

Dunmanus Bay

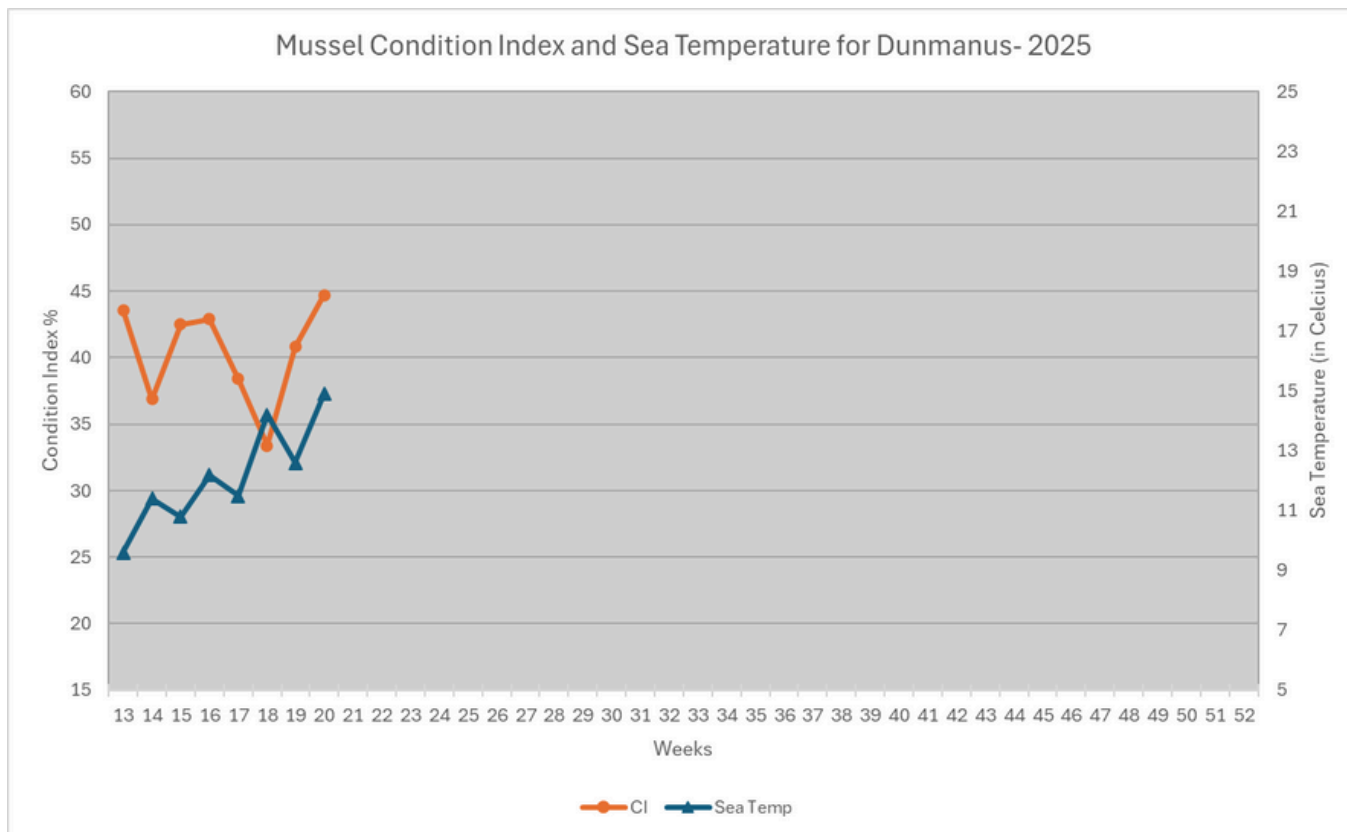
Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

