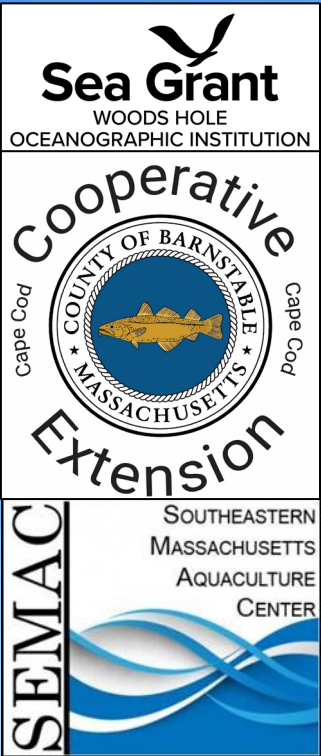


Updates Cooperative Extension WHOI Sea Grant SEMAC

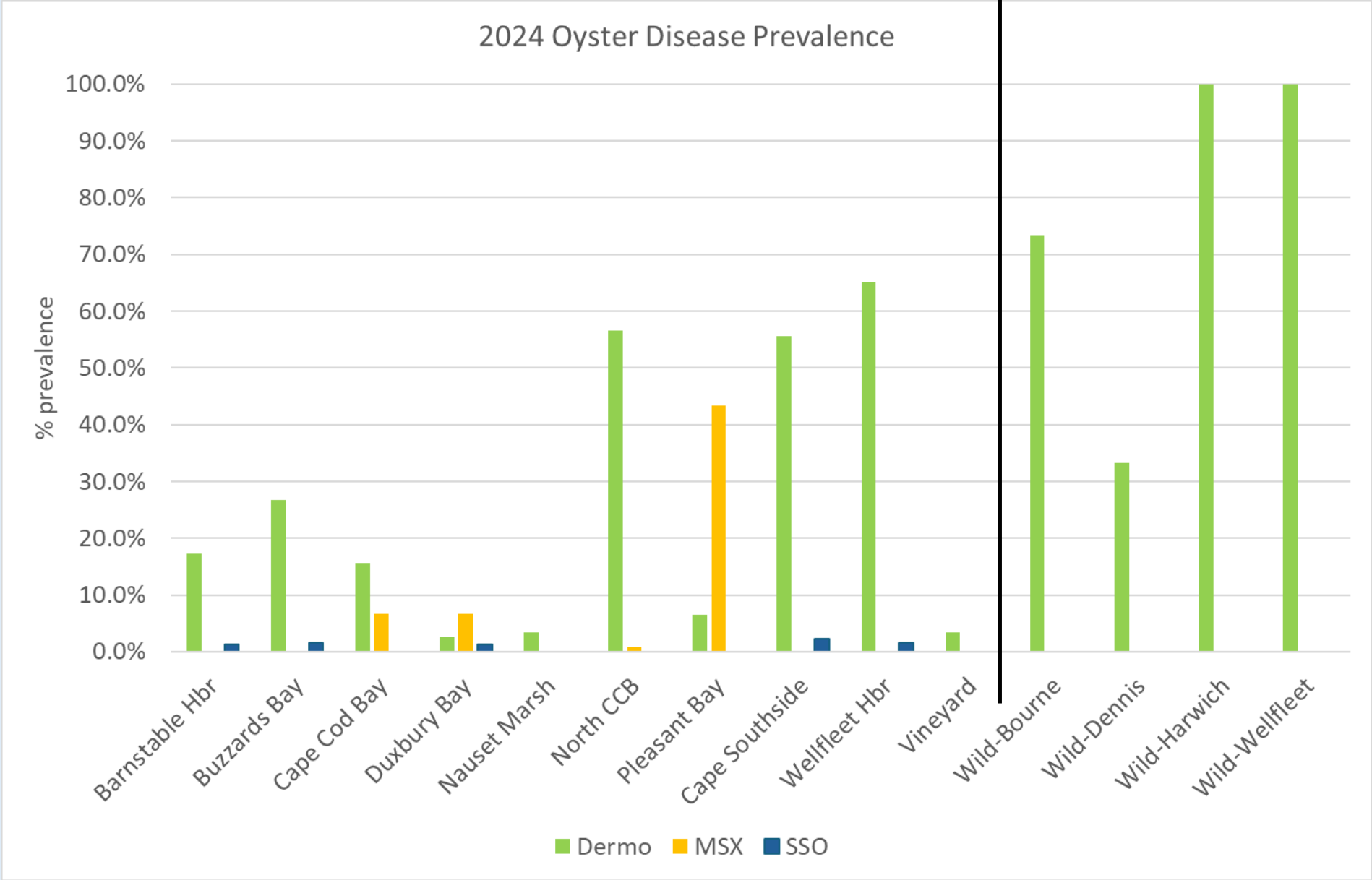


MAA Annual Meeting, 2/7/25

