

Bantry Bay (South and North Chapel)

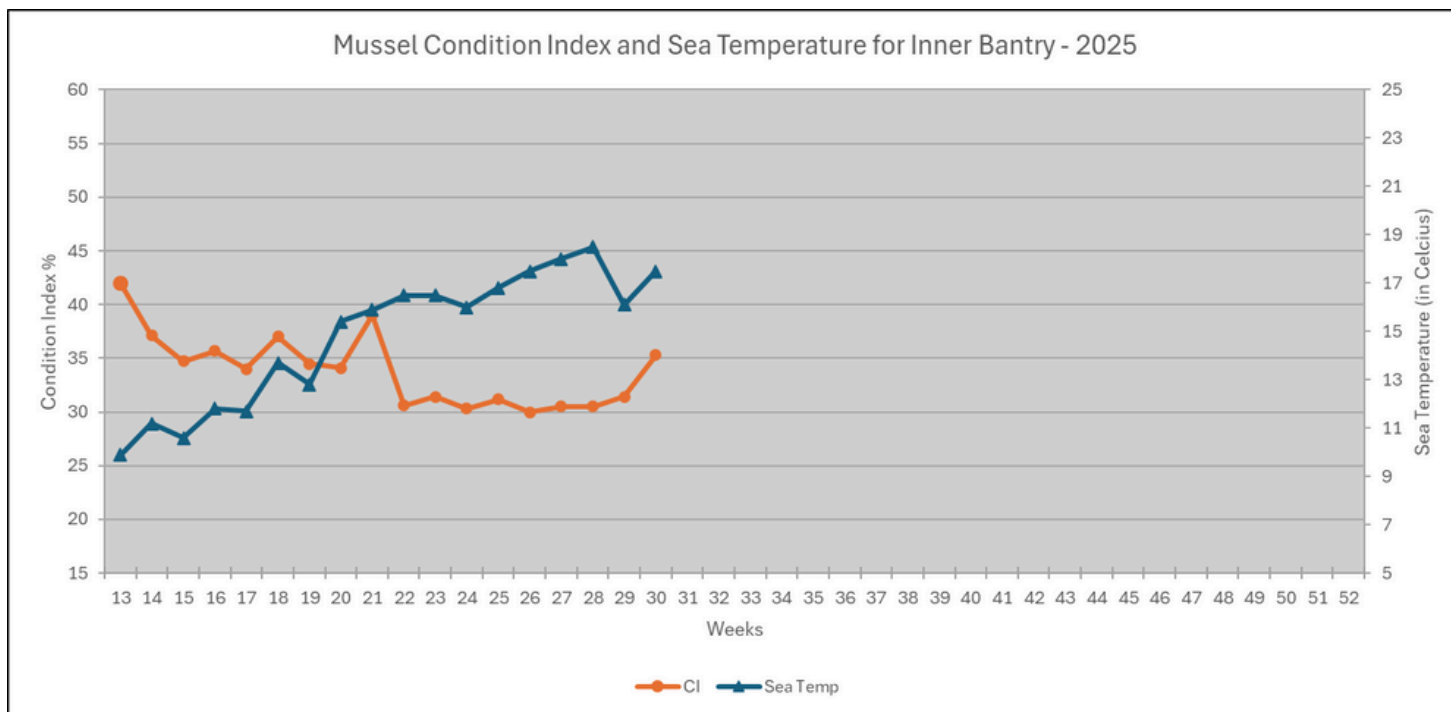
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

28th July 2025

Week 30 (22/07/2025 to 27/07/2025)

