MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

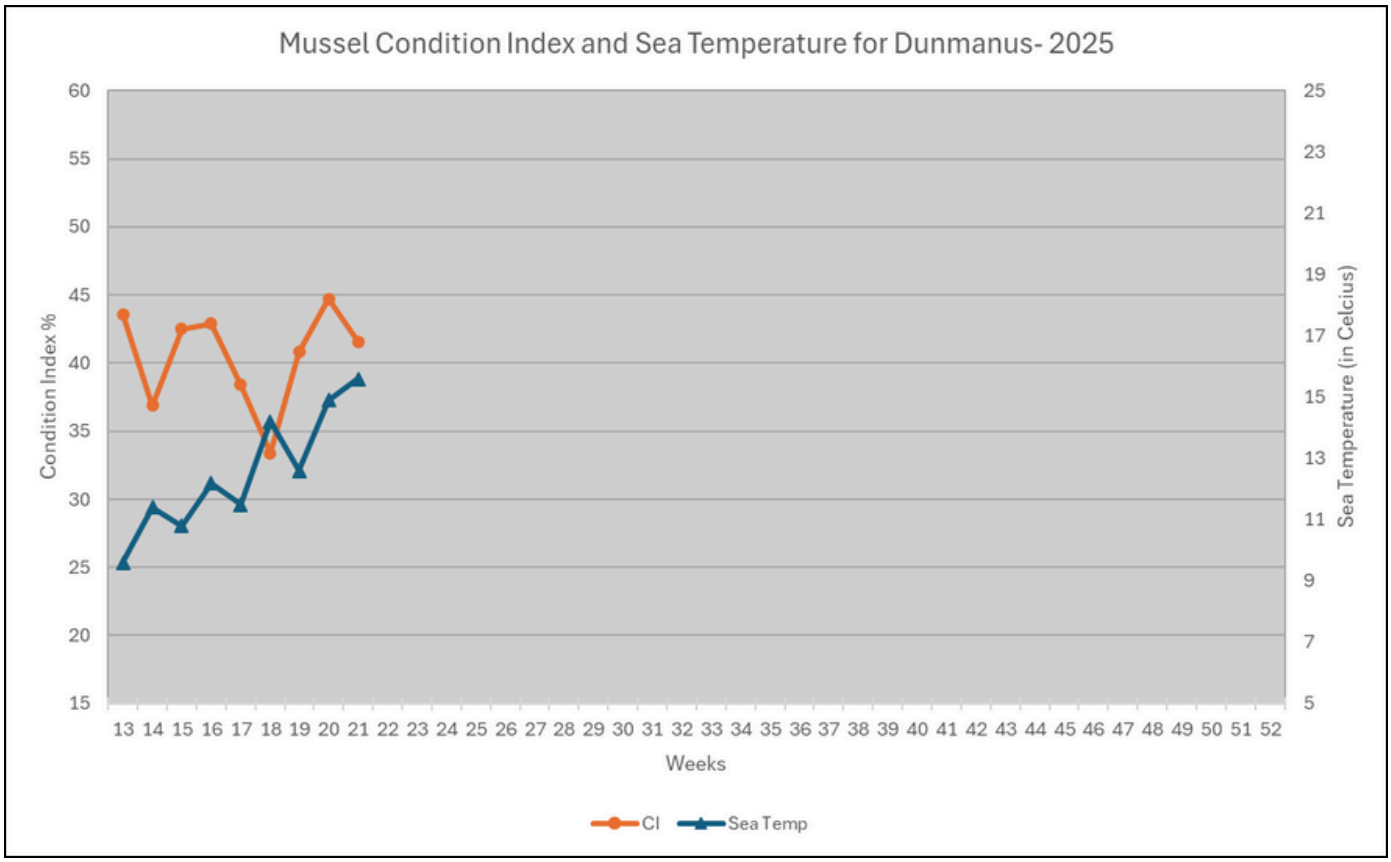
Dunmanus Bay

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

26th May 2025

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

Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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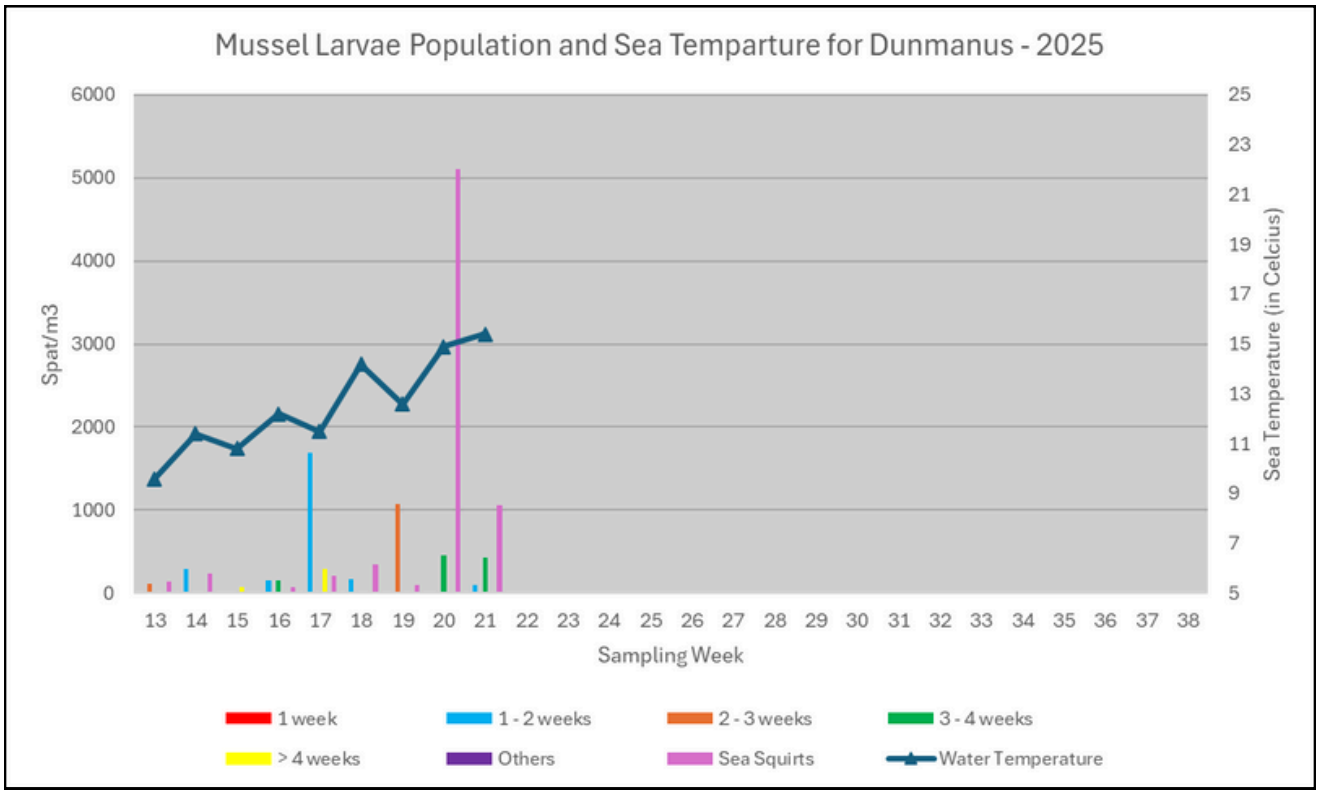
Larvae population evolution in Dunmanus Bay

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 decrease by 3.1 % between Week 20 and Week 21 to 41.6%. This could indicate some partial spawning (as the CI is still relatively high). The sea temperature increased by 0.7°c from the previous week (15.6°c).

The larvae concentration increased slightly from the previous week to 534 spat/m^3 composed at 80% of 3 to 5 weeks old larvae and 20% of 1 to 3 weeks old. **The older class could be related to the previous week's population and will probably settle in the next week.**

