

Beara Sound

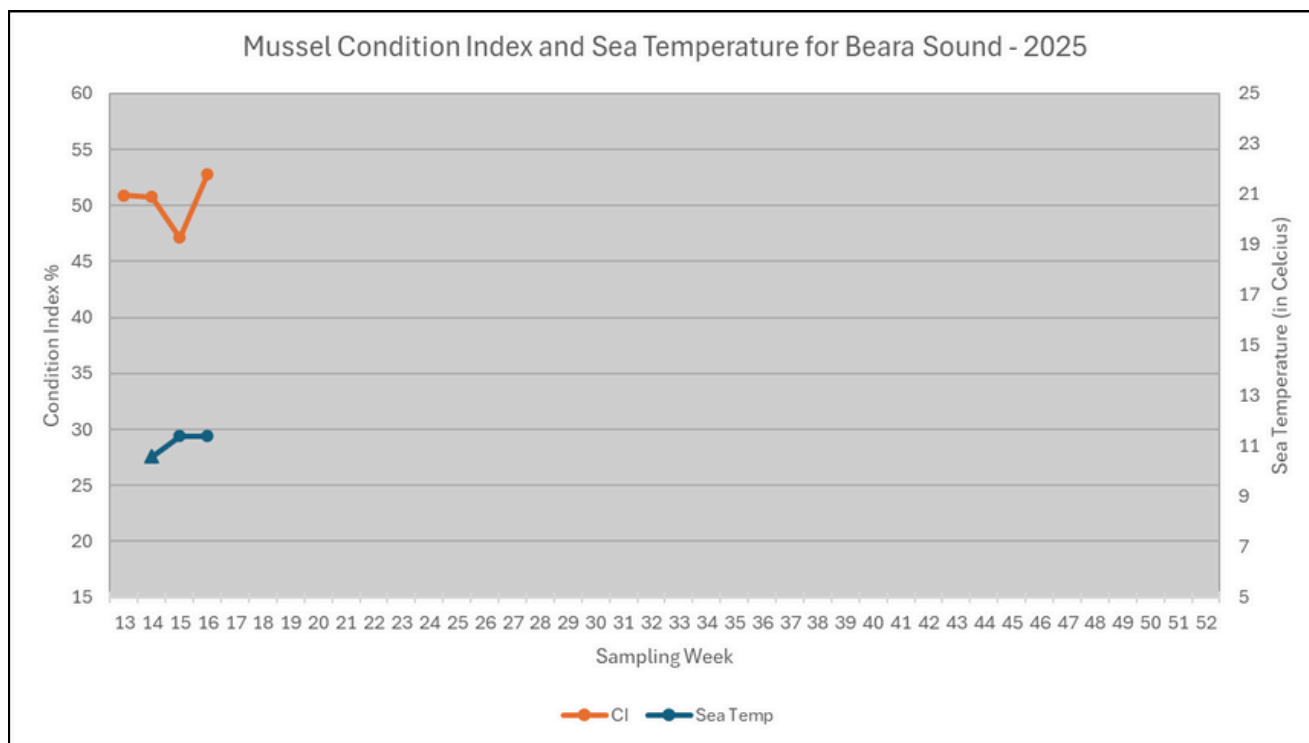
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

17th April 2025

Week 16 (14/04/2025 to
20/04/2025)

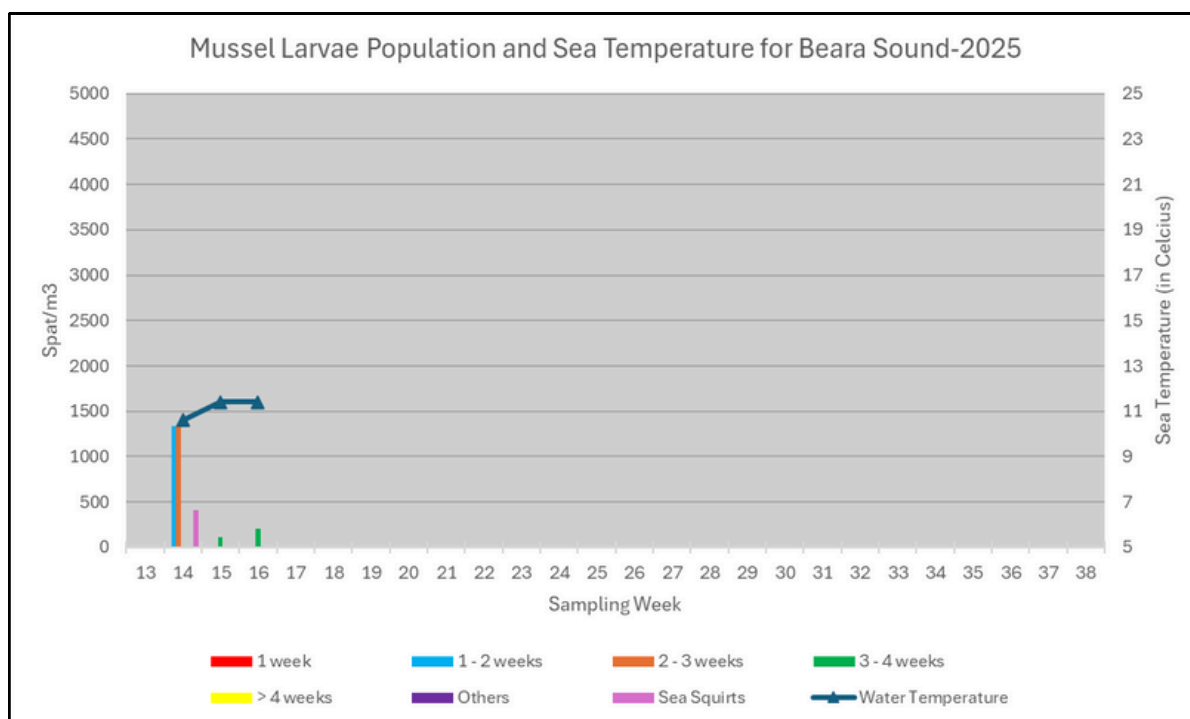


Condition Index (CI) for Beara Sound



Larvae population evolution for Beara Sound

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 mussel Condition Index (CI) has increased by 5.7% from Week 15, which could indicate some levels of reconditioning following potential spawning in the previous week. The sea temperature is steady at 11.4°C.

The sample presented a slight increase of the larvae concentration from Week 15, with 203 spat/m³ of 2 to 4 weeks old.

Phaeocystis remains dominant in the sample, presenting a high bloom level. Copepods concentration was also high, while barnacles and crabs levels were moderate. A second species bivalve was also present in the sample but at a low level.

The phytoplankton concentration was at 286,640 cells per litre.

Although no trend is appearing on the graph, it is worth considering the age of the larvae from the sample (2 to 4 weeks old). **It is possible that some levels of primary settlement could occurred in the next 2 weeks.**

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

