

# Bantry Bay (South and North Chapel)

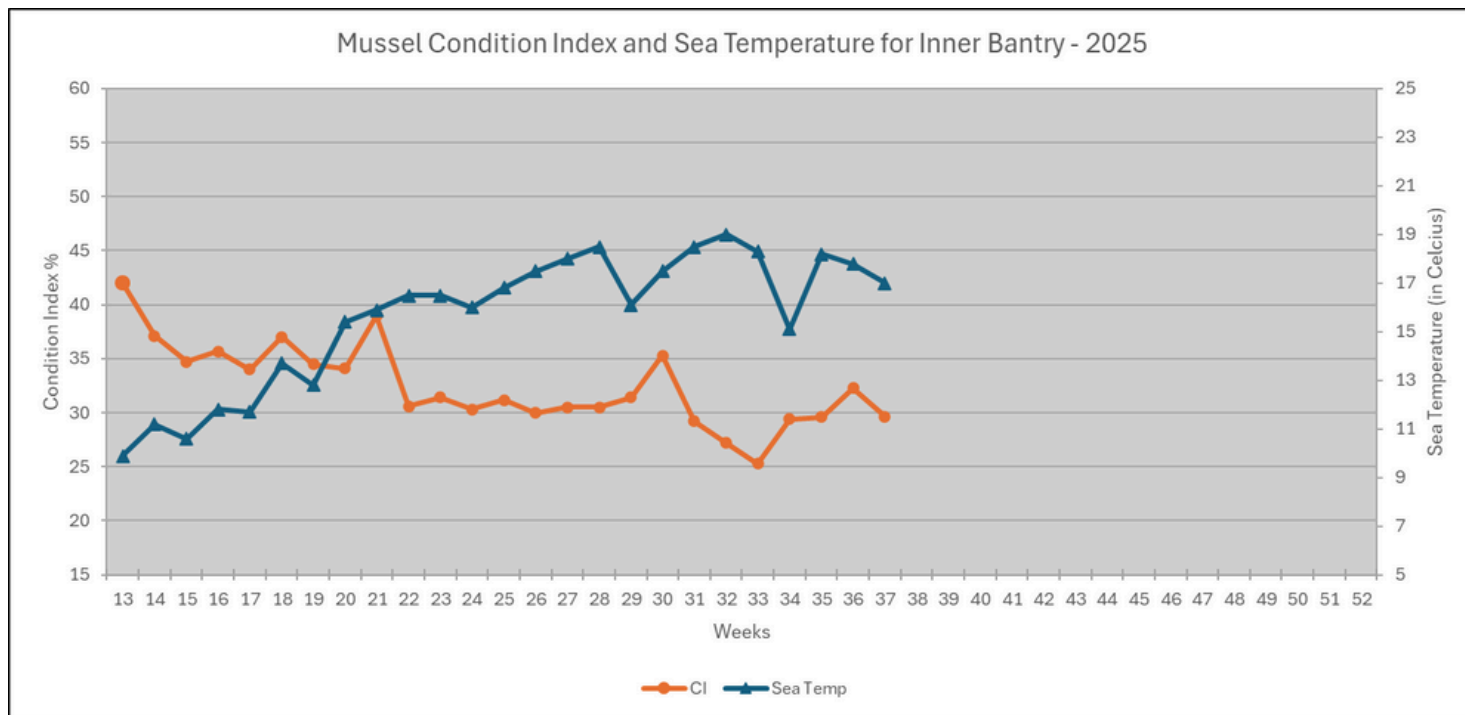
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Week 37 (8/09/2025 to 14/09/2025)

