MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

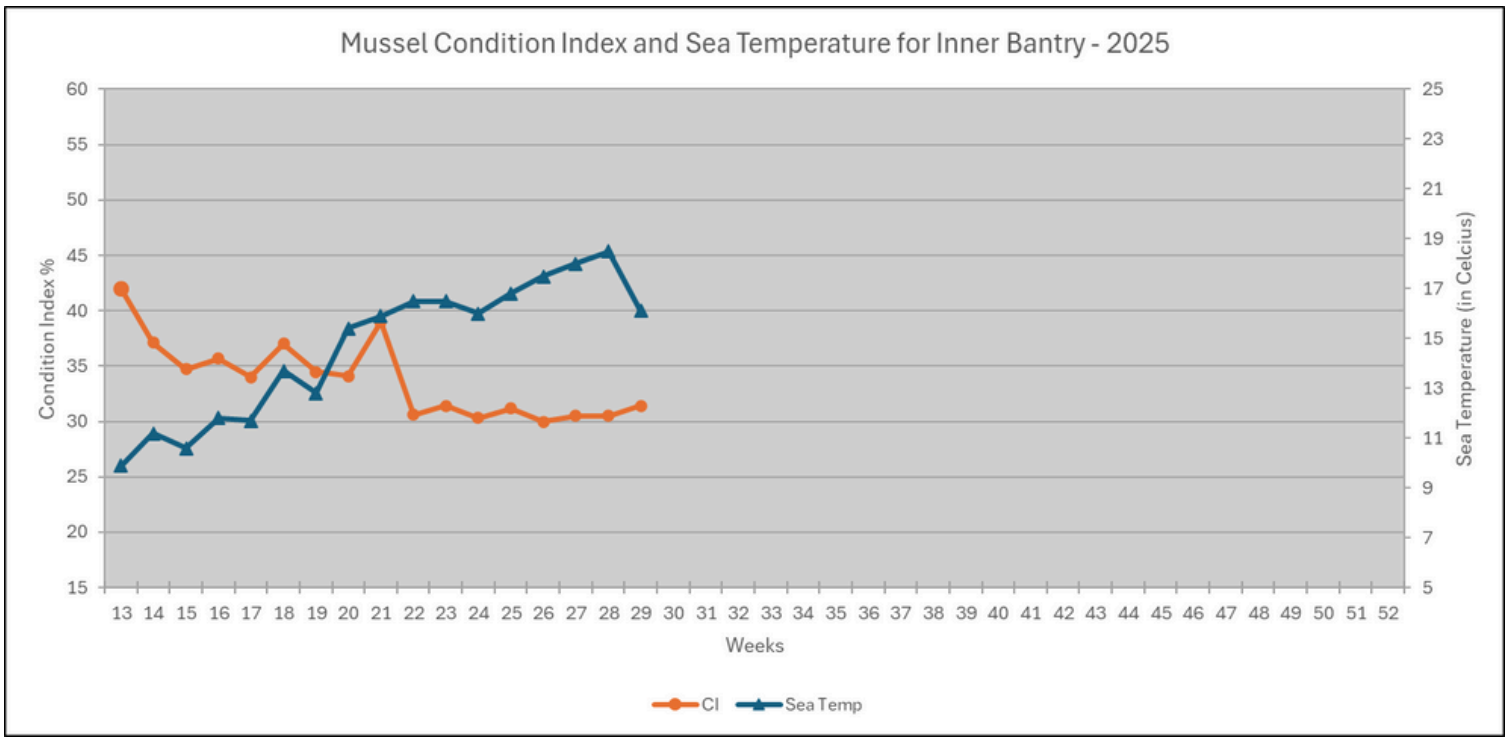
Bantry Bay (South and North Chapel)

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

21st July 2025

Week 29 (14/07/2025 to 21/07/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



