

Beara Sound

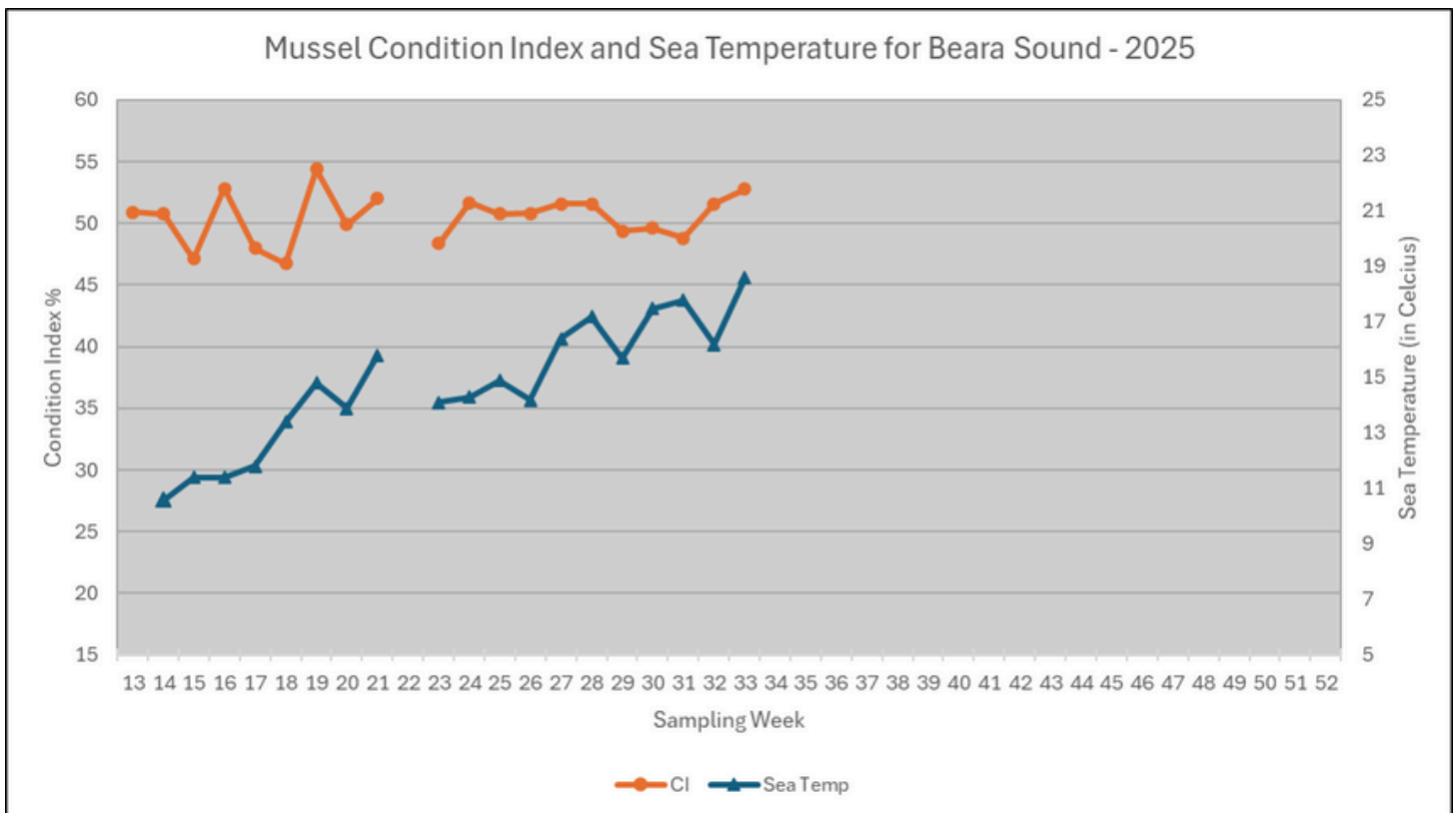
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

18th August 2025

Week 33 (11/08/2025 to 17/08/2025)