Abigail Archer, Rachel Hutchinson, Josh Reitsma

Oyster Disease Monitoring

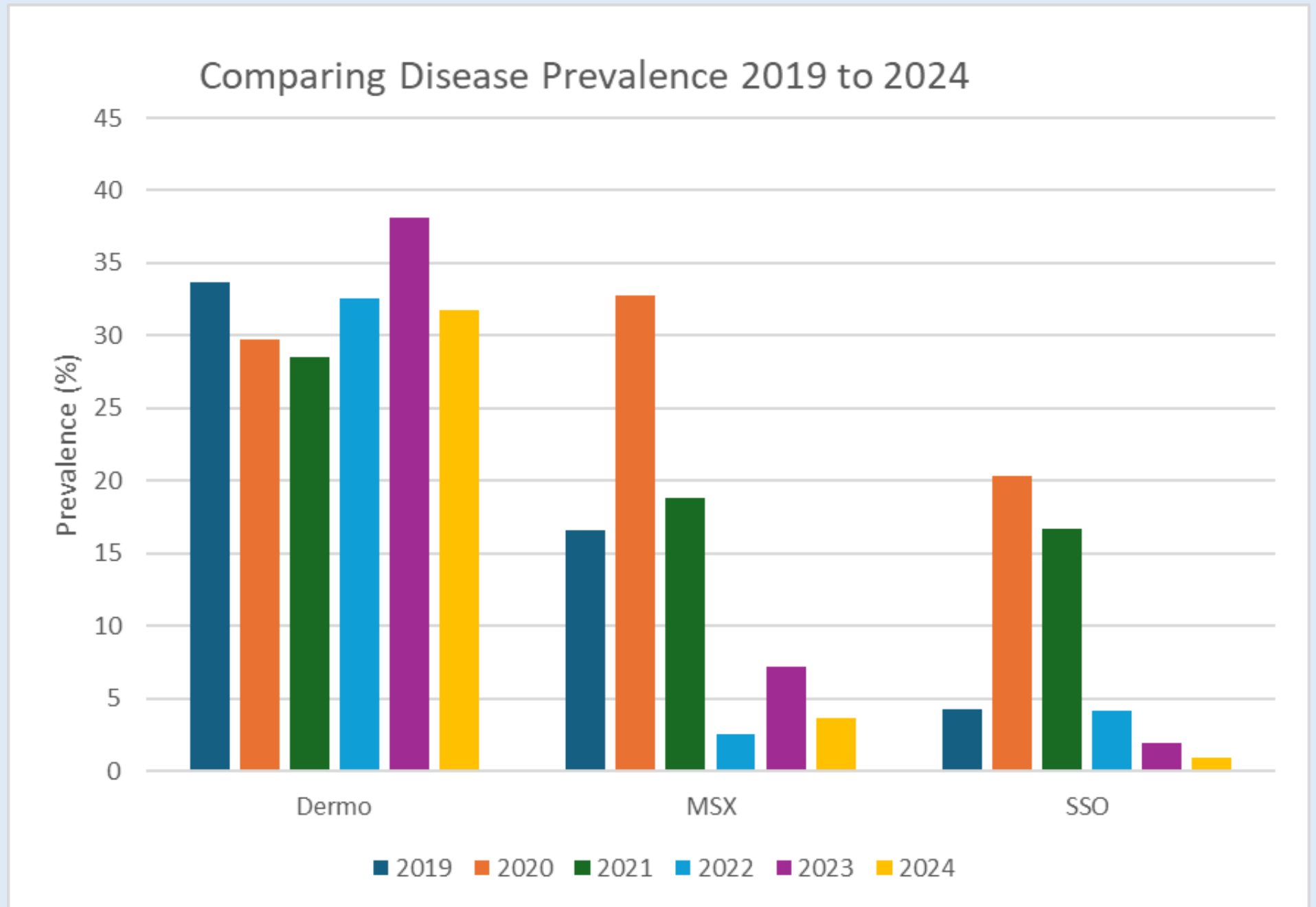
Dermo causing
some location
specific issues