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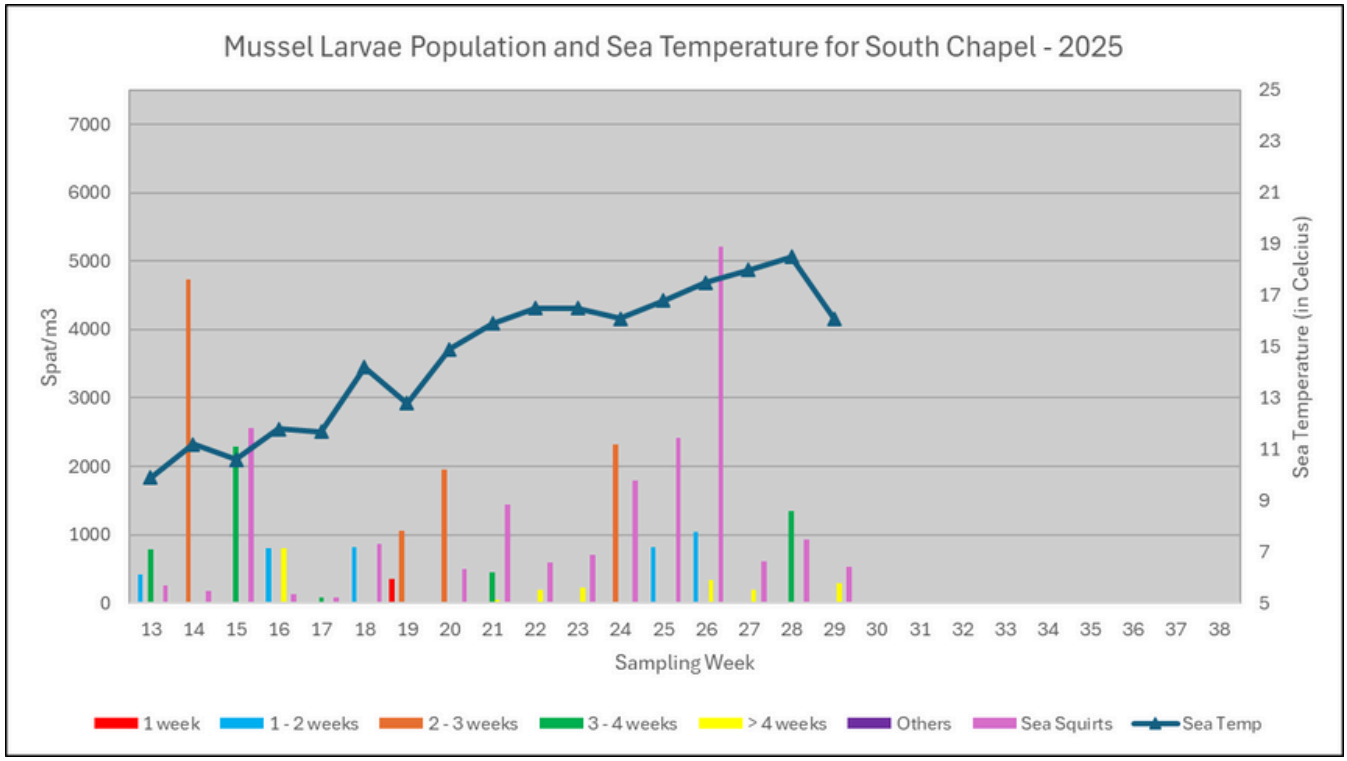
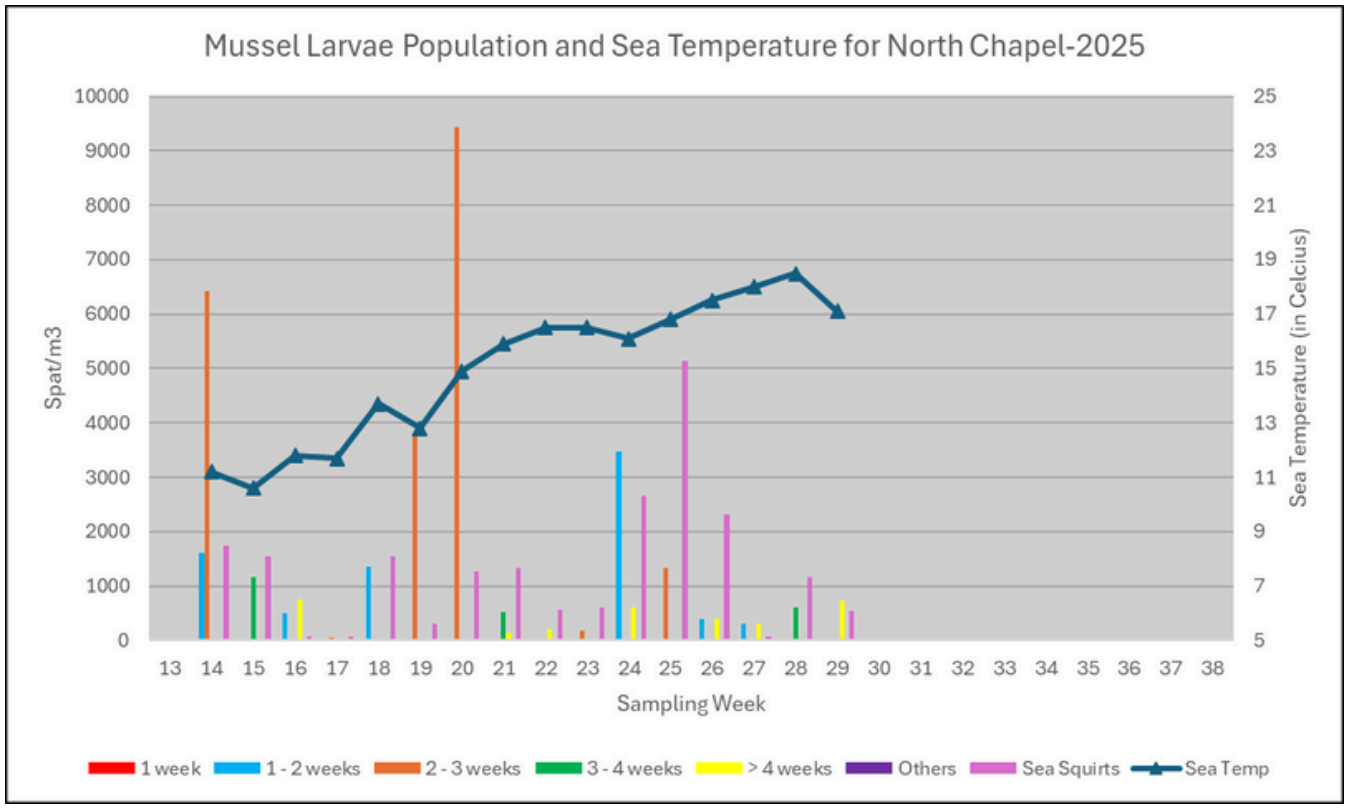
Larvae population evolution for Bantry (South and North Chapel)

