MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

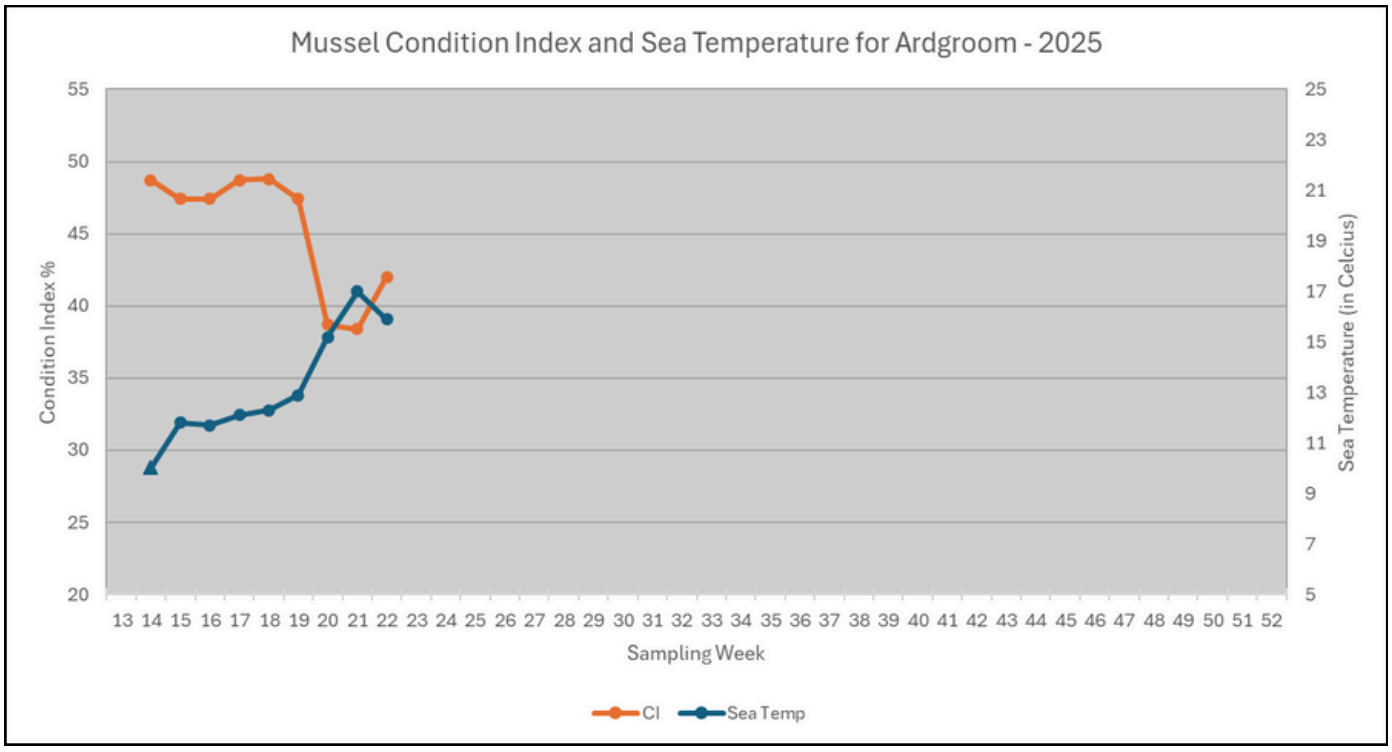
Ardgroom Harbour

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

3rd June 2025

Week 22 (26/05/2025 to 1/06/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Ardgroom Harbour



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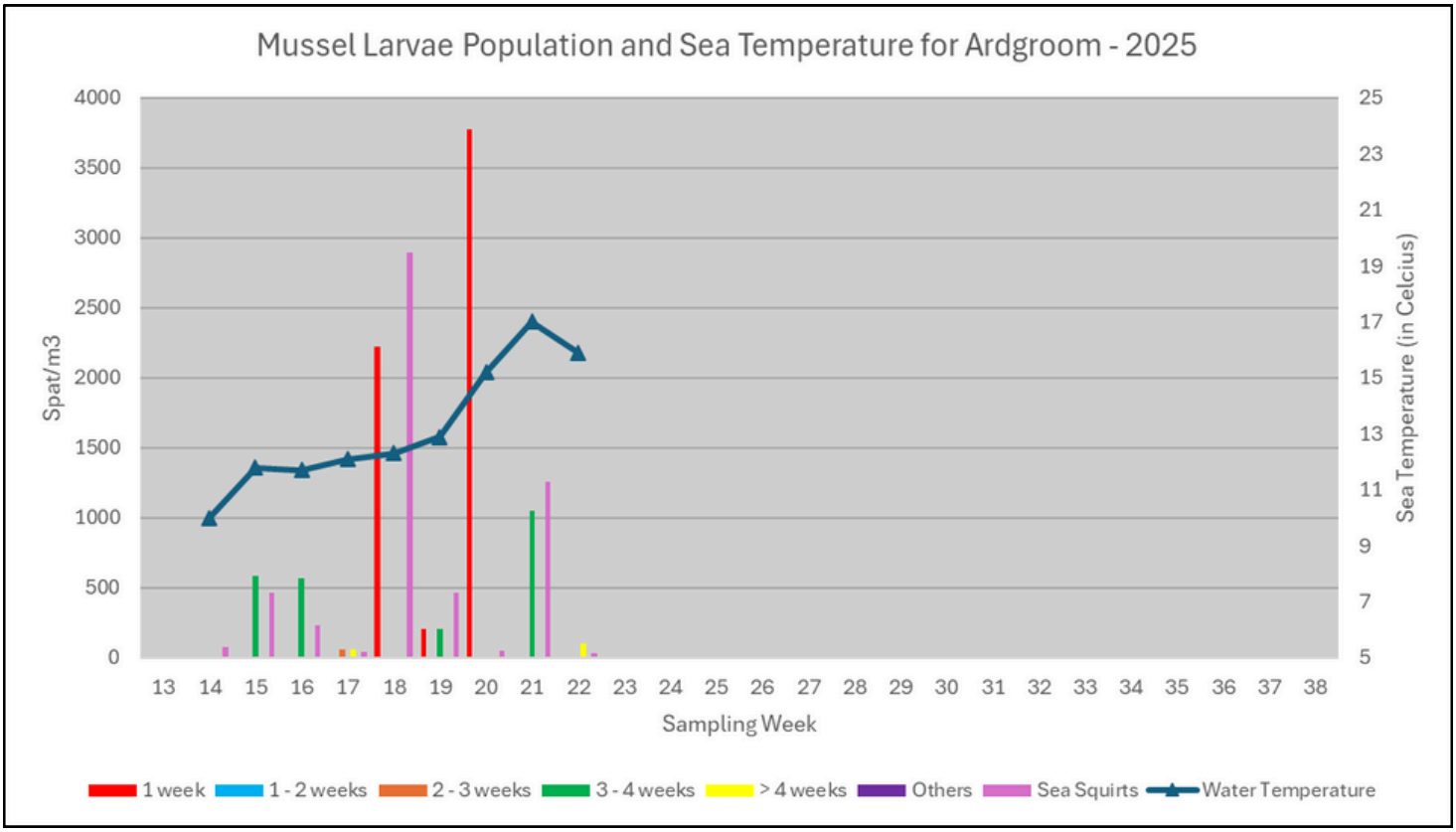
Larvae population evolution for Ardgroom Harbour

