MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

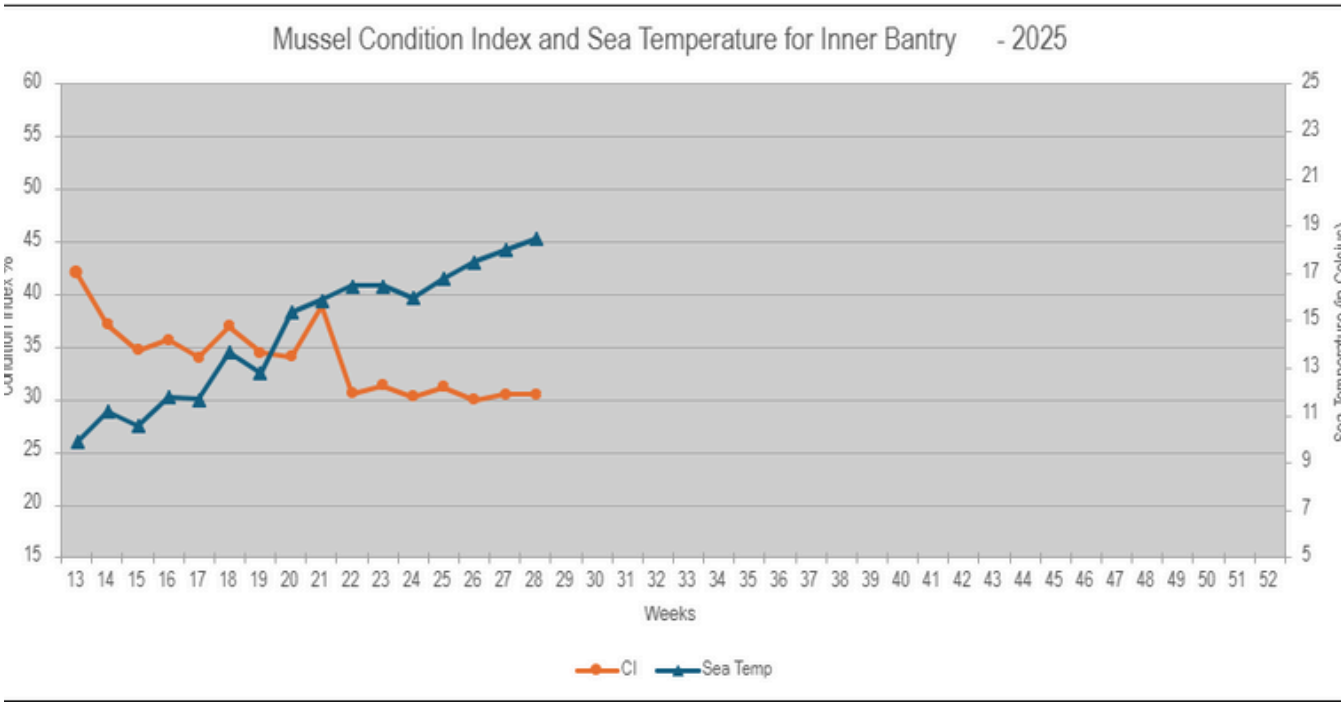
Bantry Bay (South and North Chapel)

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

14th July 2025

Week 28 (7/07/2025 to 13/07/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



