MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

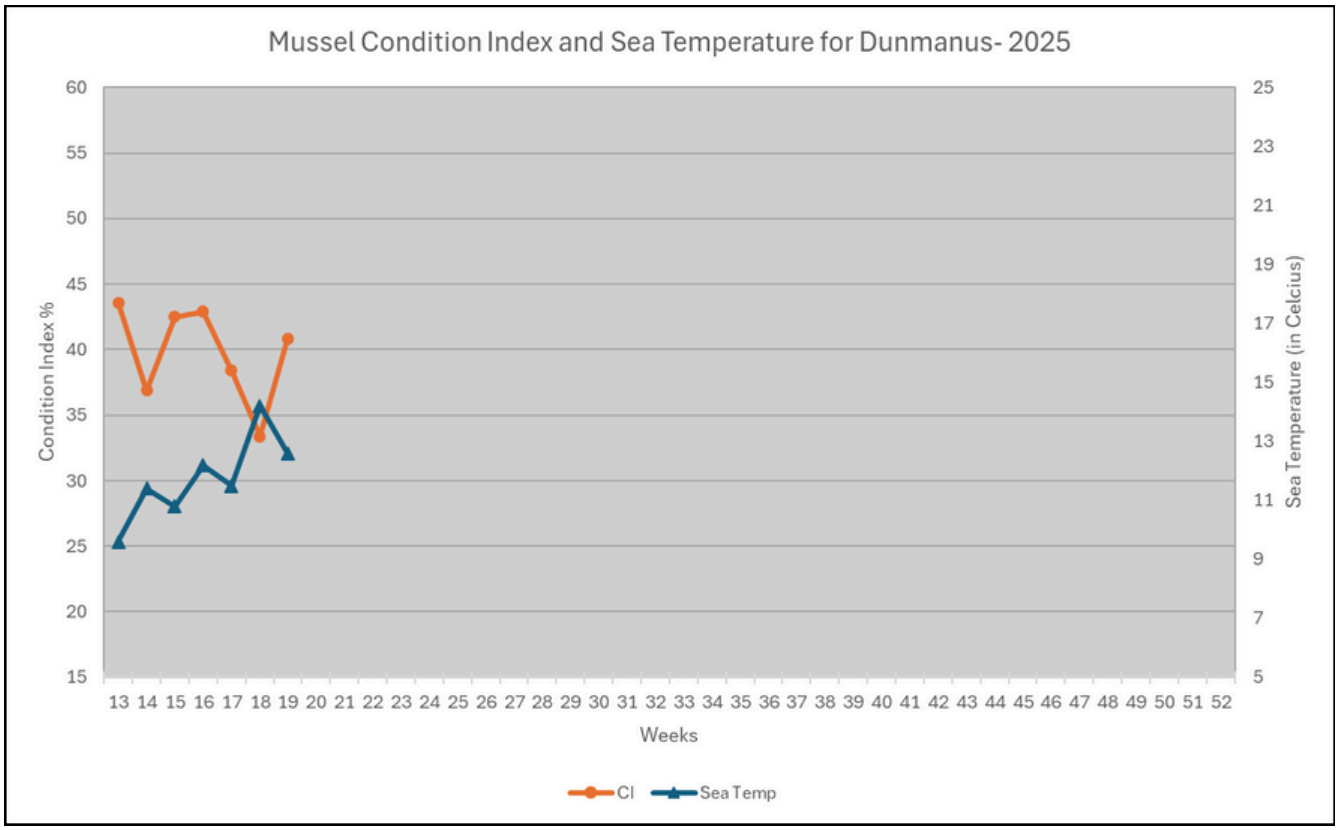
Dunmanus Bay

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

12th May 2025

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

Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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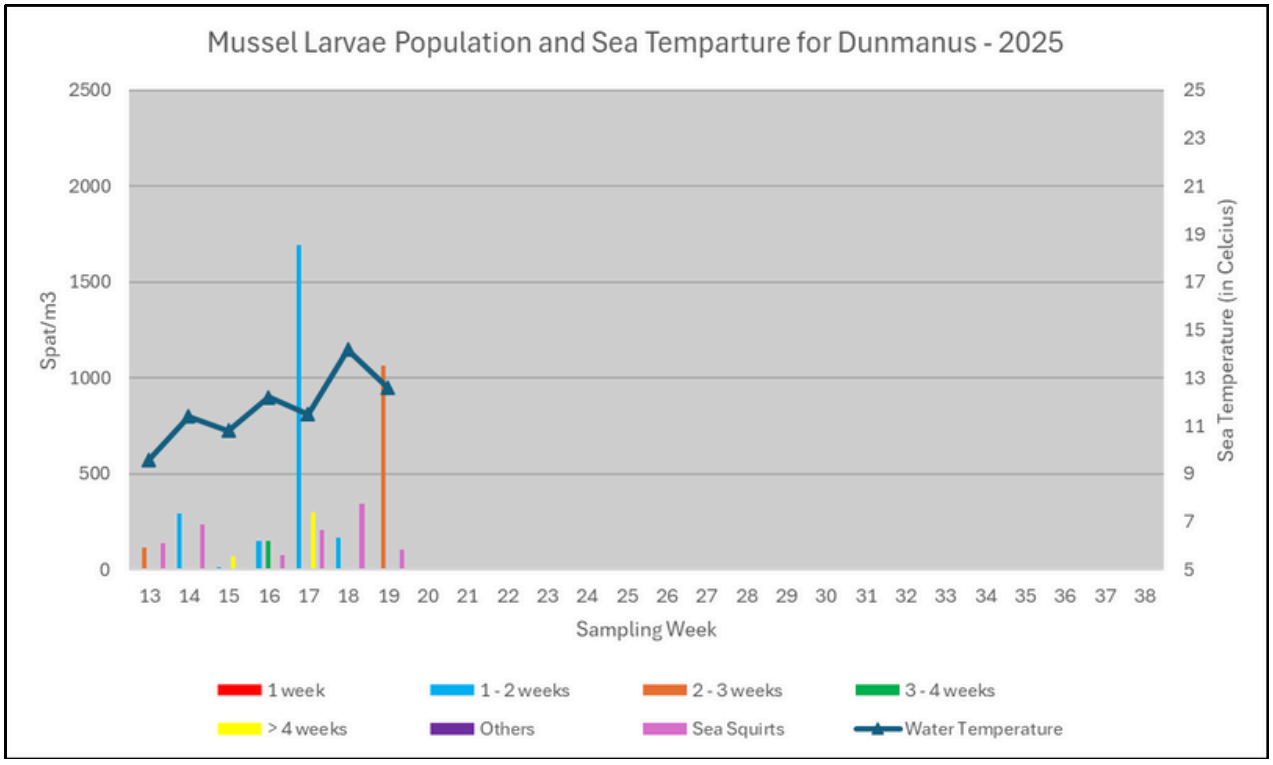
Larvae population evolution in Dunmanus Bay

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 Dunmanus increased by 7.4 % between Week 18 and Week 19. This could indicate that mussels have been reconditioning following a possible spawning event between Week 16 and Week 18. The sea temperature decreased by 1.6°c from the previous week (12.6°c)

A significant increase of larvae was observed in the sample from the previous week: **1067 spat /m^3**, composed only of **2 to 3 weeks old larvae**. This population could potentially be related to the peak of 1 to 2 weeks old observed on Week 17.

