

Kilmackilloge Harbour

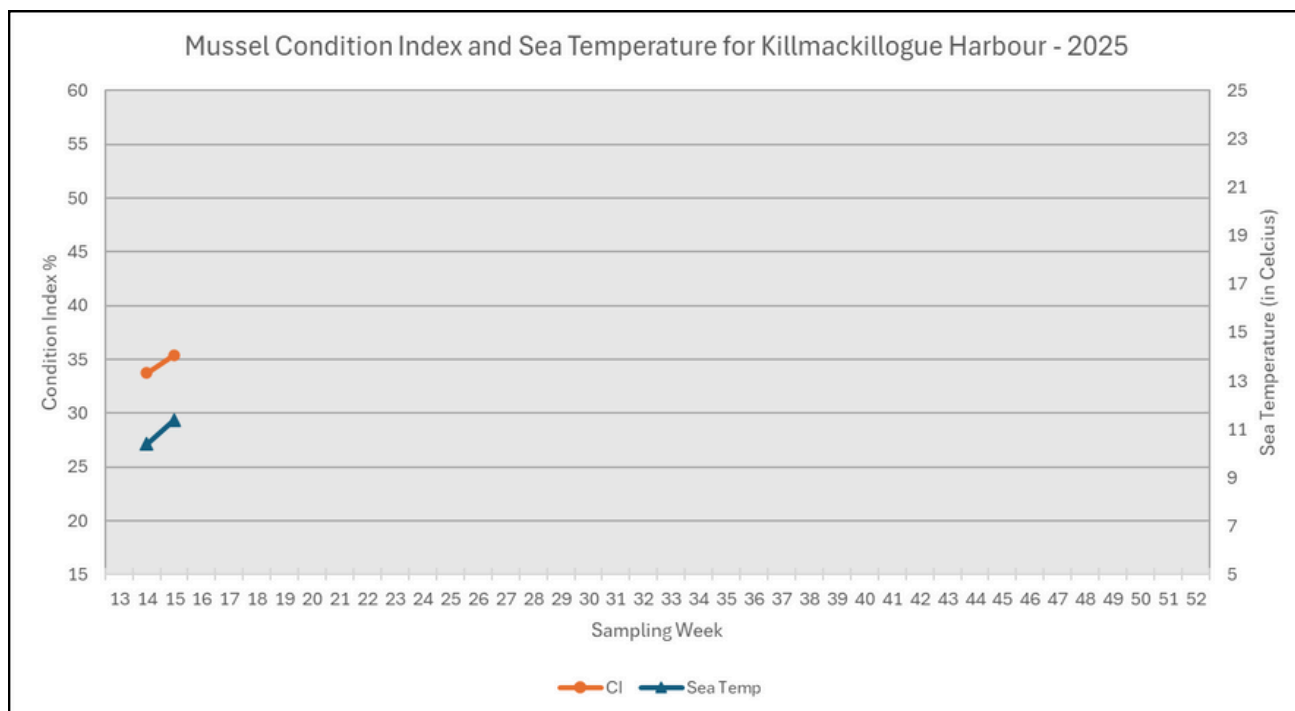
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

11th April 2025

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

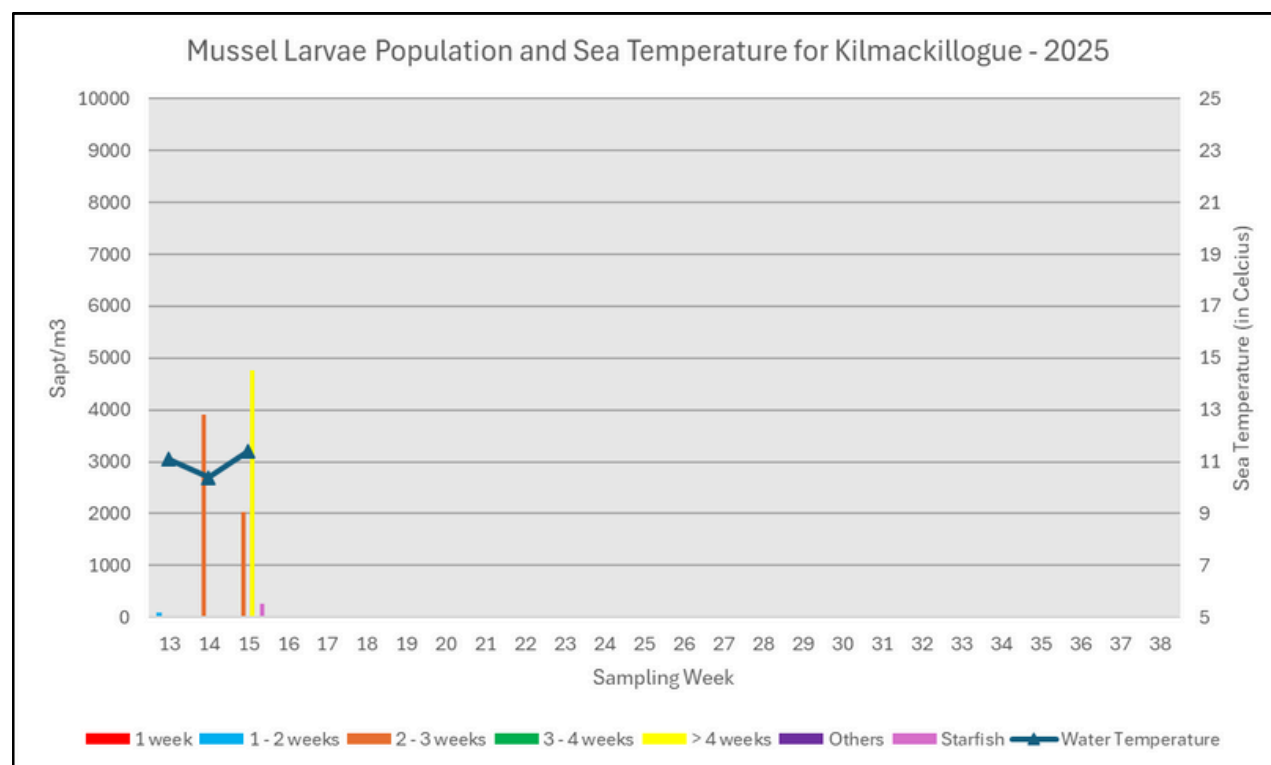


Condition Index (CI) for Kilmackilloge Harbour



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



Commentary

Mussels appear to be reconditioning as the Condition Index (CI) increased between Week 14 and Week 15 (from 33.74% to 35.4%). This can indicate that the mussels had already spawned earlier in March. The sea temperature is also significantly increasing: from 10.4°C to 11.4°C.

The larvae sample presented **high levels 2 to 3 weeks old (2038 spat/m³) and 4 weeks (and older) mussel larvae (4756 spat /m³)**. The concentration of those 4 weeks old larvae could be related to the 2 to 3 weeks old population observed in Week 14. Some sea squirts were also observed in the sample (253 individuals/m³). As for other locations, a dense *Phaeocystis* bloom was observed, as well as a high concentration of *Pseudonitzschia*. Barnacles were also in high concentration, but sea matting was observed in small quantity. No starfish were observed.

A potential settlement could be expected in the next 2 weeks in Kilmackilloge.

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.

