MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

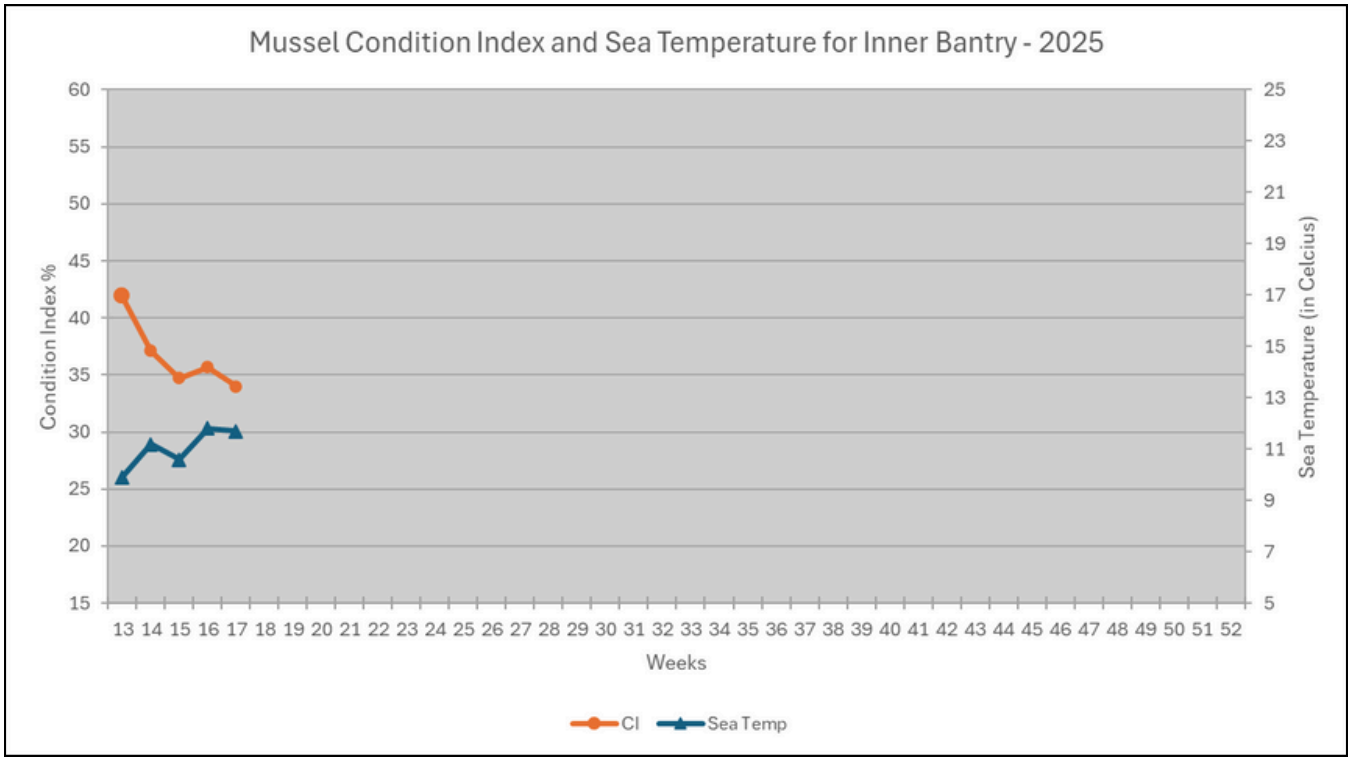
Bantry Bay (North South and NorthChapel)

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

28th April 2025

Week 17 (21/04/2025 to 27/04/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



