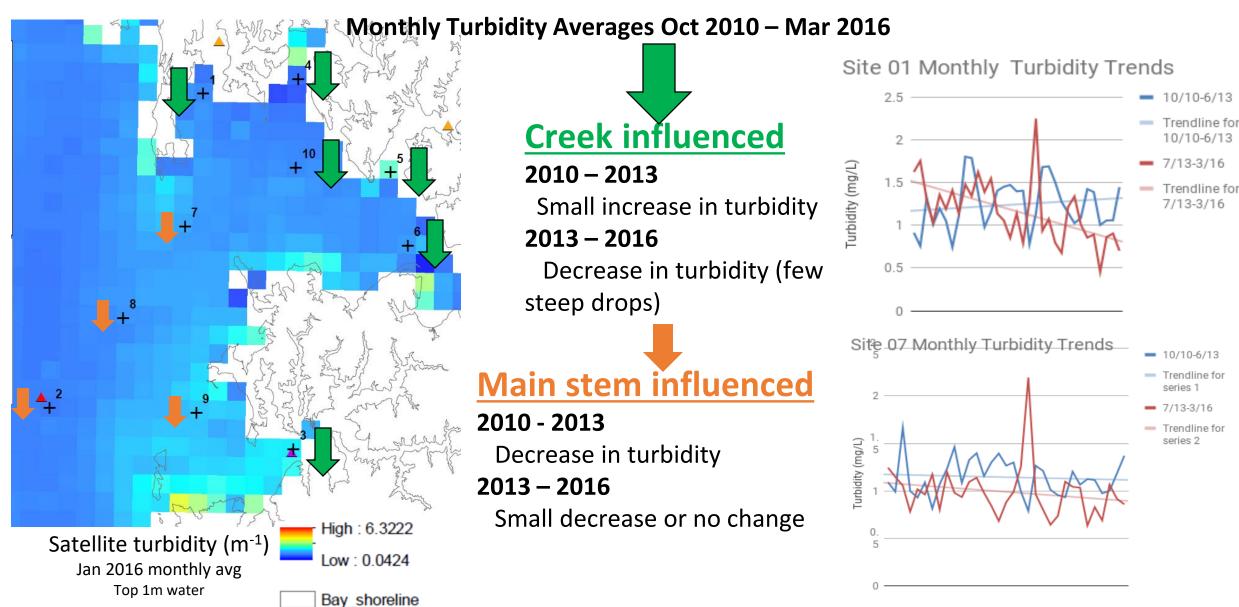


Background (Winter 2016)

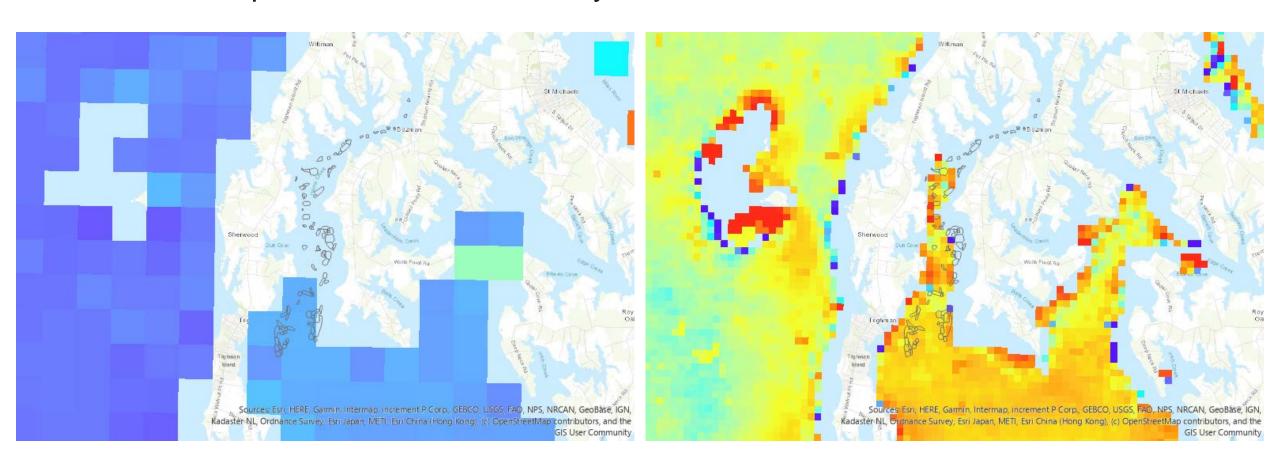
- The first round of 3YR Metrics population monitoring had been delivered and the results were positive- oyster biomass was increasing
 - Sparking an interest in what these results may portend ecologically
- Ron Vogel (NOAA/NESDIS) had just given a presentation at a NCBO monthly staff meeting on the use of satellite turbidity data suggesting an improving trend toward decreased turbidity
 - Sharing the consensus that bay-wide improvements were from TMDL decreases in nutrient loading
- We wondered aloud 1) whether we crossed a threshold in oyster restoration scale that could demonstrate water quality change and 2) whether we could statistically relate it to oyster restoration or other environmental change

Satellite (MODIS) KD490 Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Trends at Select Stations



