

Dunmanus Bay

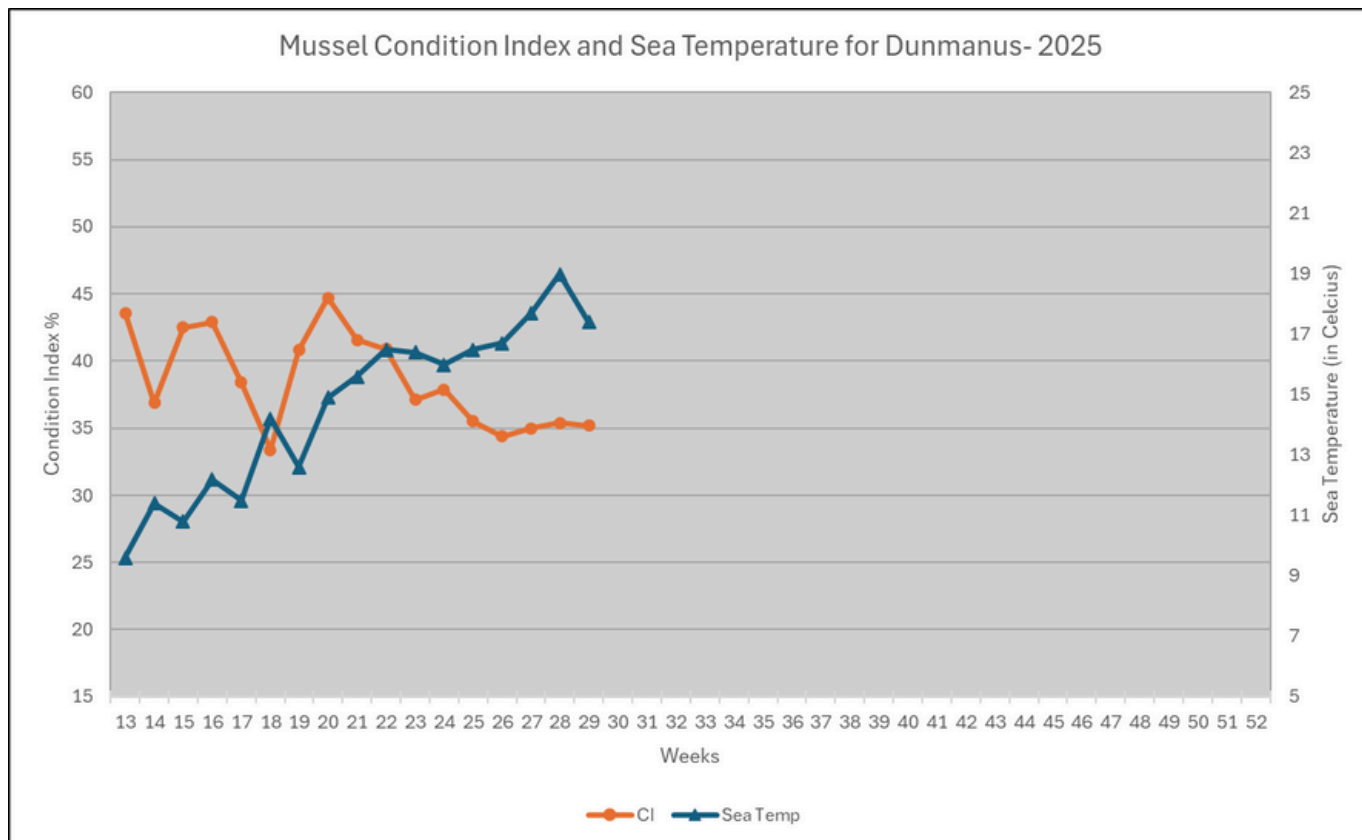
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

21st July 2025

Week 29 (14/07/2025 to 20/07/2025)

