MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

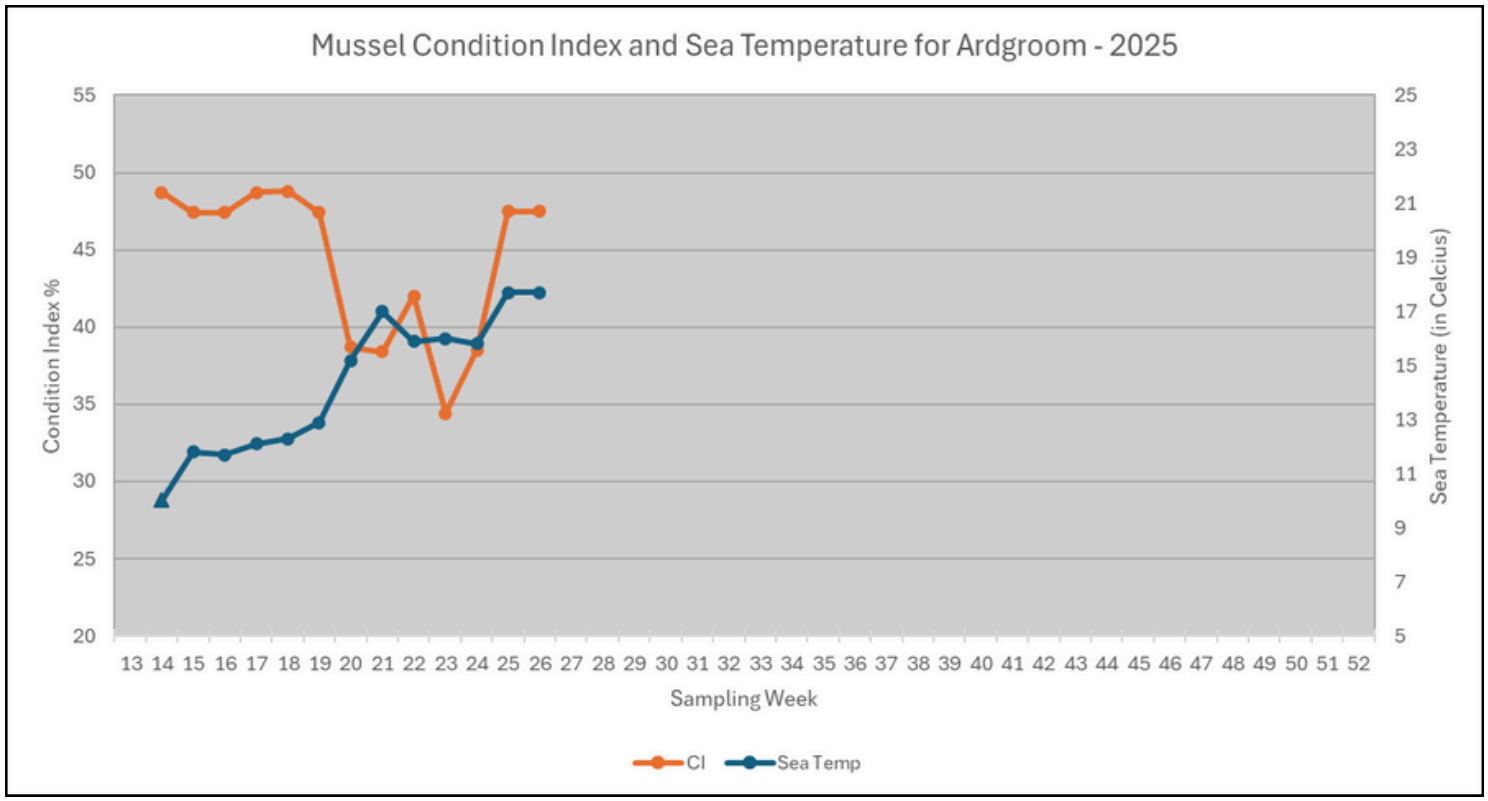
Ardgroom Harbour

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

30th June 2025

Week 26 (13/06/2025 to 29/06/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Ardgroom Harbour



