

# Bantry Bay (South and North Chapel)

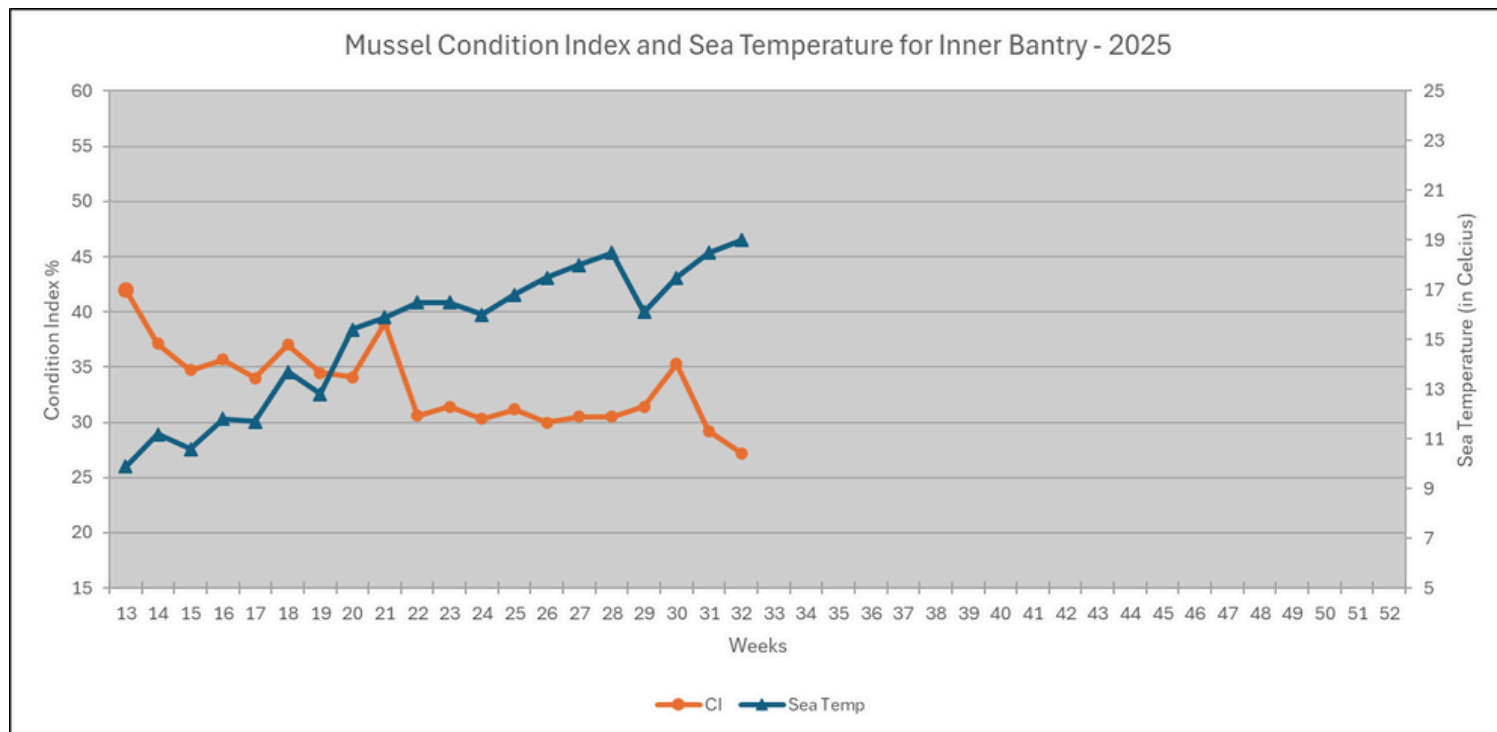
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

11<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Week 32 (04/08/2025 to 10/08/2025)

