

Bantry Bay (North South and NorthChapel)

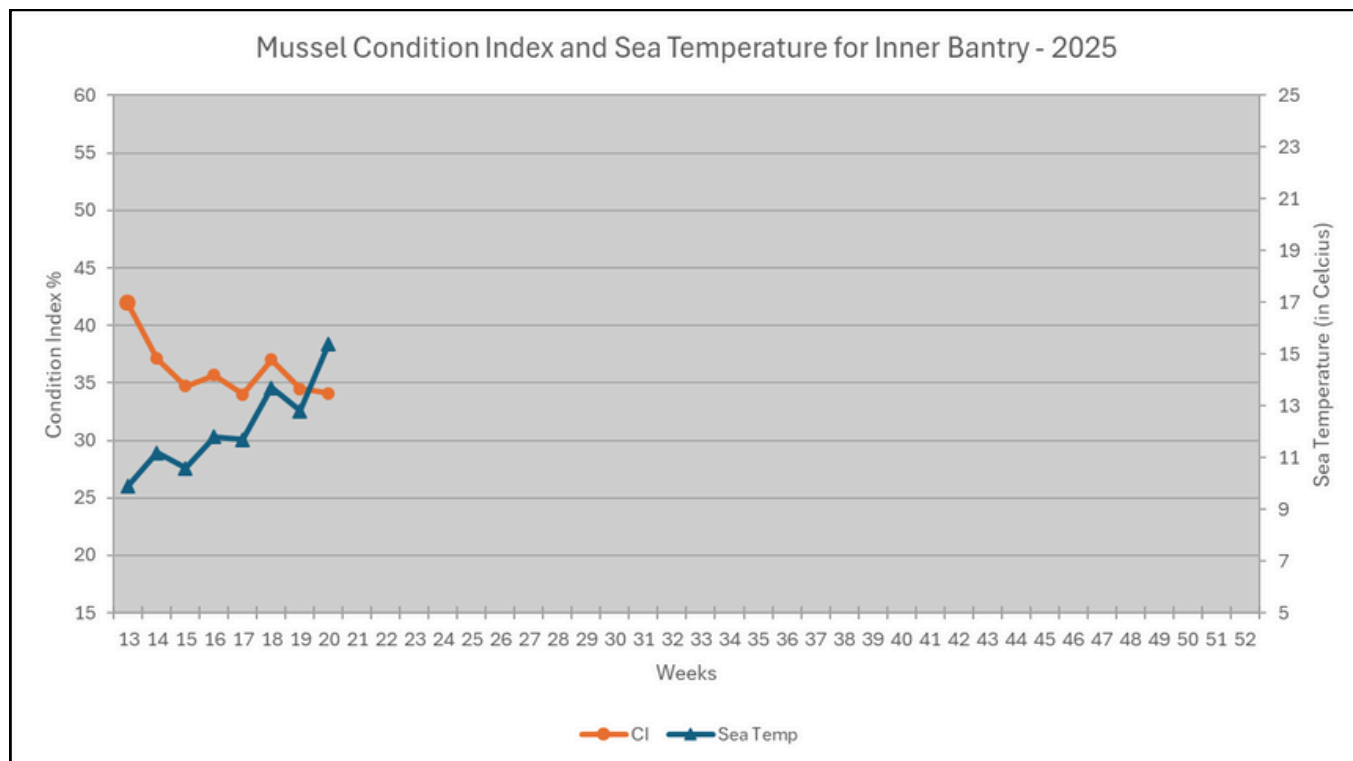
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

19th May 2025

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

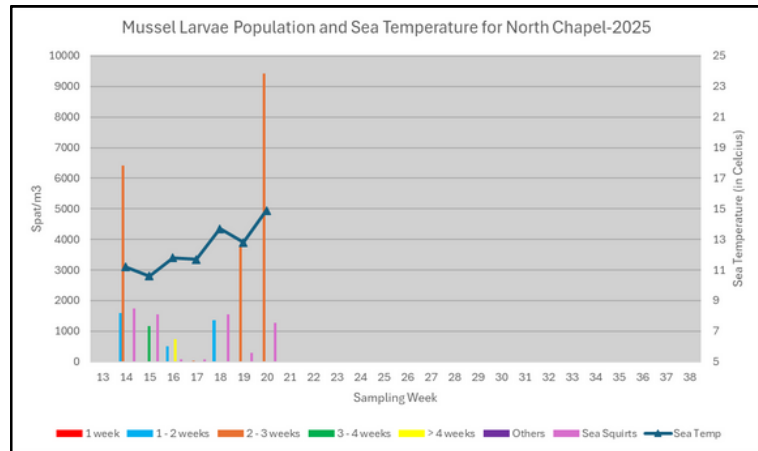
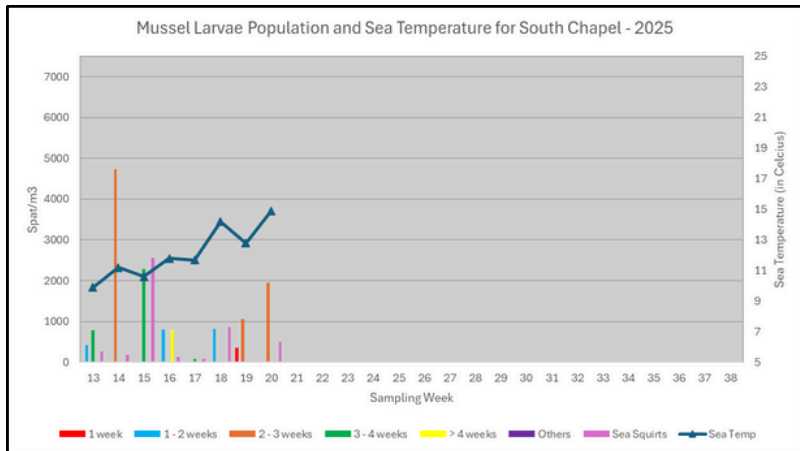


Condition Index (CI) for Inner Bantry



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 0.4 % in Week 20 (from 34.5% to 34.1%). **The sea temperature increased by 2.6°C from last week to 15.4°C.**

Larvae Population:

- South Chapel: **A significant quantity of larvae was observed in the sample (1957 spat/m³) composed only of 2 to 3 weeks old larvae.**
- North Chapel: **A large quantity of 2 to 3 weeks old larvae were observed in the sample: 9431 spat/m³.**

A potential settlement could be expected for both sites in the next 2 to 3 weeks.



Sample details:

- South Chapel: The concentration of sea squirts observed in the sample was 506 ind./m³. Copepods, crabs, barnacles larvae were in moderate concentrations. Pseudo-nitzschia seriata and Rhizosolenia sp. were also in moderate concentrations in the sample.
- North Chapel: **The sample presented a large concentration of sea squirts reaching 1264 ind./m³.** Seamatting, barnacles and copepods moderate. As per the South Chapel site, Pseudo-nitzschia seriata and Rhizosolenia sp. were also in moderate concentrations.

The peak of sea squirt larvae coincides with a potential mussel settlement, this could have a significant impact on the fouling of the collector ropes.

The phytoplankton sample for Week 20 indicated a sharp decrease of the concentration from the previous week (down to 73,360 cells/litres), composed at 98% of known food species and 2% of dinoflagellate.