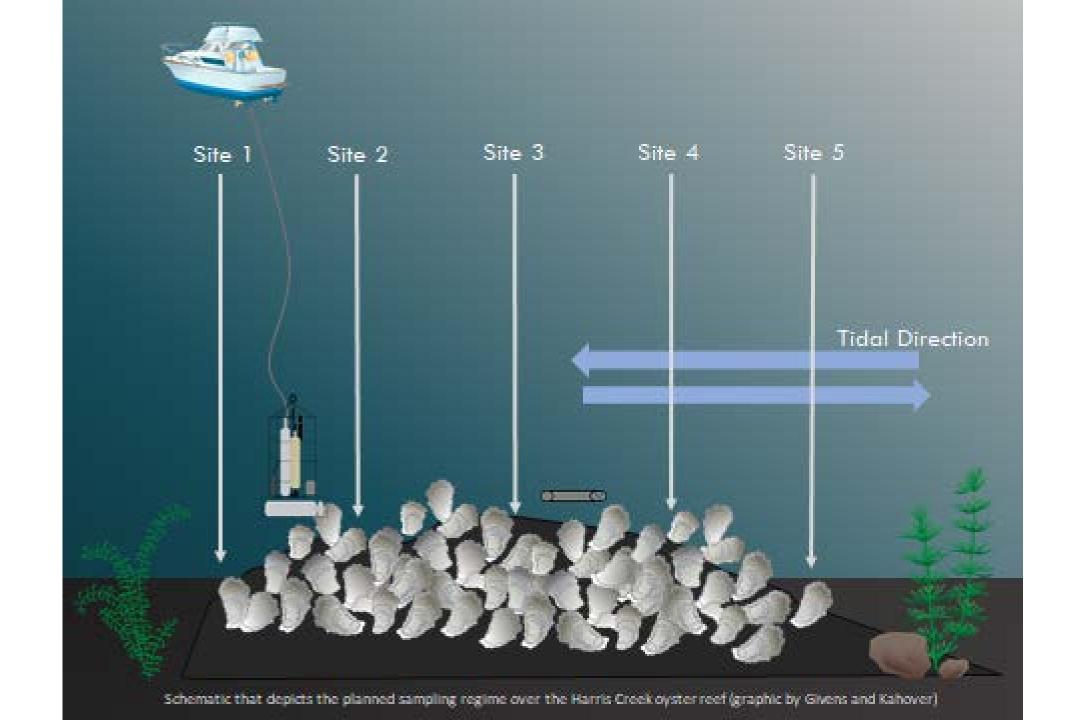
MODIS KD490 vs MODIS TSM Product Resolution

 And we were aware of other available products at better resolution, one that better represented the scale of oyster restoration

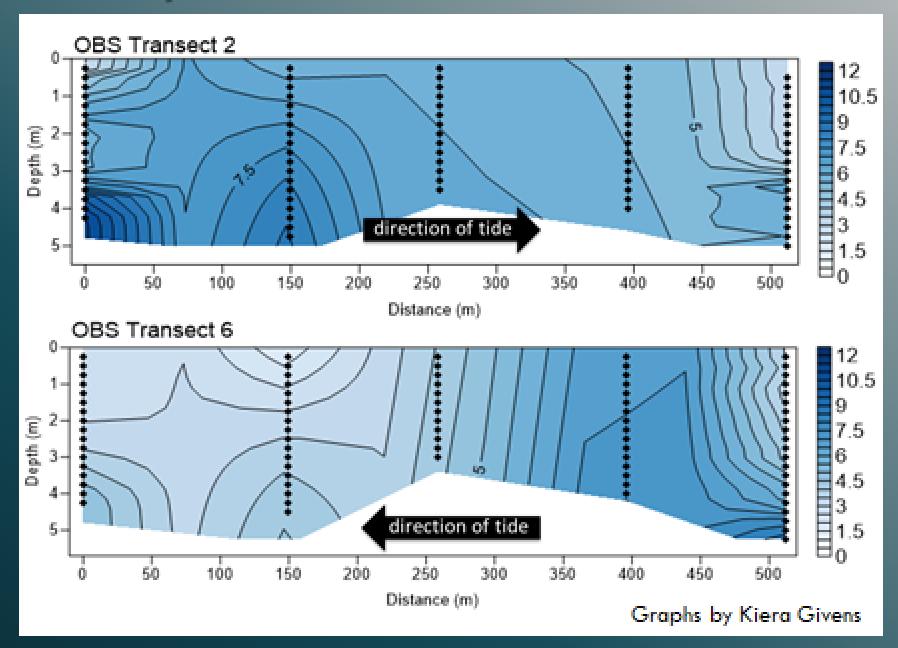


Background (Winter 2018)

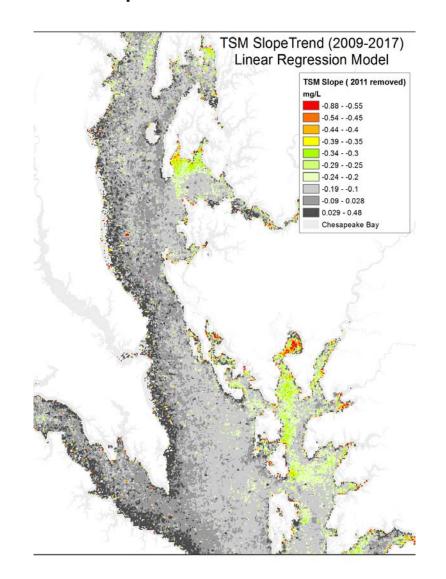
- We knew in 2016 the restoration effort was relatively immature, so we waited to accumulate more data
- We found a tool, CurveFit, created by USGS that modeled trends in raster data
- And preliminary results from ORES project work on filtration, biodeposition and nutrient cycling collected in the summer of 2016 by Kevin Kahover in Lora Harris' lab had been shared
 - Modeling Recap: Conceptual Model > Numerical Model > Model Validation...

