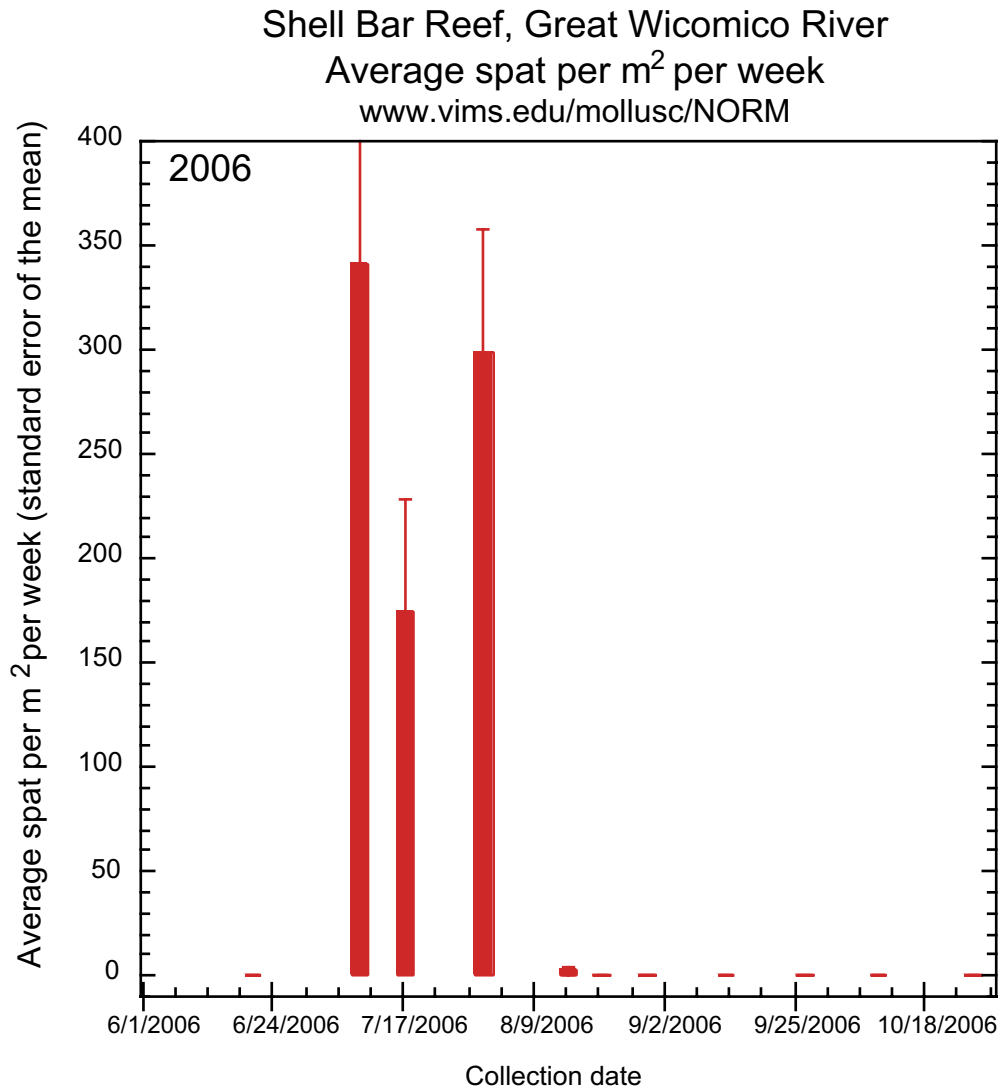


Speaker's Notes: Shell Bar Reef, Great Wicomico River - Recruit Abundance
Contact Mr. P.G. Ross (pg@vims.edu) for additional information or questions regarding these data.



Settlement collectors consisting of arrays of ceramic tiles were deployed within 10 m 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.

Excellent settlement was observed for 2006 relative to patterns from 2004-2005. Very high settlements rates over a long period were seen. Similar trends were observed to varying degrees at most reefs being monitored during 2006. However, the scale of increase at this reef appears to exceed the other reefs being monitored.