

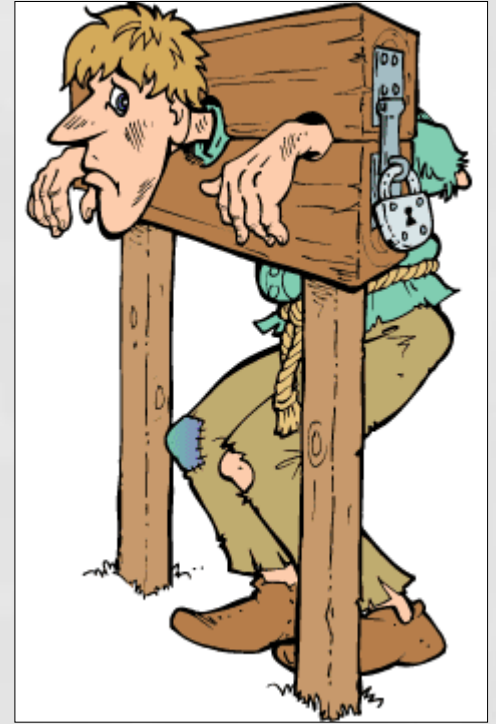
# Should Cultivated Shellfish Production Double?

Opponent

Dr Tom Pickerell

# Disclaimer

These views absolutely do not reflect my own,  
nor the views of the Shellfish Association of  
Great Britain!



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Outline of talk

- Current Situation in UK
- Arguments against expansion
- Dismissing the arguments for expansion



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Current Situation in UK

Type of Shellfish	Volume (tonnes)	Approx. Individuals
Mussels	27,557	1500m
Rock Oyster	1,290	13m
Native Oyster	86	800,000
Queen Scallop	64	500,000
Scallop	2	950
Clams	9	100,000
Cockles	1.2	10,000

2008 figures

# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Current Situation in UK

- Stage 1: spat collection
  - Hatchery produced
  - Wild-capture
- Stage 2: on-growing
  - Bags/racks
  - Ground lays
- Or stage 1/2 together

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# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Arguments against expansion

- Limited demand from consumers
- Environmental impacts
- Sea-user conflicts
- Water quality
- Social impacts



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Limited Demand from Consumers

- Top 10 seafood consumed in UK
- 65% (2008) shellfish exported
- Should we feed France & Spain?
- Focus on consumed protein?



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Environmental Impacts

- Increased organic deposition
  - oxygen depletion
  - toxic effects of hydrogen sulfide
- Ecological carrying capacity
- Loss of biodiversity
  - Disease
  - Competition
- Unregulated seed harvesting



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Sea-user Conflicts

- Offshore renewables
- Oil & Gas extraction
- Leisure activities
- Catching sector
- Marine Protected Areas
- Aggregate dredging



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Is there room?

# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Water Quality

- Shellfish need clean water
- Our water is getting worse
  - Less than 0.5% Class A (E&W)
  - Norovirus incidents up
- Shellfish Harvesting Waters



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Social Impacts

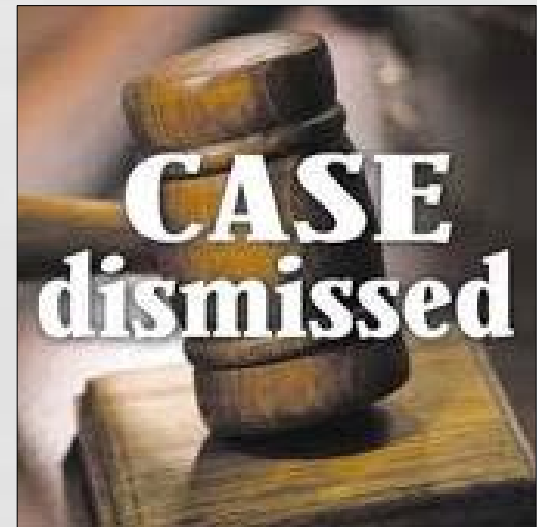
- Visual pollution
- Out-competition
- Navigational hazards
- Washed-up debris
- Transport of produce



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

## Dismissing the arguments for expansion

- Will address food security
  - Stop exporting so much
- Sustainable seafood
  - Better manage wild-fisheries
- Capacity to expand
  - Is there??



# Should Shellfish Production Double?

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On balance - no