

Beara Sound

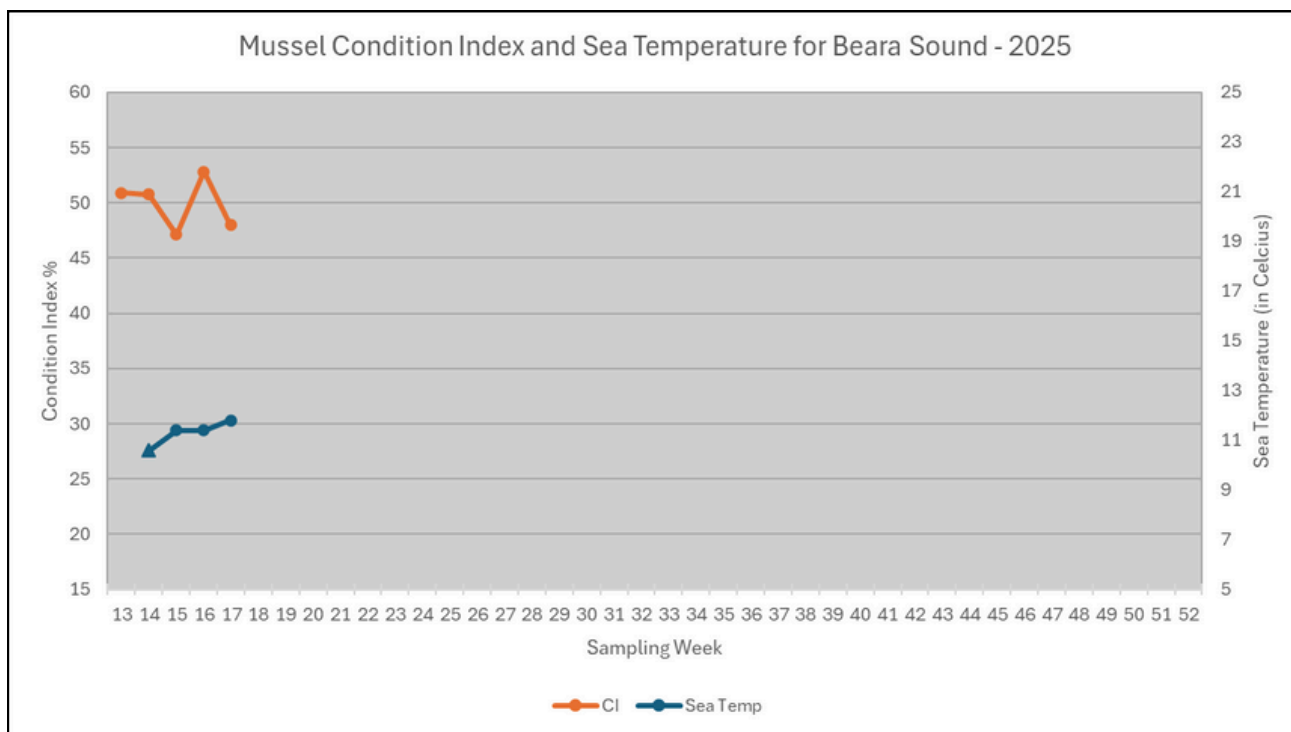
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

