MUSSEL CONDITION INDEX AND LARVAE MONITORING

Weekly Bulletin

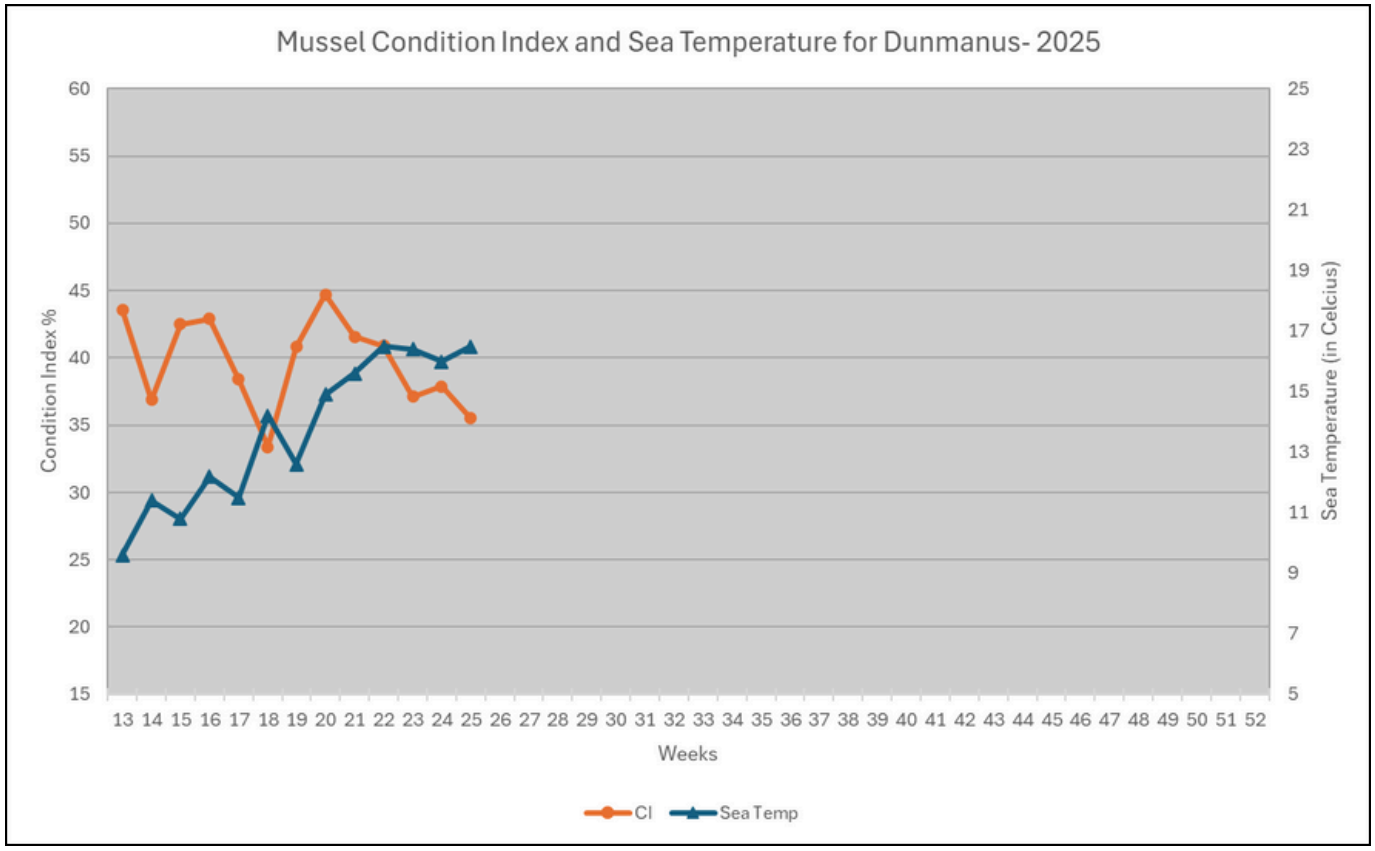
Dunmanus Bay

Southwest Mussel Larvae sampling

23rd June 2025

Week 25 (16/06/2025 to 22/06/2025)