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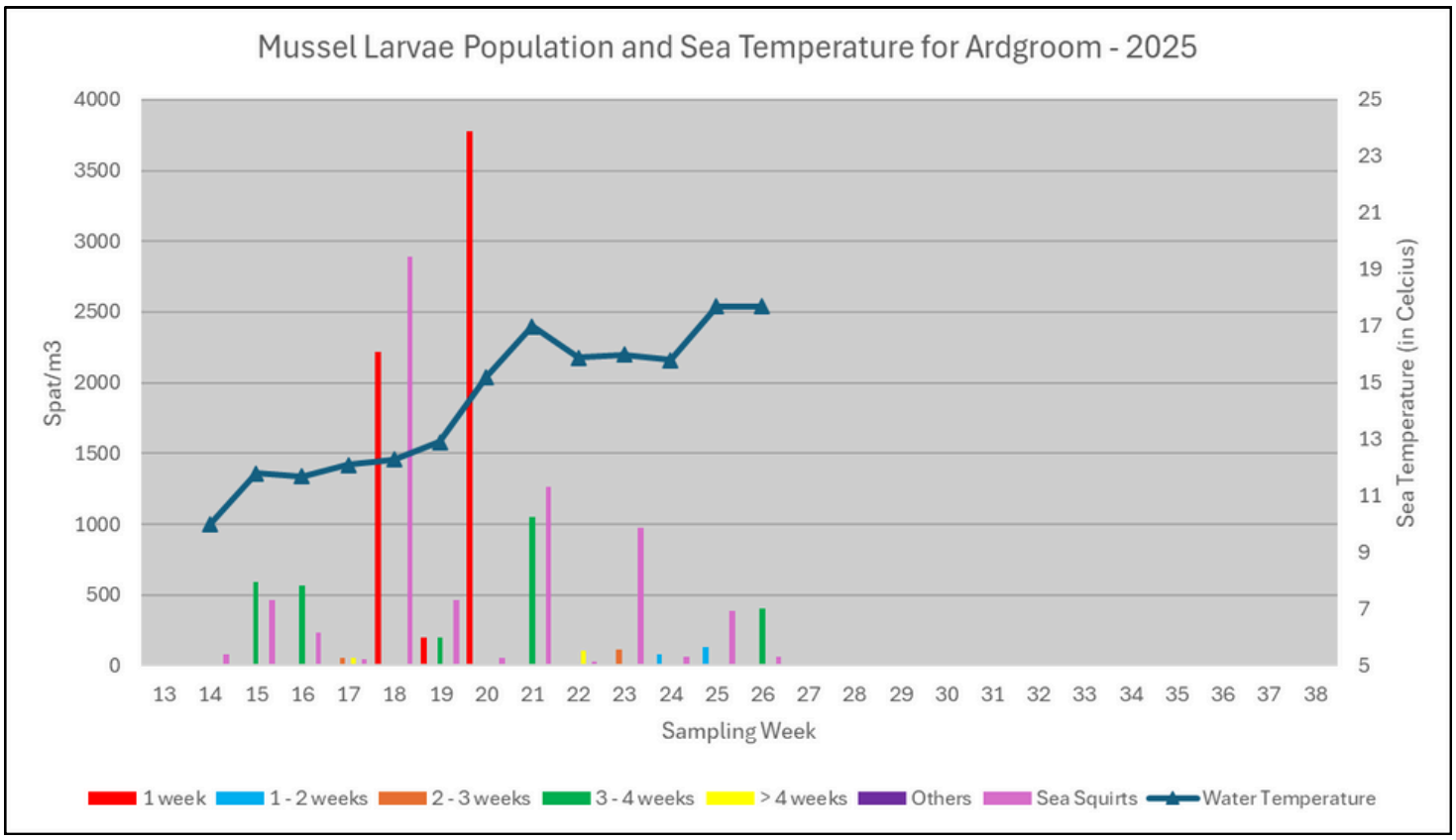
Larvae population evolution for Ardgroom Harbour

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 stabilised in Week 25 at 47.5%. The sea temperature is stable at 17.7°c (based on Kilmackillogue readings). The adult mussels appear to be reconditioned following the possible spawning event on Week 23.