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 increased slightly in Week 29 at 31.4% (+0.9% from Week 28). The sea temperature was decreased to 16.1°C (-2.4°C).

Larvae Population:
The larvae population at the South Chapel sampling site decreased significantly which could indicate some settlement. The concentration of larvae remains relevant at the North Chapel sampling site.

- South Chapel: 291 spat/m^3 composed of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae.
- North Chapel: 744 spat /m^3 composed of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae.

Further settlement could be expected between Week 29 and Week 31.

Sample details:

- South Chapel: The sea squirt concentration decreased to 533 ind./m^3. The sample presented high levels of mixed copepods and low concentrations of a second bivalve species, sea matting, tubeworm and barnacles. There was also a very high concentration of Ceratium fusus.
- North Chapel: The level of sea squirt dropped to 548 ind./m^3. The copepods concentration was medium, while starfish, sea matting and sea urchin levels were moderate. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was very high with C. fusus dominant.

The decrease of sea squirt concentration at the Noth Chapel station is likely due to some possible settlement.

The phytoplankton sample for Week 29 increased to 67,760 cells/litre, dominated by dinoflagellates (77%) and known food source species (33%).

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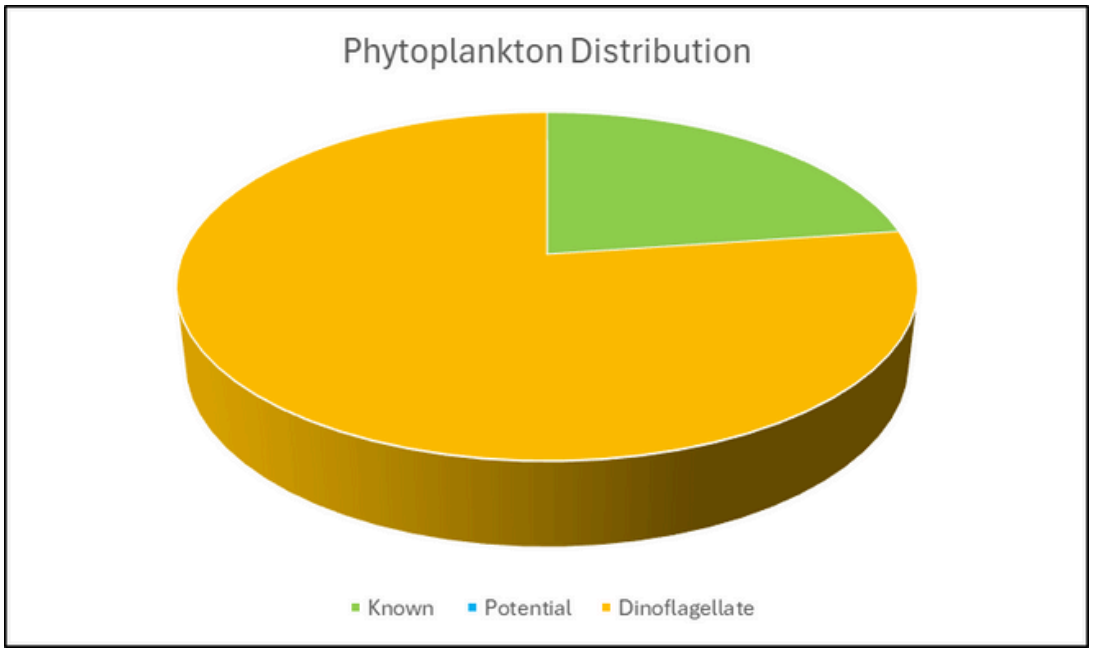
Phytoplankton Distribution
Known
Potential
Dinoflagellate