Last 6 Years

80% of sites + for something

Levels down overall – especially MSX and SSO



Quahog Monitoring

- Hemacytic Neoplasia (HN) in Wellfleet
- QPX in Barnstable Harbor



Quahog Health Report Summary - 2024

Quahog Health Report Summary - 2024								
Location	# sites	Year Class	# of hatchery strains	Hemacytic Neoplasia (HN)		QPX		Notes
				# Sites +	%	# Sites +	%	
Wellfleet, surface	8	2021-22	3	8	82-100%	1	0%	Median prevalence of HN was 93%, all sites/strains
Wellfleet, sediment	10	2021-22	3	10	3-33%	0	0-3%	Median prevalence of HN was 13%, all sites/strains
Barnstable, sediment	3	2022	1	2	0-3%	3	3-63%	QPX much more prevalent

Seed mortality

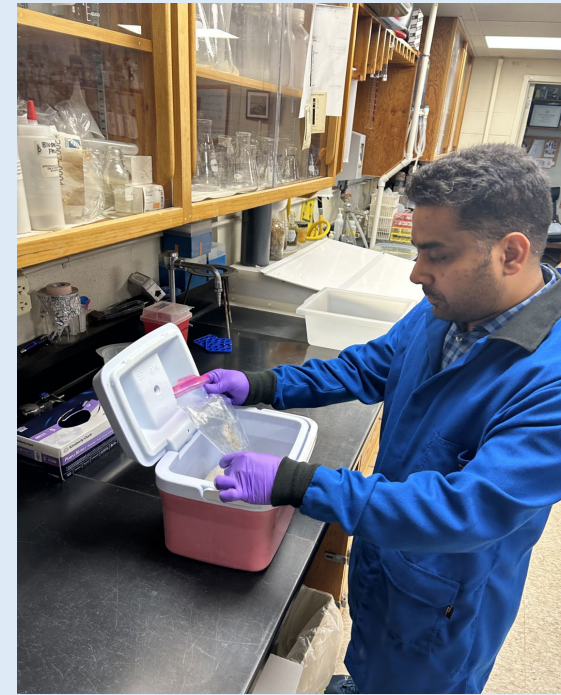
- Received a few requests for help identifying with seed mortality in 2024
- Let us know if you are seeing major issues



Goodbye Arun Venugopalan

Shellfish pathology post-doc

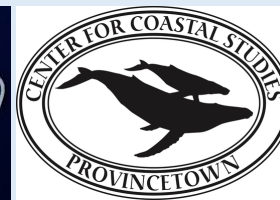
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution



Better Understanding Shell Pests

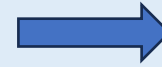
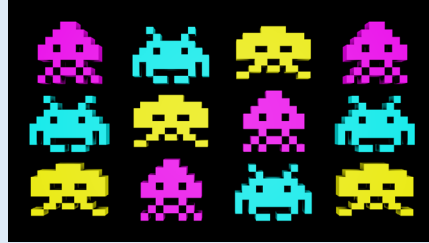
What we've learned about boring sponge:

- Species – likely all *Cliona celata*
 - Could be some *C. lobata*
- Boring sponge appears to reproduce
 - June – August/Sept
- Grows slowly
 - But a pain when inside shell
- Susceptible to drying
 - Timing of mitigation?



Barnacle work continues
with Dr. Pineda, WHOI

Shell Invaders...