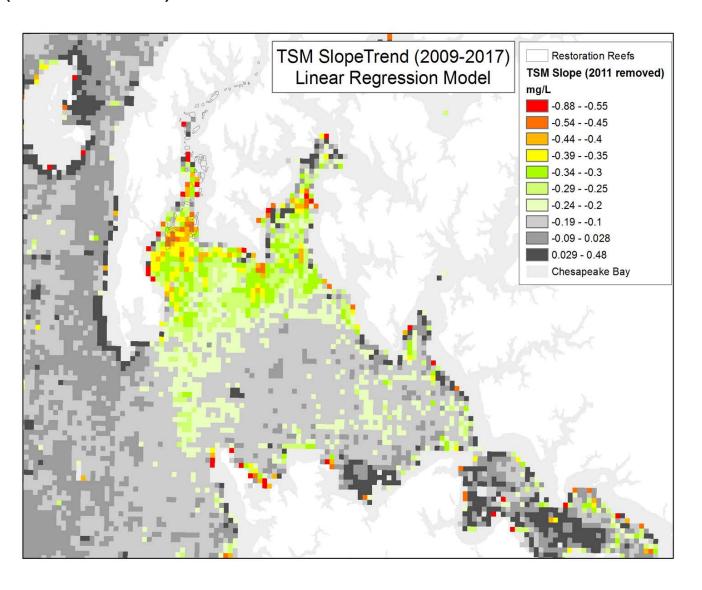


Preliminary Validation – Filtration Model

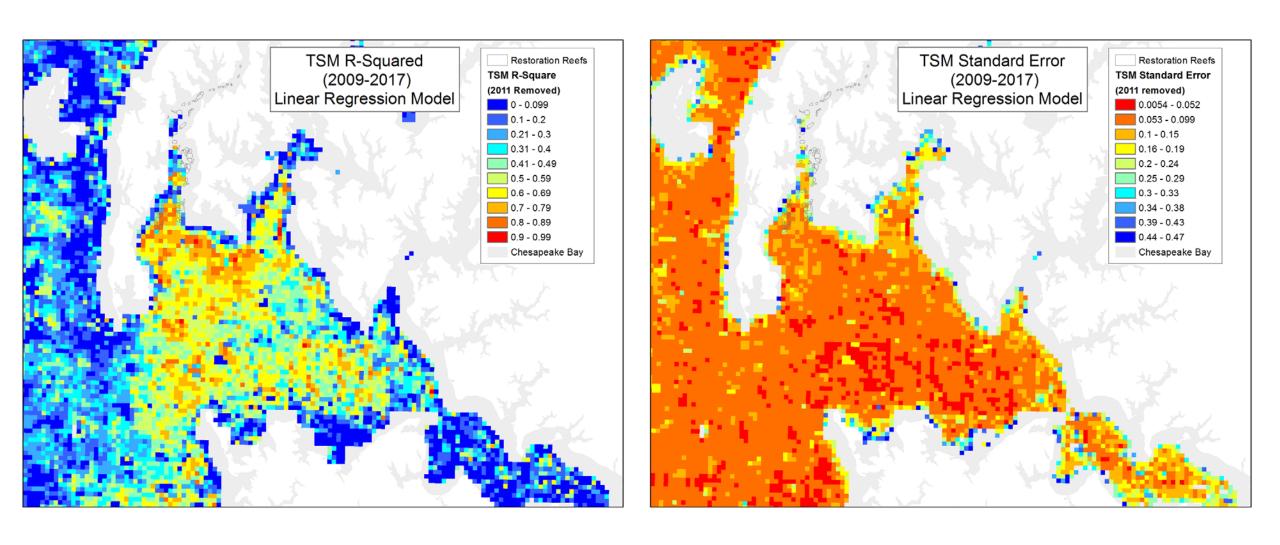


Model Confirmation? Slope Trend of Annual TSM (2009-2017)





Total Suspended Matter (TSM) Trend- Slope Supporting Statistics

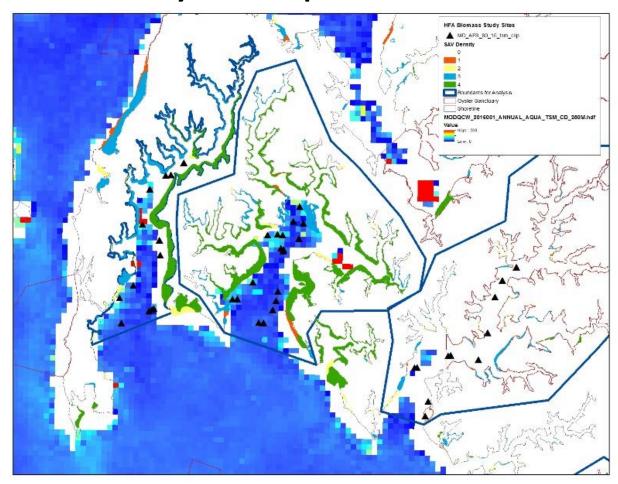


Does oyster restoration improve water clarity?

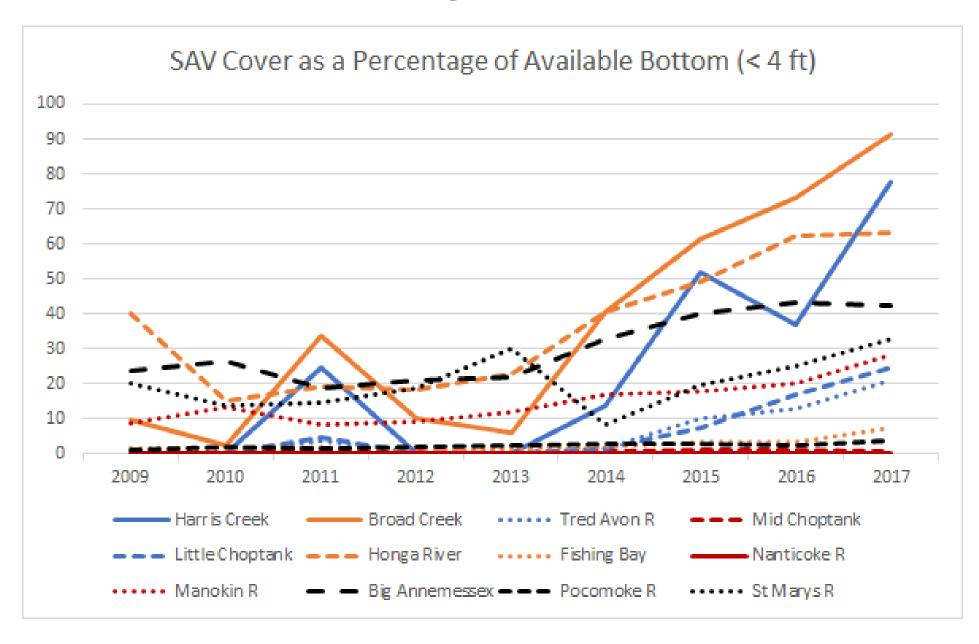
Choptank HFA: public interest in socioeconomic value of oyster restoration

