MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

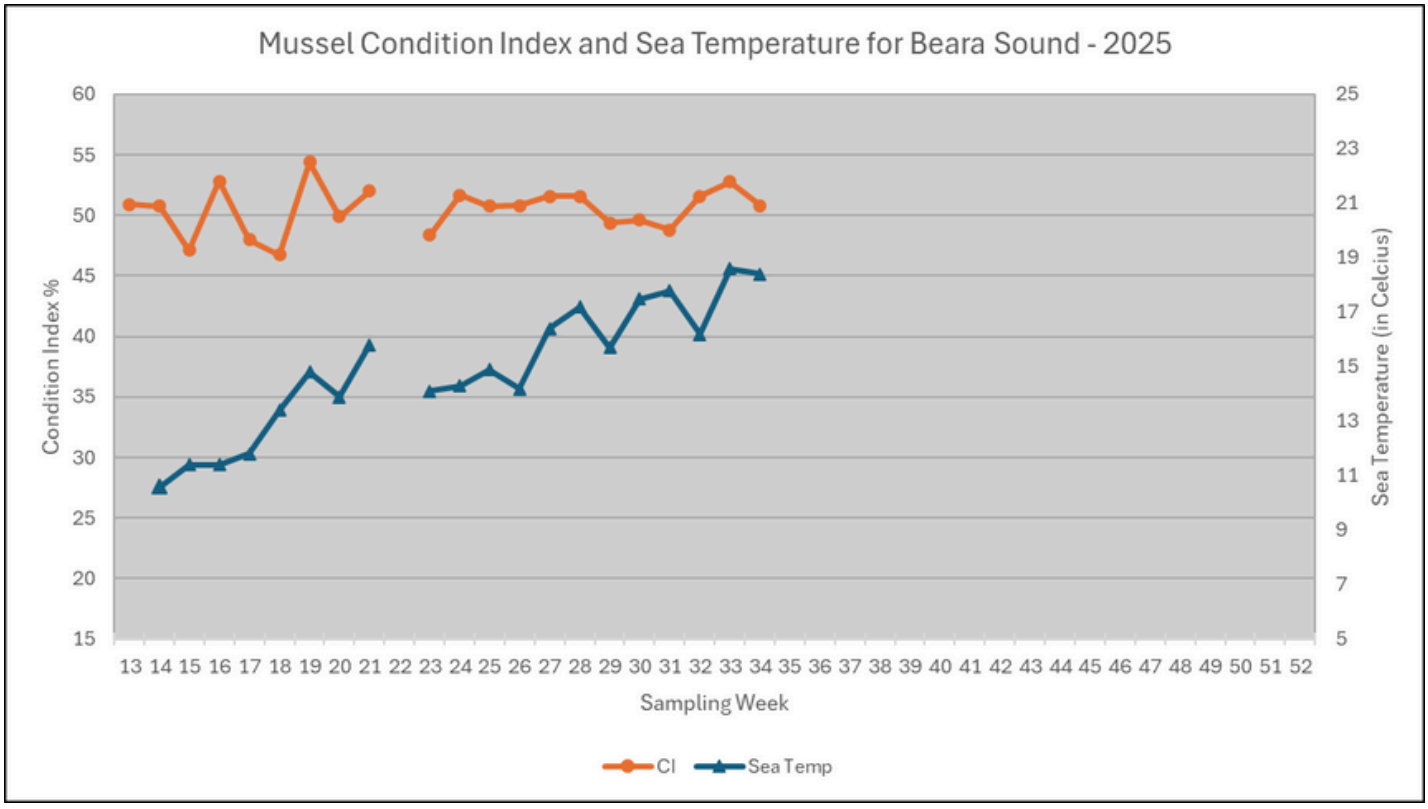
Beara Sound

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

25th August 2025

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

Condition Index (CI) for Beara Sound



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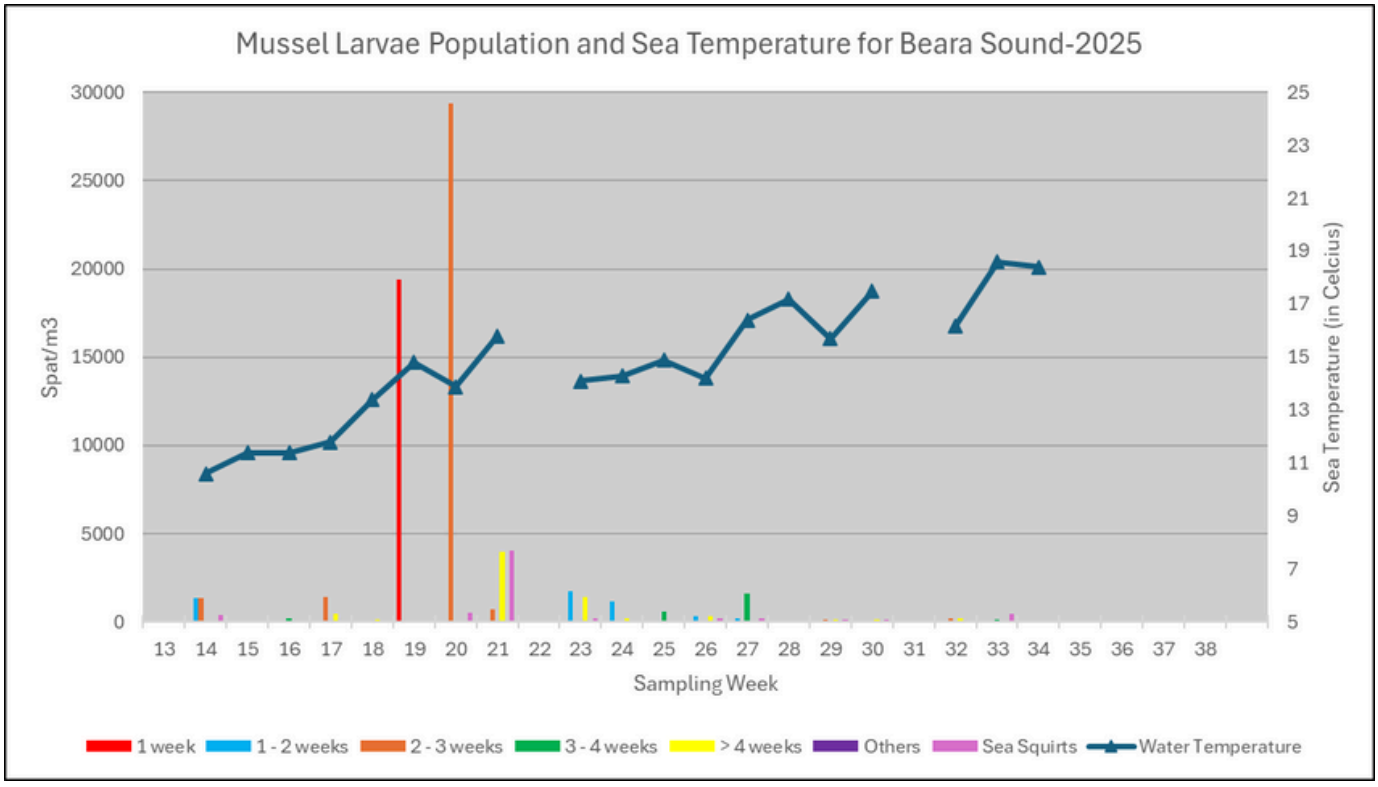
Larvae population evolution for Beara Sound

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 decreased on Week 34 at 50.8 % (-2 % from the previous week). The sea temperature decreased only by 0.2°c from Week 33 to 18.4°c.

The larvae concentration in sample to 67 spat/m^3 of 1 to 3 weeks old larvae. This is a further decrease from the previous week (145 spat/m^3 on Week 33). The larvae age class could indicate some partial spawning.

