

Dunmanus Bay

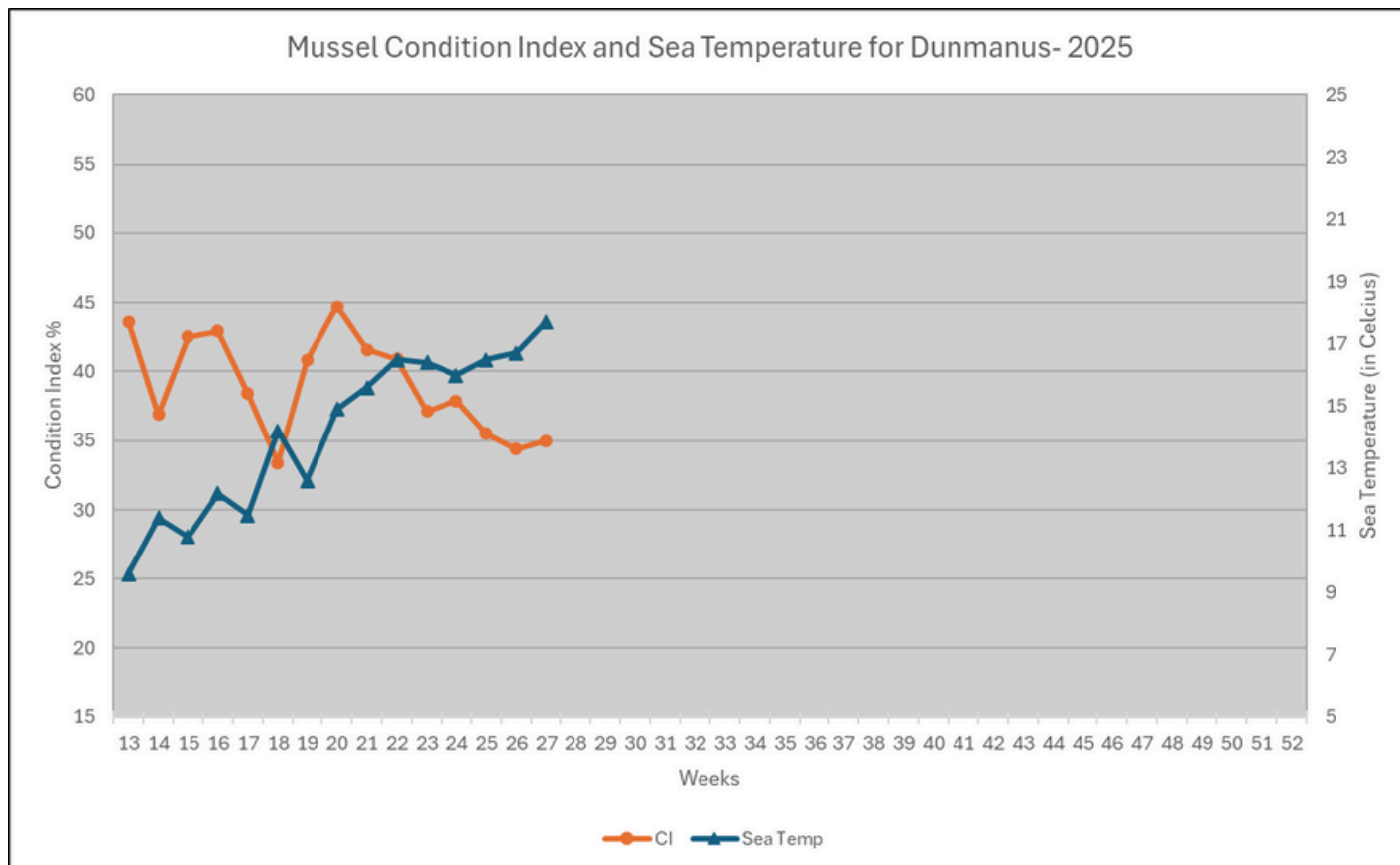
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

7th July 2025

Week 27 (30/06/2025 to 6/07/2025)

