

Ardgroom Harbour

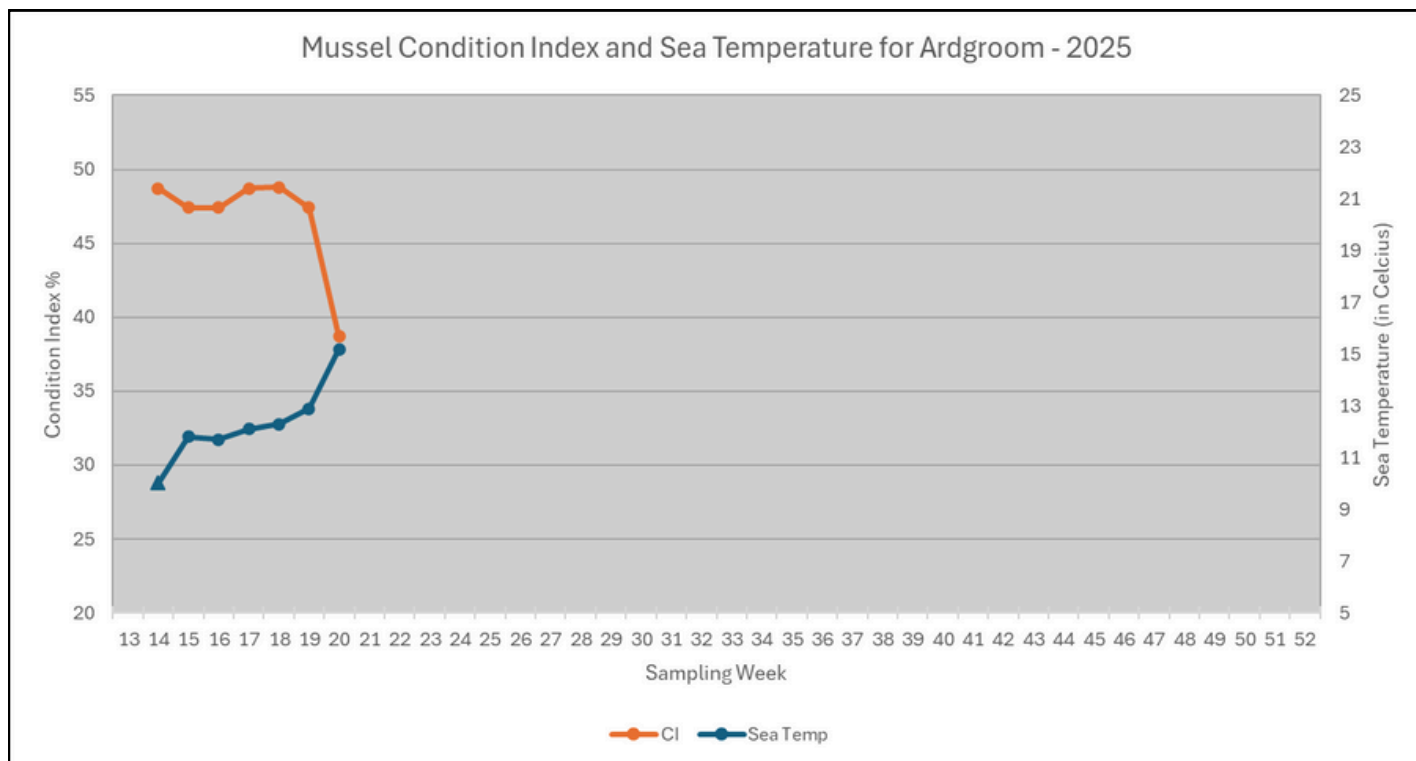
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

19th May 2025

Week 20 (12/05/2025 to
18/05/2025)