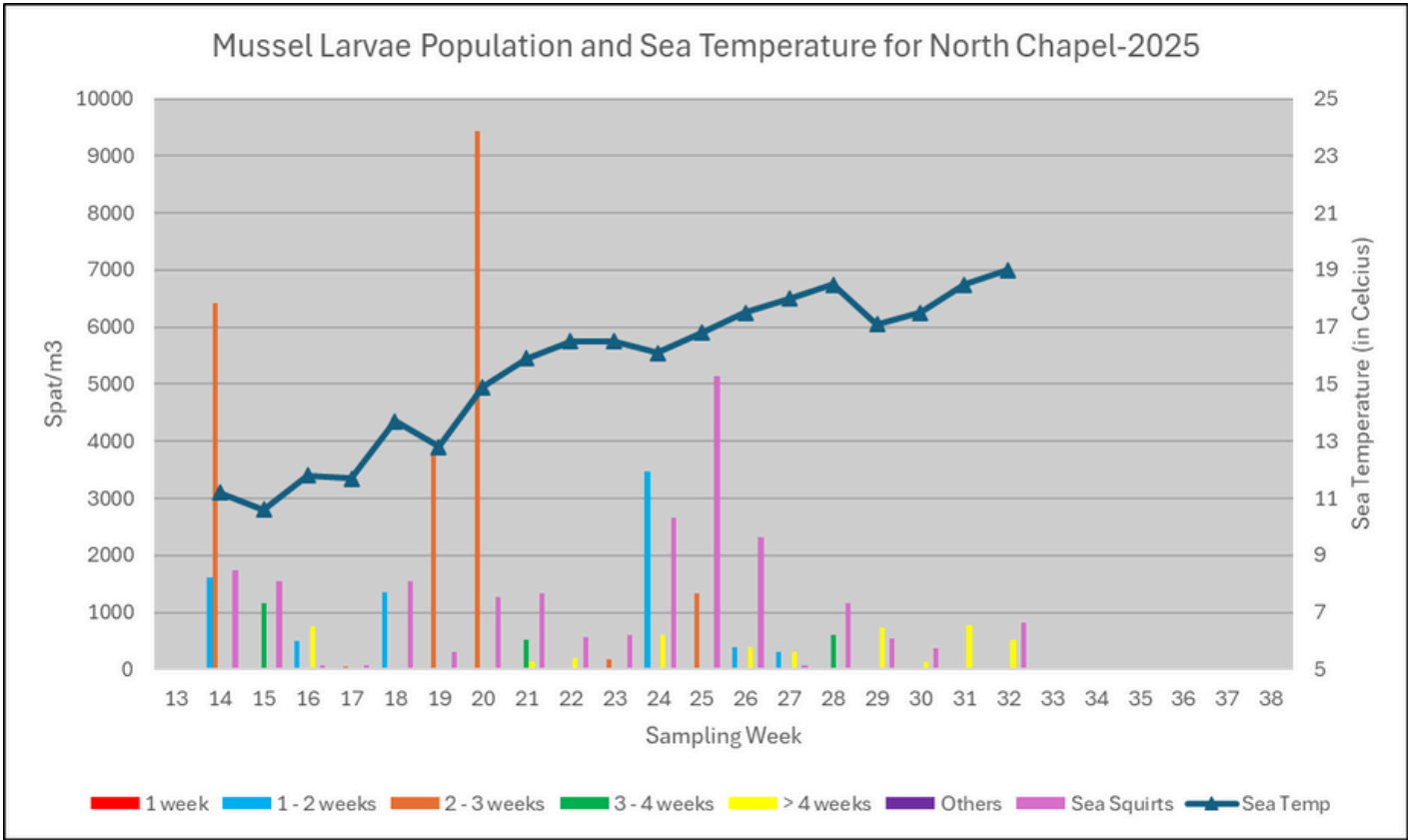
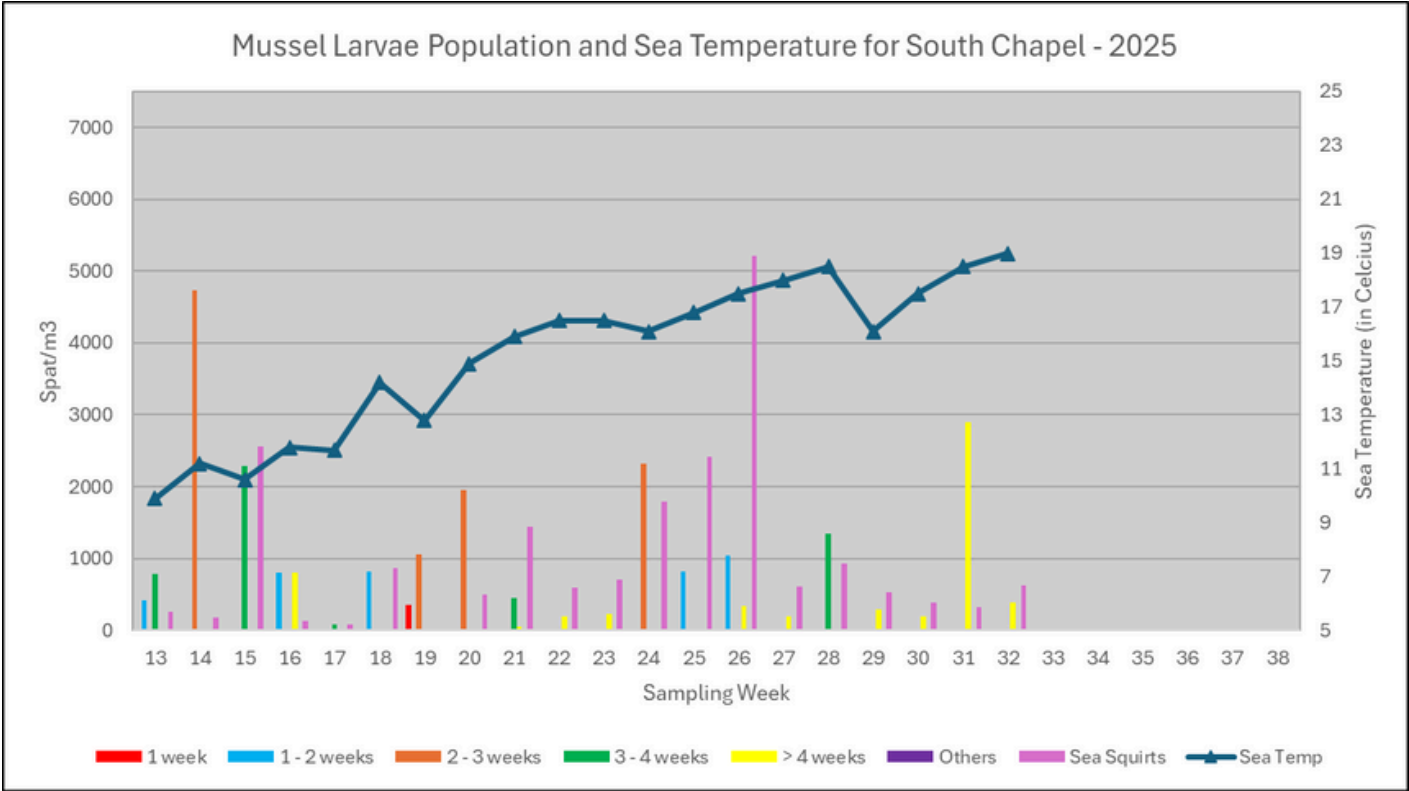


## Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



# 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 decreased again on Week 32, only by 2% to 27.2%. **The sea temperature increased to 19°C (+0.5°C from Week 31).**

### Larvae Population:

The larvae population decreased across both sampling stations in comparison with Week 31 (especially for the South Chapel sampling station):

- South Chapel: 388 spat/m<sup>3</sup> composed of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae.
- North Chapel: 517 spat /m<sup>3</sup> composed of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae.

**Considering the sharp decrease of the larvae population for South Chapel and the age class of the larvae on Week 31, it is probable that settlement took place between Week 31 and Week 32.**

### Sample details:

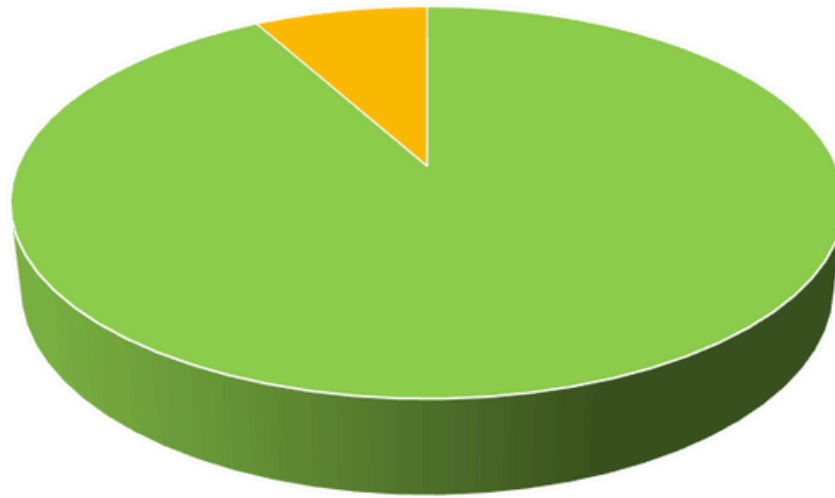
- South Chapel: The sea squirt concentration in the sample was 630 ind./m<sup>3</sup>. The sample presented low levels of copepods, high concentrations of barnacles and low levels of two other bivalve species. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was moderate with mixed *Ceratium* being dominant and also presented low levels of *Noctiluca* sp.
- North Chapel: The sea squirt concentration in the sample was 824 ind./m<sup>3</sup>. The sample also presented low levels of a second bivalve species. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was high with *L. minimus* and *Ceratium* sp. dominating. *Noctiluca* sp. were also present but in low concentrations.

**The concentrations of sea squirts have increased significantly for both sampling (highest since Week 28) and considering the low levels of copepods present in the samples, fouling could be expected.**

The phytoplankton sample for Week 32 increased to 71,160 cells/litre, dominated by known food source species (92%) and small number of dinoflagellates (8%).



## Phytoplankton Distribution



■ Known ■ Potential ■ Dinoflagellate