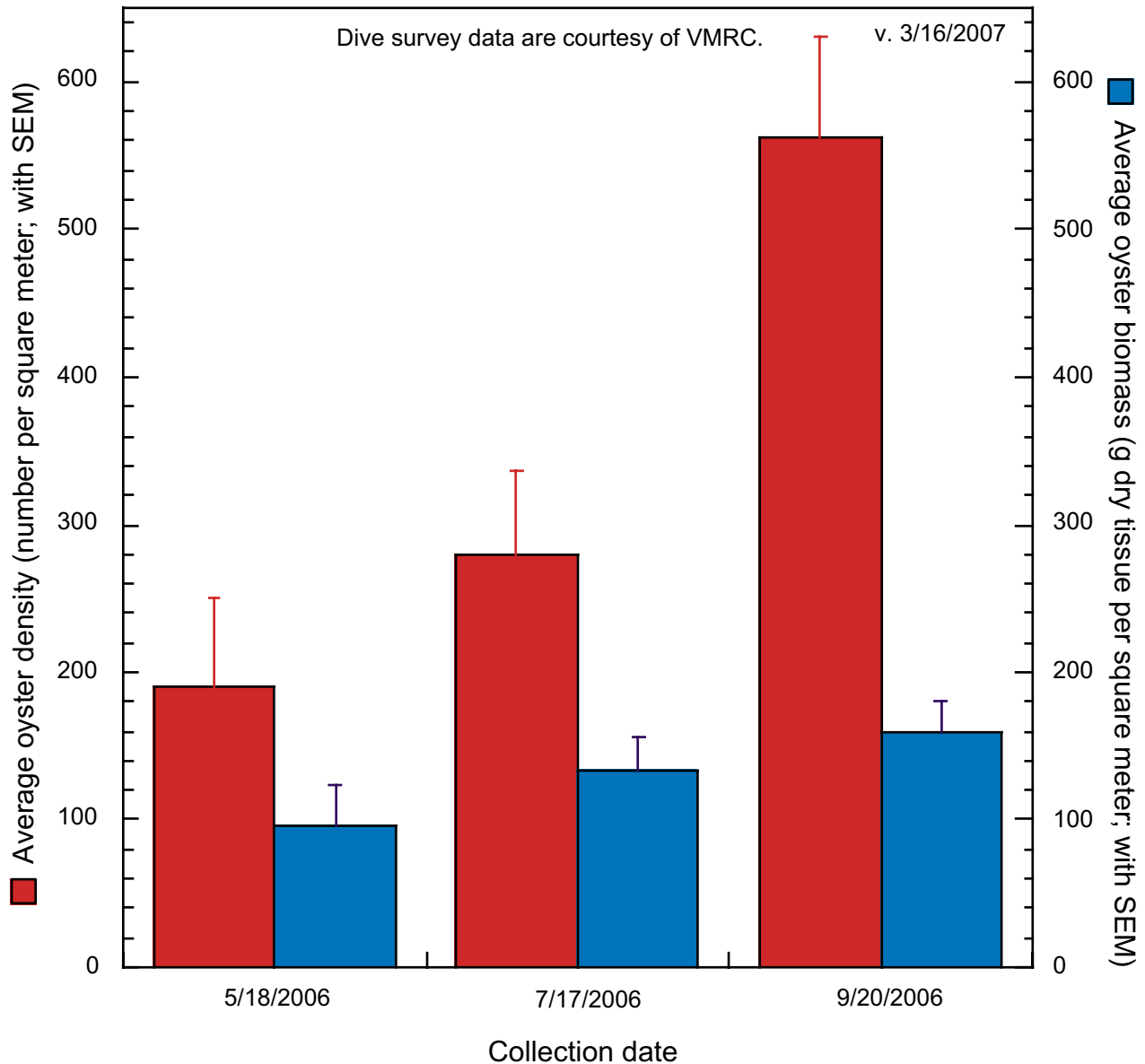


Speaker's Notes: Shell Bar Reef, Great Wicomico River -
Density and Biomass from Dive Surveys

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 in May, July, and September 2006. During each survey, oyster densities were recorded in at least 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 biomass estimates were averaged across the quadrat samples to give estimates of biomass (g dry tissue) per square meter. These estimates include both wild and aquaculture oysters. The large increase in density and relatively small increase in biomass observed in September 2006 reflect relatively good recruitment of oyster spat in 2006.