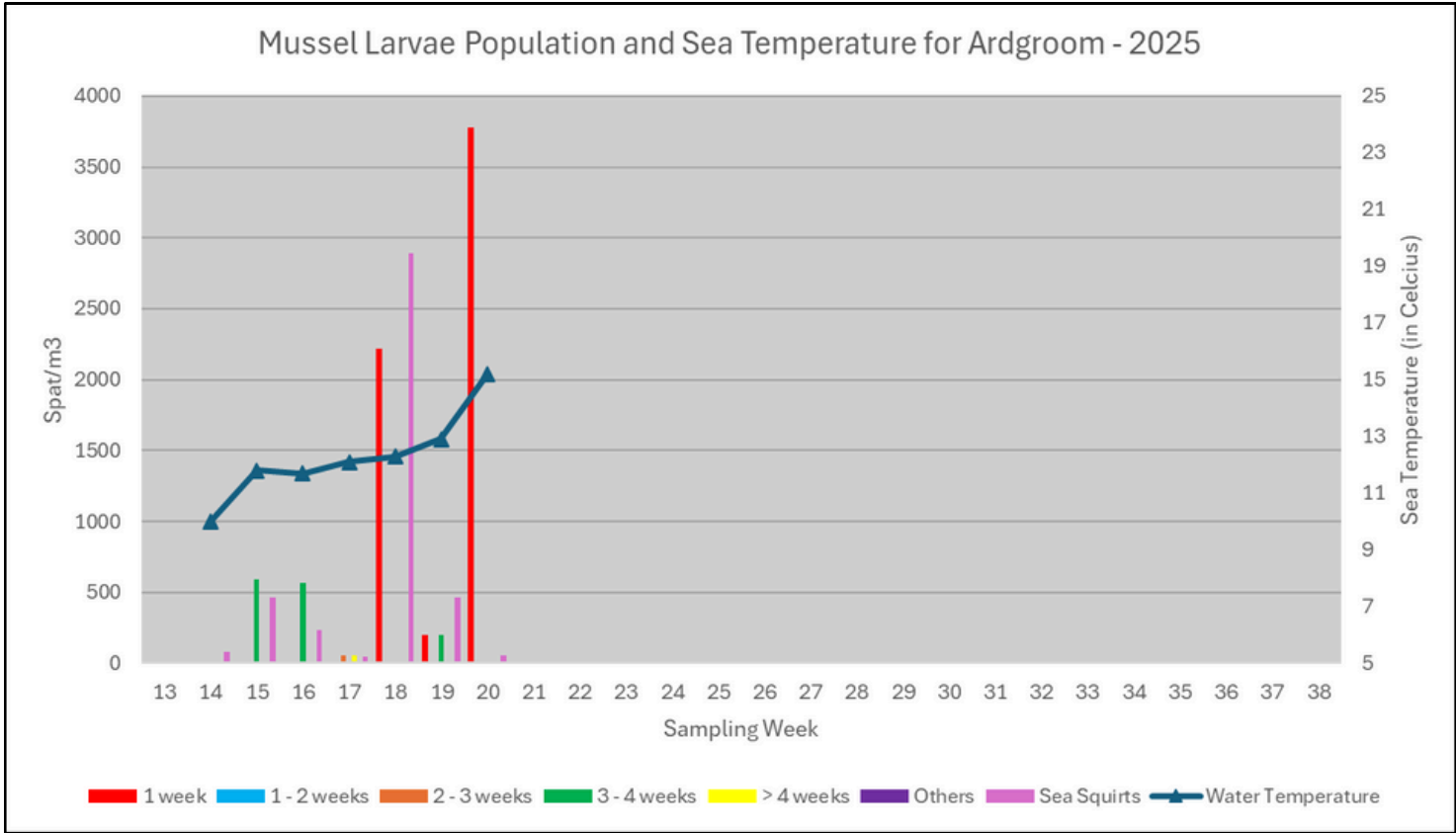


Condition Index (CI) for Ardgroom Harbour



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).



