

Dunmanus Bay

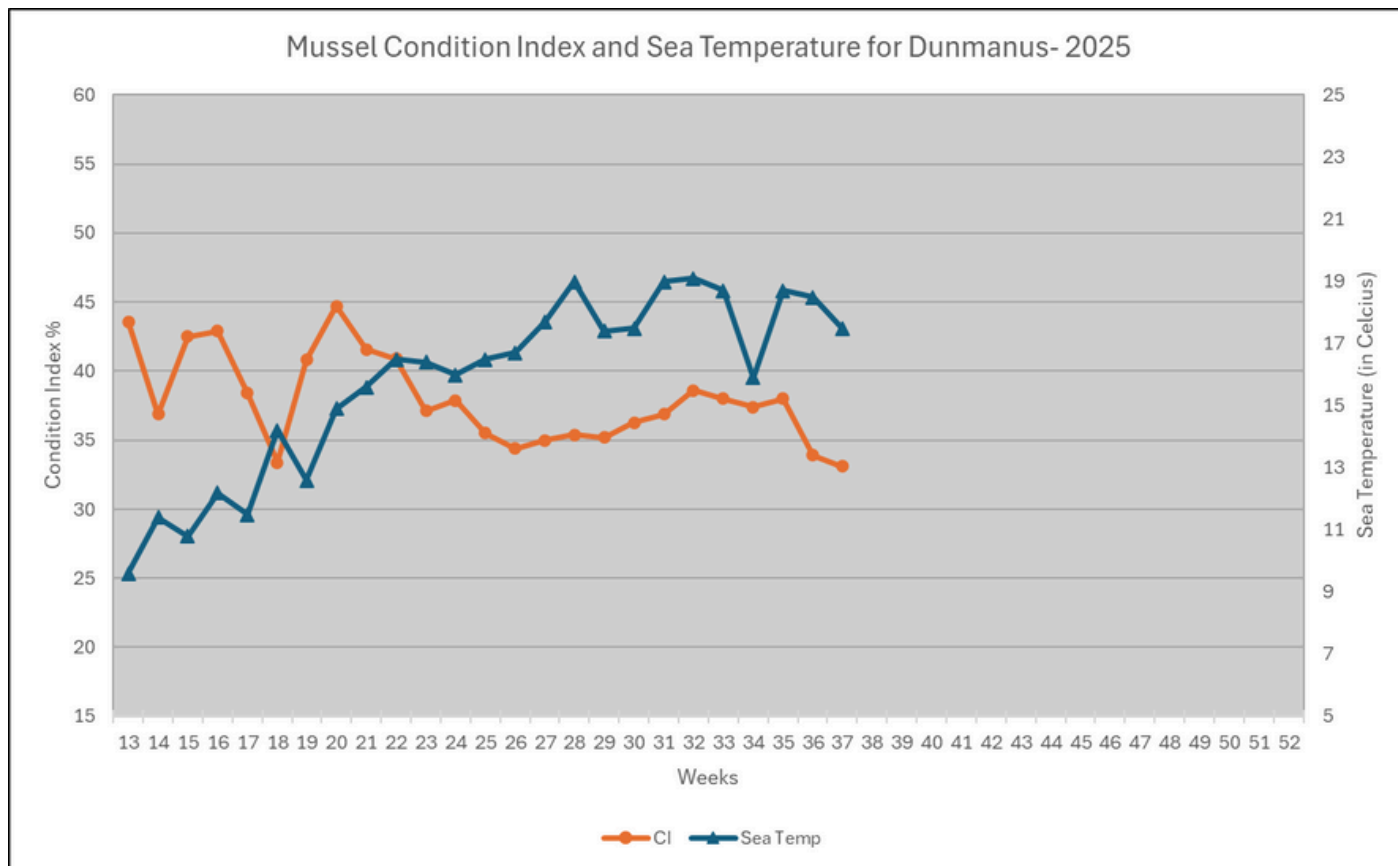
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

8th September 2025

Week 36 (1/09/2025 to 7/09/2025)