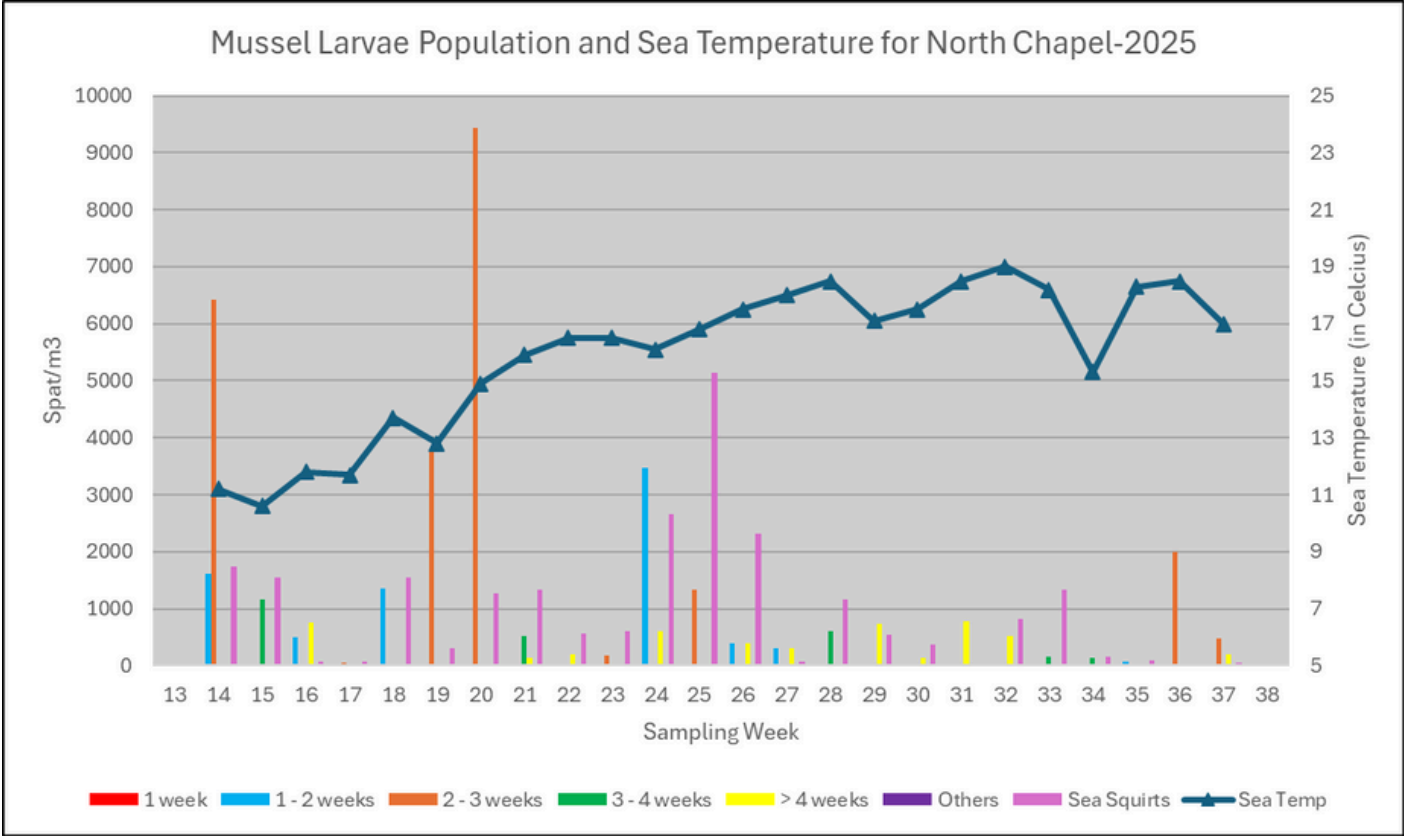
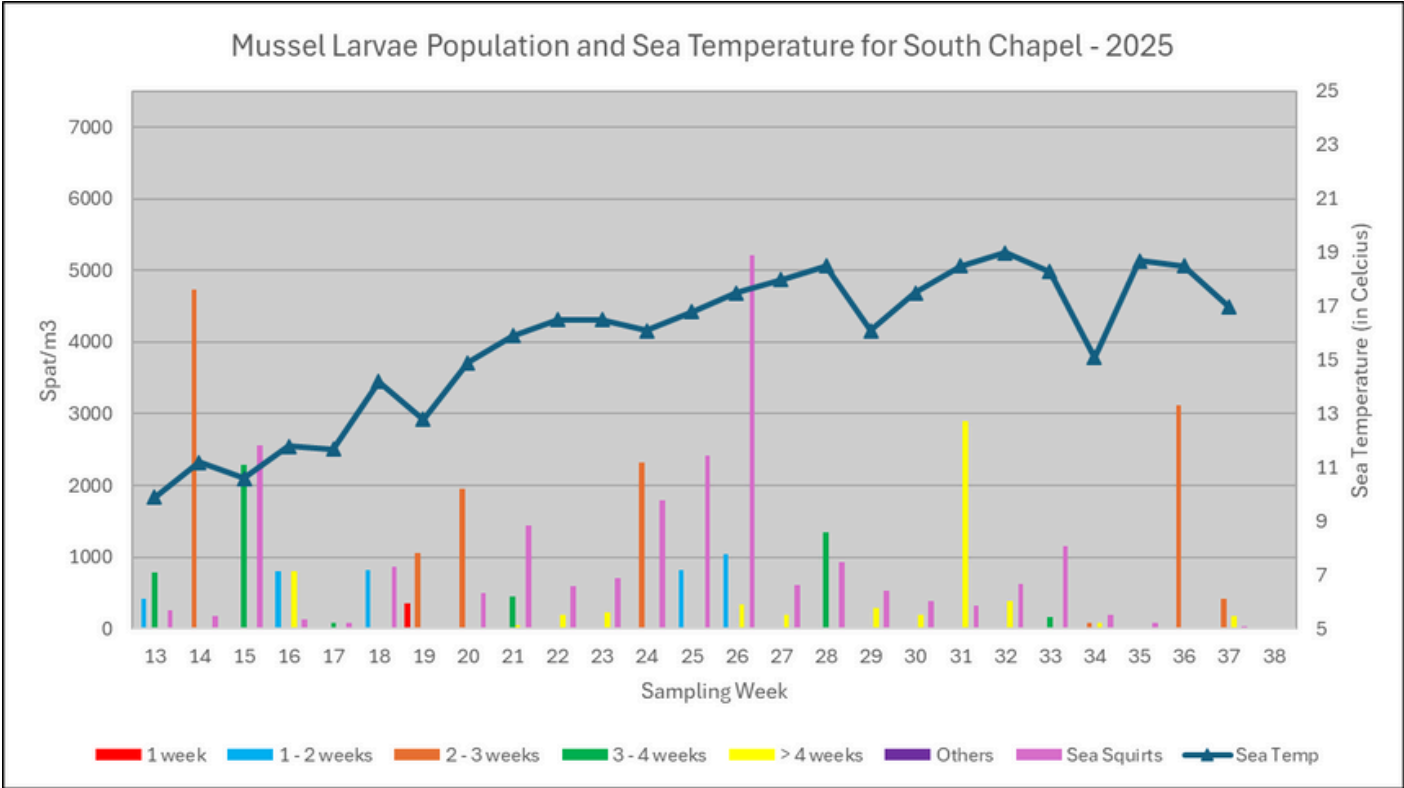


## Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



# 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 significantly on Week 37 at 29.6% (-2.7% from the previous week). The sea temperature decreased also slightly to 17°C (-0.8°C from Week 36).

### Larvae Population:

The larvae population decreased across both sampling stations in comparison with Week 37:

- South Chapel: **598 spat/m<sup>3</sup> composed at 70% of 2 to 4 weeks old larvae and 30% of 5 to 6 weeks old.**
- North Chapel: **679 spat /m<sup>3</sup> composed 70% of 2 to 4 weeks old larvae and 30% of 5 to 6 weeks old.**

**Considering the previous week results and the observations from Week 37, some further settlement could be expected on Week 38 and 39.**

### Sample details:

- South Chapel: The concentration of sea squirt was 44 ind./m<sup>3</sup>. The sample presented low levels of copepods and a second bivalve species. The sample contained high organic debris. The phytoplankton biomass was low and dominated by Noctiluca and Ceratium.
- North Chapel: The concentration of sea squirt was 48 ind./m<sup>3</sup>. The sample presented low levels of copepods and a second bivalve species. Again, the phytoplankton biomass was low and dominated by Noctiluca, P.n. seriata group and Ceratium.

The phytoplankton sample for Week 37 decreased significantly to 2,200 cells/litre, dominated by known food source species (93%) and some dinoflagellates (7%).

