

Ardgroom Harbour

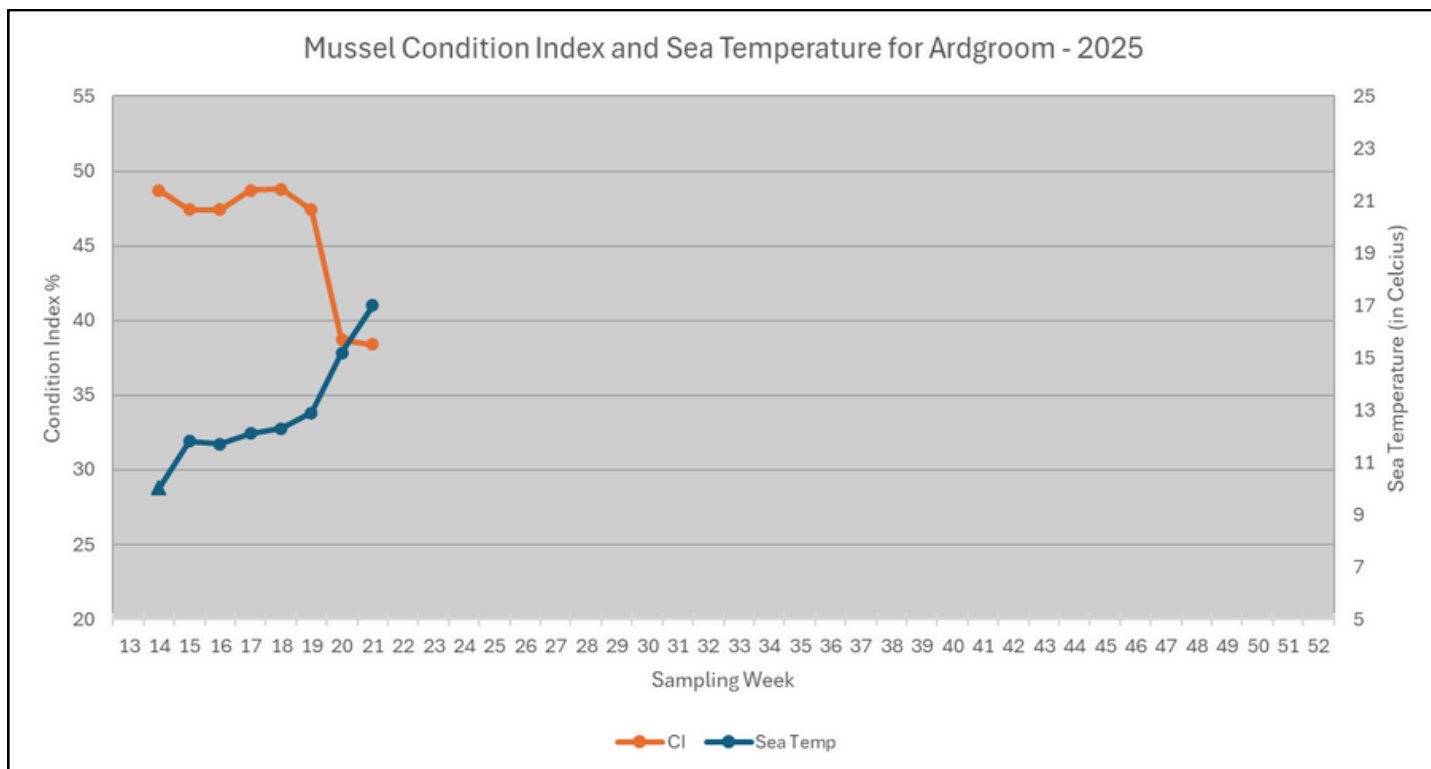
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

26th May 2025

Week 21 (19/05/2025 to
25/05/2025)