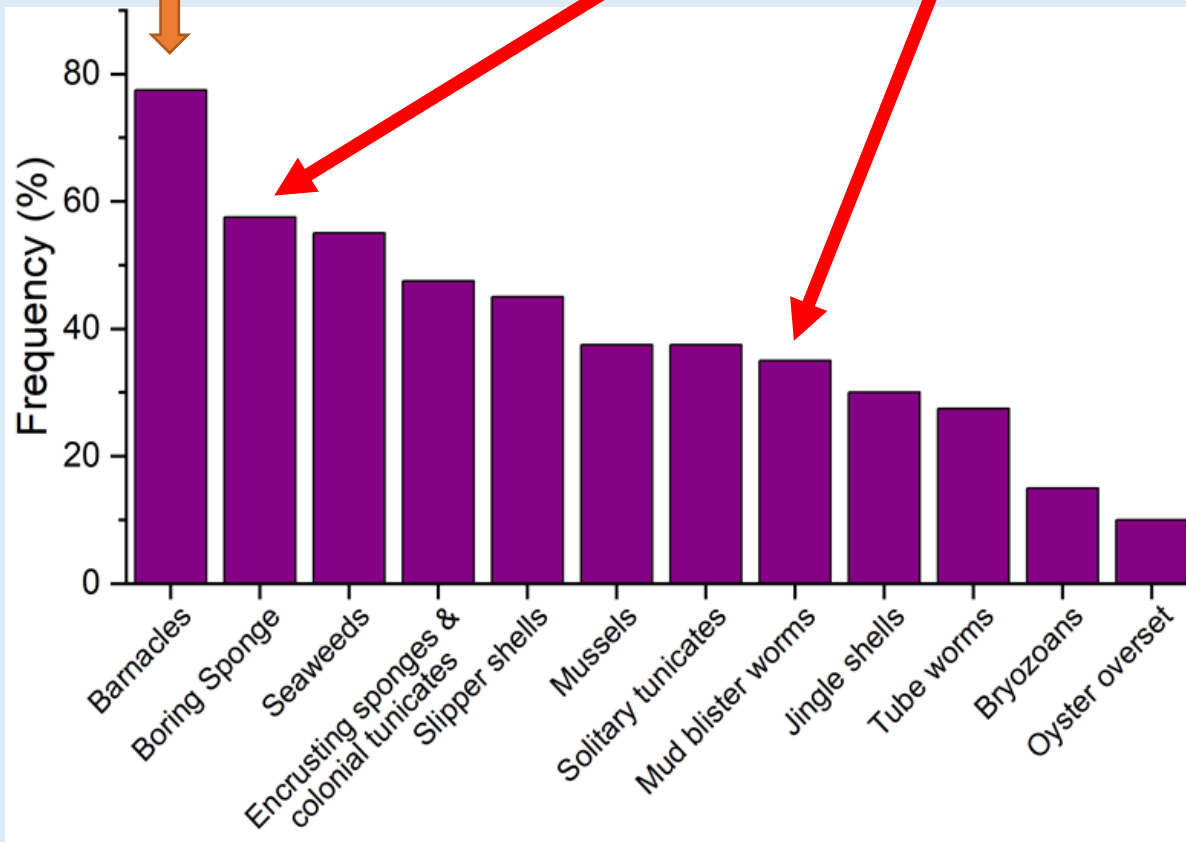


- Join us for a learning session on these shell invaders
 - Share experiences with mitigation

- Drew Davinack, Wheaton College
- Owen Nichols & Tommy Tucker, Center for Coastal Studies

March 19th, 4 PM, Yarmouth, MA

<https://forms.office.com/g/5wVtLsjWZx>



Kelp needs help!

