



Another climate change casualty?

Reproduction and responses to temperature of the blue mussel in Southern NZ

Aims

- To investigate the reproductive stages and timings of the blue mussel in Southern NZ
- To investigate the impacts of temperature on larval survival

Despite its abundance and ecological importance, very little is known about the blue mussel in New Zealand, with most work on mussels being conducted on the green mussel. However, the blue mussel is an important species ecologically globally, and so increasing our knowledge about the blue mussel in New Zealand is important.

Methods

- Collect monthly samples to see what reproductive stages they are at during the year.
- Use heat blocks to determine rates of larval survival at different temperatures.

Key Findings

This project will provide important information on the reproductive cycle of the blue mussel in Southern NZ and will give us important information into how this organism will respond to climate change.