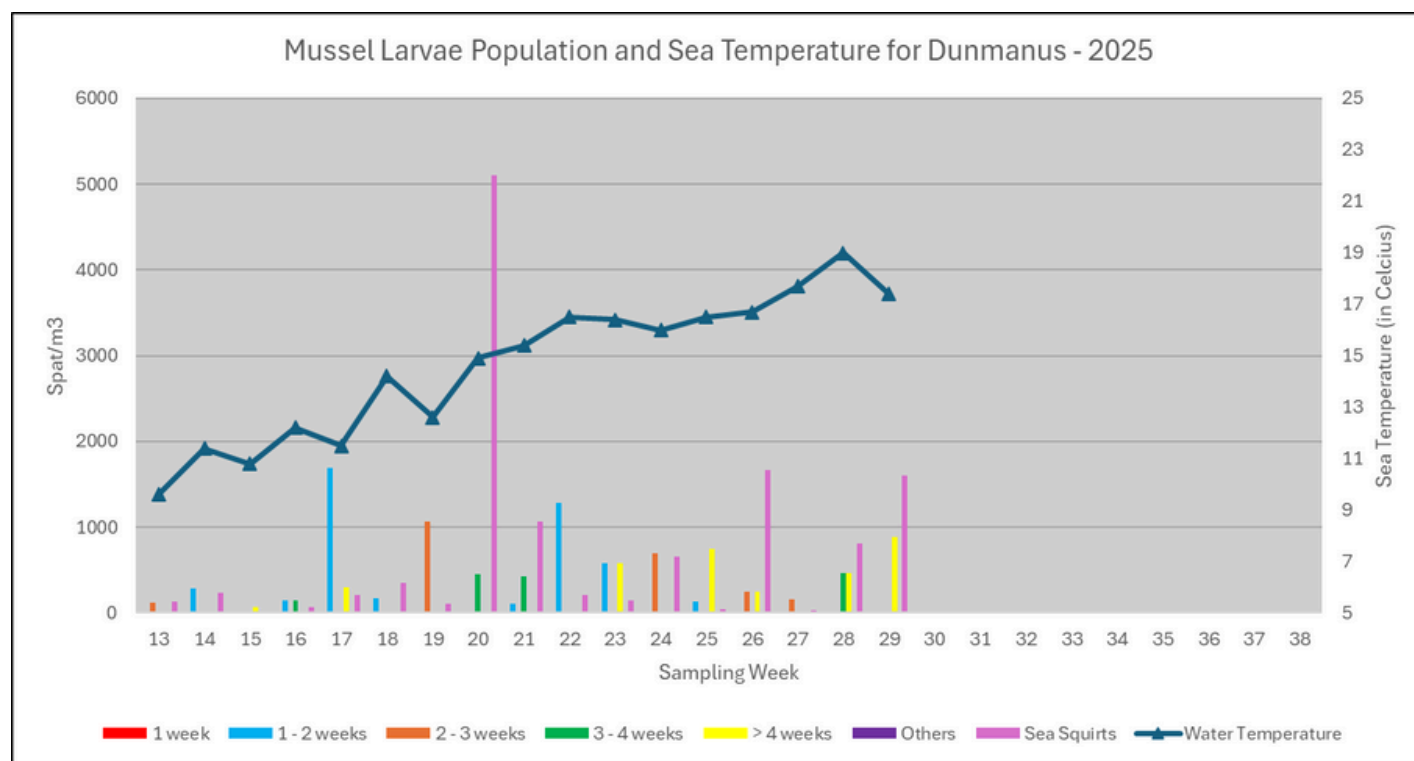


Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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 was stable on week 29 (-0.2 % to 35.2%). The sea temperature decreased by 1.6°C to 17.4°C.

The larvae population was stable at 887 spat/m³ composed of 4 to 6 weeks old larvae.

Considering the larvae age class, some settlement could happen in the next weeks (Week 30 and 31).

The concentration of sea squirts in the sample significantly increase to 1603 ind./m³. The sample also present high concentrations of copepods and high levels of tube worm, barnacles, crab and starfish. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was moderate with *Protoperdinium* and *Ceratium* dominant.

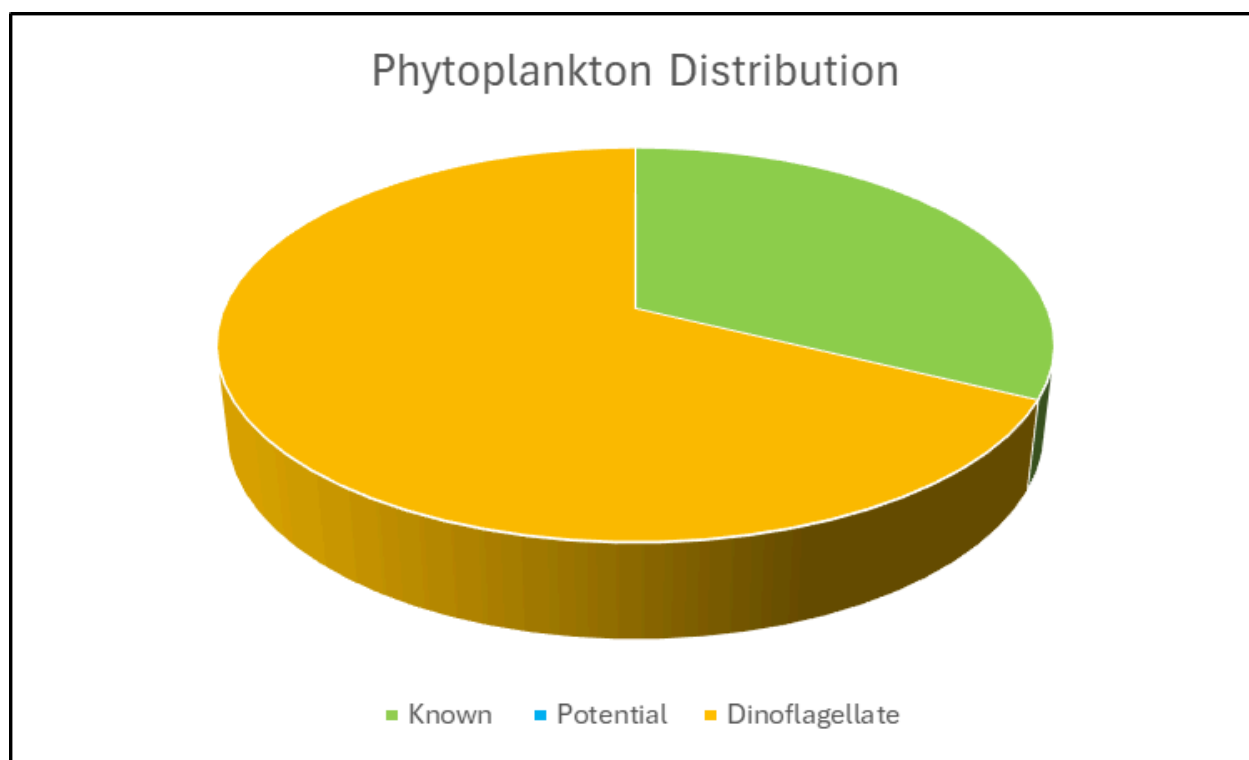
Although the level of sea squirt is high, some fouling mitigation could be expected considering the high level of copepods. However, possible settlement of tubeworms and barnacles could generate further fouling. The settlement of starfish should also be monitored at farm level.



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The phytoplankton concentration increased in Week 29 to 26,760 cells/litre, dominated by dinoflagellate (68%) and known food source species (32%).