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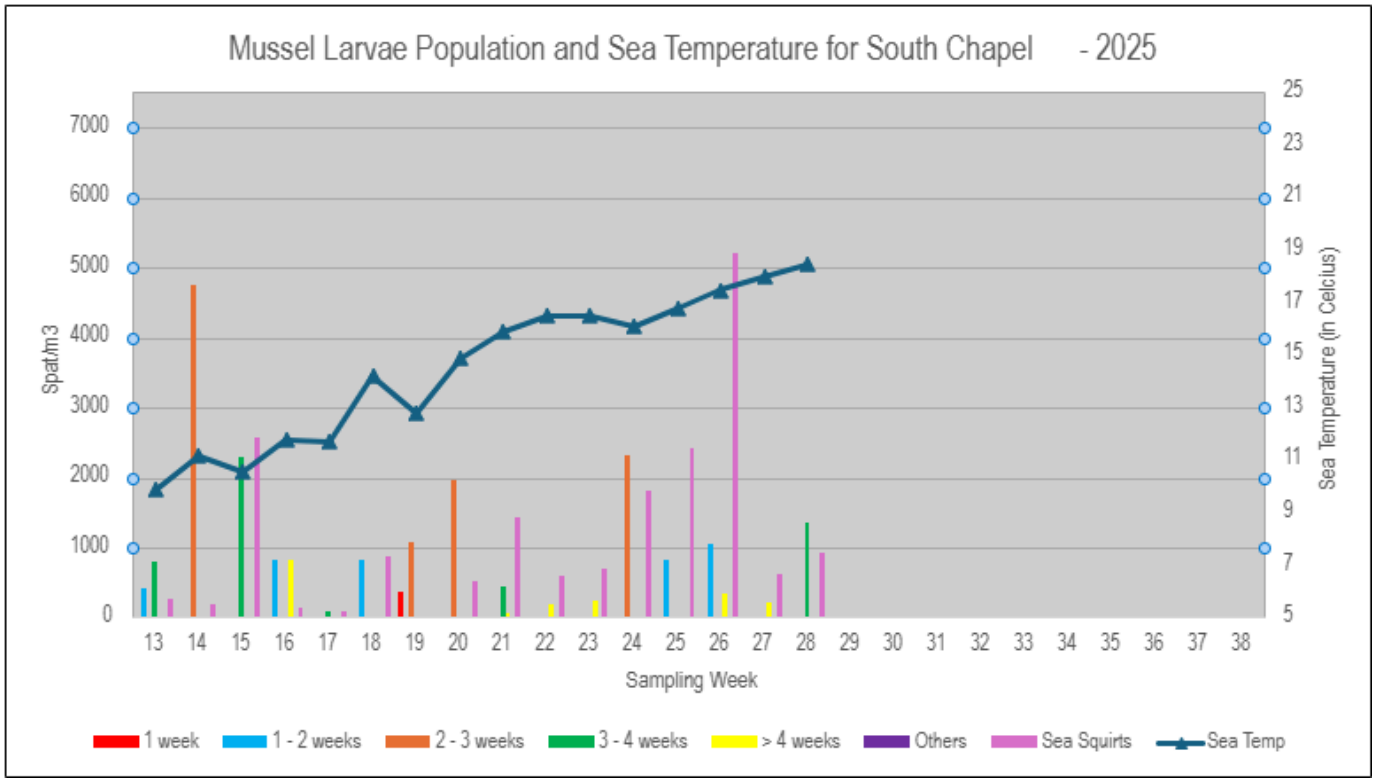