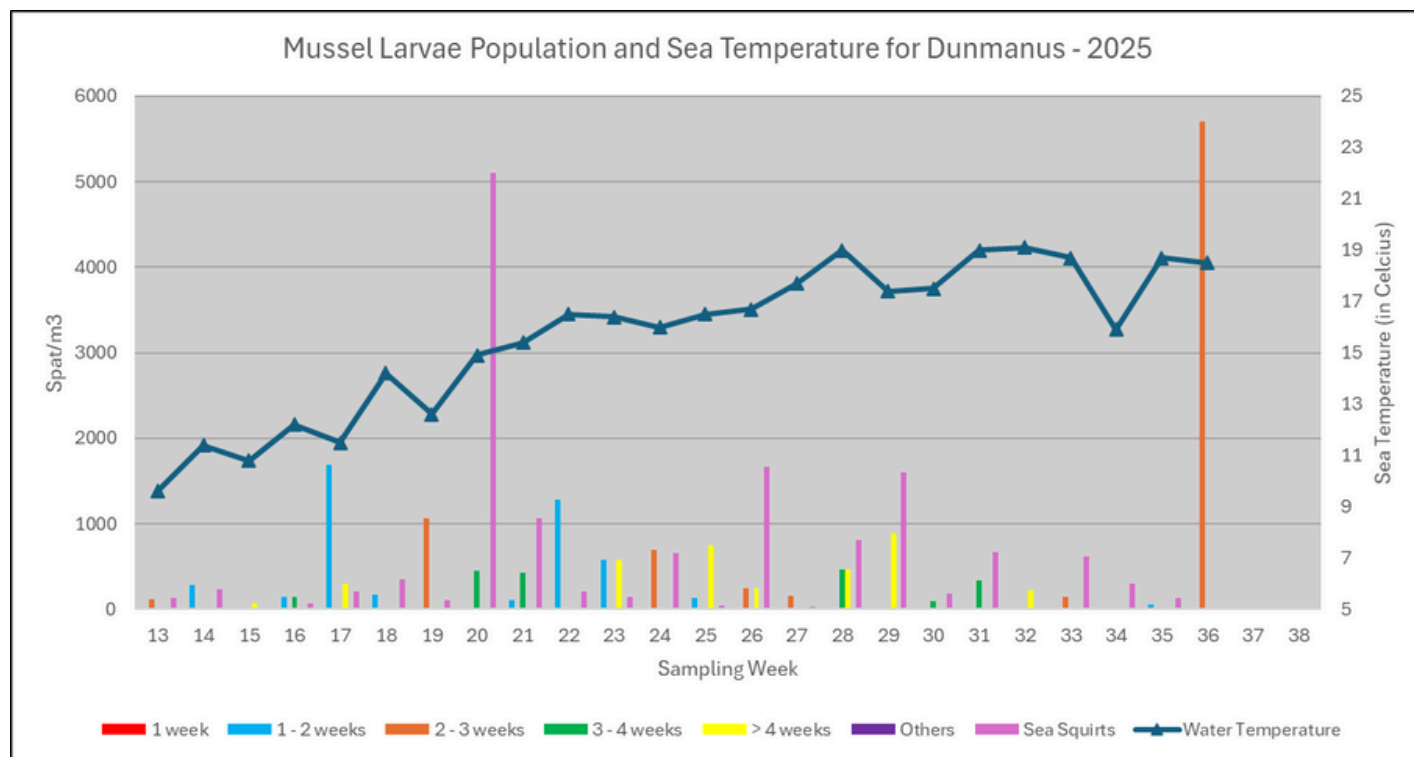


Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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



Commentary

The Condition Index (CI) in Dunmanus decreased significantly at 33.9 % (-4.1% from the previous week). The sea temperature decreased by 0.2°C at 18.5°C. **This sharp decrease of the CI could be related to a possible spawning event.**

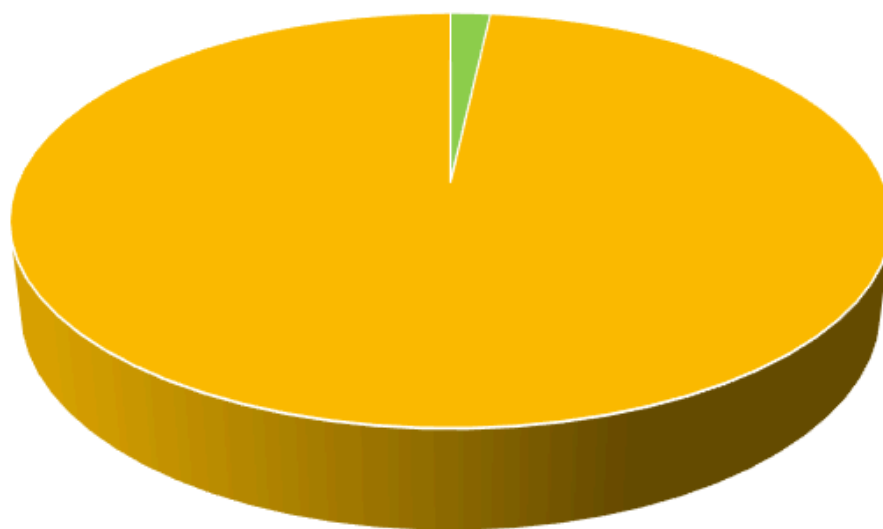
The larvae population for Week 36 was 5699 spat/m³ composed solely of 2 to 4 weeks old larvae. This is the highest larvae concentration observed so far for this station.

Those numbers indicate that a spawning event took place in the last few weeks. A second major settlement could be expected in the coming weeks.

No sea squirts were observed in the sample. The sample presented low levels of copepods and barnacles, while the zooplankton was dominated by crabs. Low to moderate concentrations of potential eggs and a second bivalve species were also observed in the sample. The phytoplankton biomass was low and dominated by Noctiluca and Ceratium. M. atlantica and Dinophysis tripos were also present in moderate concentrations.



Phytoplankton Distribution



■ Known ■ Potential ■ Dinoflagellate

The phytoplankton concentration significantly increased in Week 36 to 82,680 cells/litre, dominated by dinoflagellate (98%) followed by a small concentration of known food source species (2%).