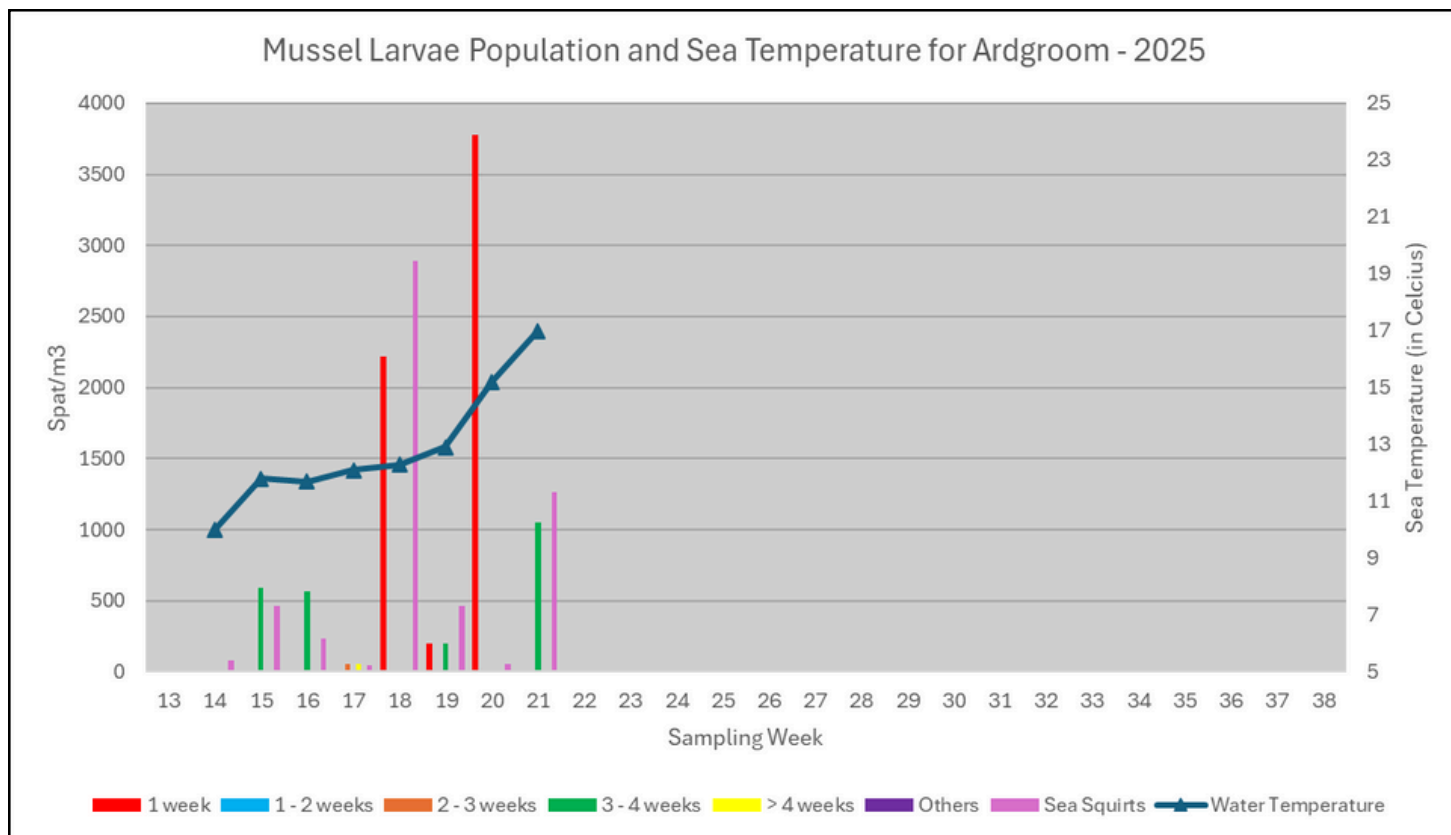


Condition Index (CI) for Ardgroom Harbour



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

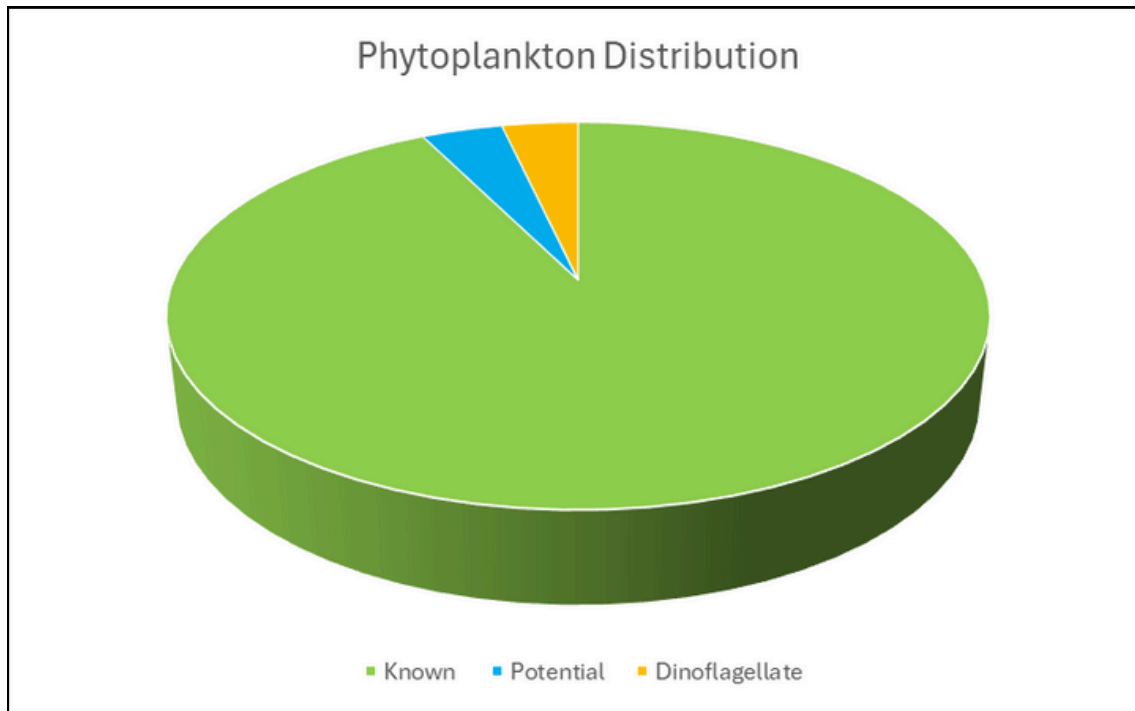
The Condition Index (CI) in Ardgroom is stable at 38.4% (- 0.3% from the previous week). Sea temperature increased by 1.8°C to 17°C (based on Kilmackilloge readings).

The concentration of larvae decreased to 1052 spat/m³ composed solely of 2 to 4 week old larvae. This steep decrease from last week could be explained by either major larvae mortality or that the larvae were located in another part of the harbour at the time of the sampling.

The level of sea squirt has significantly increase from last week at 1261 ind./m³. Copepods, starfish, urchin, medusa and crab were in moderate concentrations while sea matting presented a low level. The sample presented a high level of phytoplankton with the *Pseudo Nitzschia seriata* group and *Rhizosolenia* being the dominant species.

This high level of sea squirt larvae could have a significant impact on the fouling of the collector ropes.





The phytoplankton concentration slightly decreased from the previous week to 35,760 cells/ litre dominated by known food species (92%) followed by dinoflagellate and potential food source species (4% each).

The sample labelled Pulleen presented a moderate concentration of approximately 3 to 5 weeks old larvae (887 spat/m³). Sea squirts were observed in moderate concentration (704 ind./m³). Low levels of copepods, starfish, tubeworm and crab were observed in the sample. The sample also presented a high level of phytoplankton with the *Pseudo Nitzschia seriata* group and *Rhizosolenia* being the dominant species.

