MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

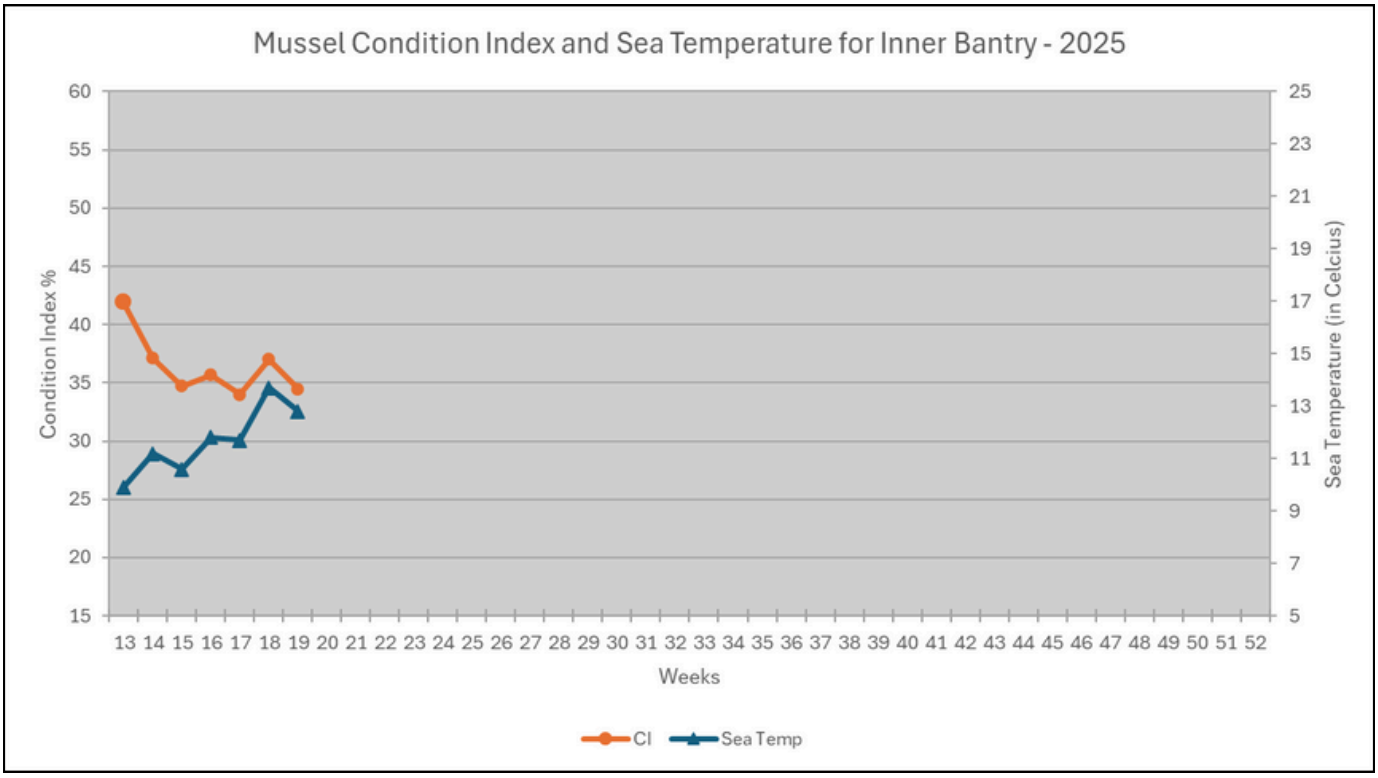
Bantry Bay (North South and NorthChapel)

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

12th May 2025

Week 19 (05/05/2025 to 11/05/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



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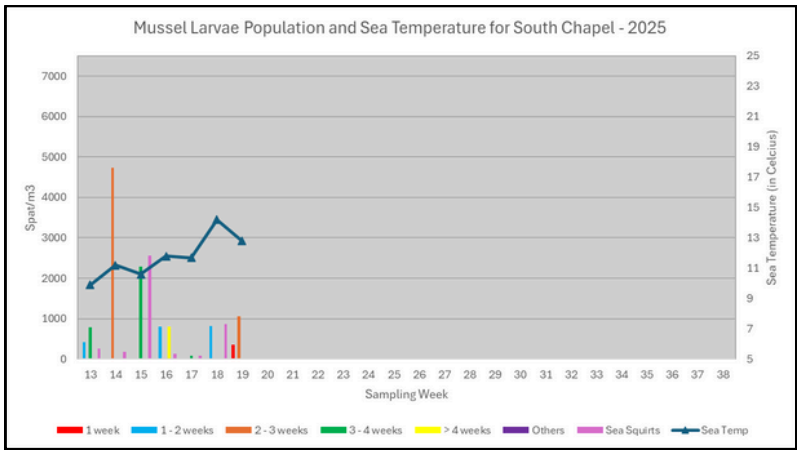
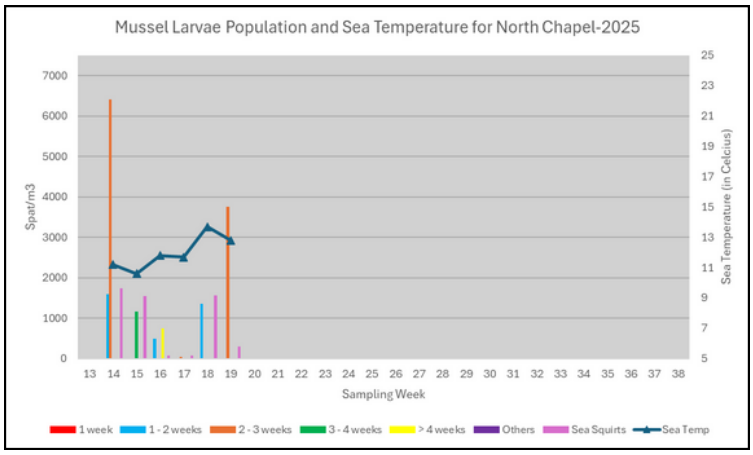
Larvae population evolution for Bantry (South and North Chapel)

