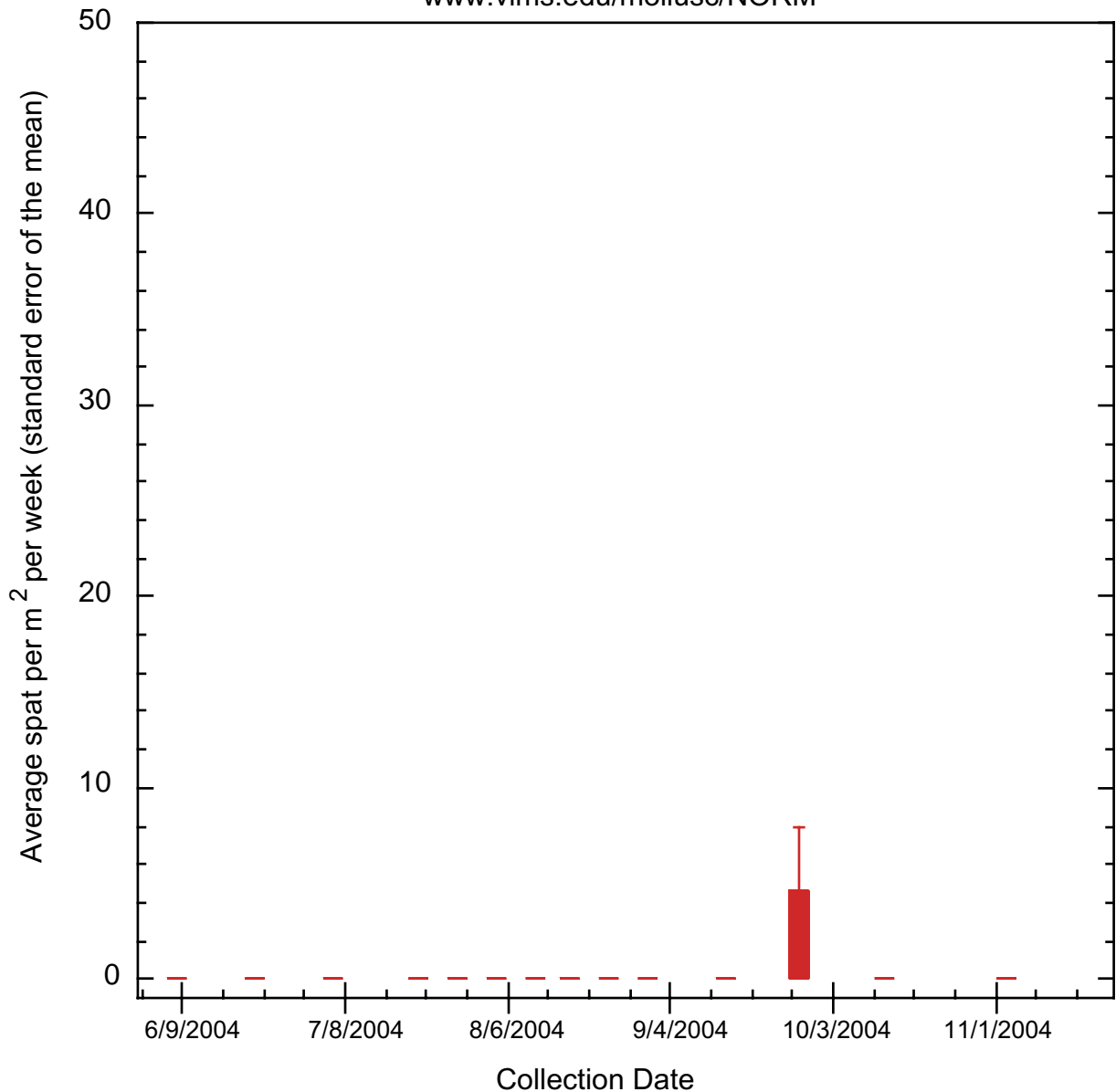


Speaker's Notes: Drumming Ground Reef, Rappahannock River - Recruit Abundance
Contact Mr. P.G. Ross (pg@vims.edu) for additional information or questions regarding these data.

Drumming Ground Reef, Rappahannock River
Average spat per m² per week
www.vims.edu/mollusc/NORM



Settlement collectors consisting of arrays of ceramic tiles were deployed within 10 cm of reef surfaces throughout the season. Oyster spat settling on tiles were examined under a microscope in the laboratory. This technique is used to give an index of actual settlement on the reef surface.

Very little settlement was observed for 2004. This follows a similar pattern from 2003 and is attributed to above normal rain that resulted in very low salinities in most rivers for 2003-2004. Oysters typically spawn much less under such conditions. Continued monitoring over the next several years should provide a much better picture of this metric.