The level of sea squirt is still high at 1064 ind./m^3. Copepods and barnacles were also in high concentrations. A second bivalve species was also present at a low level. Rhizosolenia and Chaetoceros sp. Halochaete were observed in moderate concentrations.

The relatively high concentration of sea squirts could still have an impact on the fouling of the collector ropes.

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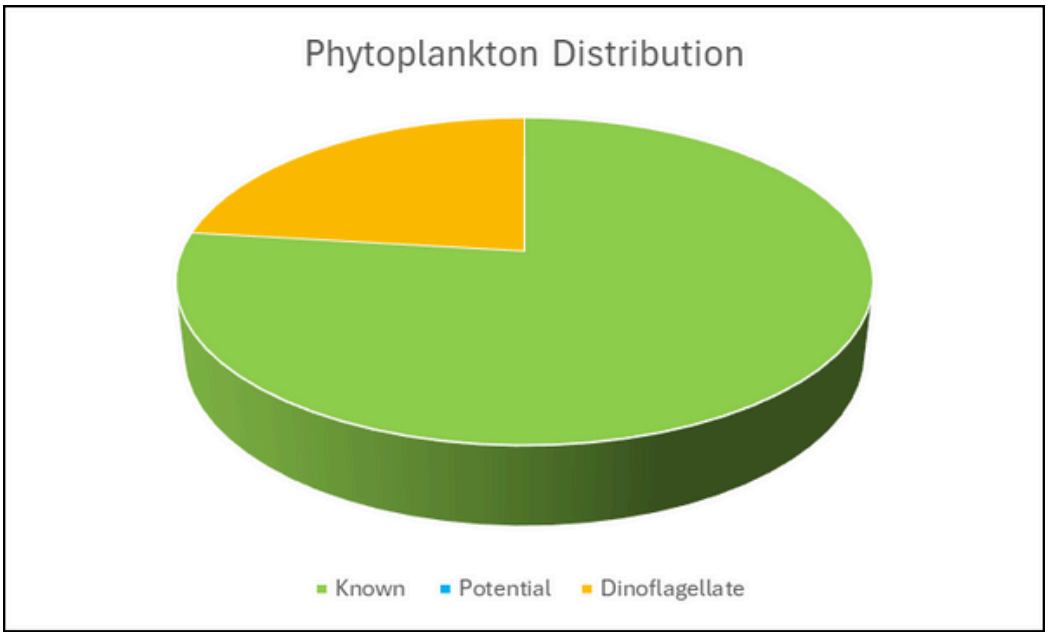

There was a further large decline in phytoplankton levels from the previous week (down to 7,960 cells/litre), dominated by known food species (77%) and a low level of dinoflagellate (23%).

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