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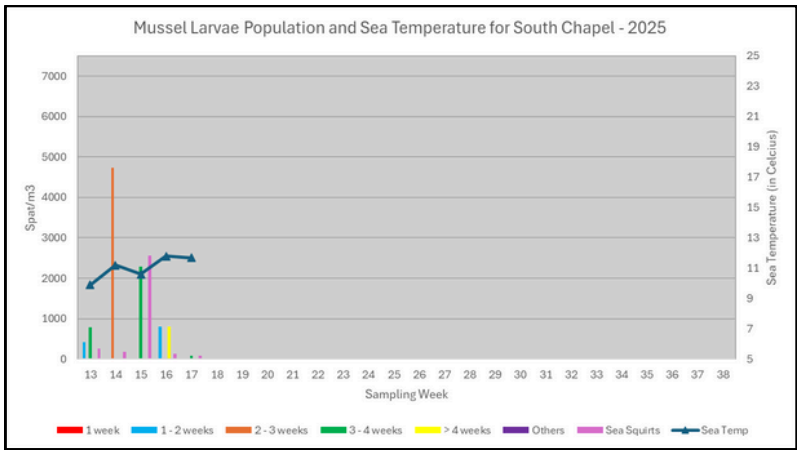
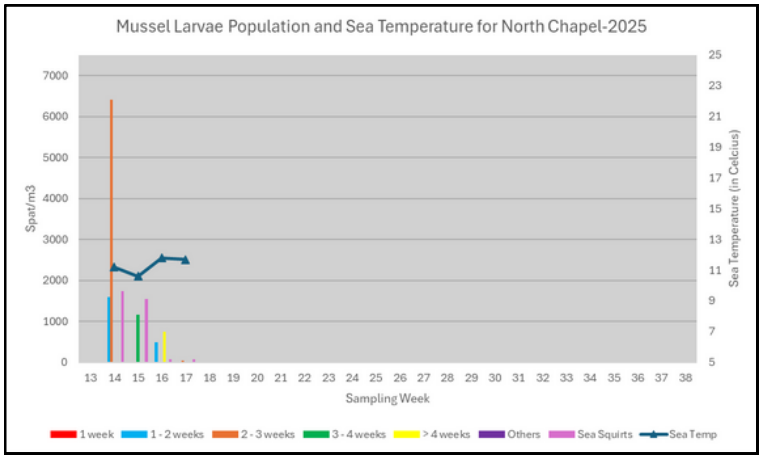
Larvae population evolution for Bantry (South and North Chapel)

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 Bantry decreased by 1.7 % in Week 17 (from 35.7% to 34%), potentially indicating further spawning according to the trend shown on the graph. The sea temperature is down by 0.1°c (from 11.8°c to 11.7 °c) from last week.

Larvae Population:

- South Chapel: low numbers of larvae were observed in the sample (80 spat/m^3 of 2 to 4 weeks old).
- North Chapel: as per South Chapel, the sample indicated very low numbers of larvae (40 spat/m^3 of 1 to 3 weeks old larvae)

Those low numbers could confirm the potential settlement mentioned in last week bulletin.

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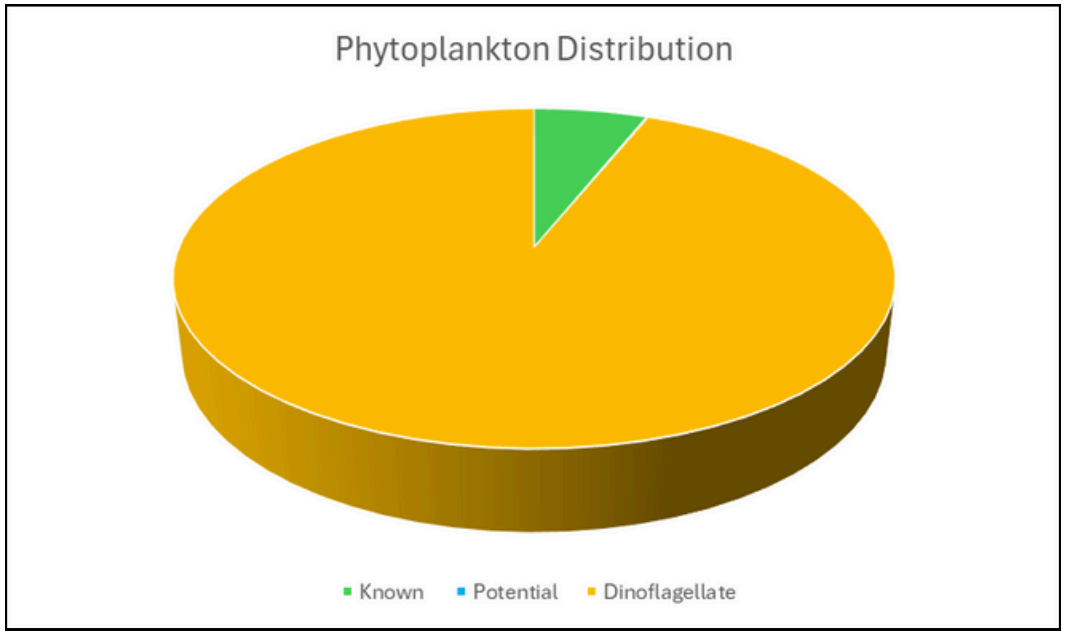
Sample details:

- South Chapel: The concentration of sea squirt has decrease to 80 individual/ m^3. The level of copepods was low. Ceratium fusus was in low concentration.

- North Chapel: Again, the sea squirt level has decreased from the previous week to 82 individual/ m^3. While crab larvae and copepods were in moderate numbers. Ceratium fusus was in low to moderate concentration in the sample.

The phytoplankton level in Bantry has slightly increased from the previous week (up to 84,720 cells/litre) dominated by Dinoflagellate. Low level of known suitable food was also found (see graph below).



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