The concentration of sea squirts was 102 individuals/m^3. Copepods, sea matting and a second bivalve species were in low quantities.

The levels of diatoms were high. **Phaeocystis sp. concentration was very high.** The Pseudo-Nitzschia seriata group, Rhizosolenia and Chaetoceros sp. mixed halochaete species were all in high concentrations.

Considering the levels of Phaeocystis across the sampling stations and the recent spawning, it would be advisable to limit stress levels on adult mussels.

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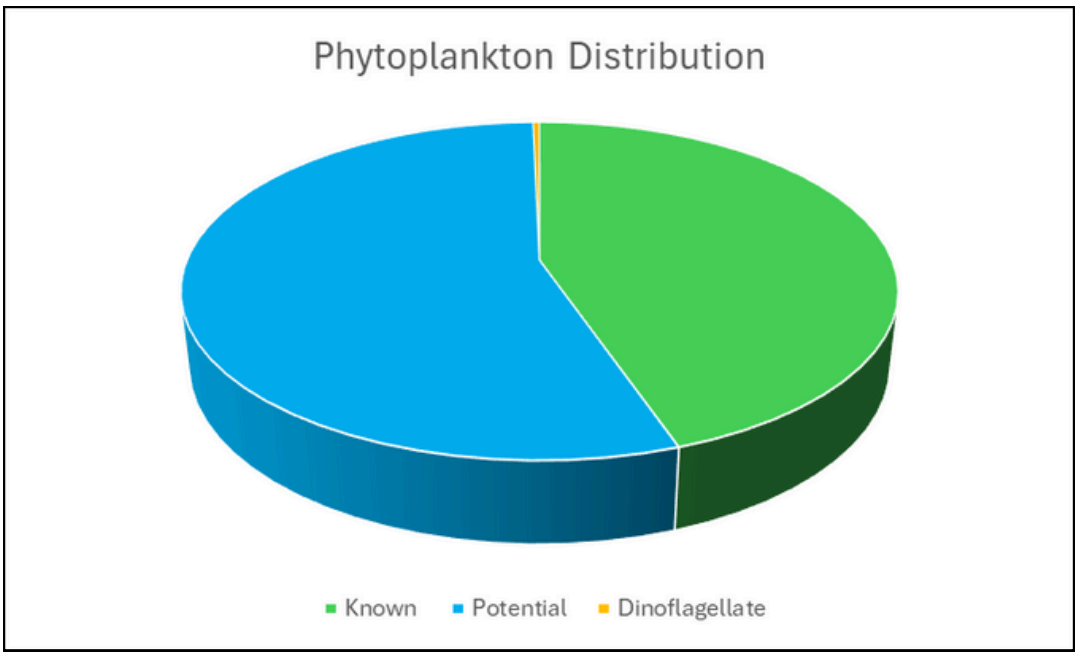

A major increase in phytoplankton levels was observed in the sample with 2,013,240 cells/litre, dominated slightly by potential food species (55%), while known food species represented 45% of sample.

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