MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

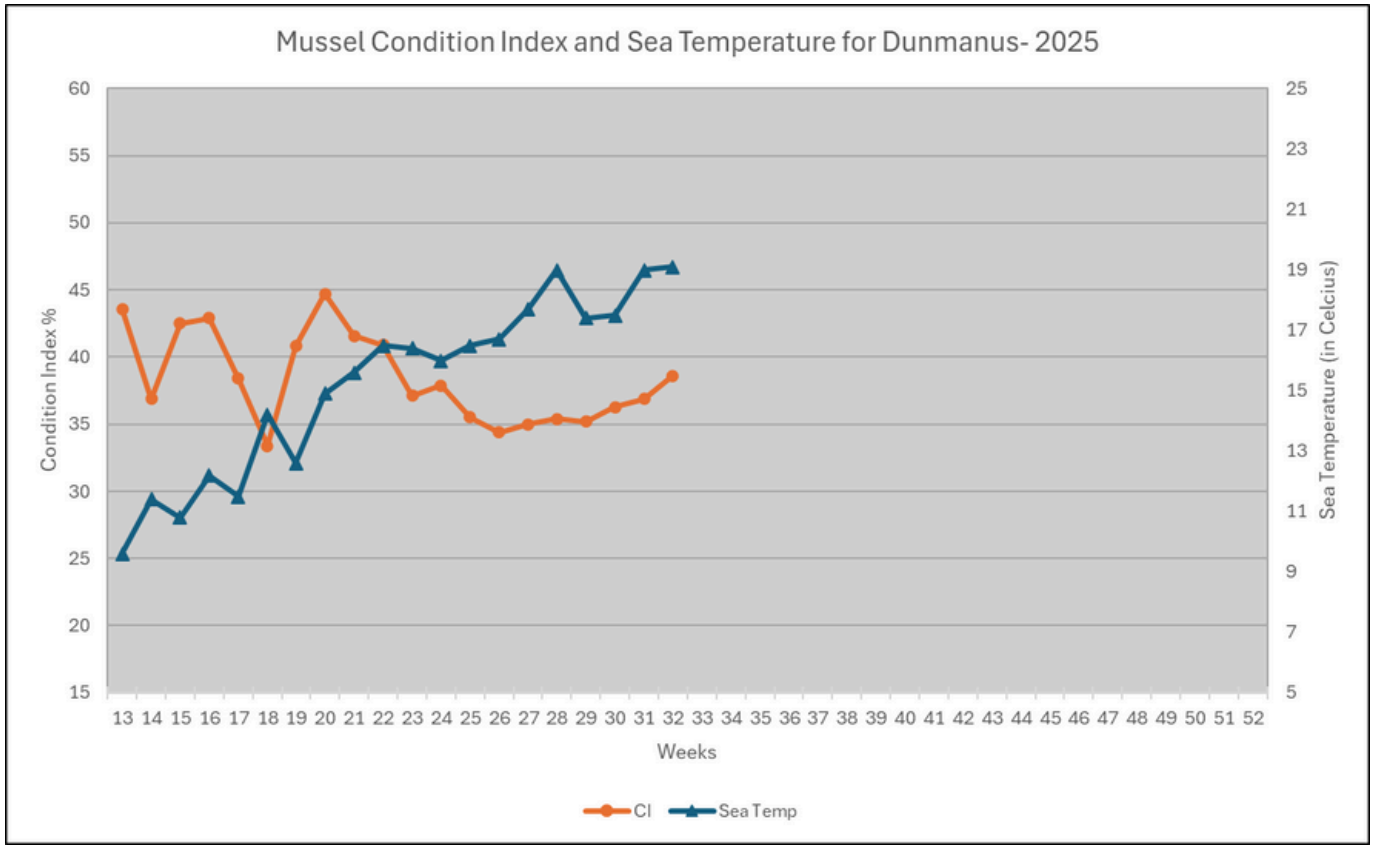
Dunmanus Bay

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

5th August 2025

Week 31 (28/07/2025 to 3/08/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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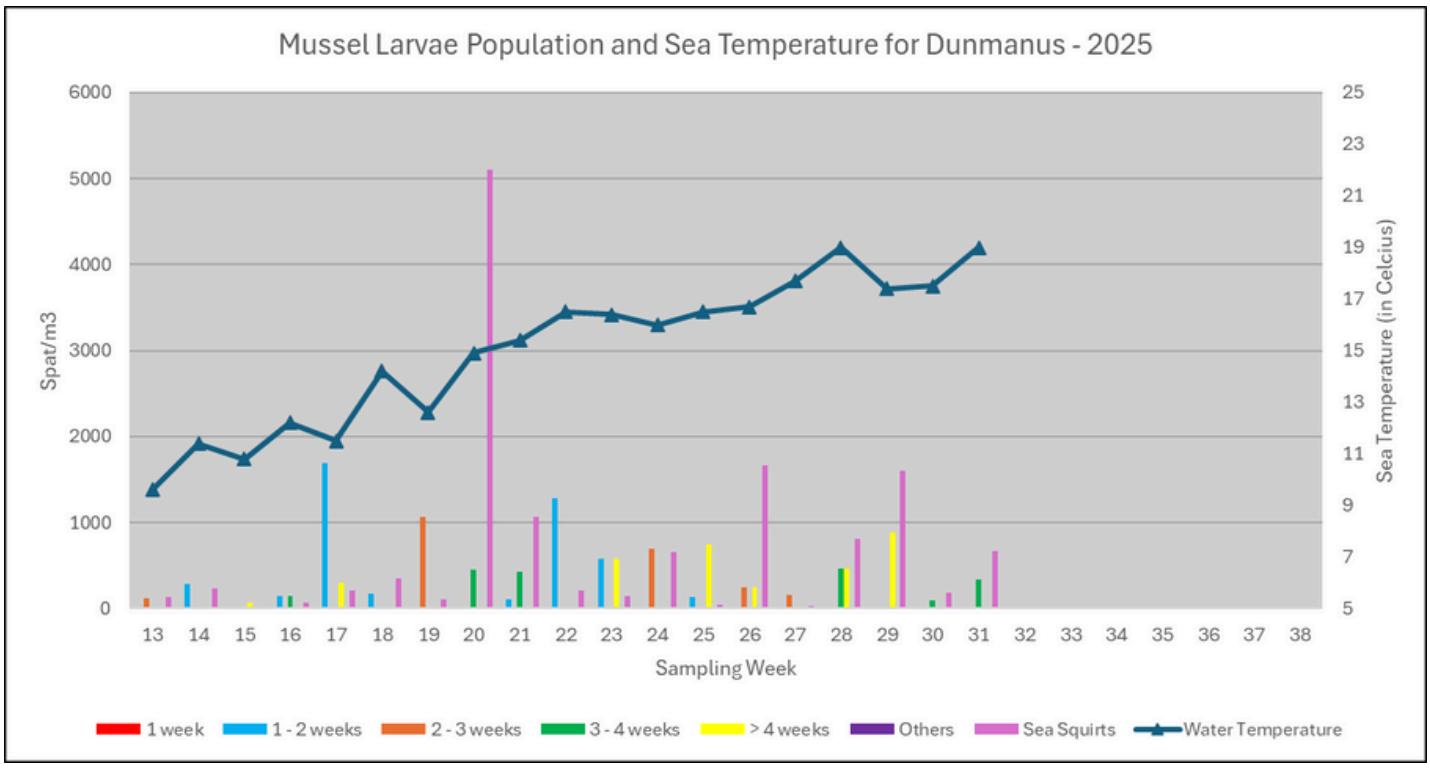
Larvae population evolution in Dunmanus Bay

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



Commentary

The Condition Index (CI) in Dunmanus is stable at 36.9% (+0.6% from the previous week). The sea temperature increased significantly at 19°C (+1.5°C from the previous week).

The larvae population decreased to 91 spat/m^3 composed of 3 to 5 weeks old larvae.

