

Bantry Bay (South and North Chapel)

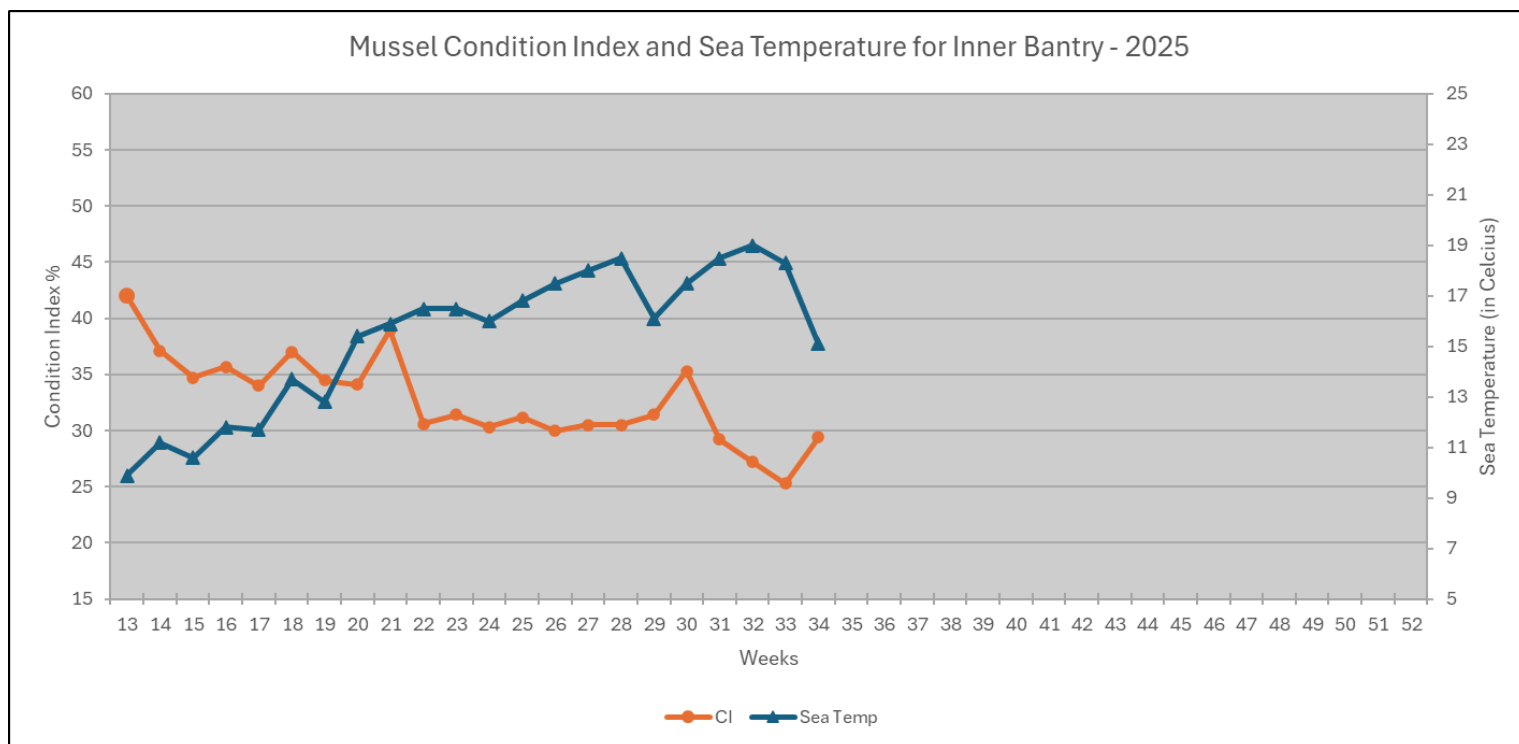
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

25th August 2025

Week 34 (18/08/2025 to 24/08/2025)

