MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

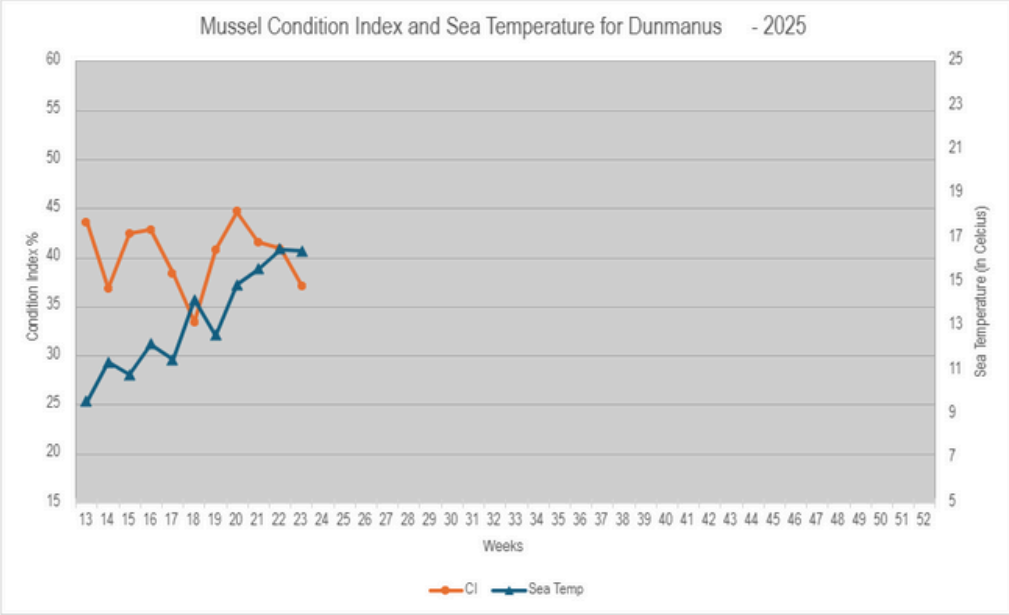
Dunmanus Bay

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

9th June 2025

Week 23 (2/06/2025 to (08/06/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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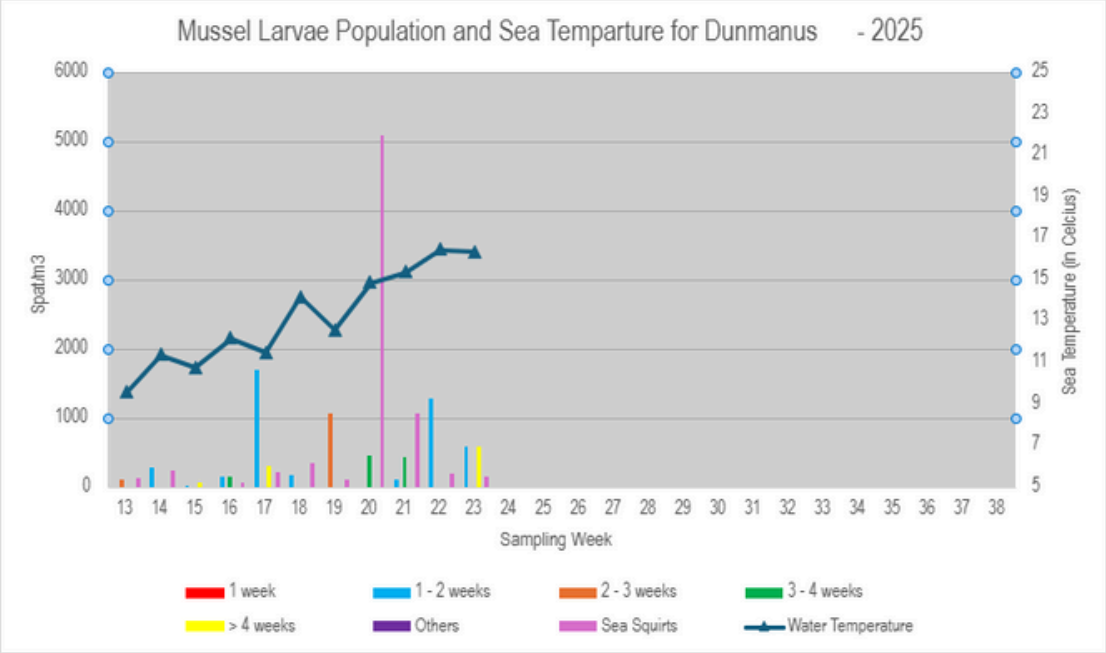
Larvae population evolution in Dunmanus Bay

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 has reduced slightly from 40.9 to 37.12 (from Week 22). The sea temperature is stable at 16.4°c from the previous week (16.5°c).

The sample presented substantial levels of larvae 1164 (spat/m3) composed 50% 1-2 weeks old individuals. and 50% 4-6 weeks old. This population could be related to some previous spawning event.

The level of sea squirt larvae reduced further from previous weeks too (from 204/m^3 for Week 22 to 144/m^3 for Week 23). This reduction can be an evidence of sea squirt settlement, which could produce substantial fouling of spat collectors.

Copepods and 2nd species bivalve still high.Phytoplankton low, Pleurosigma and Navicula dominant.
Similar results to the previous week.

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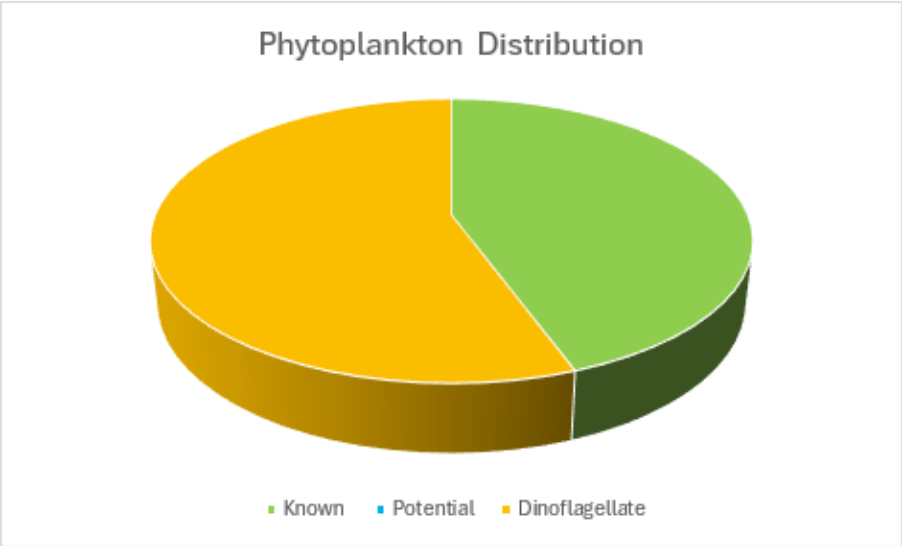

There was an decrease in phytoplankton levels from the previous week (to 10720 from 15800 cells/litre) dinoflagellate (56%), a decrease in the known food species (44%).

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