19th May 2025

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

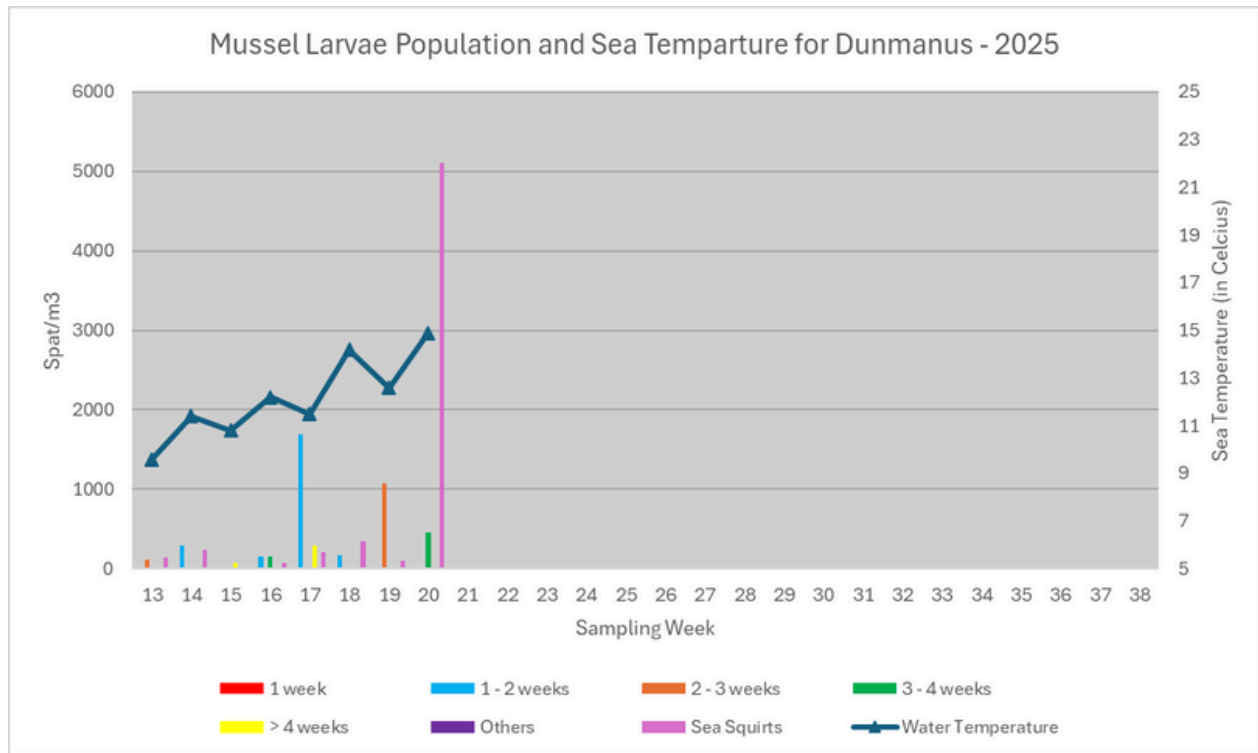


Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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 3.9 % between Week 19 and Week 20 to 44.7%. This could indicate that mussels are still reconditioning. The **sea temperature decreased by 2.3°C** from the previous week (14.9°C).

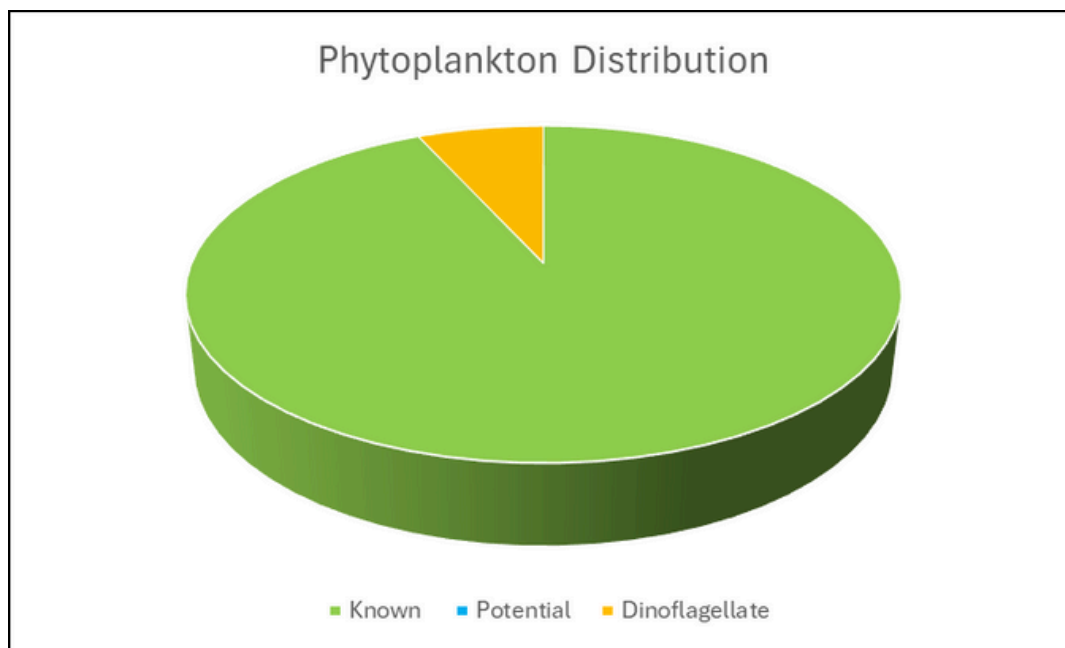
The larvae concentration has decreased from the previous week to 456 spat/m³ composed of 2 to 4 weeks old larvae. **A potential trend is appearing, starting the peak of young larvae on Week 17, with numbers decreasing in the 2 to 3 weeks old class on Week 19 and finally further decreasing on Week 20 in the 3 to 4 weeks old class. This could indicate a possible mussel settlement in the next 2 weeks.**

The level of sea squirts has dramatically increased to 5102 individuals/m³. Copepods, sea matting, barnacles and crabs larvae were 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.

Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima and Chaetoceros sp. were in moderate concentrations.





A major drop in phytoplankton levels from the previous week was observed in this week's sample (down to 78,720 cells/litre), dominated by known food species (93%) and a low level of dinoflagellate (7%).

