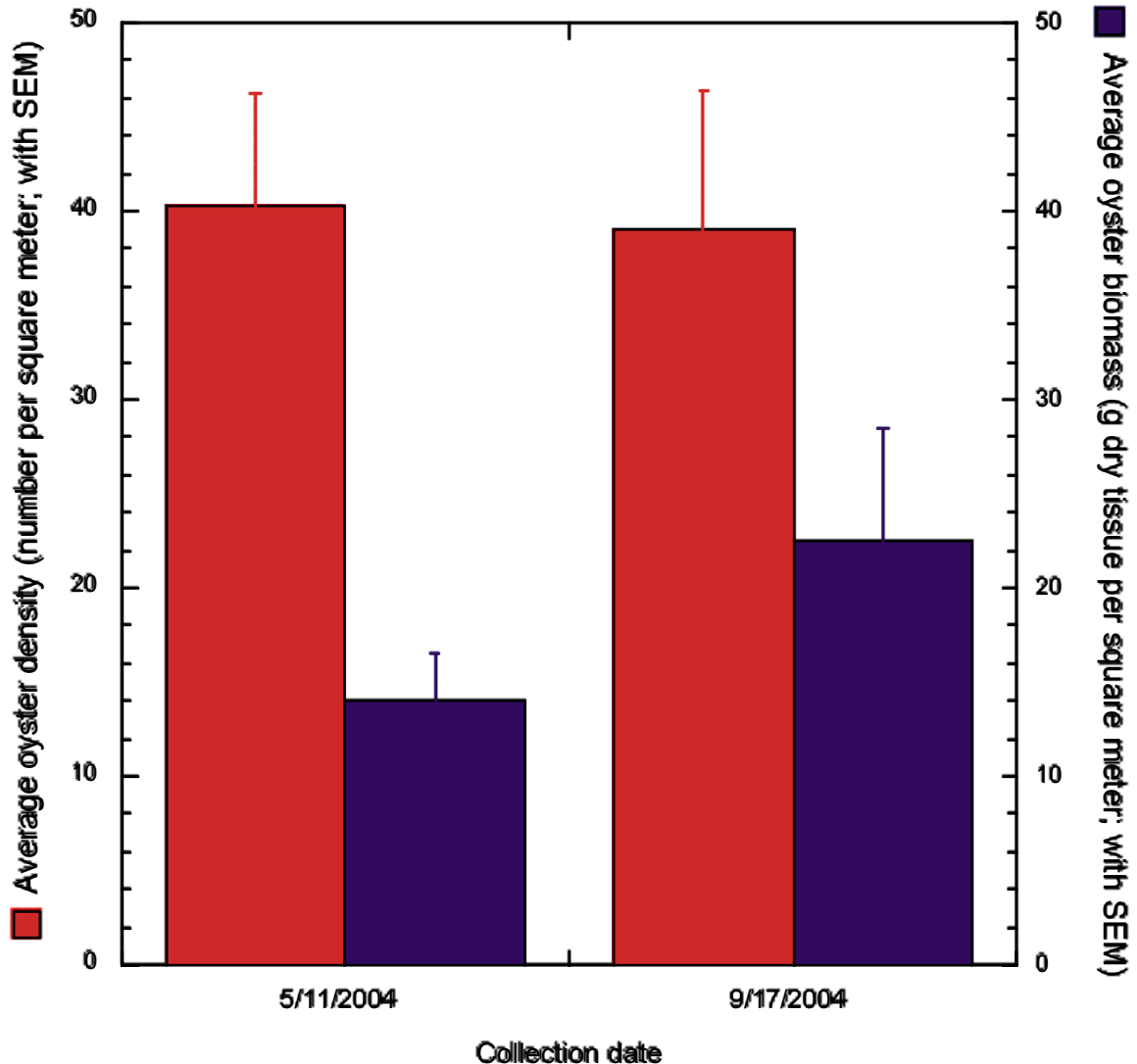


Speaker's Notes: Shell Bar Reef, Great Wicomico River -
Density and Biomass from Dive Surveys

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

Shell Bar Reef, Great Wicomico River
Average oyster density and biomass
www.vims.edu/mollusc/NORM



Dive surveys were conducted on Shell Bar 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. Oyster densities in May and September were similar. Biomass increased slightly from May to September. In the absence of a density increase, this change in biomass may be related to growth of individual oysters from May to September.