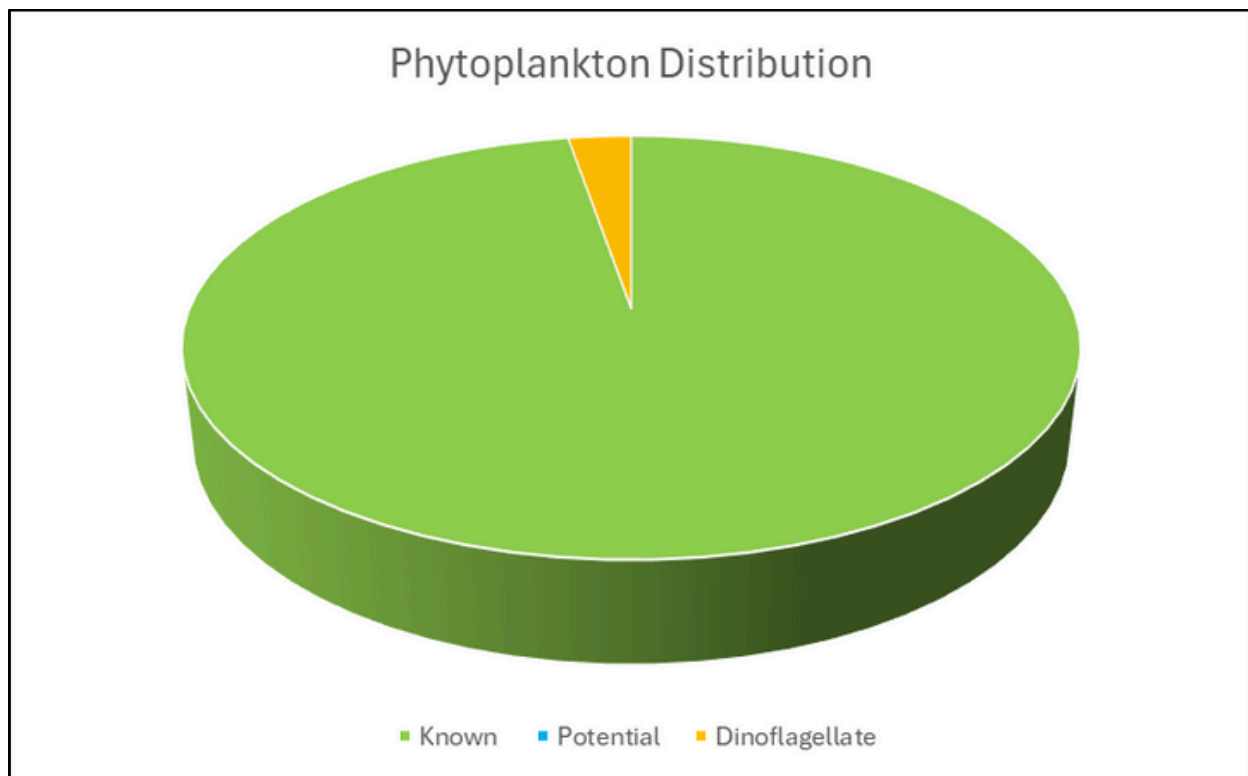
Commentary

The Condition Index (CI) in Ardgroom decreased significantly on Week 20 to 38.7% (- 8.7% from the previous week). Sea temperature increased by 2.3°C to 15.2°C (based on Kilmackilloge readings). **This sharp decrease in the CI likely indicates a major spawning event possibly triggered by that 2°C increase in the sea temperature.**

The concentration of larvae increased to **3774 spat/m³ composed solely of 1 week old larvae** (maybe related to the spawning event).

The level of sea squirt was low at 54 ind./m³. Potential eggs were present at a moderate level (possibly also related to the spawning event). A very low level of copepod was present in the sample. *Leptocylindrus minimus* was the dominant phytoplankton species while *Pseudo-nitzschia seriata* , *Rhizosolenia* were in moderate concentration.





The phytoplankton concentration increased from the previous week to 47,360 cells/ litre dominated by known food species (97%) followed by dinoflagellate (3%).

The sample labelled Ardgroom outer presented a moderate concentration of approximately 1 week old larvae (1488 spat/m³). **The sample also presented a very high level of sea squirt (2015 ind./m³).** A small 2nd bivalve species was observed in a moderate concentration while starfish, crab and copepods larvae were at low levels. The phytoplankton observed in the sample indicated low concentrations of Rhizosolenia, Ceratulina and Pseudo-nitzschia seriata.