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 Condition Index (CI) in Bantry decreased by 2.5 % in Week 19 (from 37% to 34.5%). The sea temperature decreased a little bit from last week to 12.8°c (-0.9°c from Week 18).

Larvae Population:

- South Chapel: A significant quantity of larvae was observed in the sample (1421 spat/m^3), divided between 1 week old (355 spat/m^3) and 2 to 3 weeks old (1066 spat/m^3).

- North Chapel: A more significant increase in the larvae population was observed at the North Chapel Station: **3752 spat/m^3 of 2 to 3 weeks old**.

A potential settlement could be expected for both sites in the next 2 to 3 weeks. However, those larvae were not observed in previous samples and may be moving away.

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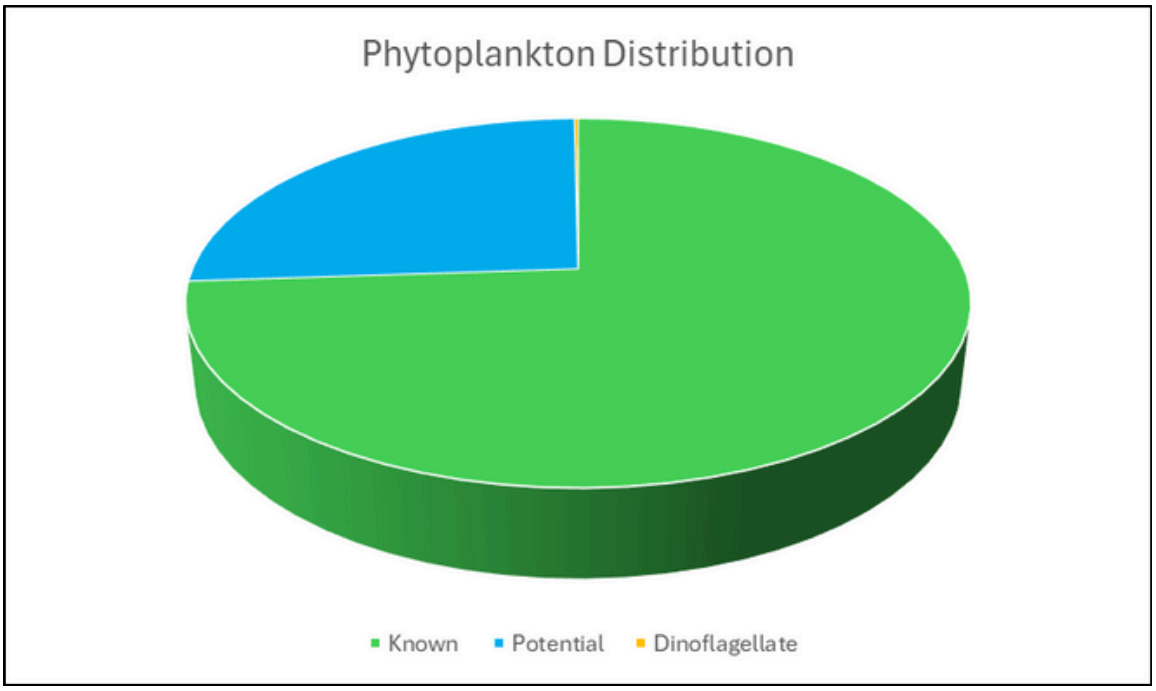
Sample details:

- South Chapel: There were no sea squirts observed in the sample. Levels of copepods were high, while crabs and sea matting concentrations were low. A high concentration of mixed diatoms was observed dominated by the Pseudo-Nitzschia seriata group and mixed Chaetoceros species.

- North Chapel: The sea squirt concentration in the sample was 302 individuals/m^3. It also presented a high level of copepods. The sample presented a very high level of diatoms with Rhizosolenia and the Pseudo-Nitzschia seriata group dominant.

The phytoplankton level in Bantry increased drastically from the previous week (up to 1,483,320 cells/litre) dominated by known food species (74%), followed by potential species (26%) and very small quantities of dinoflagellate.



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