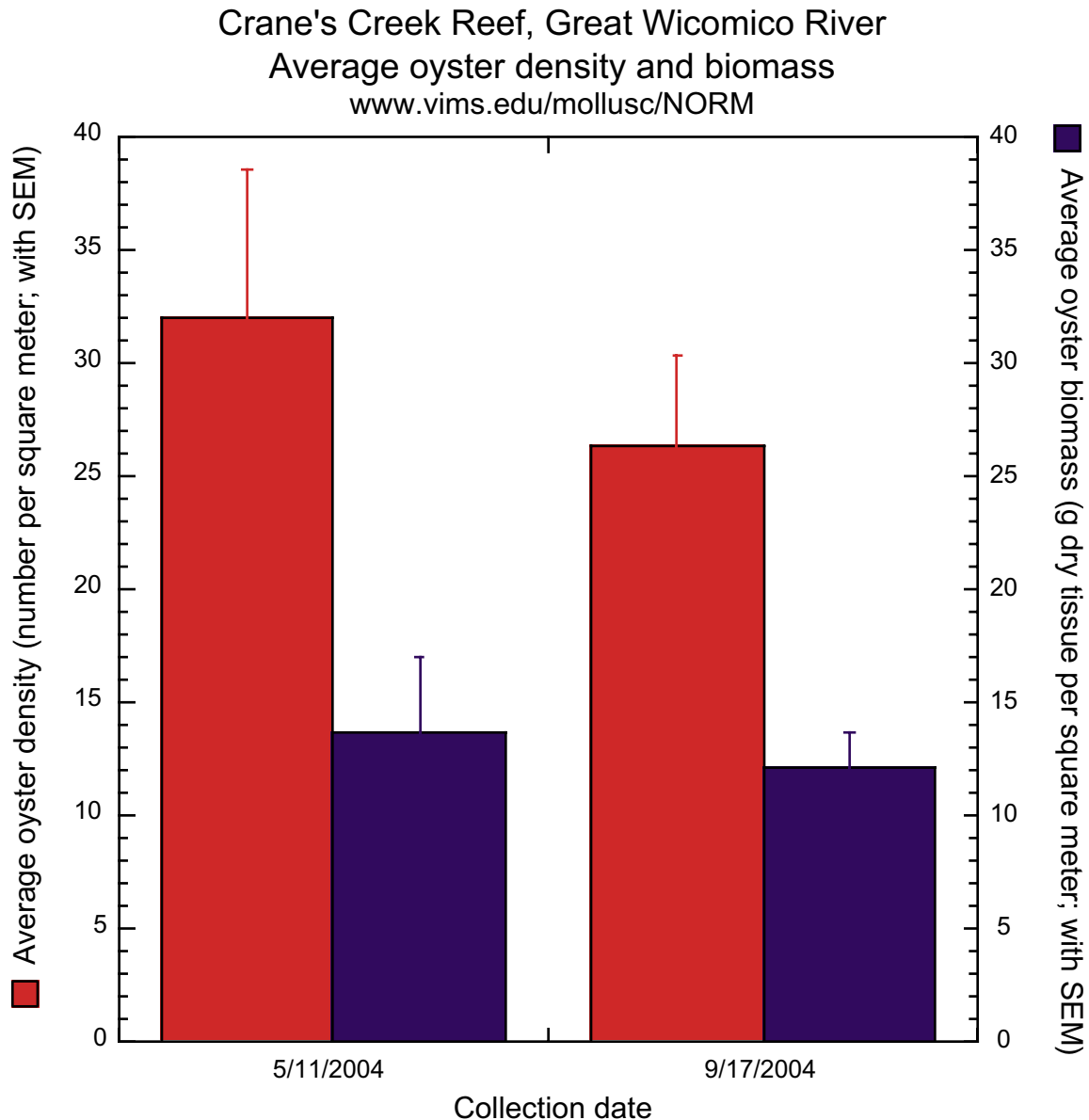


Speaker's Notes: Crane's Creek Reef, Great Wicomico River -
Density and Biomass from Dive Surveys

Contact Dr. Roger Mann (rmann@vims.edu) for additional information or questions regarding these data.



Dive surveys were conducted on Crane's Creek Reef twice during 2004. During each survey, oyster densities were recorded in 12 quadrats which were then averaged to yield reef density (number of oysters per square meter) estimates with standard error of the mean. Each oyster was measured (shell height, mm) and this height was used to estimate biomass (g dry tissue). Biomass estimates were made for each quadrat and quadrat estimates were averaged across the 12 samples. Although a slight decline in both density and biomass was observed from May to September 2004, the September estimates are still within the range of the error bars for the May estimates for both density and biomass.