The concentration of sea squirt in the sample was 67 ind./m^3. Copepods and sea matting were in very low concentrations. The phytoplankton in the sample indicated moderate concentration of Noctiluca, which was also the dominating species.

The sharp decrease in the sea squirt larvae from Week 33 (436 ind./m^3) and the low levels of copepods could indicate that there has been a settlement. Therefore, some fouling could be expected.

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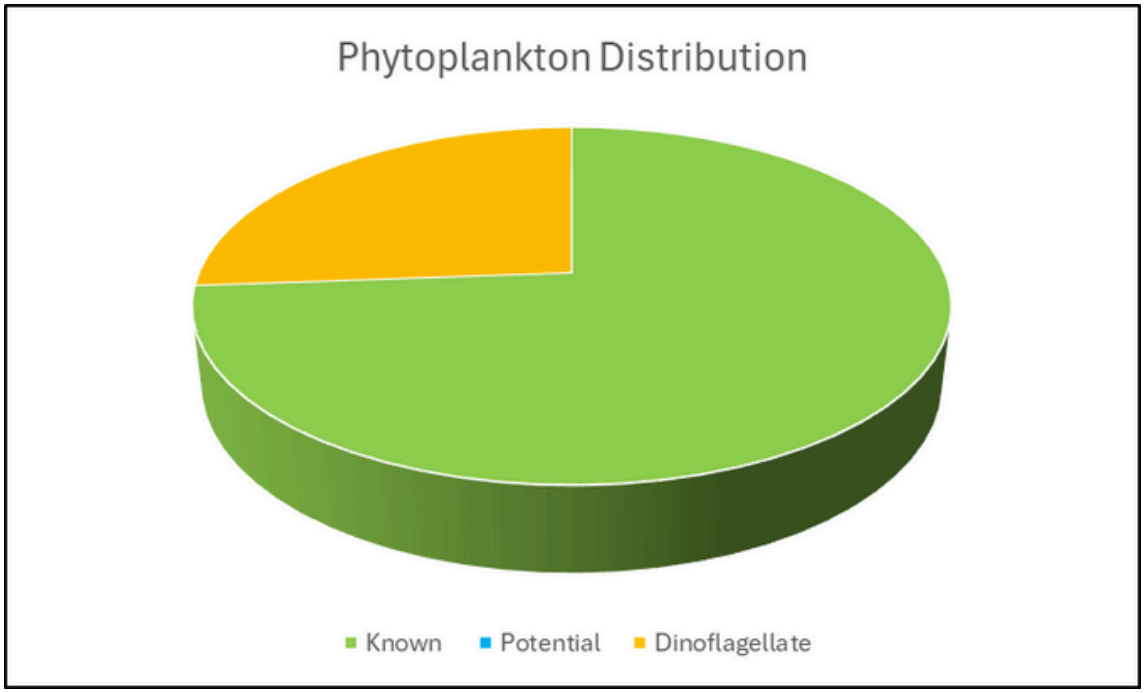

The phytoplankton concentration increased significantly in Week 34 to 30,280 cells/litre, dominated by known food source species (74%) and dinoflagellate (26%).

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