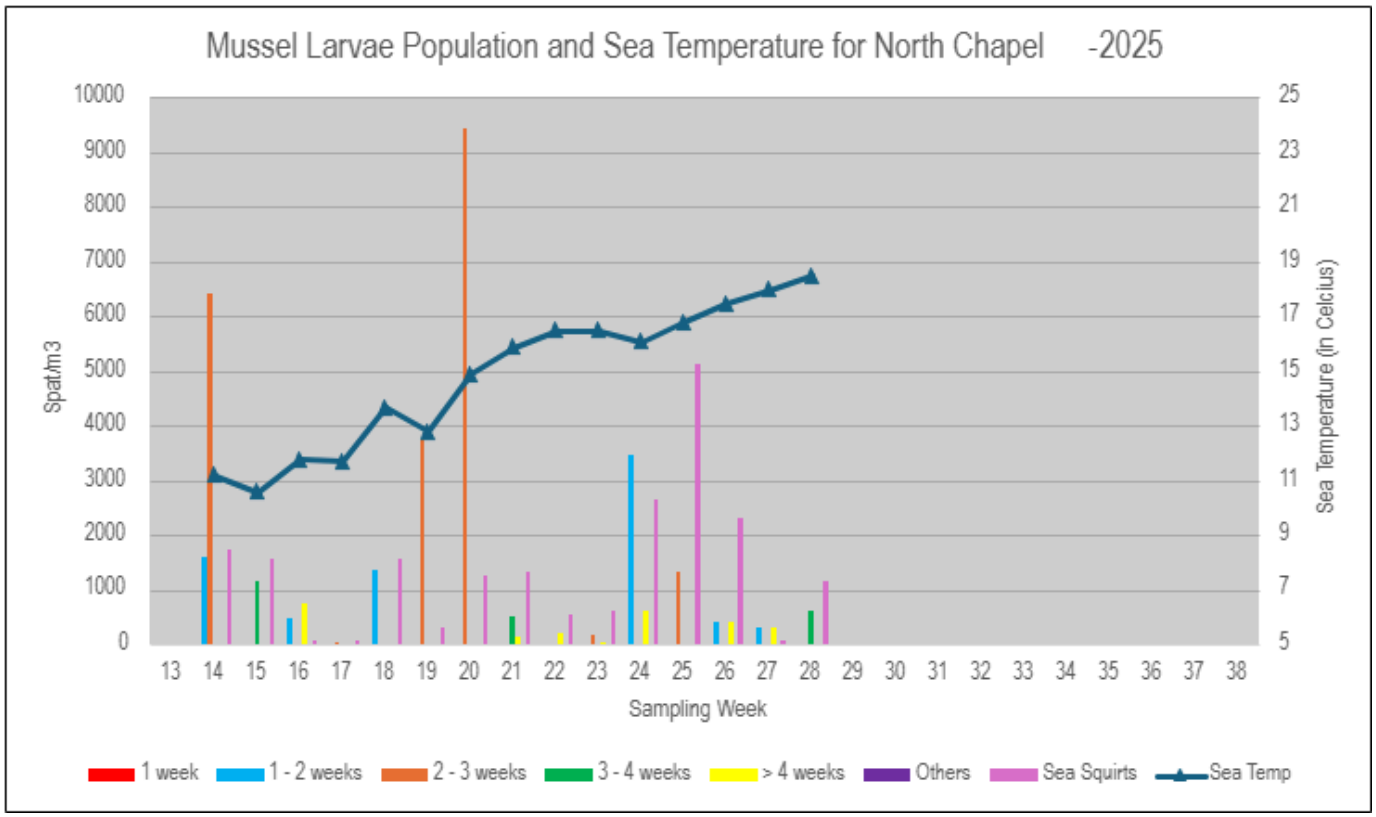
Larvae population evolution for Bantry (South and North Chapel)

