

# Kilmakilloge Harbour

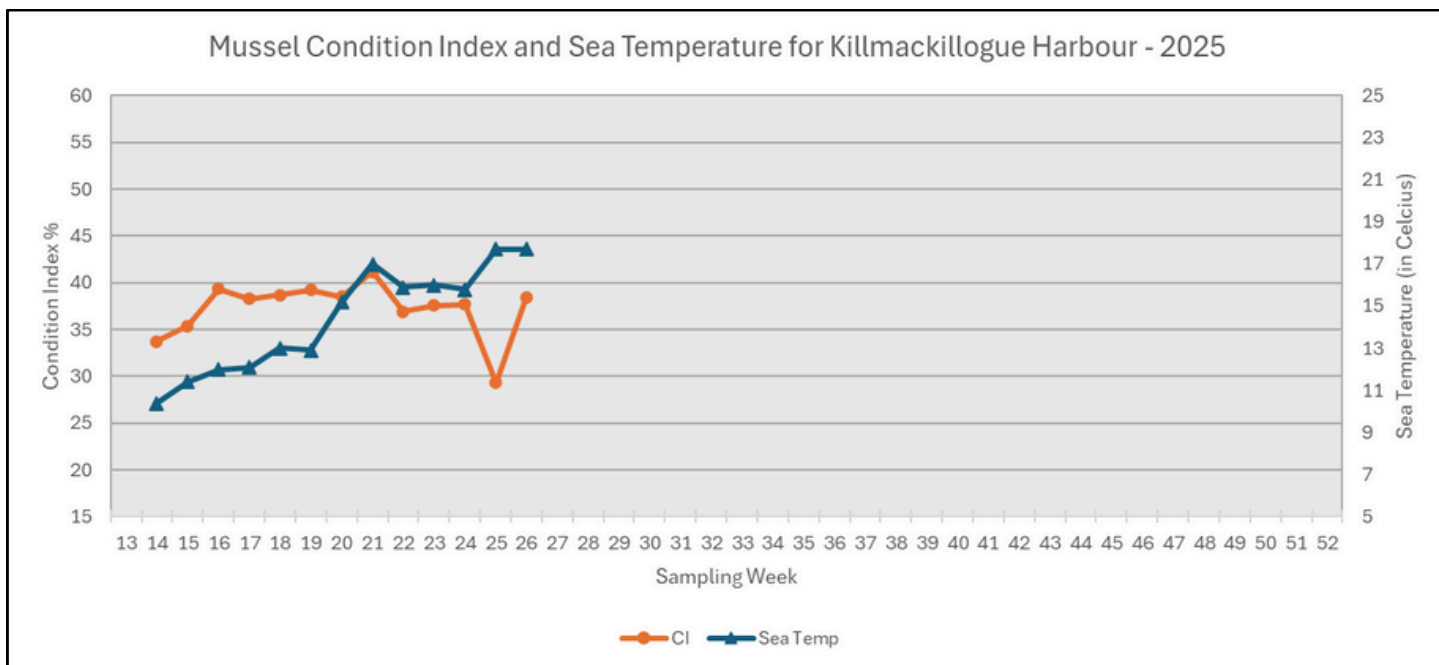
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Week 26 (23/06/2025 to 29/06/2025)