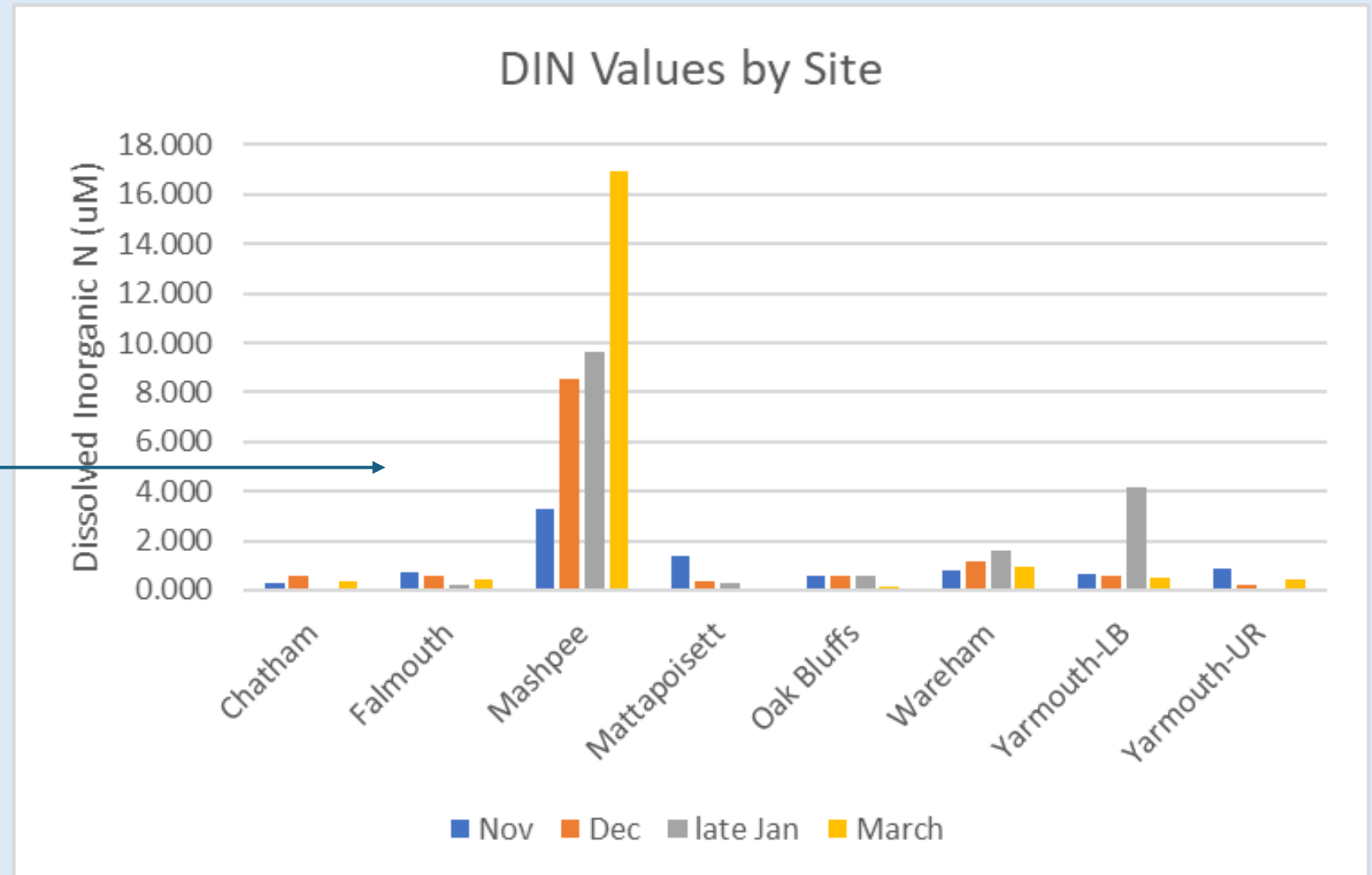
Why doesn't it grow well in MA?



Available Nitrogen could be an issue...