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).





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Commentary

The Condition Index (CI) in Bantry was stable in Week 28 at 30.5% (+0.5% from Week 25). The sea temperature was also increased again to 18.5°C (+0.5°C).

Larvae Population:
The larvae population of both sampling stations decreased from previous weeks, but their numbers still remain significant:

- South Chapel: 1342 spat/m^3 3 to 5 weeks old larvae.
- North Chapel: 605 spat /m^3 3 to 5 weeks old larvae.

Further settlement could be expected within two weeks, while earlier settlement should start to be visible on collectors (few millimetres in length).

Sample details:

- South Chapel: 933 squirts.Low second species. High copepods, barnacles, crab and tubeworm.
- North Chapel: 1164 squirts.Low 2nd species bivalves.High copepods, Barnacles, Crab and Tubeworm.

The decrease of sea squirt concentration is likely due to two factors: possible settlement and predation from the high levels of copepods. Some levels of fouling should still be expected though.

The phytoplankton sample for Week 28 increased slightly to 36,320 cells/litre, composed of 96% known food source species and 4% dinoflagellates.

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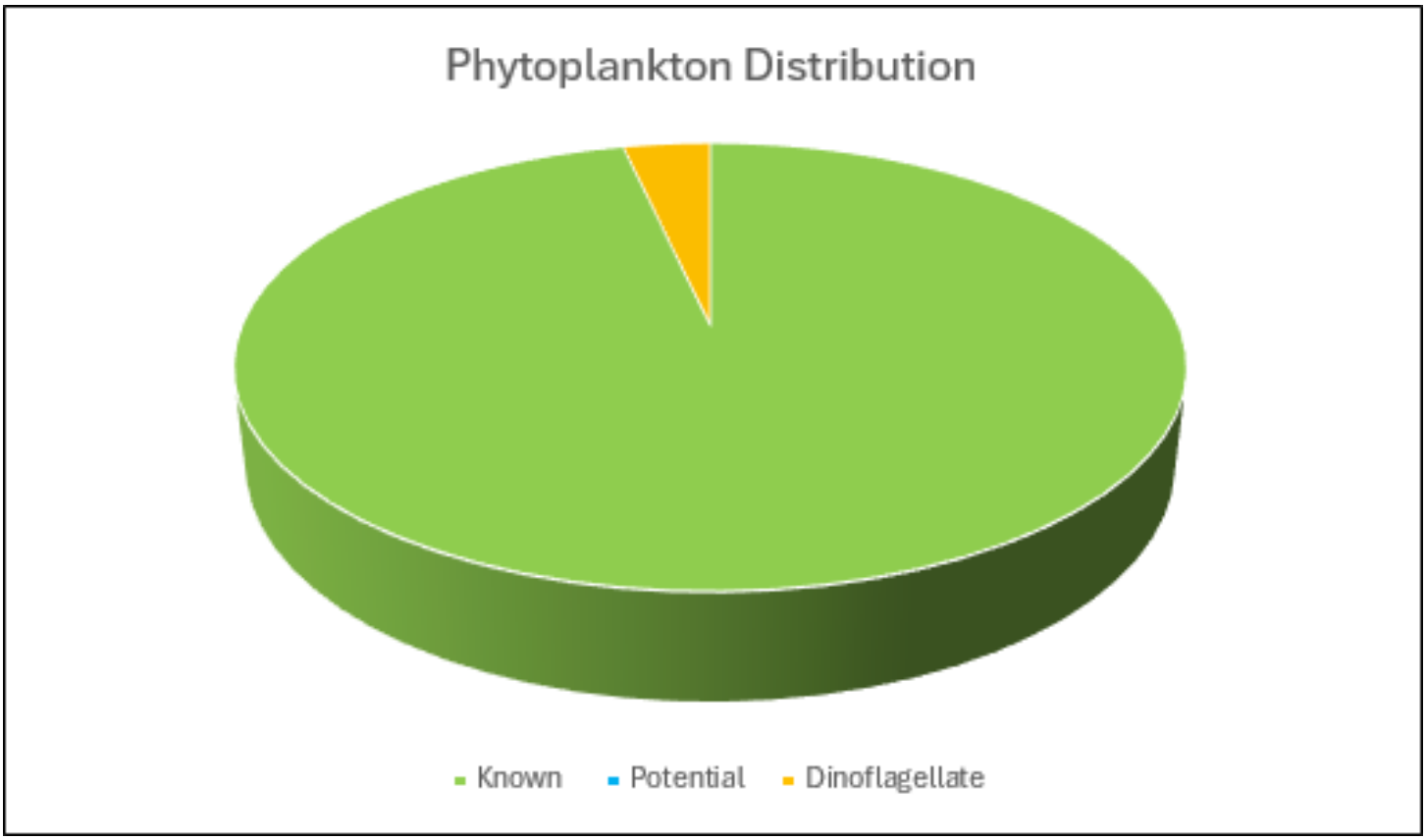
Phytoplankton Distribution
Known
Potential
Dinoflagellate