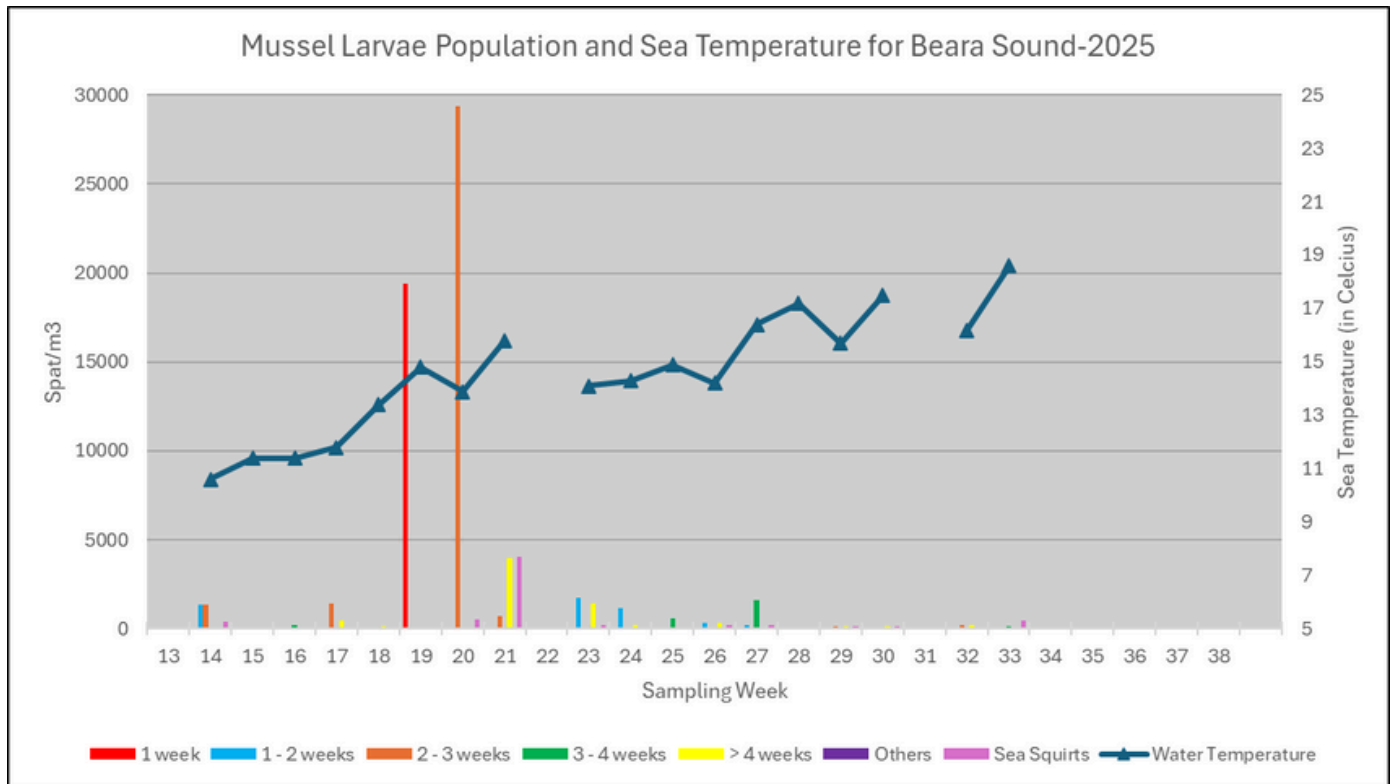


Condition Index (CI) for Beara Sound



Larvae population evolution for Beara Sound

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



Commentary

The Condition Index (CI) for the Beara station increased slightly on Week 33 at 52.8 % (+1.2% from the previous week). The sea temperature increased significantly by 2.4°C from Week 32 to 18.6°C.

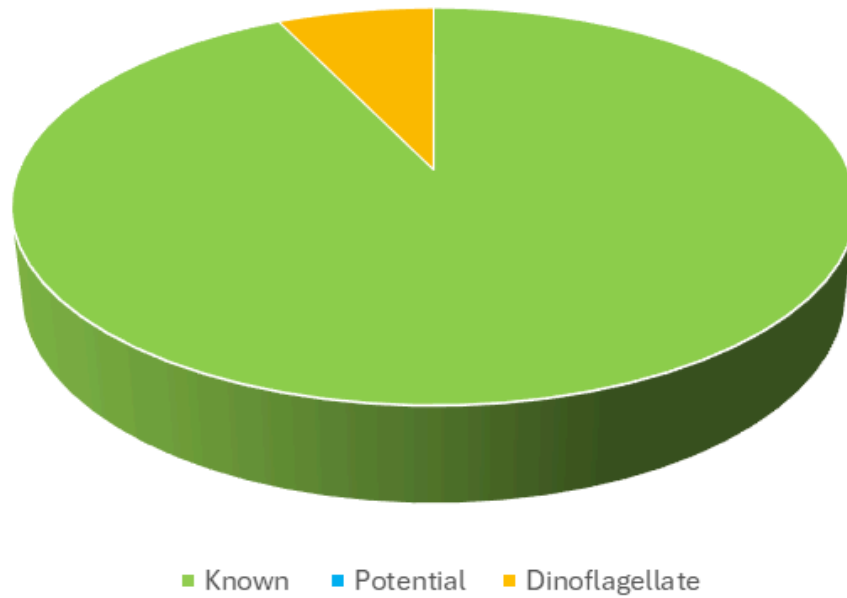
The larvae concentration in sample to 145 spat/m³ of 3 to 5 weeks old larvae. This is a further decrease from the previous week (452 spat/m³ on Week 32).

The concentration of sea squirt in the sample was 436 ind./m³ (significant increase from Week 32 and highest concentration recorded since Week 21). The levels of copepods were low, while starfish and tubeworm were present in moderate concentration. A second bivalve species was also present in moderate levels. A high level of debris, organic material and brackish species were observed in the sample. The phytoplankton species were dominated by Noctiluca and Ceratium.

The high concentration of sea squirt could result in significant fouling on ropes and settled seed mussel.



Phytoplankton Distribution



The phytoplankton concentration decreased in Week 33 to 12,840 cells/litre, dominated by known food source species (93%) and some dinoflagellate (7%).