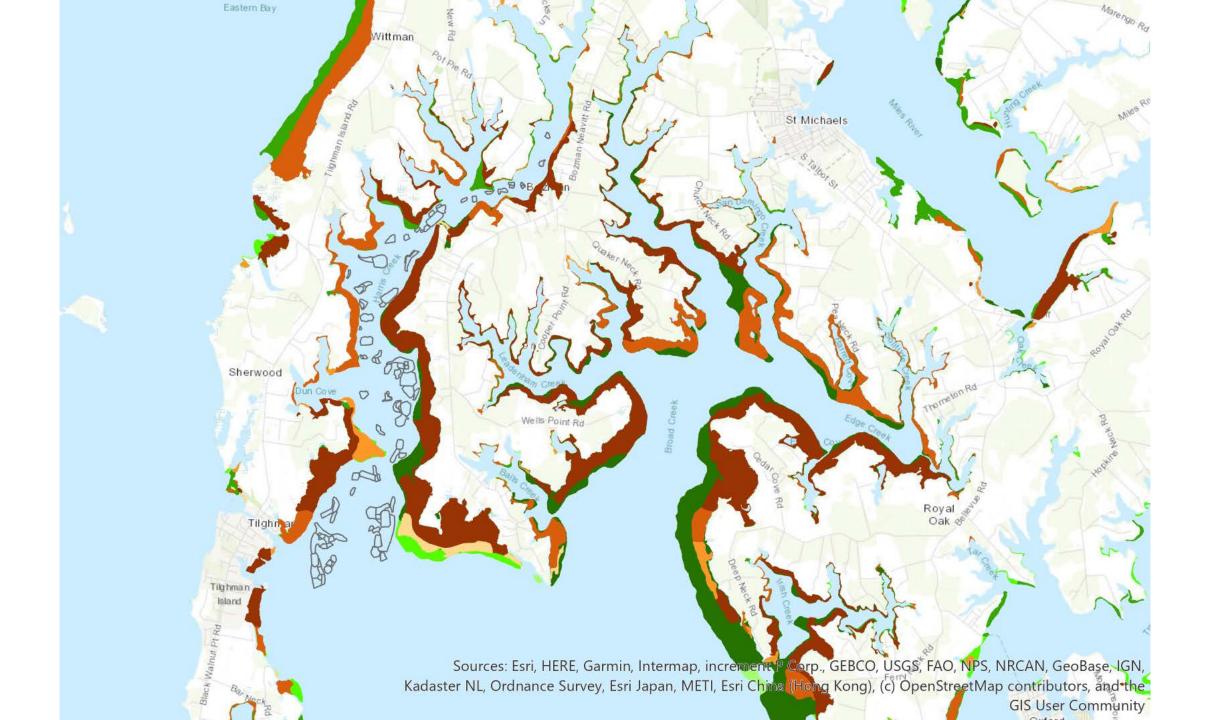
- Use satellite total suspended matter concentration (TSM) as an indicator of water clarity (250m resolution)
- Compare oyster biomass (AFS) and satellite suspended matter over 8 years (2009-2016); eventually 9
- Assess influence of other factors on water clarity: Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), Precipitation (land runoff)
 - Conversely is improved water clarity responsible for substantial SAV increases in the Choptank HFA

Map of TSM, SAV density and Oyster sample locations



SAV Cover as a Percentage of Available Bottom (<4ft)

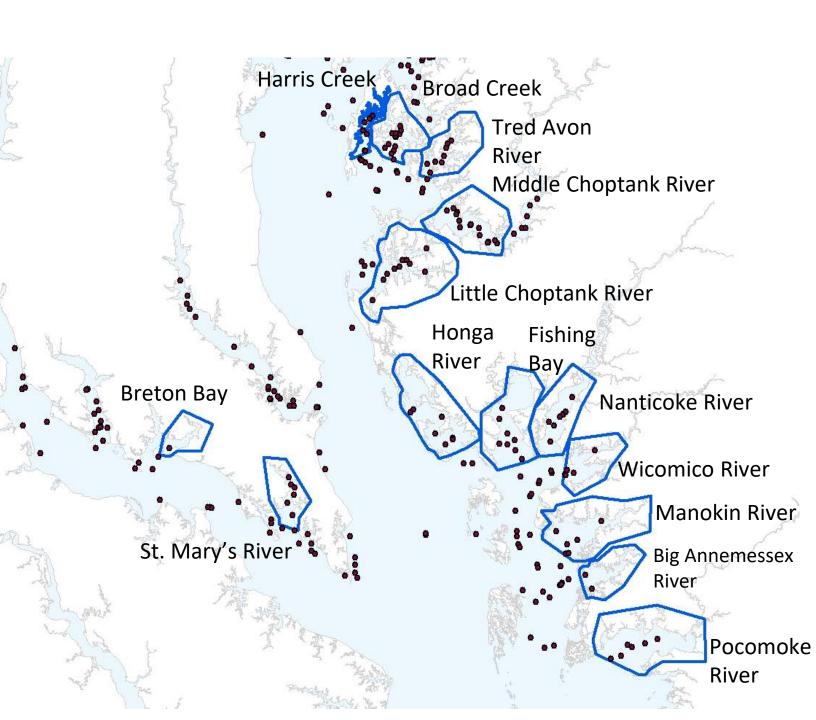




"13 Zone" Study Design

- Management Type
- High vs Low Oyster Biomass
- High vs Low SAV Cover
- Presumed similarities in regional precipitation
- Similarities in watershed sizes (Middle Choptank and Nanticoke exceptions)

14 Tributaries originally identified (Breton Bay excluded for too little data)



What Variables might have the greatest influence on TSM?



Multiple Regression Analysis: Evaluate TSM against Time, Location, Oyster Biomass, SAV

Sum of Squares statistics(SS)

<u>Type I SS:</u> Considers each independent variable individually - All p values < 0.05 indicating that TSM varies significantly with all variables

