

# Bantry Bay (South and North Chapel)

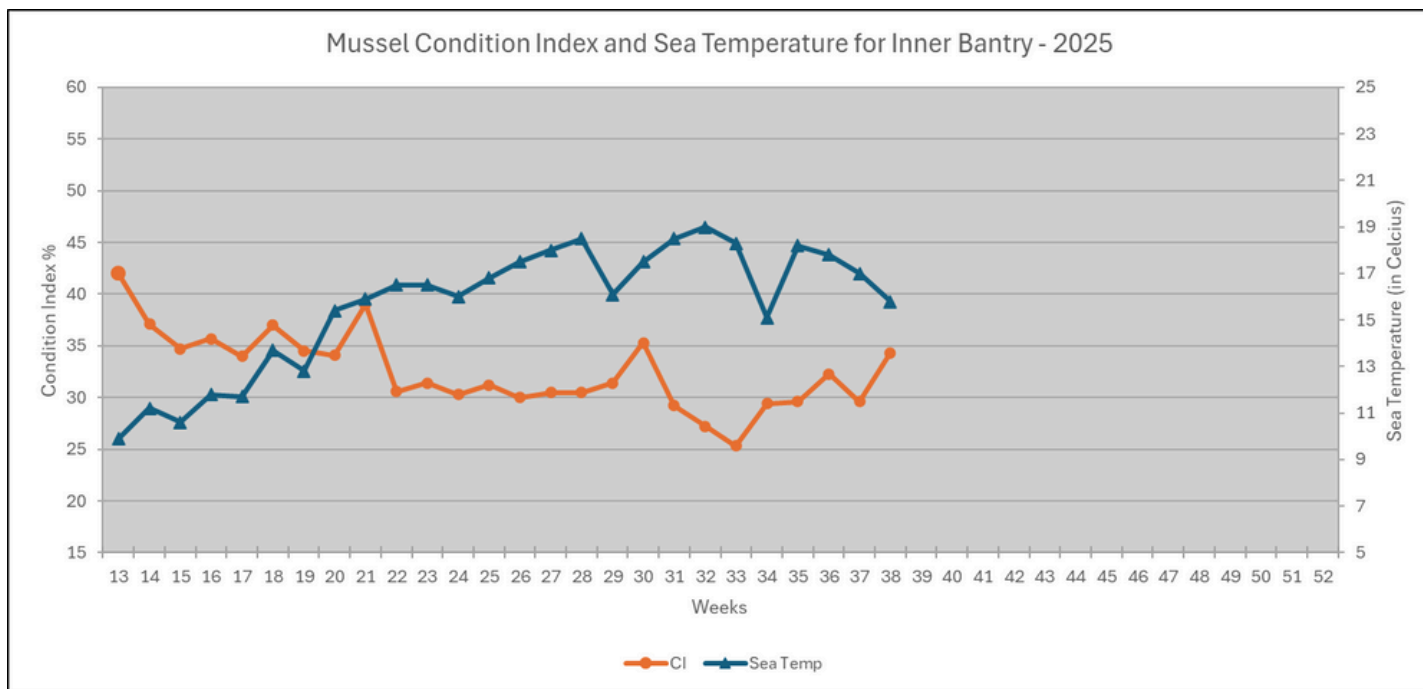
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Week 38 (15/09/2025 to 21/09/2025)