Condition Index (CI) for Dunmanus Bay



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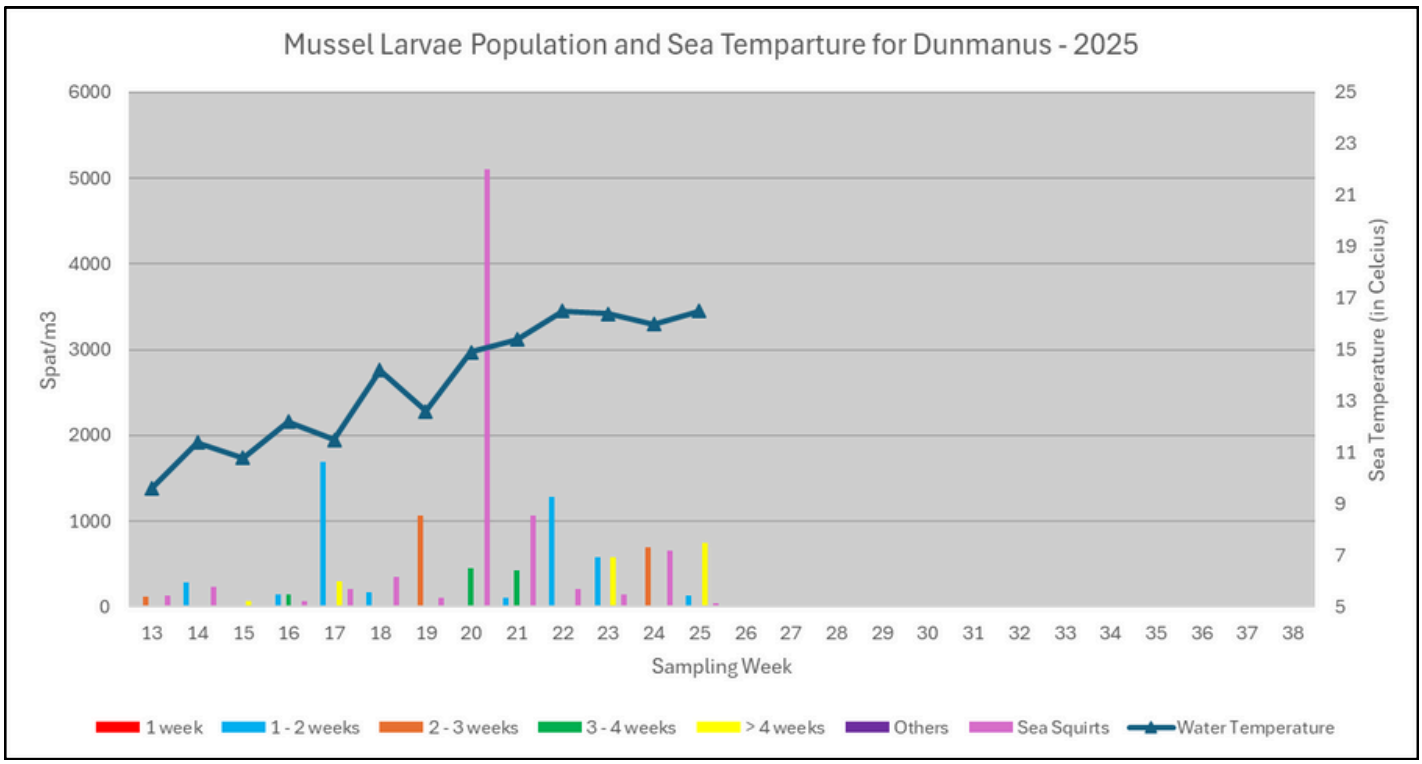
Larvae population evolution in Dunmanus Bay

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 continues to slightly decrease (-2.4 % to 35.5%). The sea temperature is also stable at 16.5°c (+0.5°c from Week 24).

The Week 24 sample presented some increase in larvae concentration with 871 spat/m^3 composed at 85%of older larvae (5 to 6 weeks old) and 15% of 1 to 2 weeks old. There was also an increase in the age class (from 1 to 3 weeks old to 5 to 6 weeks old).

Considering the current age class found in the sample, it is possible that further settlement of spat could occur in the next few days.

The sample presented low levels of sea squirts (39 ind./m^3). Tubeworms and 2nd large bivalve species were present in moderate levels in the sample, while there was a high concentration of crab larvae and low levels of copepods. The phytoplankton concentrations were high with P.n. seriata being the dominant specie.

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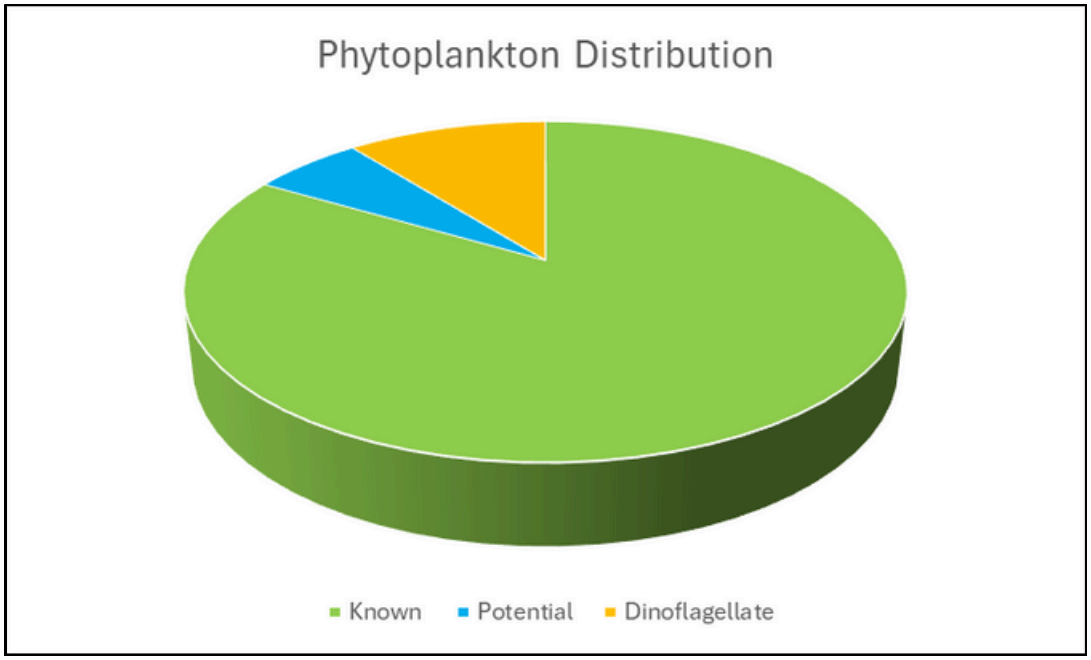

There was important decrease in phytoplankton (down to 55,440 cells per litre from 191,800 on Week 24). Known food source species presented the highest concentration (83%), followed by dinoflagellate (11%) and potential food (6%)

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