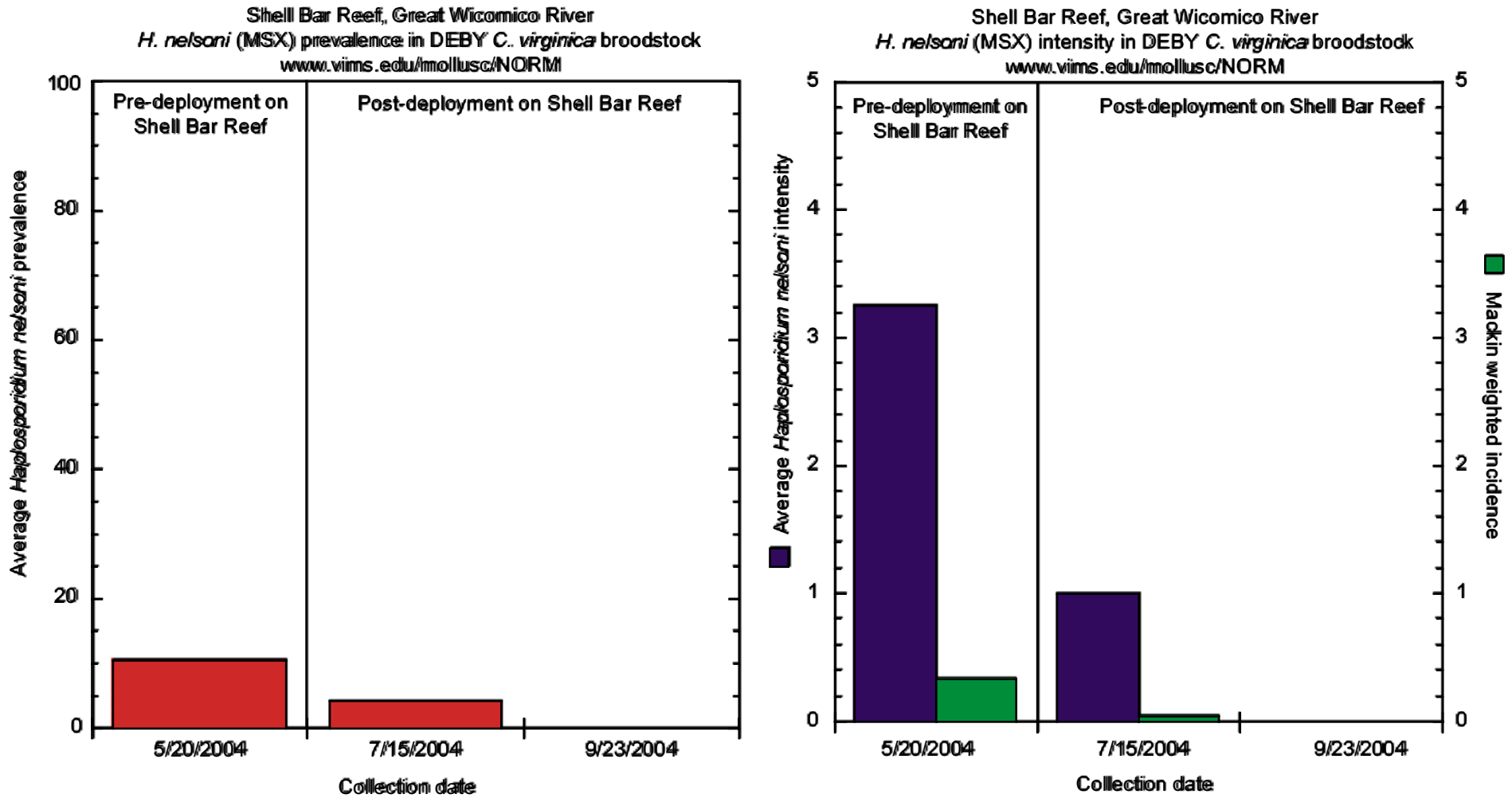


Speaker's Notes: Shell Bar Reef, Great Wicomico River: *H. nelsoni* (MSX) prevalence and intensity.  
 Contact Dr. Ryan Carnegie (carnegie@vims.edu) for additional information or questions regarding these data.



*Haplosporidium nelsoni* prevalence among oysters deployed to Shell Bar Reef decreased from 11% at the time of deployment in May 2004 to 4% in July 2004 and 0% in September 2004. Mean *H. nelsoni* infection intensity decreased from 3.25 in May to 1.0 in July (scale 0.5-5, with infections scored as 0.5 = rare, 1 = light, 3 = moderate, or 5 = heavy). This value could not be calculated in September as no infections were observed. Mackin weighted incidence (WI) calculated for *H. nelsoni* decreased from 0.34 at time of deployment in May to 0.04 in July and 0 in September (infection scoring as above, but with uninfected oysters included and given a 0 score). This decrease in *H. nelsoni* prevalence and intensity from May to July probably reflects the loss, through mortality, of a small proportion of oysters experiencing intense MSX disease at the time of deployment in May. Surviving oysters carried relatively little *H. nelsoni* and the impact of the parasite on Shell Bar Reef oysters was minimal from mid-summer into fall 2004.