

Local students help-out with climate-relevant research

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In July, local high school students, Hamish McKee (SAERI's intern) and John McLeod (Fisheries intern), helped SAERI's MMA project manager Ander de Lecea to sort and sub-sample the animals collected on the Burdwood Bank in February 2020. Working in the Department of Agriculture, the sub-sampled animals were first dried in the oven at 70 °C before putting them in the Furnace at 480 °C. This was done in order to calculate how much organic material (e.g. flesh) was removed from the animals, which can eventually be used to calculate the amount of carbon stored in each one of the animals. The aim of this work is to look at carbon sequestration on the Burdwood Bank, in the South part of the FI waters. The Bank is expected not to fare so well as climate change progresses, so understanding the role that it currently plays with regards to its capabilities of storing carbon is crucial in order to monitor changes as climate change continues. This will be the first study of its kind for the region.

The students are now heading to the UK to further their education and SAERI wishes them all the best in their future endeavours.

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