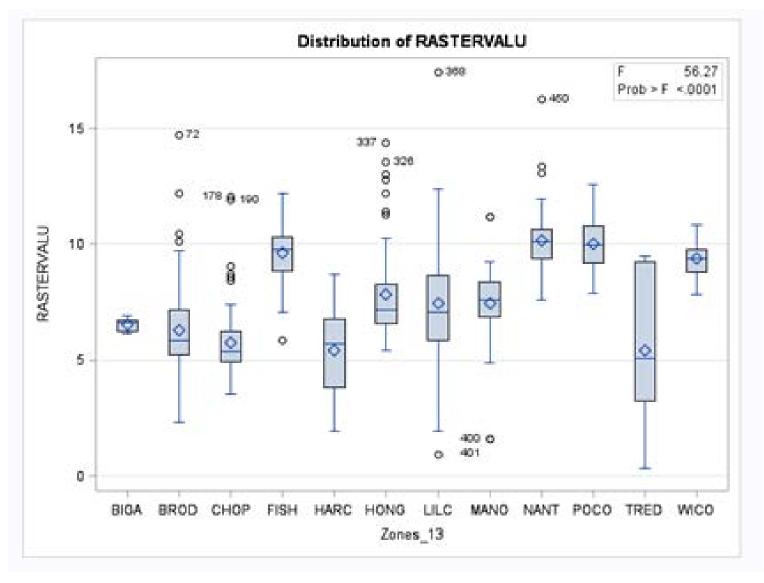
Type III SS: Considers all independent variables together

- When all variables are in the model TSM varies significantly only with Location (Zones_13) and Year (p values < 0.05)

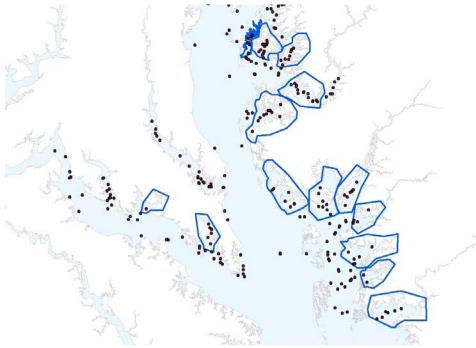
R2 – All 4 independent variables together explain **51%** of the variation in TSM

• Oyster Biomass- 4%, SAV- 5%, Location 51%

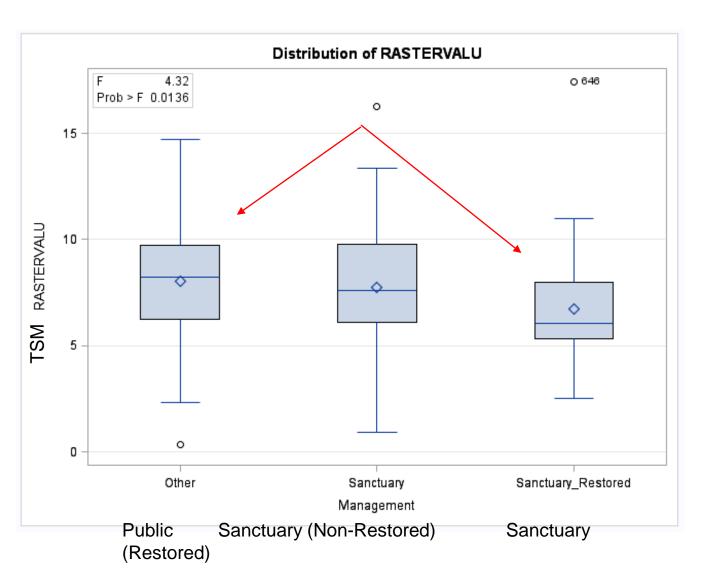
Data Distribution by Area- "13 Tribs"



Lowest TSM values come from Big Annemessex, Broad Cr., Choptank, Harris, and Tred Avon



Does Mean TSM vary by Management Regime (When Managing for Oysters)?

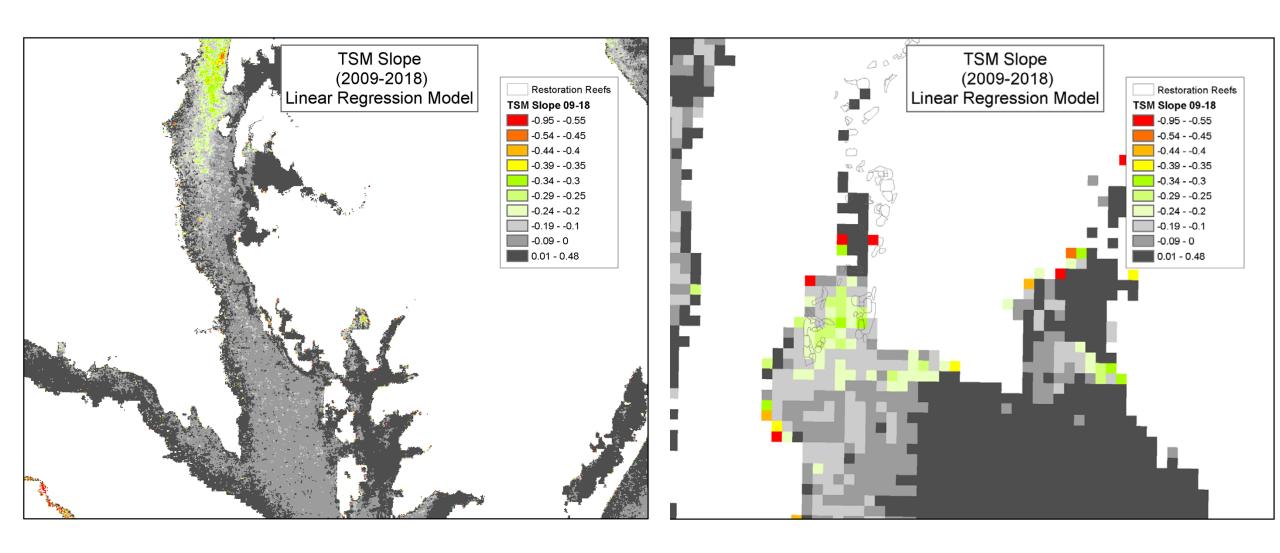


- TSM is significantly different between public and restored-sanctuary management types at the locations of oyster samples in the 13 tributaries, but non-restored sanctuary is not significantly different from the other 2 management types
- Pairwise comparisons indicate that mean TSM varies significantly (alpha = 0.05) among "Public" and "Sanctuary_Restored"
- Should have a "Mixed" class

Conclusions

- Temporal TSM trends suggest meaningful water quality improvement in the NW Choptank River
 - And SAV is approaching full capacity (as we understand it) in Harris & Broad Creeks
- Large scale remotely sensed environmental data should continue to be explored as we quantify the ecosystem services from oyster restoration
- TSM values vary significantly between Public and Restored Sanctuary Management Areas
- TSM decreases significantly with increased Oyster Biomass and increased SAV
- Oyster Biomass, SAV and Location explain 4, 5 and 51% of TSM variability respectively

