

Ardgroom Harbour

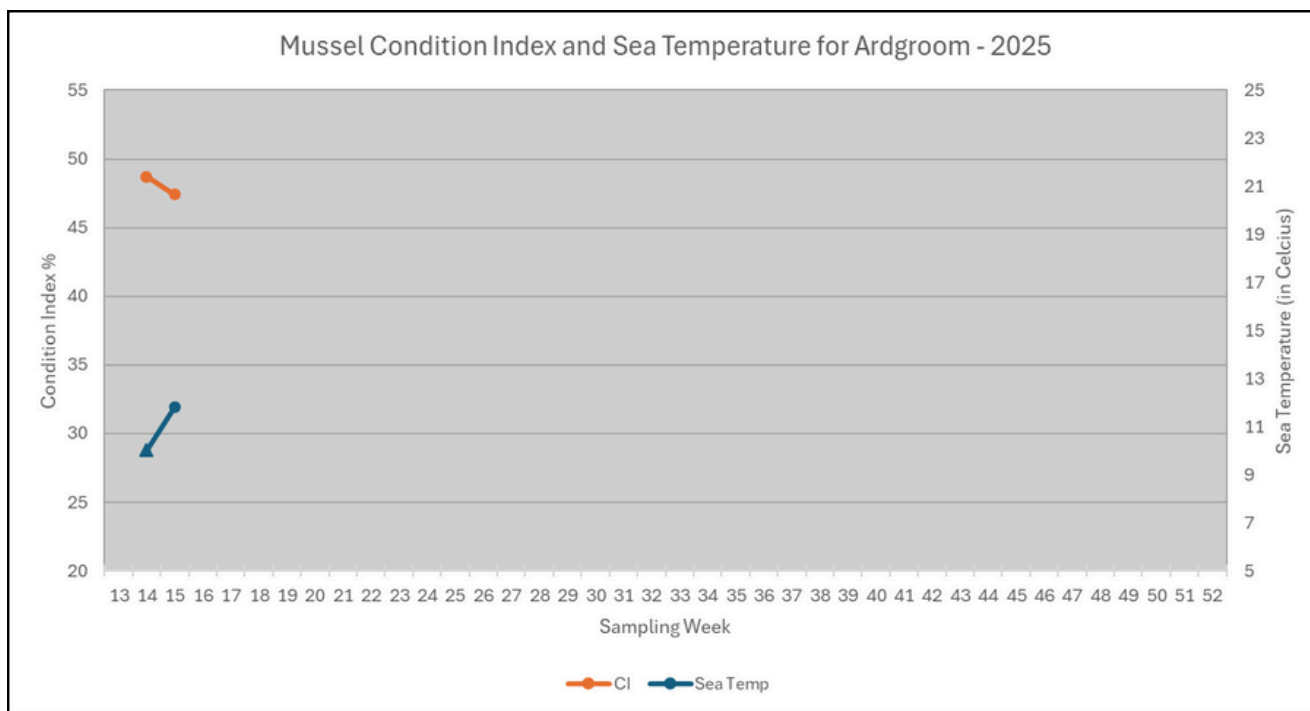
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

11th April 2025

Week 15 (07/04/2025 to
13/04/2025)

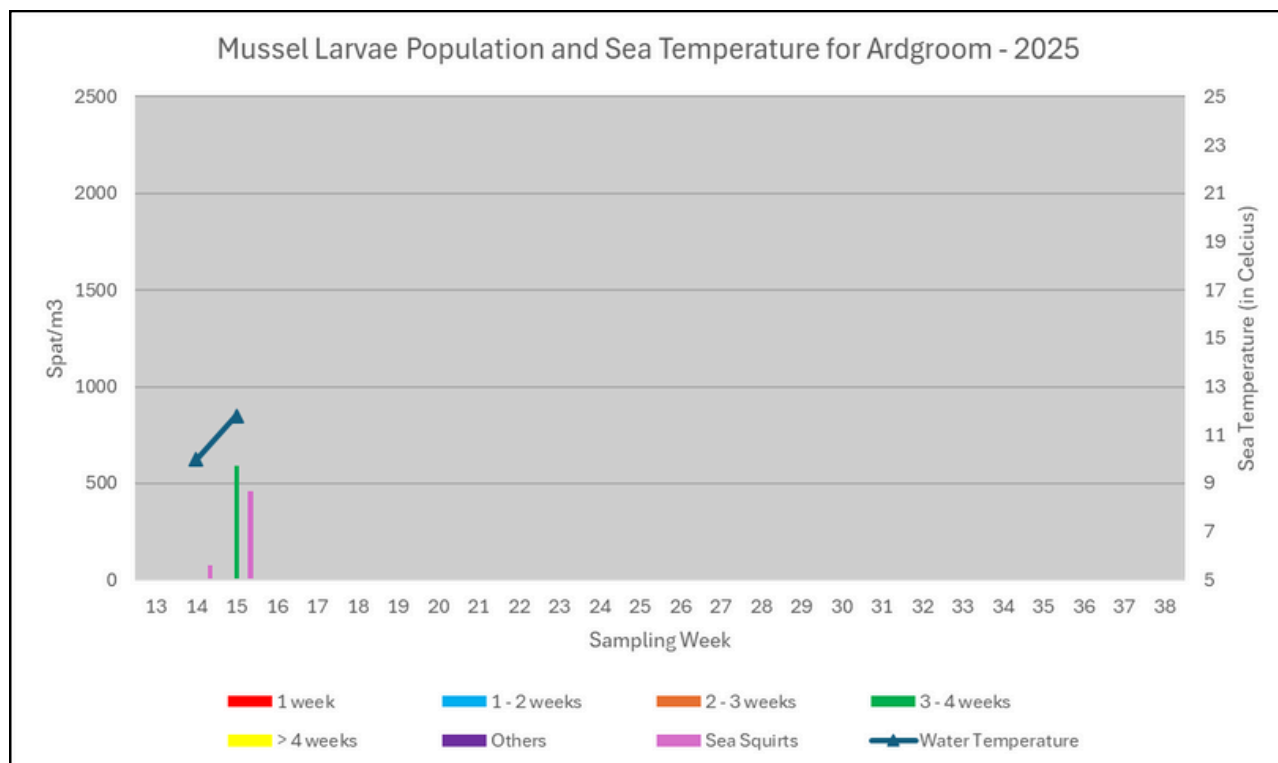


Condition Index (CI) for Ardgroom Harbour



Larvae population evolution for Ardgroom 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

There has been a slight drop in the Condition Index (-1.8% in comparison with last week) while the sea temperature is increasing significantly (+1.8°C). It would be interesting to see if a similar trend is appearing in the next coming week (possible spawning later than other sampling areas).

Some larvae were present in the sample for Ardgroom (**2 to 4 weeks old larvae at 589 spat /m³**). This could indicate that larvae have been present before last week despite no observation in the previous samples. **Considering those levels, it is possible that some settlement could happen in the next 2 to 3 weeks.**

A moderate level of sea squirt was observed in the sample (462 individuals/m³). Again, as other sampling sites, there is currently a high bloom of *Phaeocystis*. For other phytoplankton, high concentrations of *Chaetoceros* and *Pnseriata* were observed. Otherwise, there were low levels of sea matting and copepods.

Considering the levels of *Phaeocystis* across the sampling stations and the recent spawning, it would be advisable to limit stress levels on adult mussels.

Starting on Week 16, additional phytoplankton samples will also be collected (1 per bay). Results will also be communicated on the weekly bulletins.