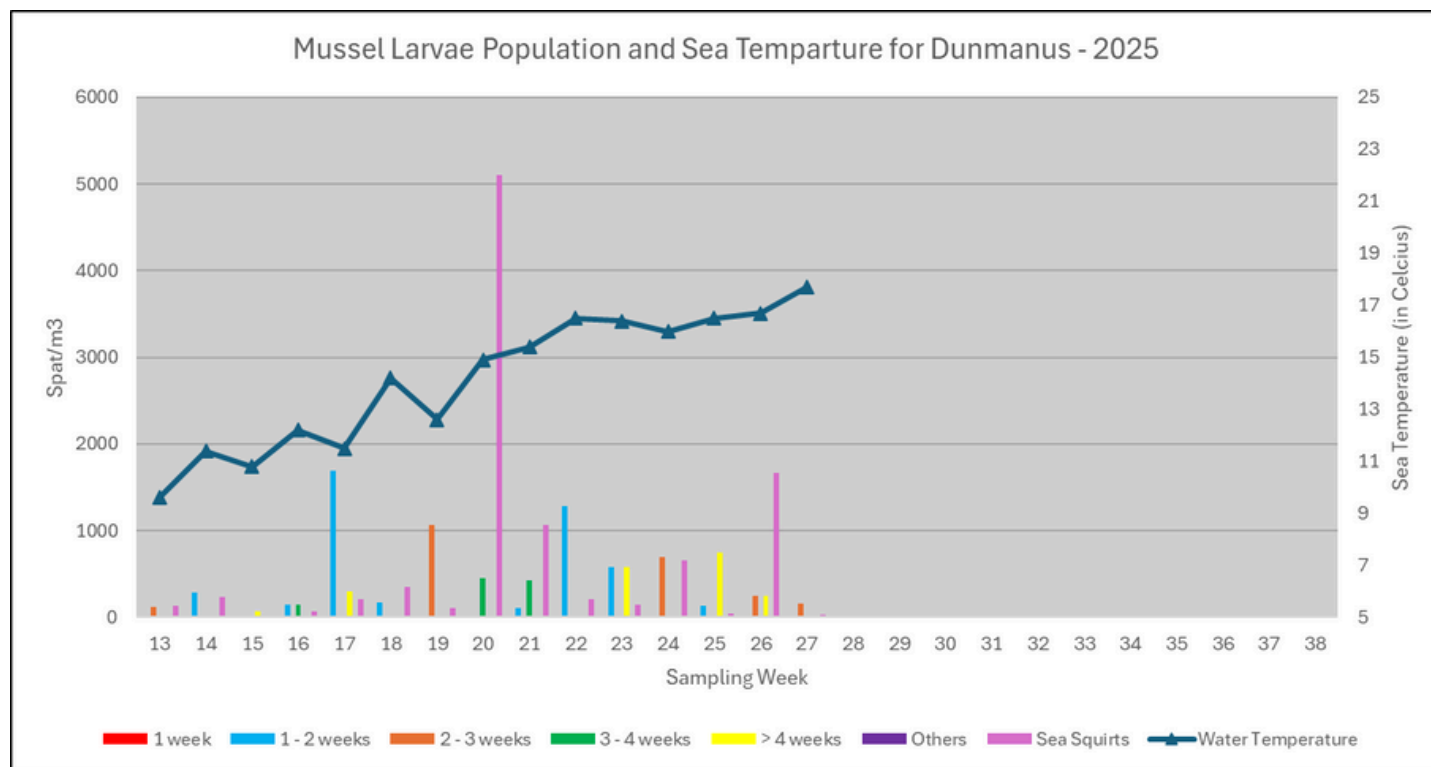


Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



Larvae population evolution in Dunmanus Bay

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 Dunmanus slightly increased (+0.6 % to 35%). The sea temperature increased to 17.7°C (+1°C from Week 26).

The level of larvae in the sample was low with 161 spat/m³ of 2 to 4 weeks old larvae.

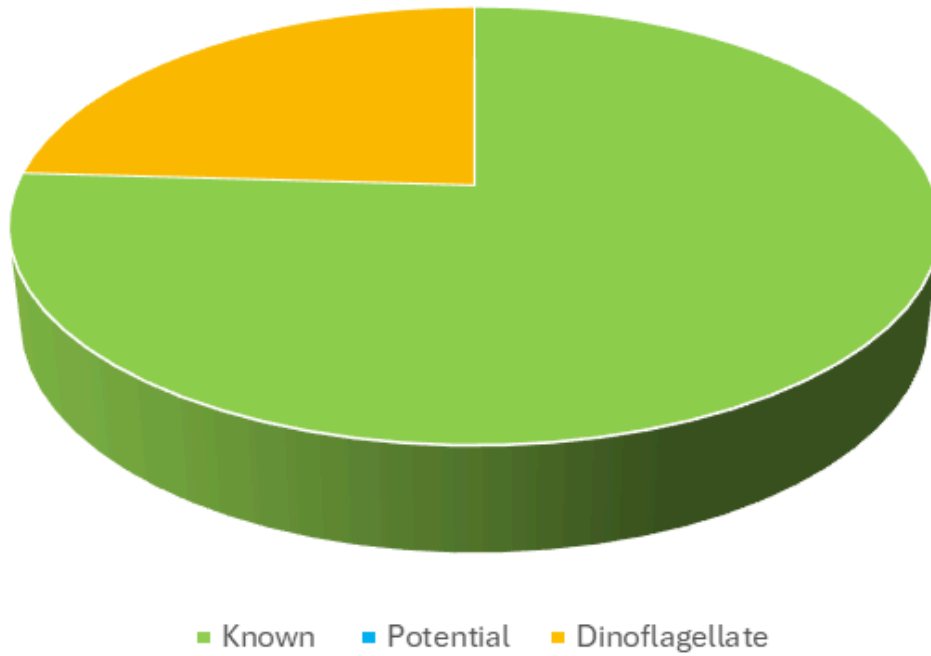
Settlement of most larvae has likely occurred by now and young spat should start to be visible on collectors (only few millimetres in length).

The level of sea squirt was a lot lower than the previous week with only 34 ind./m³. The concentrations of copepods and periwinkles were moderate, while echinoderms (urchins, starfish, sea cucumber, etc) was low. The phytoplankton in the sample was dominated by Chaetoceros sp. H, in moderate concentration.

The steep decrease in the sea squirt larvae population (from 1666 ind./m³ in Week 26 to 34 ind./m³ on Week 27) likely indicates that they have settled. Possible significant fouling of collectors and lines could be expected.



Phytoplankton Distribution



There was a significant decrease in phytoplankton (down to 16,120 cells per litre) with known food source species presented the highest concentration (76%) and dinoflagellate (24%).