28th April 2025

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

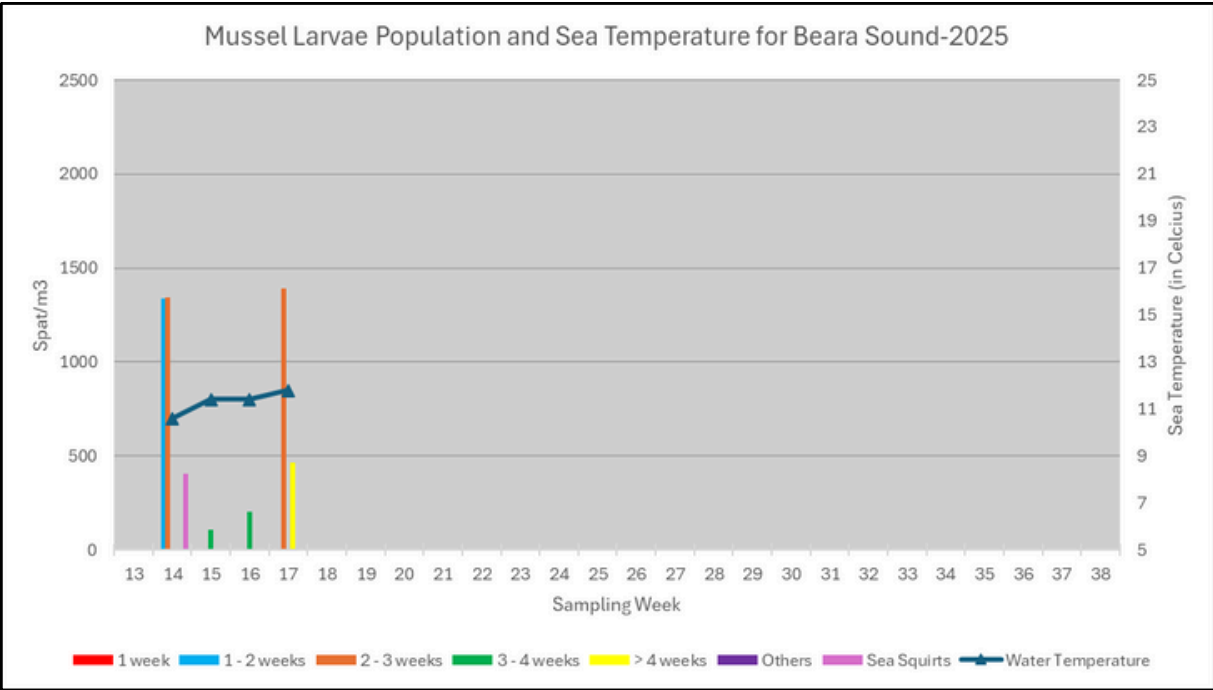


Condition Index (CI) for Beara Sound



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



Commentary

The mussel Condition Index (CI) has decreased by 4.83% from Week 16 at 48%. This variation is unlikely due to trickle spawning, but probably due to the type of mussel sampled. The sea temperature only increased by 0.4 to 11.8°C.

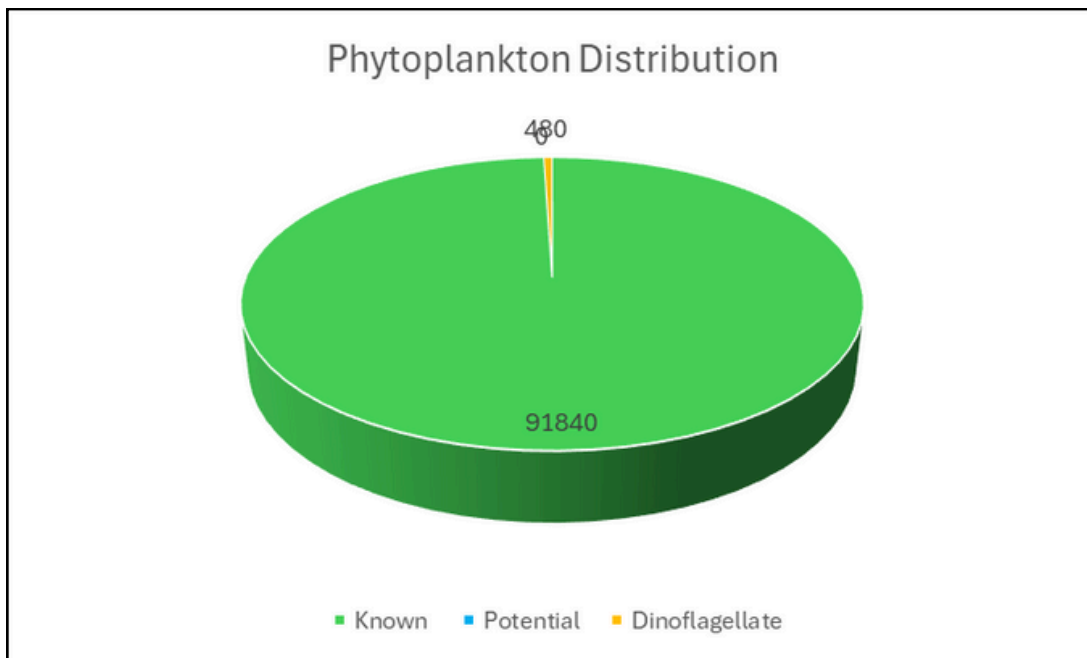
The sample presented a significant increase in larvae (1857 spat/m³), composed mainly of 1 to 3 weeks old (1393 spat/m³) and some 4 to 5 weeks old (464 spat/m³).

No sea squirt was observed in the sample. Copepods were in moderate to low concentrations. Phaeocystis level remains very high.

According to the sample analysis, there is a high potential for settlement 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.





The phytoplankton concentration was lower than the previous week (down to 92,320 cells/litre). Outside of the high level of *Phaeocystis*, the plankton sample presented mainly known suitable food for larvae.