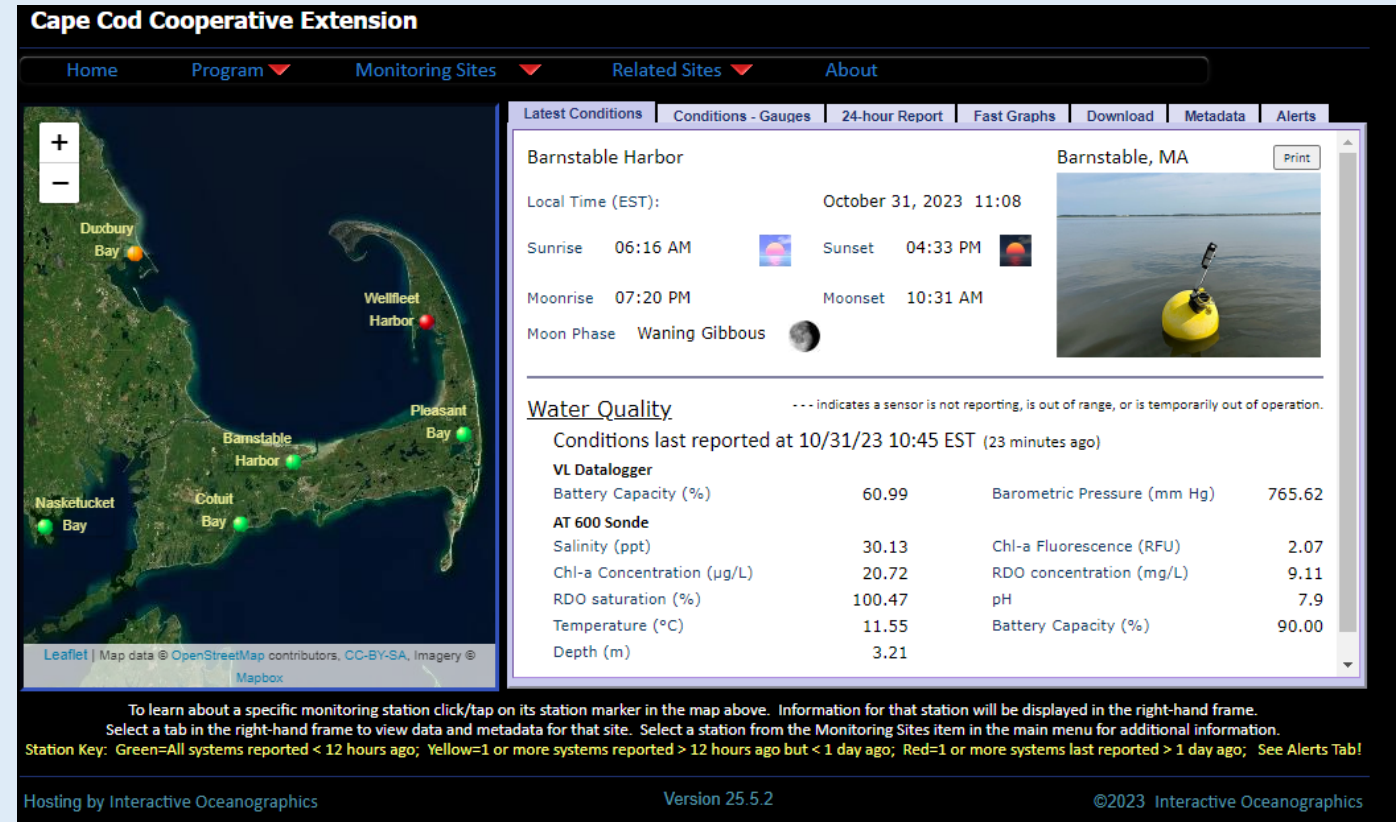
> 5uM of DIN has been suggested as good

Water flow also a factor



Water Quality Update

- Uploading to a public site
- Take advantage of real-time data!!!
 - temperature, Chlorophyll (algae), DO



ccce.riocean.com



Detering birds from aquaculture gear

URI Laser scarecrows didn't work as tested

- Will try some new variations...
- Adding sound helped??



Detering Birds

- Have something that works
- New ideas to test?
- Planning a meeting:
Afternoon of April 10th, time TBD
 - URI presenting some bird guano analysis
 - Updates from 2024 experiences
- Will send out notice soon...



Aquaculture Workforce Training

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY HOST SITES NEEDED

Introducing a funded
internship program for
Massachusetts aquaculture!



Interested?
Complete this
questionnaire:
bit.ly/AquaHost



Finding a motivated, hardworking workforce is a challenge throughout the aquaculture industry. Often, many potential candidates are unaware of aquaculture as an opportunity. With funding to train and subsidize interns as farmhands and staff, we seek to connect communities throughout eastern Massachusetts with your operation.

Looking for reliable staff?

What We'll Do

MIT Sea Grant and WHOI Sea Grant will:

- Recruit a cohort of potential employees
- Train candidates in basic industry skills
- Pay trainees, support housing, and subsidize wages during internships

What We Seek

Partners connected to aquaculture (growers, regulators, processors, etc.) to support some or all of the following and receive financial compensation:

- Host hands-on training days
 - > Expose trainees to gear, techniques, etc.
- Host 1-2 trainees for 3 weeks in spring 2024
 - > Trainees will complete three 1-week rotations at different host sites (serves as an interview)
- Hire 1-2 interns for June – Dec 2024

Photo: John Freidah



Questions:

Danny Badger | 617-253-9308
badgerd@mit.edu



Fundamentals of Shellfish Farming

- Hybrid zoom/in-person
- Lots of aquaculture interested people
 - Not all go into farming
- Knowing interest for future classes is helpful



Thanks!



- If you want to reach out:
- Abigail Archer, aarcher@capecod.gov, 508-375-6702
- Rachel Hutchinson, rachel.hutchinson@capecod.gov, 508-375-6634
- Josh Reitsma, jreitsma@capecod.gov, 508-375-6950