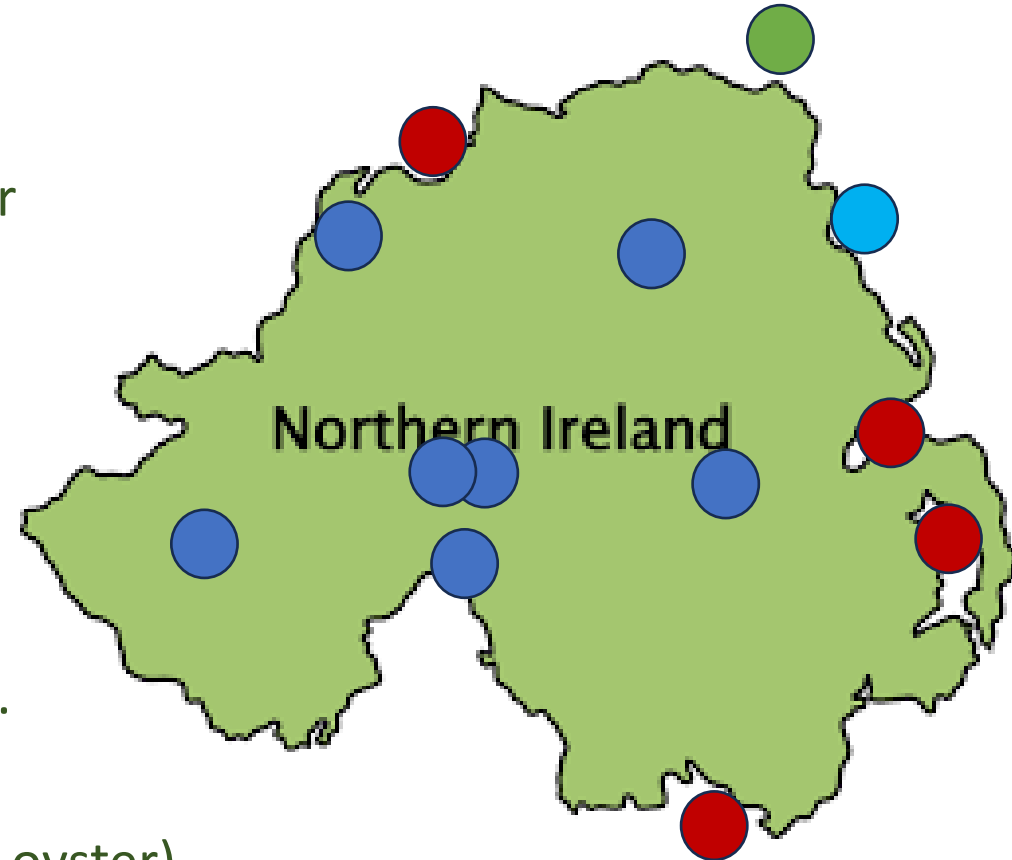
● **Shellfish:** 2,696 tonnes (half mussel, most bottom, and half oyster)

✓ worth £4.7 million

✓ ($\frac{3}{4}$ oyster, $\frac{1}{4}$ mussel)

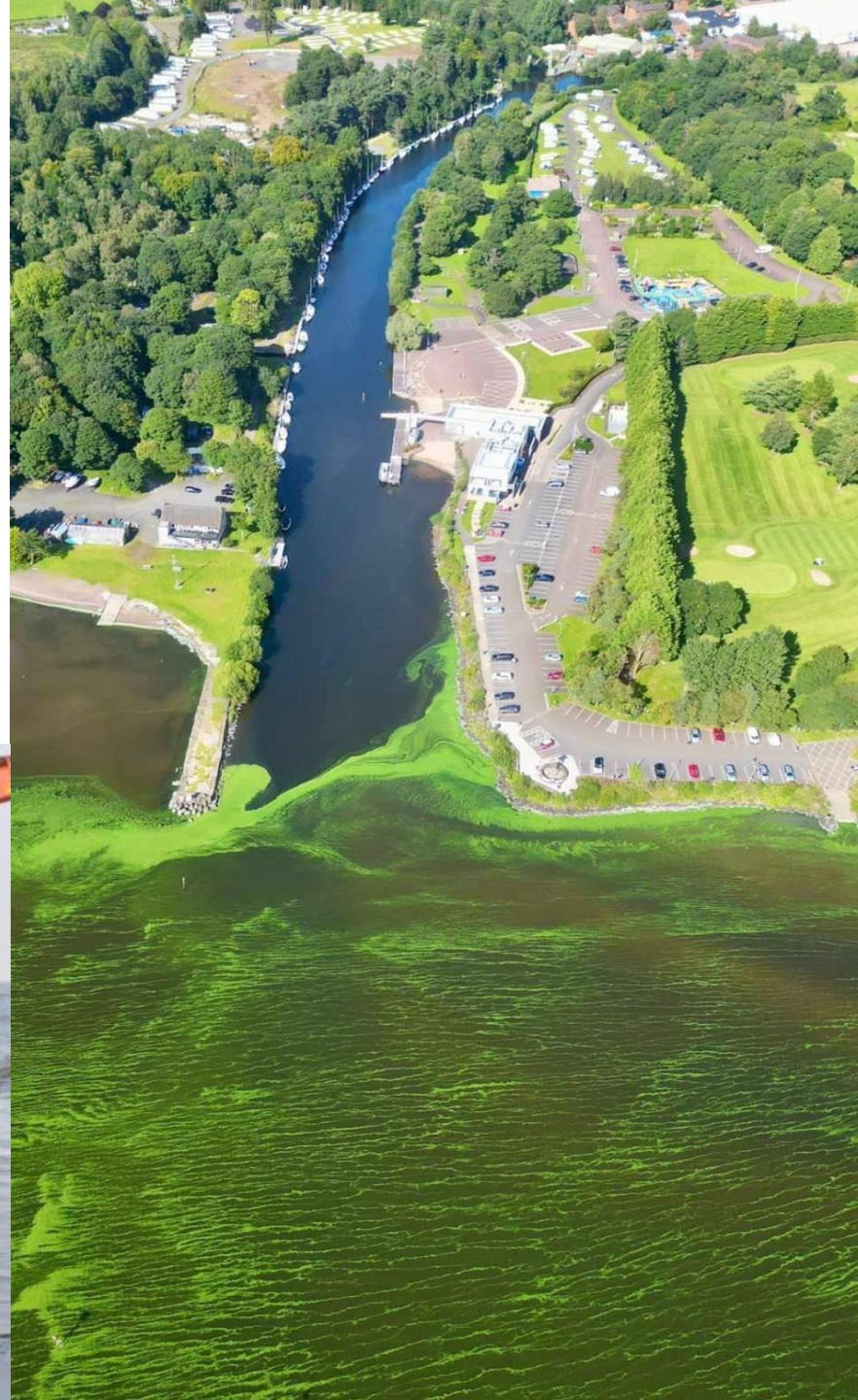
✓ 54 licensed sites (19 active)

● **Seaweed:** one farmer, DAERA/AFBI exploring how to expand sector.



Current Issues

- **All:** licensing and water quality
- **Trout:** Abstraction, Energy costs, Blue-Green Algae, invasive species (zebra mussel)
- **Mussel:** seed supply (move to spat collection)
- **Oyster:** new licenses





AQUACULTURE
REPRESENTATIVE GROUP
NORTHERN IRELAND

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