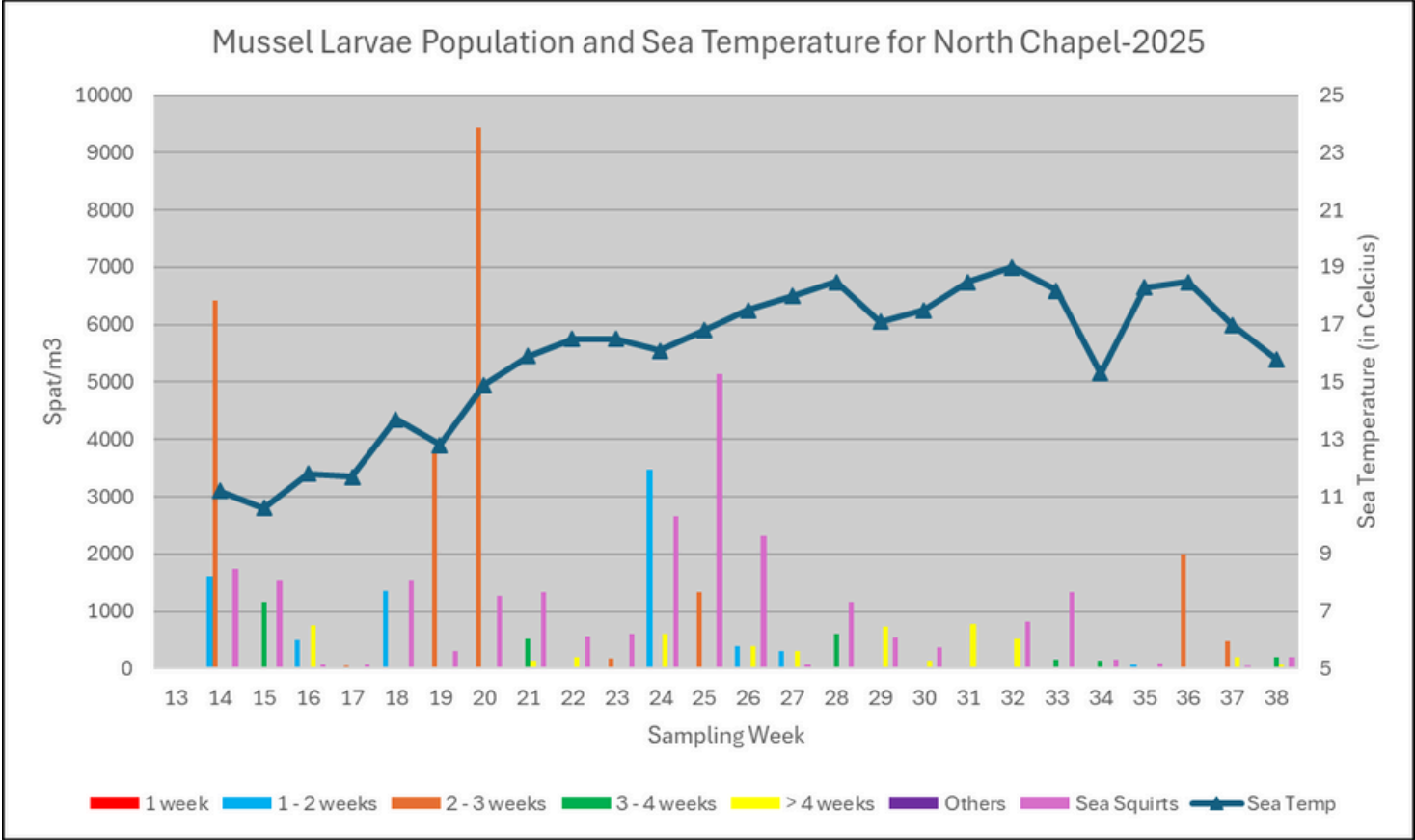
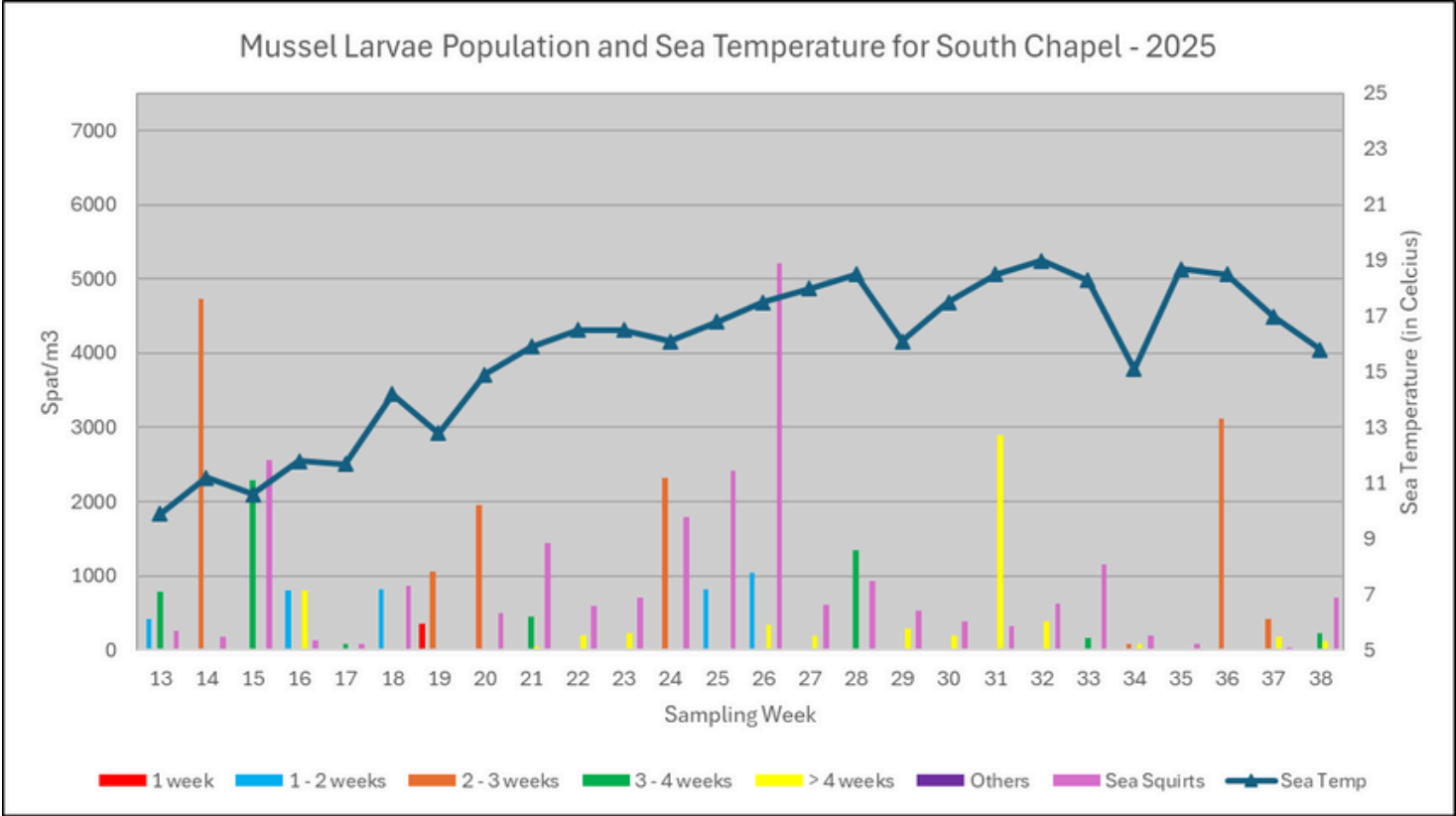


## Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



# 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 increased significantly on Week 38 at 34.3% (+4.7% from the previous week). The sea temperature decreased to 15.8°C (-1.2°C from Week 37).

### Larvae Population:

The larvae population decreased across both sampling stations in comparison with Week 38:

- South Chapel: **355 spat/m<sup>3</sup> composed at 65% of 3 to 5 weeks old larvae and 35% of 5 to 6 weeks old.**
- North Chapel: **201 spat /m<sup>3</sup> composed 75% of 3 to 5 weeks old larvae and 25% of 5 to 6 weeks old.**

**Considering observations from the previous weeks, some further settlement could be expected in the next two weeks.**

### Sample details:

- South Chapel: The concentration of sea squirt was 705 ind./m<sup>3</sup>. The sample presented a moderate concentration of tubeworms and *M. atlantica* was also observed. The phytoplankton biomass was in the sample was moderate with *Rhizosolenia*, *Noctiluca* and *Coscinodiscus* dominating the species.
- North Chapel: The concentration of sea squirt was 201 ind./m<sup>3</sup>. The levels of copepods in the sample were low, and *M. atlantica* was also observed. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was low with *Rhizosolenia* being the dominant species.

The phytoplankton sample for Week 38 increased significantly to 44,160 cells/litre, dominated by dinoflagellates (64%) and known food source species (36%).