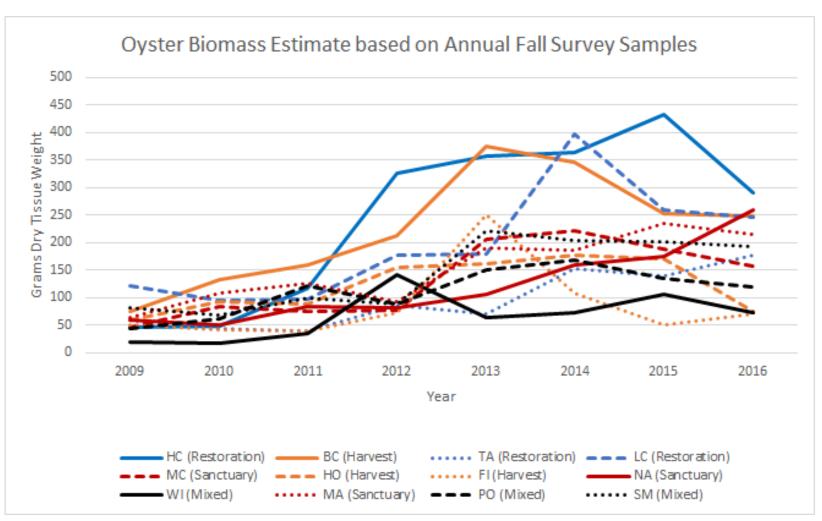
Slope Trend of Annual Satellite Total Suspended Matter (TSM) 2009-2018



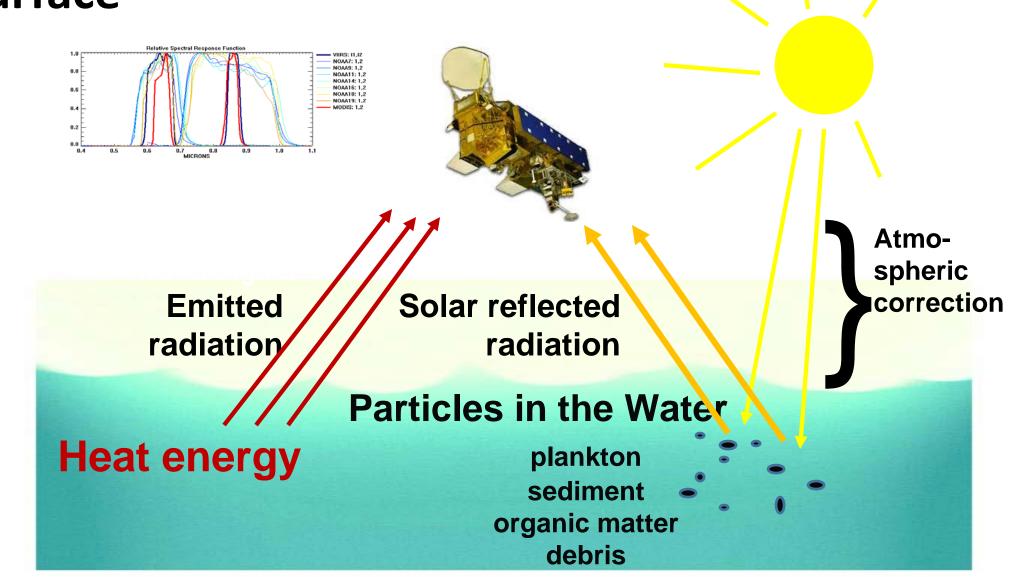
Intentionally Blank- End of Presentation

Mean Oyster Biomass* by Area from Oyster Annual Fall Survey (AFS) over Time

Biomass Estimates using a *modified formula by NOAA (Fall 2009 – Fall 2016)