For each sample, mussel larvae are classed by age: 1 week old, 1 to 2 weeks old, 2 to 3 weeks old, 3 to 4 weeks old, over 4 weeks old and others (younger or older).



Commentary

The Condition Index (CI) in Ardgroom increased by 3.6% from Week 21 (up to 42%), which indicates some level of reconditioning. The sea temperature decreased by 1.1°c to 15.9°c (based on Kilmackillogue readings).

Only a small quantity of larvae was observed in the sample (104 spat/m^3 of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae) which is a significant decrease from the previous weeks. **This pattern (number of larvae reducing weekly with an increase of age class) could suggest that larvae are settling.**

The level of sea squirt larvae reduced greatly from previous weeks too (33 ind./m^3 for Week 22). This reduction can also be an evidence of sea squirt settlement, which could produce substantial fouling of spat collectors. Low levels of copepods were observed in the sample. Pseudo-Nitzschia seriata and Rhizosolenia were present in moderate concentrations.

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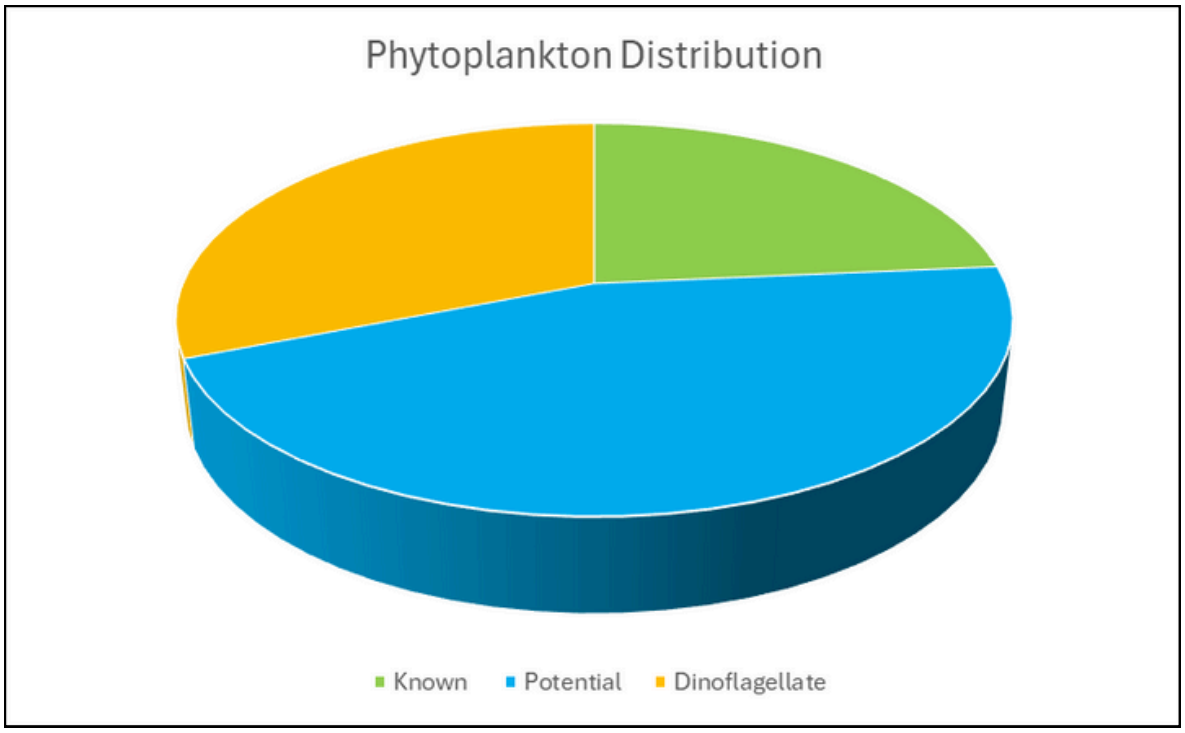

The phytoplankton concentration significantly decreased from the previous week to 6,960 cells/litre with 45% of potential, 31% of dinoflagellate and 24% of known food species.

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