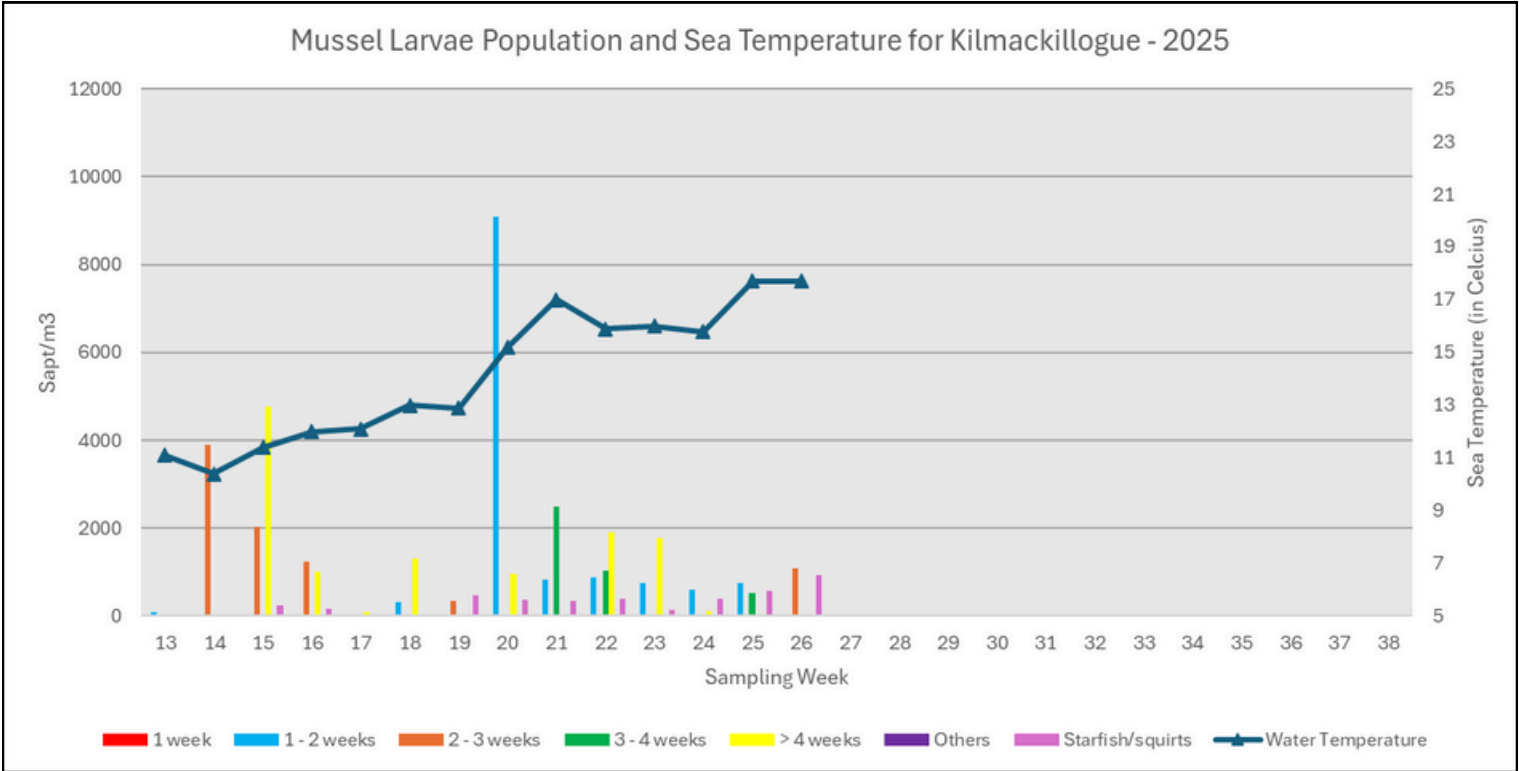


## Condition Index (CI) for Kilmakilloge Harbour



# Larvae population evolution for Kilmackilloge Harbour

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) increased sharply on Week 26 (up by 9.1% to 38.4%) while the sea temperature was stable at 17.7°C. The possible spawning observed in Week 25 did not translate in the results of the larvae sampling.

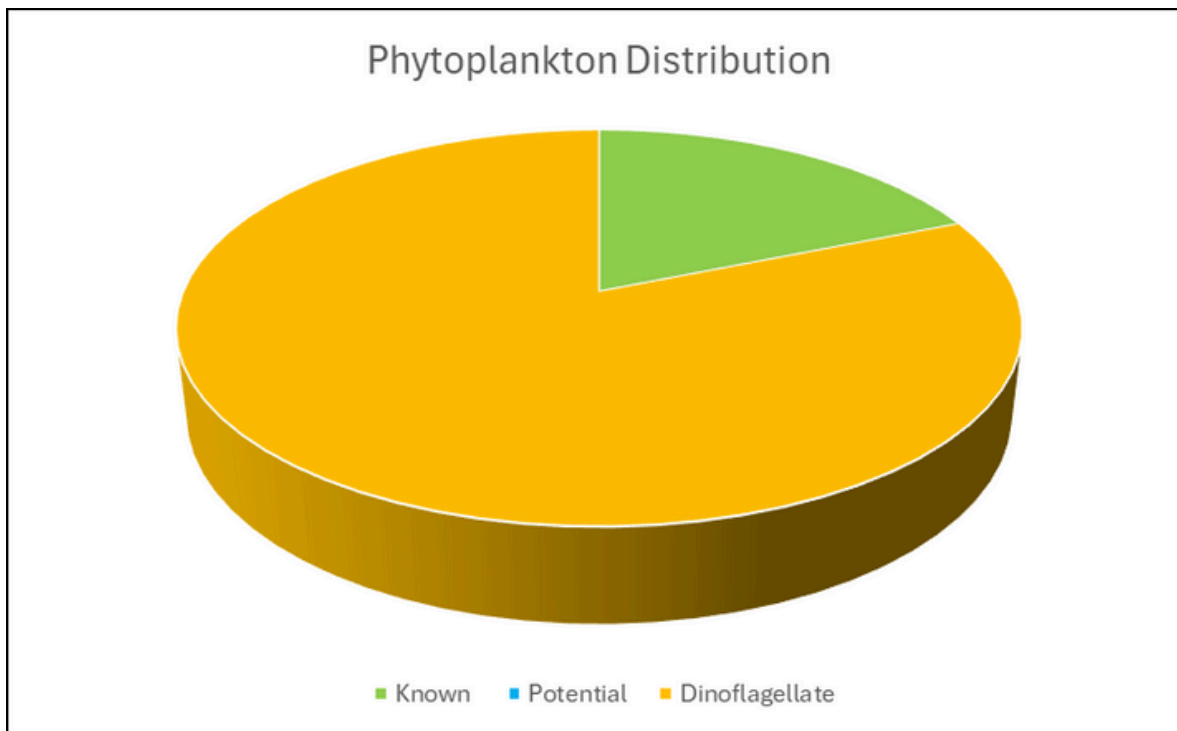
The larvae concentration in the sample was 1080 spat/m<sup>3</sup> composed of 2 to 4 weeks old larvae (slight decrease from the previous week).

**According to those results, further larvae settlement could be expected in the coming two weeks.**

The concentration of sea squirts increased to 935 ind./m<sup>3</sup>. The levels of copepods and barnacles were high while two other bivalve species were present at moderate levels. The phytoplankton biomass in the sample was high with Chaetoceros dominating.

**There is still a significant risk of fouling from sea squirts on collectors and growing ropes. However, the high concentration of copepods could mitigate those effects.**





The phytoplankton concentration increased significantly in Week 26 to 12,120 cells/litre, dominated by dinoflagellate (81%) with lower levels of known food source species (19%).