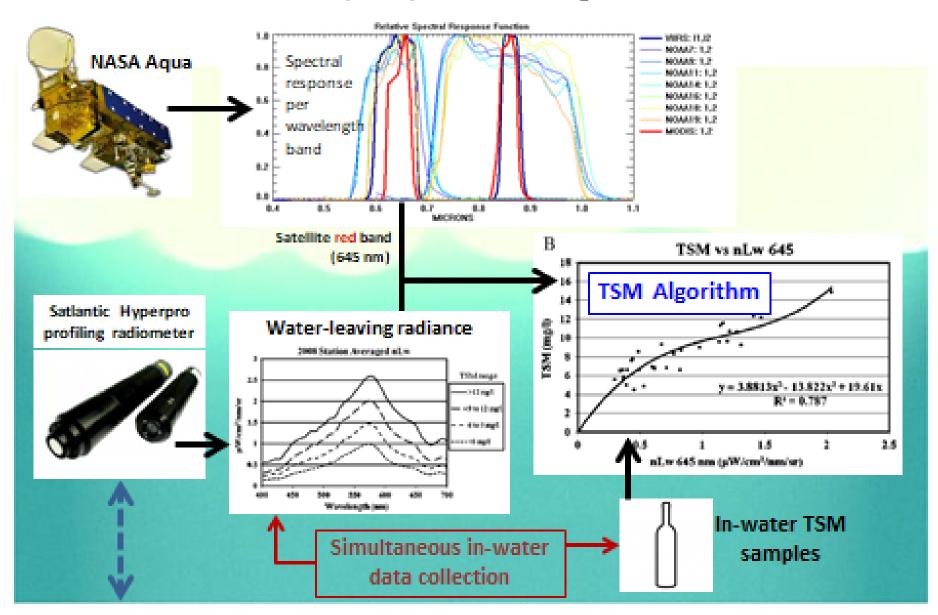


How a satellite instrument measures the earth surface



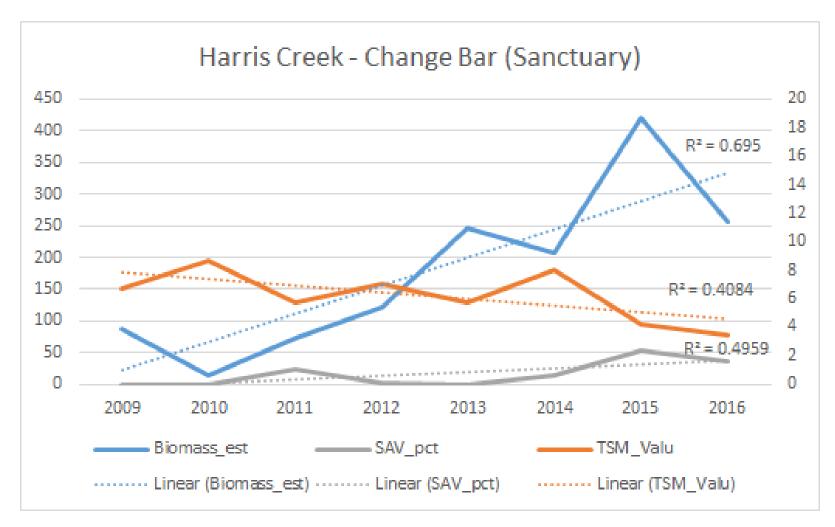
Algorithm Description

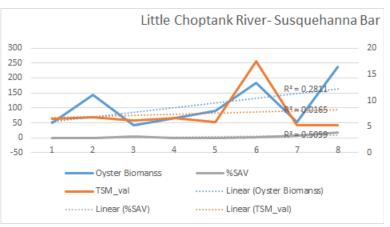
Ondrusek et al., 2012, Remote Sensing of Environment

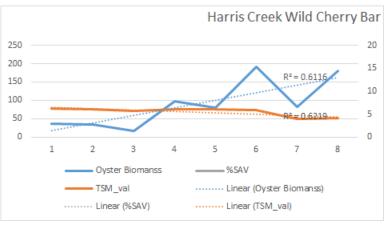


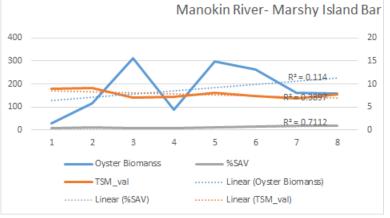
<u>Individual Temporal Trend Plots</u>

(2009-2016, stronger relationships)



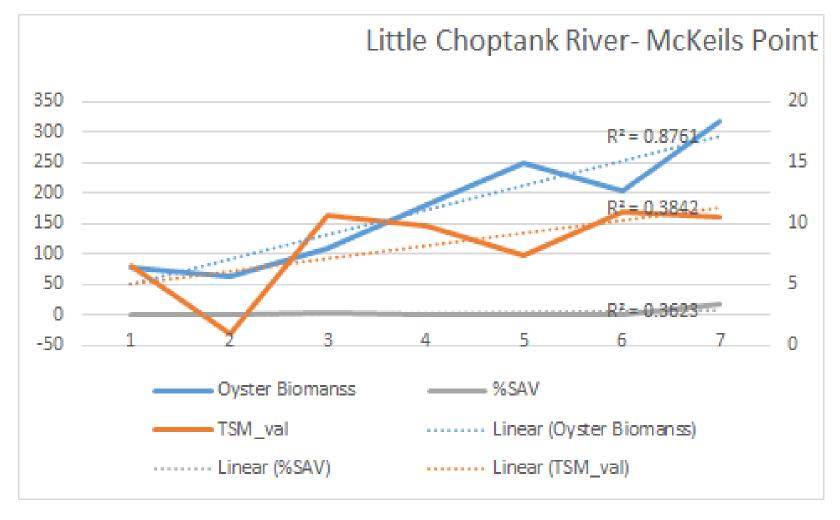


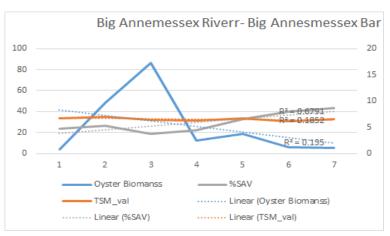


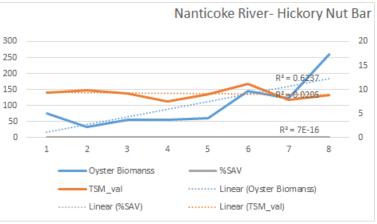


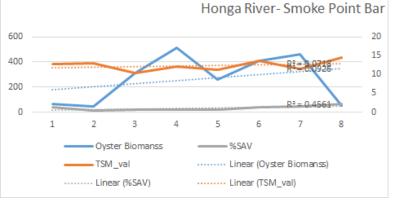
<u>Individual Temporal Trend Plots</u>

(2009-2016, relationships are unclear)

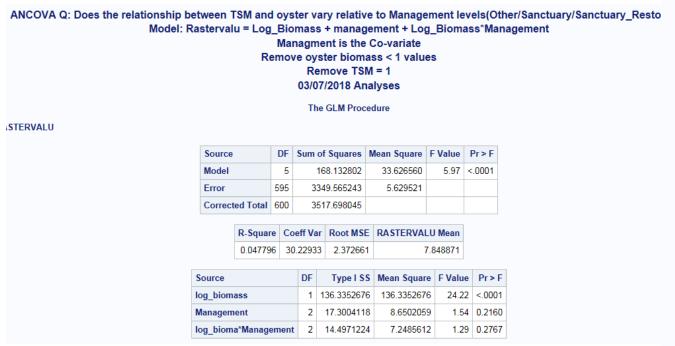






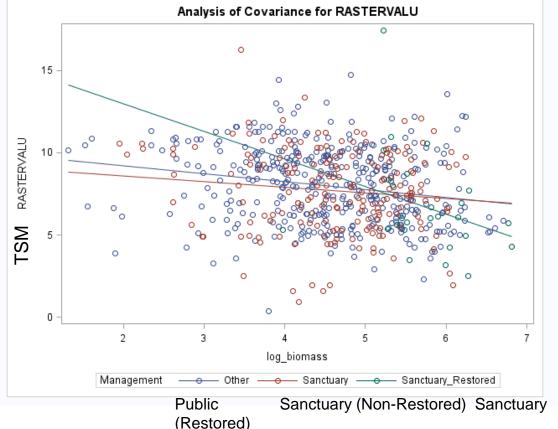


Question: If Management type is significant, and we're managing for oysters, does oyster biomass agree?

