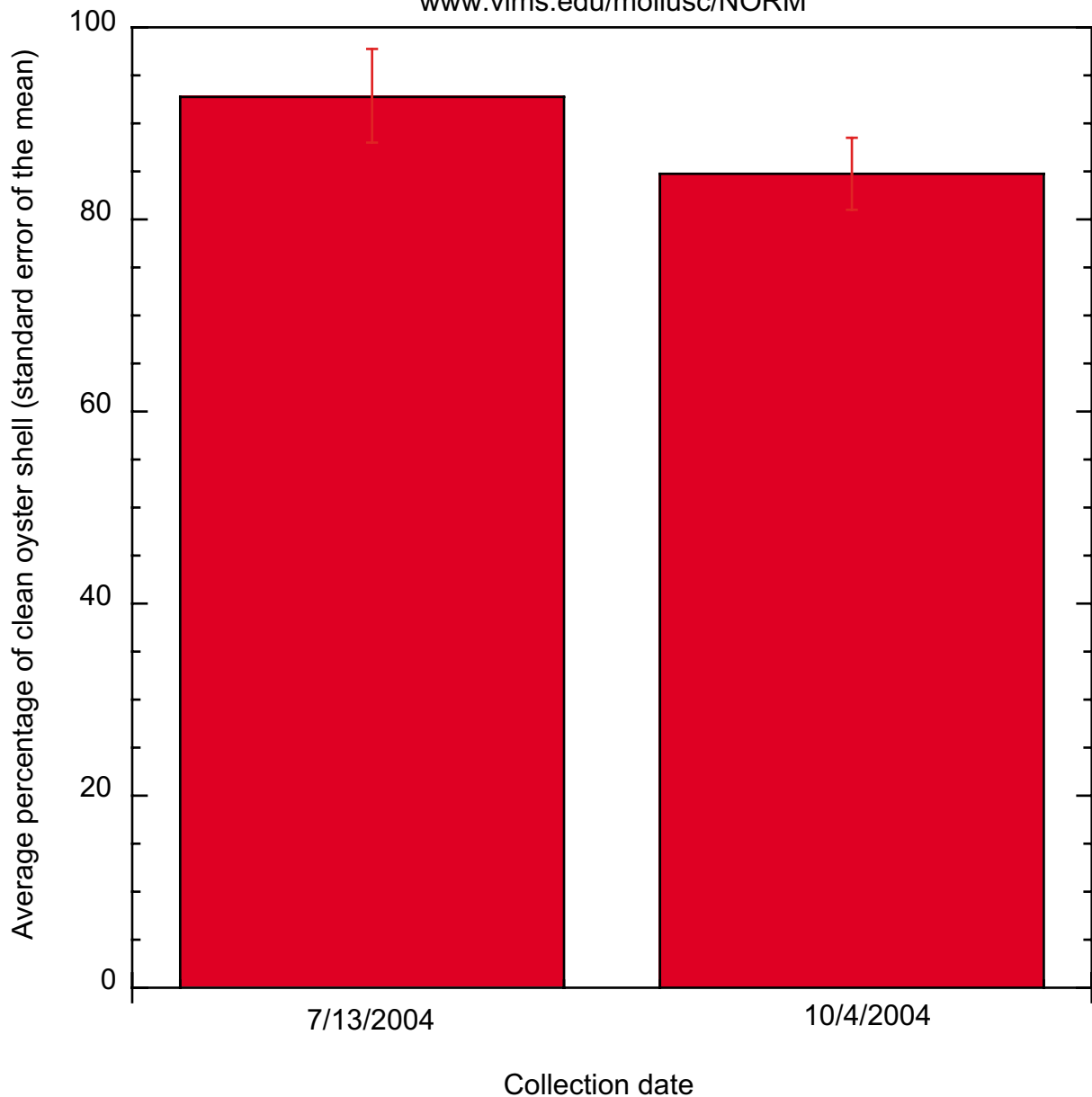


Speaker's Notes: Drumming Ground Reef, Rappahannock River - Substrate Quality  
Contact Mr. P.G. Ross (pg@vims.edu) for additional information or questions regarding these data.

Drumming Ground Reef, Rappahannock River  
Average percentage of clean oyster shell  
[www.vims.edu/mollusc/NORM](http://www.vims.edu/mollusc/NORM)



Substrate quality was measured as percent “clean shell”. This refers to subjective estimates of aerial coverage of epifaunal species that can compete with oysters for space or food on reef material (oyster shell). In this case, barnacles (*Belanus* spp.) and a bryozoan called white crust (*Membranipora tenuis*) were the dominant species sampled. The metric reported here does not include species where aerial coverage is not appropriate (such as bivalves); the prevalence of boring sponge (*Cliona* sp.) damage which makes shells brittle; nor the extent of siltation on reef material. Differences between July and October samples likely reflect seasonality of epifaunal species.