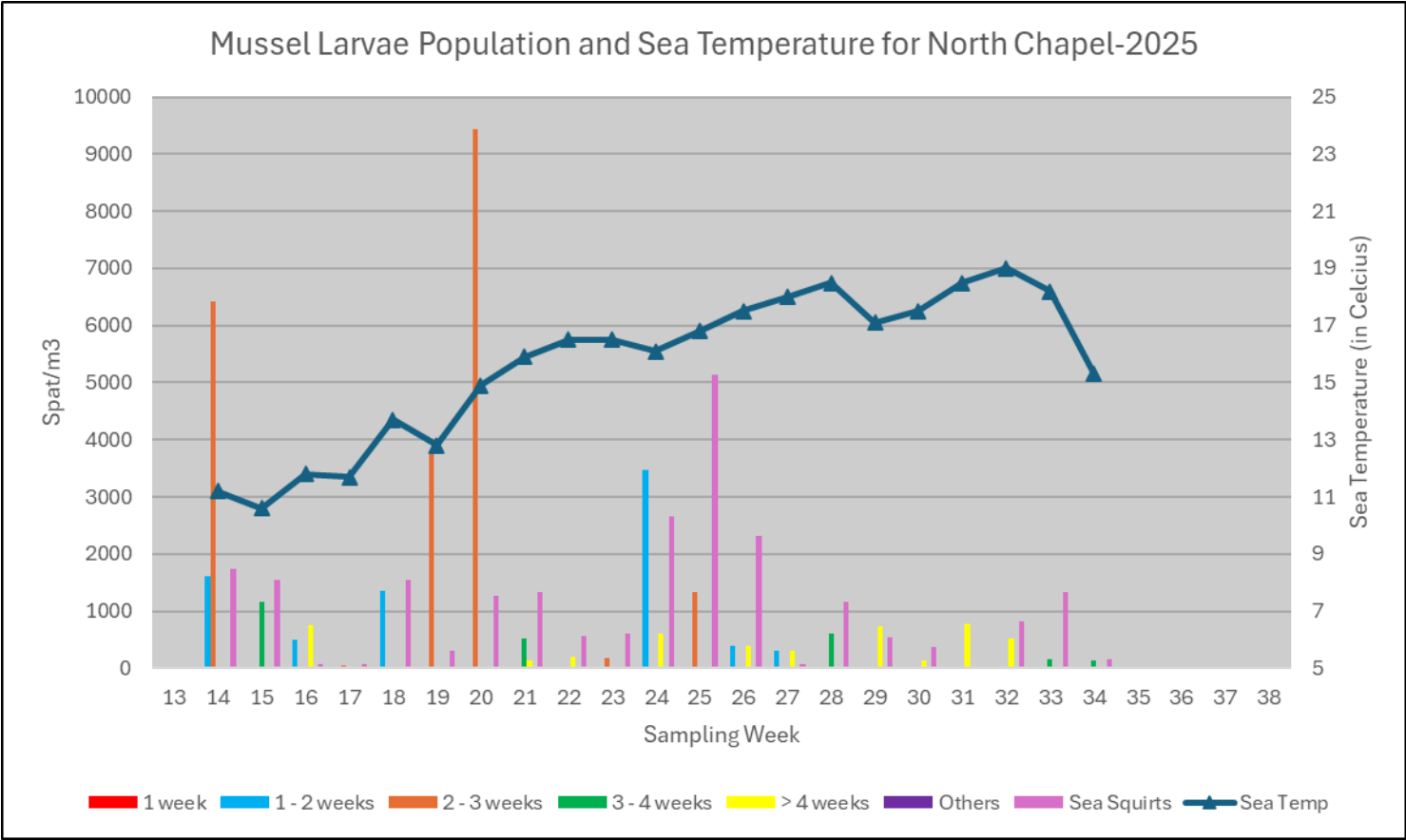
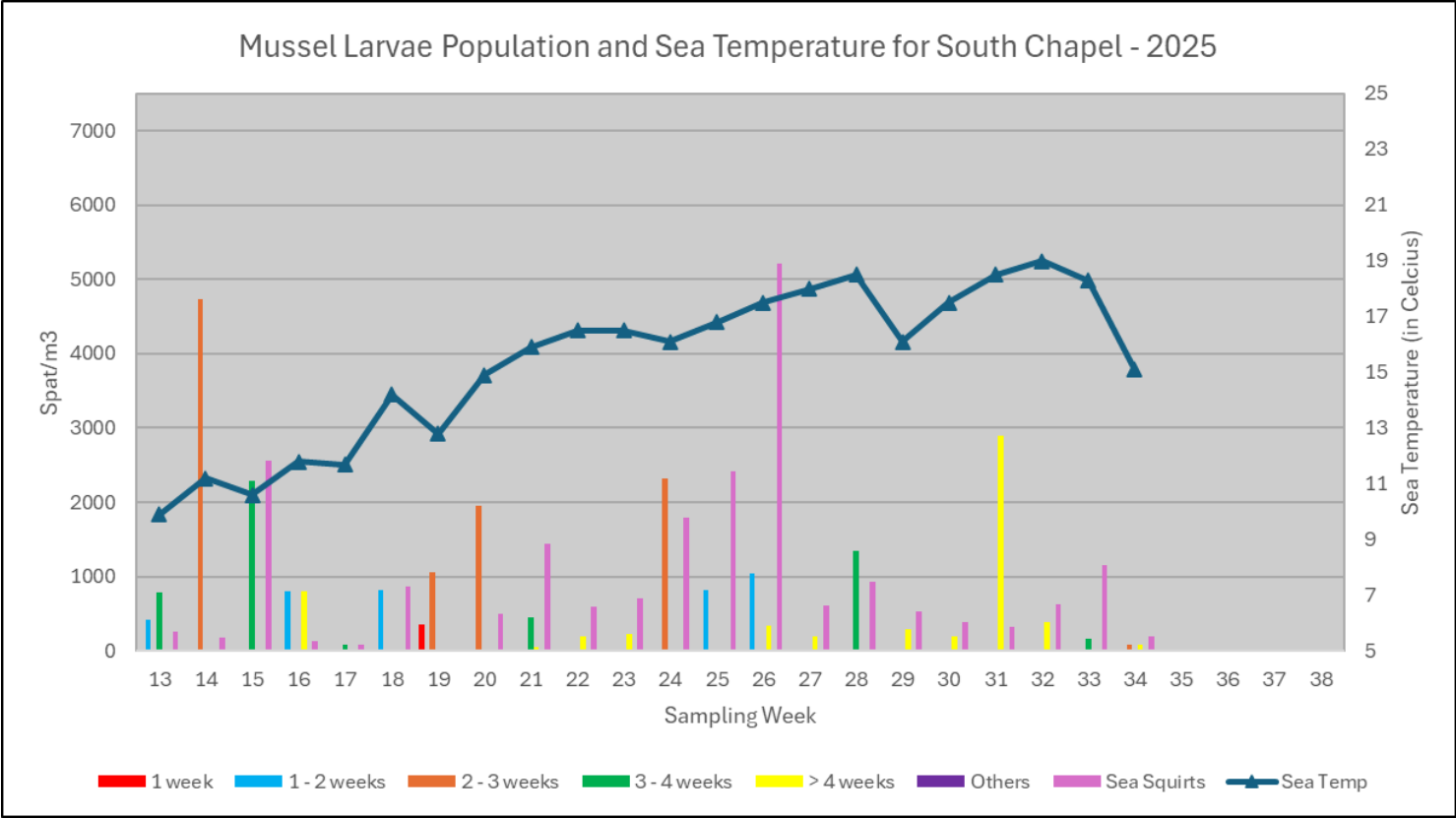


Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



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 increased significantly on Week 3, up to 29.4% (+4.1% from the previous week). The sea temperature decreased to 15.1°C (-3.2°C from Week 33).

Larvae Population:

The larvae population is stable across both sampling stations in comparison with Week 33:

- South Chapel: 161 spat/m³ composed at 50% of 2 to 3 weeks old larvae and 50% of 4 to 6 weeks larvae.
- North Chapel: 131 spat /m³ composed of 3 to 5 weeks old larvae.

Sample details:

- South Chapel: The sea squirt concentration in the sample was 197 ind./m³. The concentrations of copepods and starfish were moderate. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was moderate, with dominating Chaetoceros, Rhizosolenia, Noctiluca sp.
- North Chapel: The sea squirt concentration in the sample was 156 ind./m³. Copepods and starfish levels in the sample were moderate. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was moderate with L. minimus, L. danicus and Noctiluca dominating.

The phytoplankton sample for Week 34 decreased significantly to 129,240 cells/litre, dominated by known food source species (99%) and small number of dinoflagellates (1%).