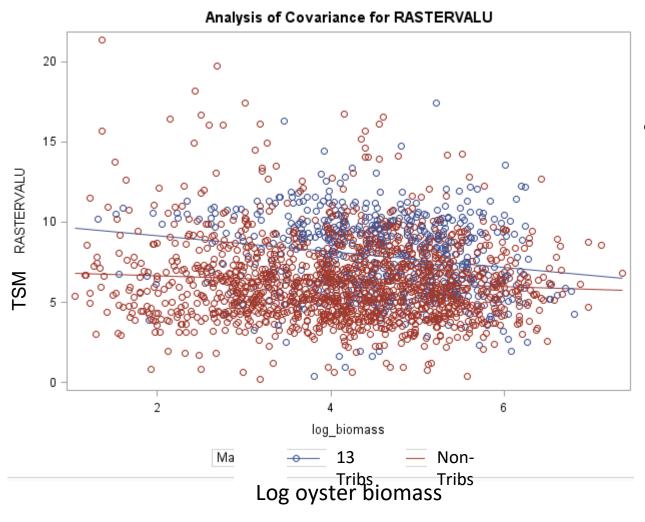


• ANCOVA Results: A significant relationship exists between TSM and biomass but it is not affected by management regimen.

Source	DF	Type III SS	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
log_biomass	1	48.34692796	48.34692796	8.59	0.0035
Management	2	14.03701166	7.01850583	1.25	0.2882
log_bioma*Management	2	14.49712245	7.24856122	1.29	0.2767

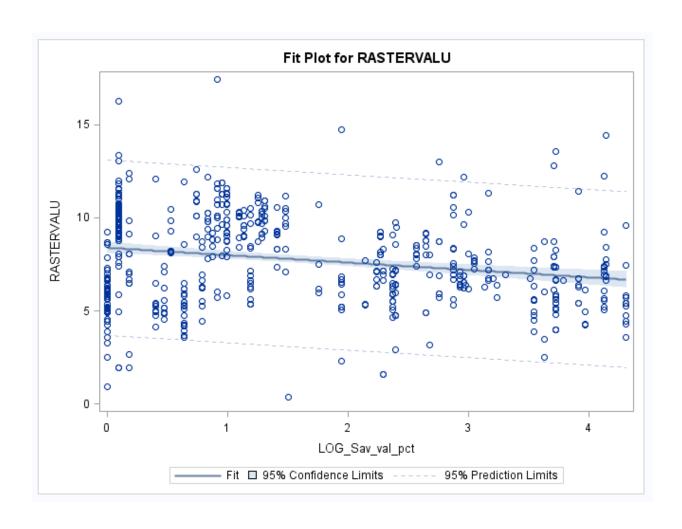


Question: What is the relationship between Oyster Biomass and TSM for all AFS sites?



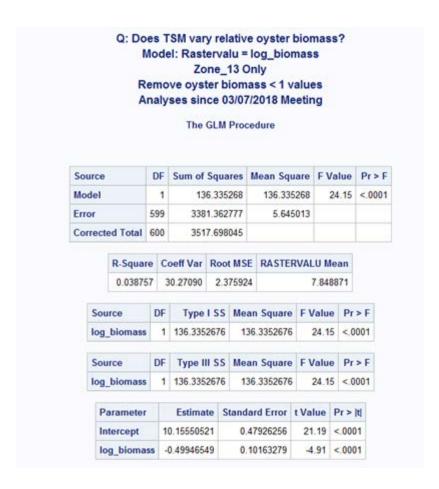
- ANCOVA Results: Relationship between TSM and biomass varies relative to 13 selected trib sites (blue) or non-13 sites (red), p=0.0052. Slope for the 13 trib sites is greater than non-13 sites.
- Simple regression: TSM = log_biomass
 - 13 Trib sites have significant negative slope (-0.499, p <0.0001) with r2 = 0.039. n=601 observations. This indicates that 3.9% of TSM variation is explained by biomass in the 13 trib sites.
 - Non-trib sites have significant negative slope (-0.167, p <0.0024) with r2 = 0.0006. n=1468 observations. 0.06% of TSM variation explained.

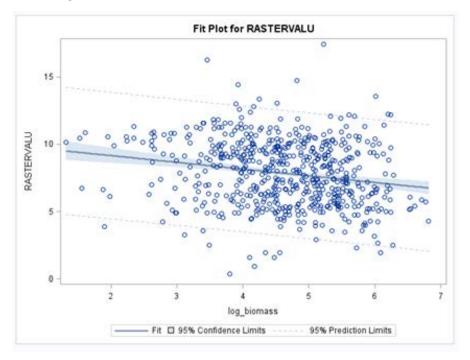
TSM and SAV relationship



- parameter estimate (slope) is negative indicating that TSM decreases with increased logtransformed SAV coverage percent (slope of -0.4)
- p values < 0.0001 indicate that
 TSM varies significantly with logtransformed SAV coverage percent
- R_Square is small indicating that SAV explains only 5% of the variability in TSM

Question: What is the relationship between Oyster Biomass and TSM for Study Sites?

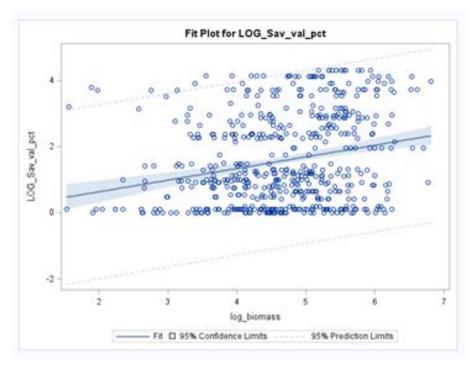




- Removed oyster biomass values that = 0
- TSM declines significantly with Biomass (oyster)
- Slope = -0.499
- Biomass explains ~4% of the variability in TSM (r²)
- Slope parameters (-0.413,-0.499) and r² (0.054, 0.039) are similar for the SAV and Biomass models respectively

Question: Is there a relationship between Oyster and SAV?





- Removed oyster biomass values that = 0
- SAV increases significantly with Biomass (oyster)
- Slope = +0.35
- Biomass explains 6% of the variability in SAV