The concentration of sea squirt in the sample was 671 ind./m^3, which is an increase from the previous week (186 ind./m^3). The sample presented high concentrations of copepods and low levels of a second bivalve species, barnacles, tubeworm and crab. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was high, dominated by Ceratium and Chaetoceros sp. halochaete.

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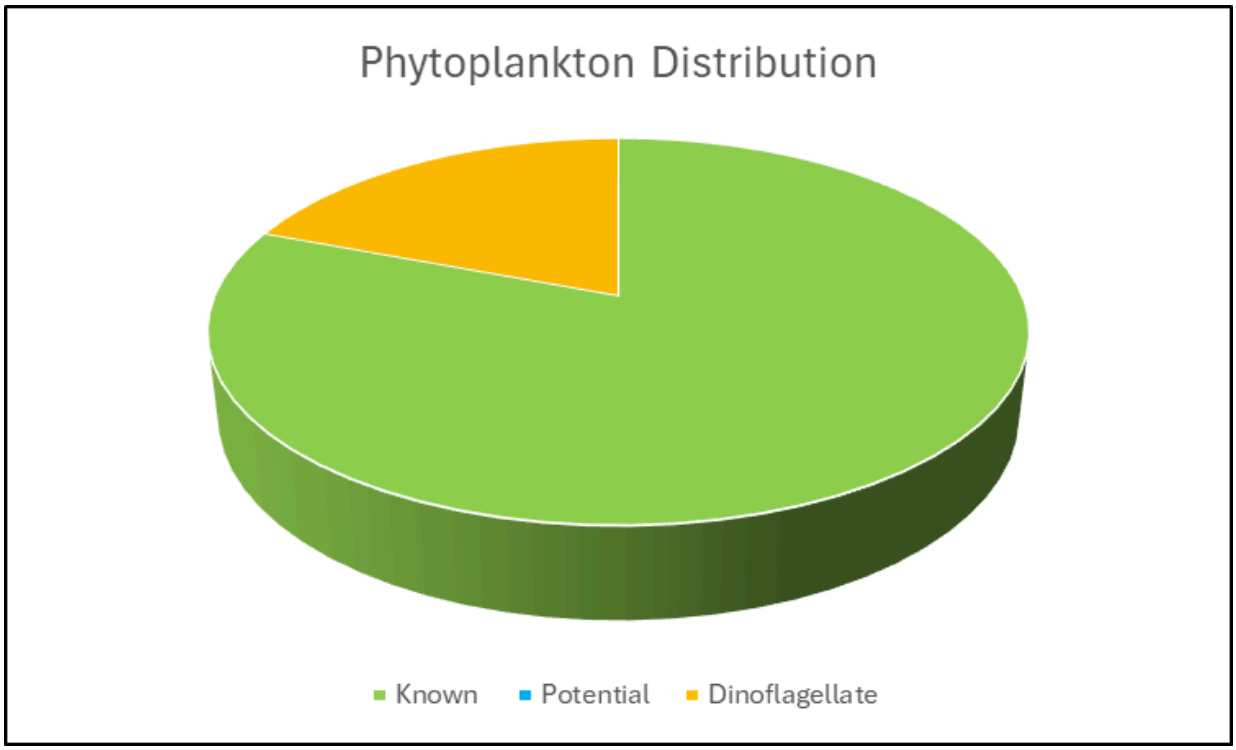

The phytoplankton concentration further increased in Week 31 to 108,760 cells/litre, dominated by known food source species (81%) followed by dinoflagellate (9%).

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