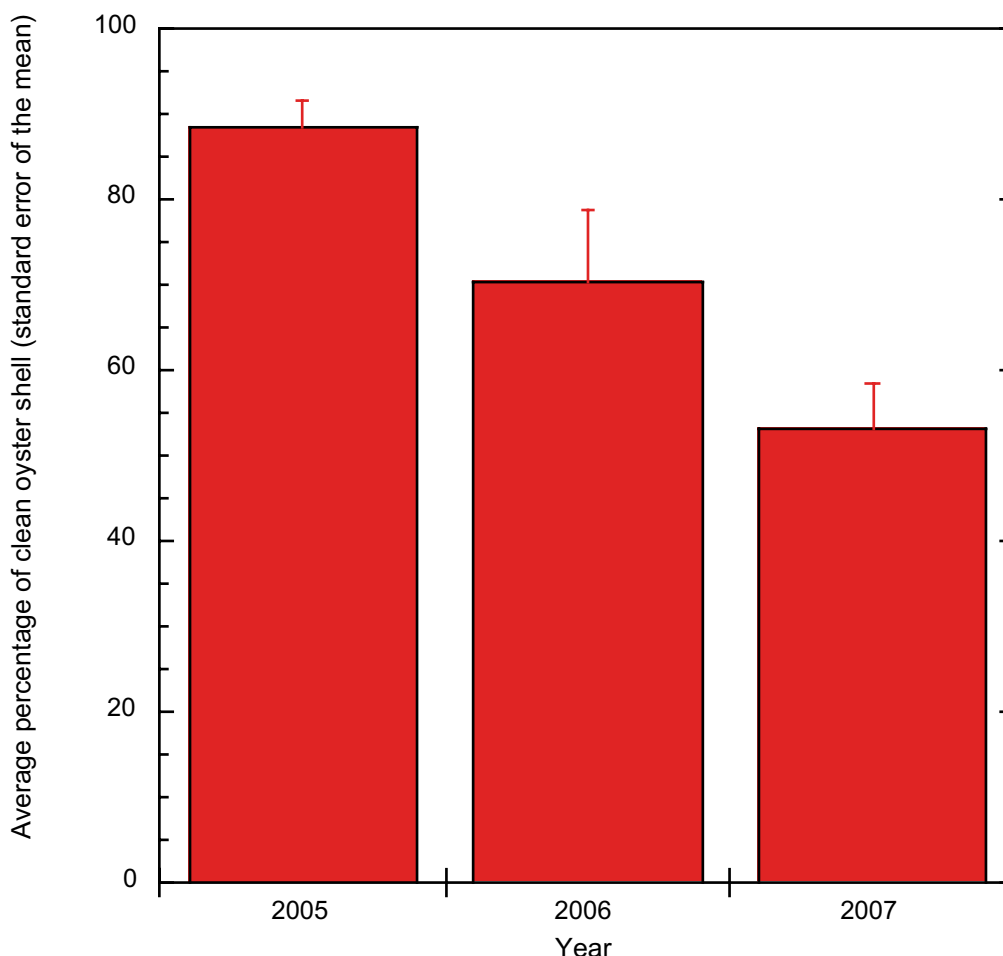


Speaker's Notes: Great Neck Point Reef, Lynnhaven River - Substrate Quality
Annual Summary 2005-2007

Contact Mr. P.G. Ross (pg@vims.edu) for additional information or questions regarding these data.

Great Neck Point Reef, Lynnhaven River
Average percentage of clean oyster shell
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 (bivalves); the prevalence of boring sponge (*Cliona* sp.) damage which makes shells brittle and is reported elsewhere on this site; nor the extent of siltation on reef material. Differences within years likely reflect the seasonality of epifaunal species as well as natural variation on individual reefs (samples are taken from individual sites on a reef during each sampling event). A strong trend of decreasing clean shell is evident at this reef and reflects increased fouling that is being sustained throughout the year and has some accumulation from year to year.