The sample presented a moderate concentration of larvae: 404 spat/m^3 composed solely of 2 to 4 weeks old larvae. This is the sharpest increase of the larvae population since Week 21 (> 1000 spat/m^3). **This population could provide further settlement in the coming 1 to 3 weeks.**

The level of sea squirt is low in comparison with other sampling sites (see Bantry) with only 64 ind./m^3. Two other bivalve species, crabs, starfish, tubeworms and copepods were also present in low concentrations. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was moderate with the P.n. seriata group and Chaetoceros species being dominant.

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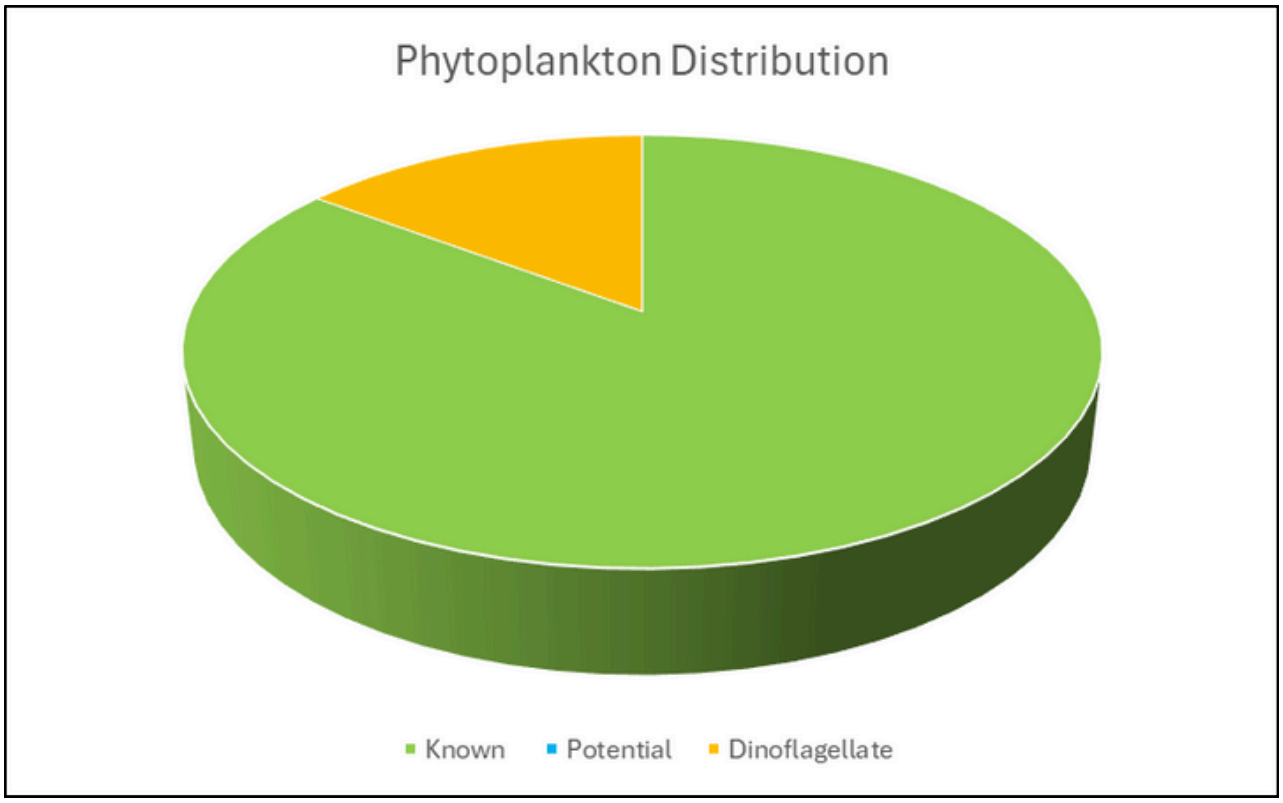

The phytoplankton concentration increased on Week 26 (13,560 cells/litre), dominated by known food source species (85%) and dinoflagellate (15%). **The concentration of known food is actually a lot higher than this number as only the numbers (120) of colonies of Chaetoceros socialis (containing each between 50 and 300 cells).**

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