



practice (needs regarding oyster supply) for oyster producers. The draft document is will be circulated to working group members and will be published on the NORA website in due course.

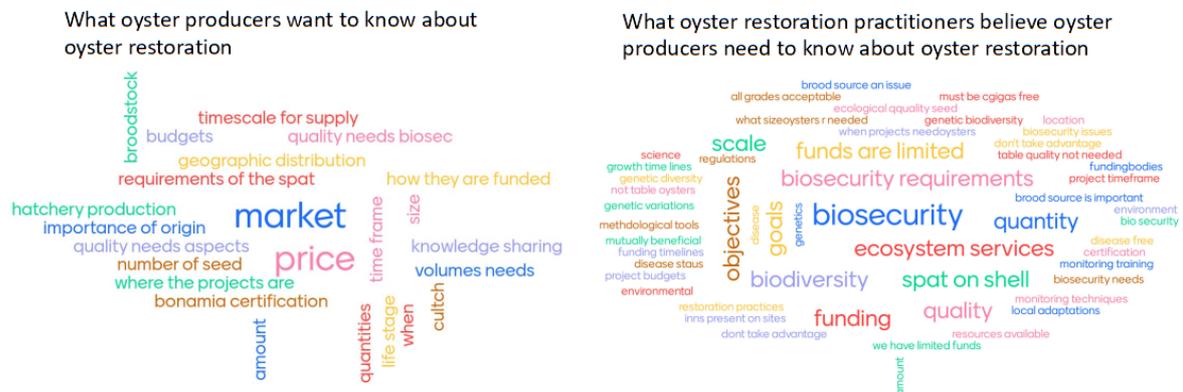


Figure 2. Wordclouds from Mentimeter exploring what oyster producers (left) and oyster restoration practitioners (right) believe oyster producers need to know about oyster restoration projects.

The second part of the workshop focused on mixed oyster producer/restoration practitioner groups discussing the current knowledge gaps in meeting native oyster production demand for restoration as well as possible strategies for payment of oysters for restoration efforts. The resulting discussions will inform the final few paragraphs of a policy note due to be launched at the NORA 4 conference. Discussion was lively, engaging and constructive with each subgroup identifying their top three points identified as the greatest current knowledge gaps which need to be addressed to progress native oyster production for restoration, and the top three ideas for possible strategies for payment of oyster seed for restoration efforts. In a plenary session, these top points were then voted on in order to identify the points with the greatest support. These ideas and rankings will be used in combination with further discussion within the group, to identify which elements be given emphasis in the policy brief.

Key knowledge gaps included scaling up hatchery production of *O. edulis*, maintaining genetic diversity in oyster production, and overcoming the bottleneck between hatchery production and grow out of oysters (Table 1).

Key knowledge gaps in native oyster production for habitat restoration	Number of votes
Bottleneck between hatchery and grow out of stock	6
How to produce <i>O. edulis</i> at scale in a hatchery	5
Maintaining genetic diversity in production	5
Mismatch between oyster availability and expectations from projects	4
More research on disease ( <i>Bonamia</i> ) resistance/tolerance/resilience	4
Identifying innovative non-destructive, <i>in situ</i> technologies and methods to detect unhealthy oysters	3
Success of mesocosms when spatting ponds are not a possibility?	2
Understanding <i>Bonamia/Vibrio</i> infection routes and impacts across the lifecycle of oysters	2
Need to know exact size of spat on shell and how many seed per shell	1
Enabling knowledge transfer across all fields in oyster restoration- strategic approach to 40 questions and outreach	1
<i>Bonamia</i> issue/methods for certification of suppliers	1

Table 1. The relative importance of key knowledge gaps in native oyster production for oyster restoration. The numbers indicate the number of votes experts assigned to each identified key knowledge gap, having been given a total of two votes each.

The potential avenue for funding which was identified most often as being promising was Payment for Ecosystem Services, or raising awareness about the value of ecosystem services, creating long-term stable supply for oysters either through longer term funding commitments for projects or joint orders from consortiums of projects, to provide a more stable demand for native oysters, and the possibility of government subsidies for ensuring the desirable ecological outcome of native oyster restoration (Table 2).

<b>Potential avenue for funding native oyster production</b>	<b>Number of votes</b>
Prioritising the ecosystem services that give governments/water companies incentive to invest	9
Restoration projects join forces: show suppliers the long term investment/scale of projects	7
Combined groups of hatcheries/suppliers- common order	5
Government subsidies	3
Allocate funding for developing protocols in grants	2
Funding from windfarm companies to government- government allocates those funds into research	2
Involve producers in funding applications	1
Business models (community and commercial)	1

Table 2. Potential avenues for funding native oyster production for restoration efforts. The numbers and height of the bar indicate the number of votes experts assigned to each identified funding idea, having been given a total of two votes each.