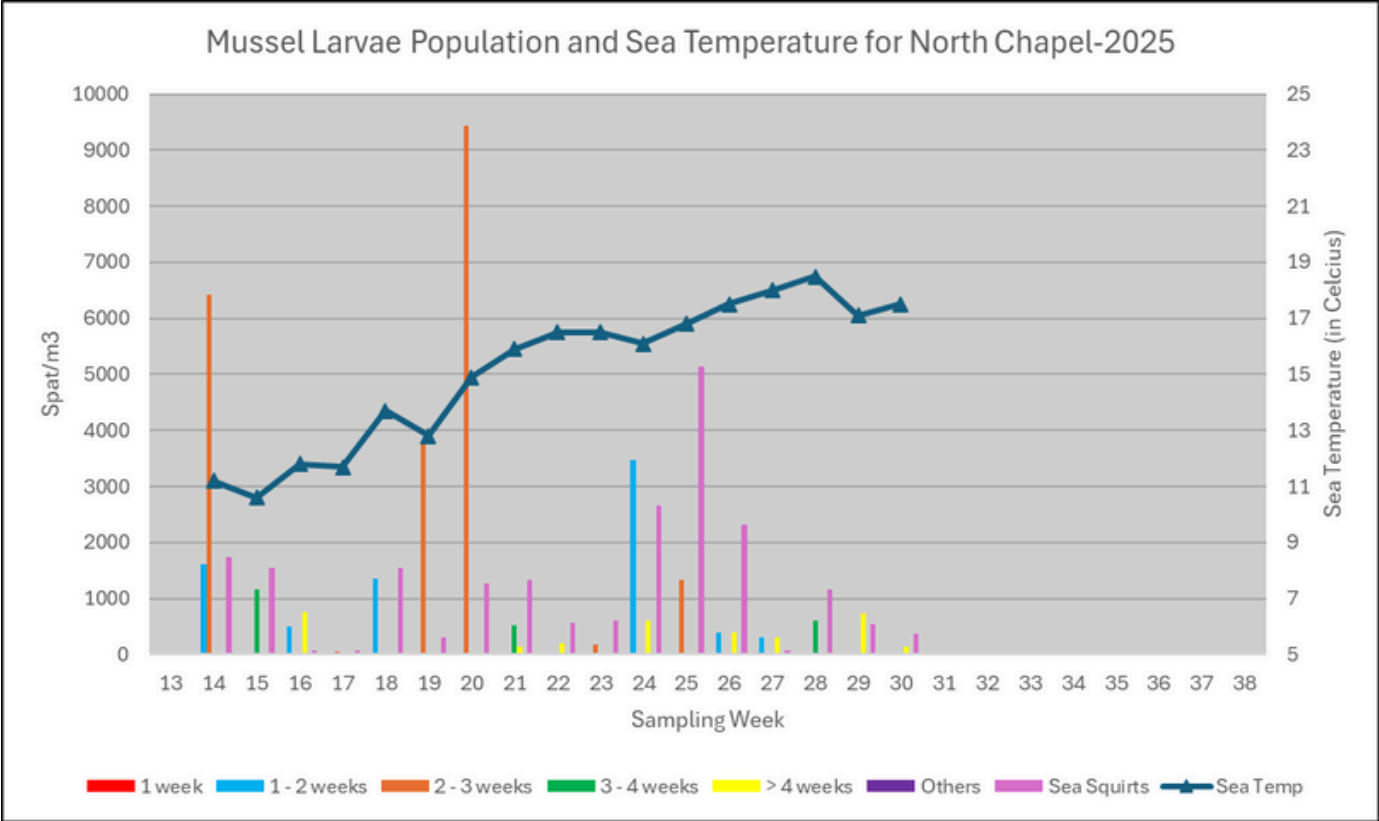
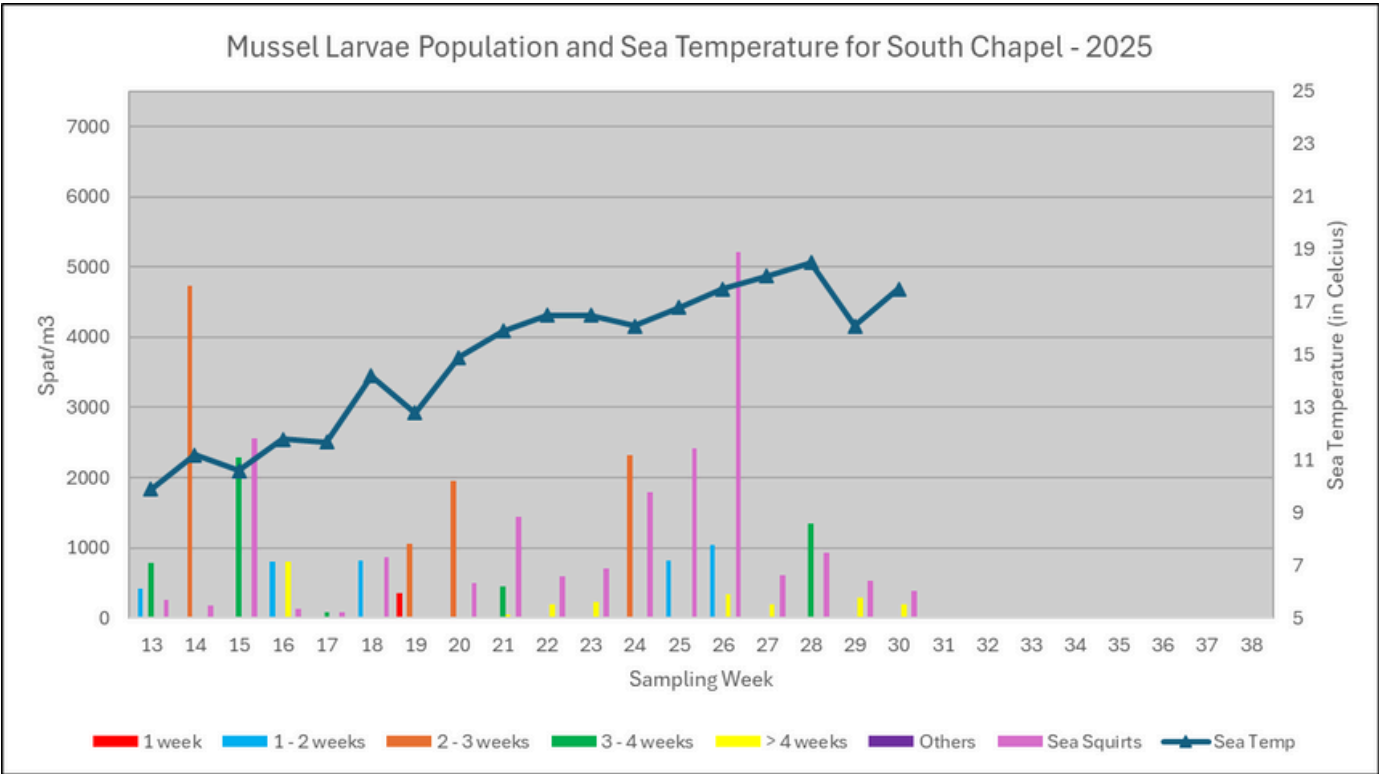


Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



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, 3 to 4 weeks old, over 4 weeks old and others (younger or older).



Commentary

The Condition Index (CI) in Bantry increased by 3.9% to 35.3%. The sea temperature increased to 17.5°C (+1.4°C from Week 29).

Larvae Population:

The larvae population continues to decrease across both sampling stations:

- South Chapel: 194 spat/m³ composed of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae.
- North Chapel: 142 spat /m³ composed of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae.

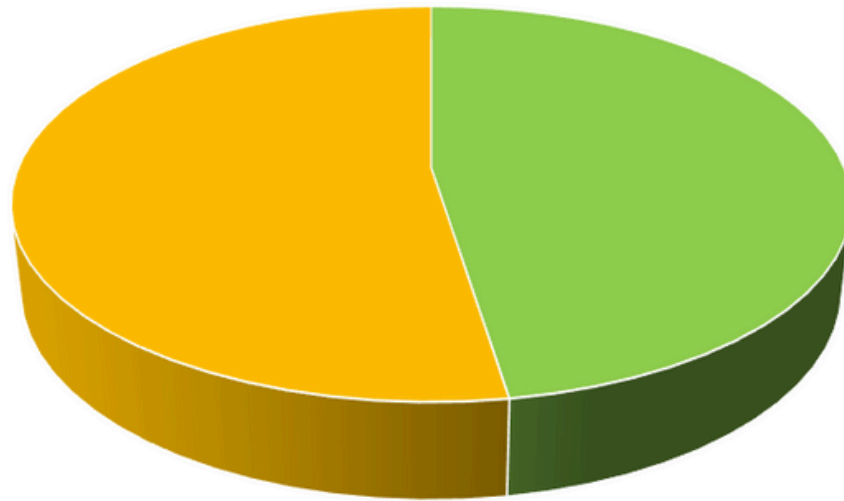
Sample details:

- South Chapel: The sea squirt concentration in the sample was 388 ind./m³. The levels of copepods and tubeworms were low. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was moderate with *C. fusus*, *P. micans* and *Coscinodiscus* sp. dominant. Noctiluca and Dinophysis were also present in the sample.
- North Chapel: The sea squirt concentration in the sample was 361 ind./m³. The levels of tubeworms and copepods were moderate. The phytoplankton biomass was low in the sample with *Ceratium* group and *Coscinodiscus* sp. dominant.

The phytoplankton sample for Week 30 decreased to 34,840 cells/litre, slightly dominated by dinoflagellates (52%) followed by known food source species (48%).



Phytoplankton Distribution



■ Known ■ Potential ■ Dinoflagellate