Using A Satellite to Help Us Evaluate the Impacts of Oyster Restoration: A Perspective From Above

A NESDIS/NMFS Collaboration & Contribution to the Choptank HFA Water Column Habitat Study

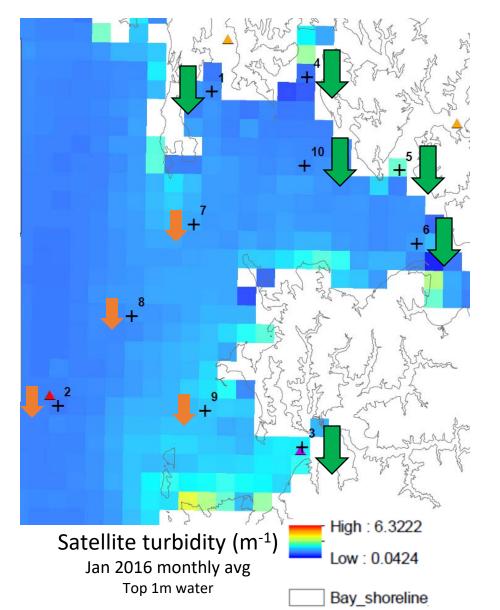
Sept 27, 2018

Jay Lazar, Ron Vogel, David Bruce & Andy McGowan



Satellite Turbidity at Selected Stations over Time

Monthly Turbidity Averages Oct 2010 – Mar 2016





Creek influenced

2010 - 2013

Small increase in turbidity

2013 - 2016

Decrease in turbidity (few steep drops)



Main stem influenced

2010 - 2013

Decrease in turbidity

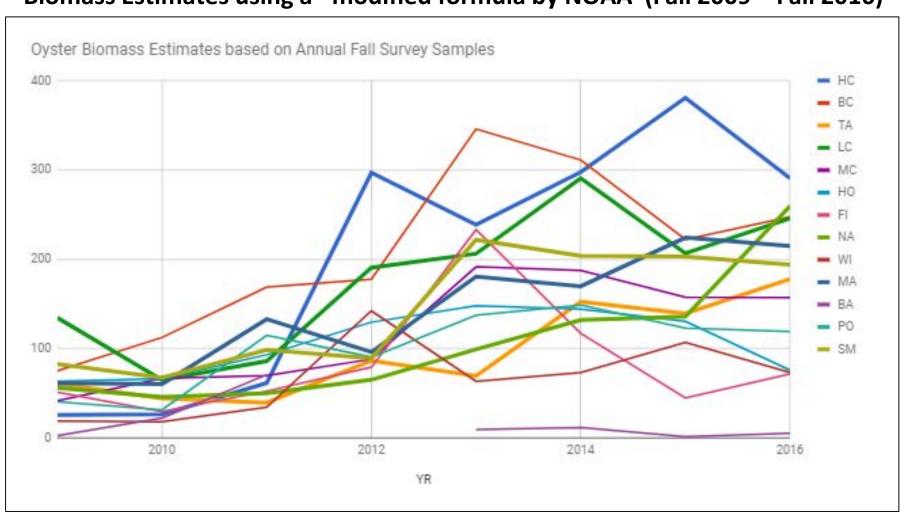
2013 – 2016

Small decrease or no change



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)

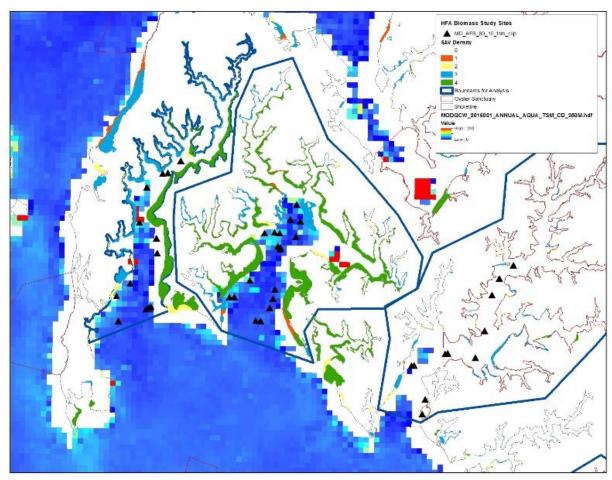


Does oyster restoration improve water clarity?

Public interest in socioeconomic value of oyster restoration

- Use satellite total suspended matter concentration (TSM) as an indicator of water clarity (250m resolution)
- Compare with MD DNR Annual Fall Survey oyster biomass
- Compare with VIMS aerial overflight SAV coverage
 - SAV has increased substantially in the region over this time period
- Comparisons over 8 years: 2009-2016

Suspended Matter map, SAV density, Oyster sample locations



Total Suspended Matter (TSM) from Satellite

- > Sediment concentration (mg/L) in surface water (top 1m)
- > TSM algorithm specifically developed by NOAA for Chesapeake Bay (Ondrusek et al., 2012)
- ➤ Once daily observation (from a single satellite)
 - > Clouds cause missing data
- > Provides spatial overview
 - > Detect spatial patterns
- ➤ Monitor change over time
- > 250 m spatial resolution
- ➤ Data from NASA's Aqua satellite, MODIS instrument

July 26, 2018 **June 24.**

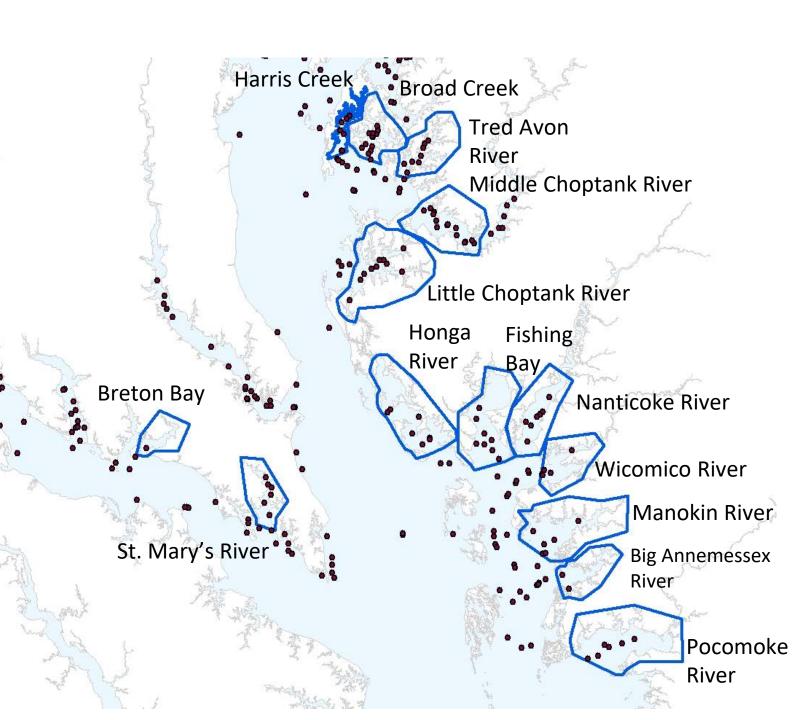
June 26, 2013

2013

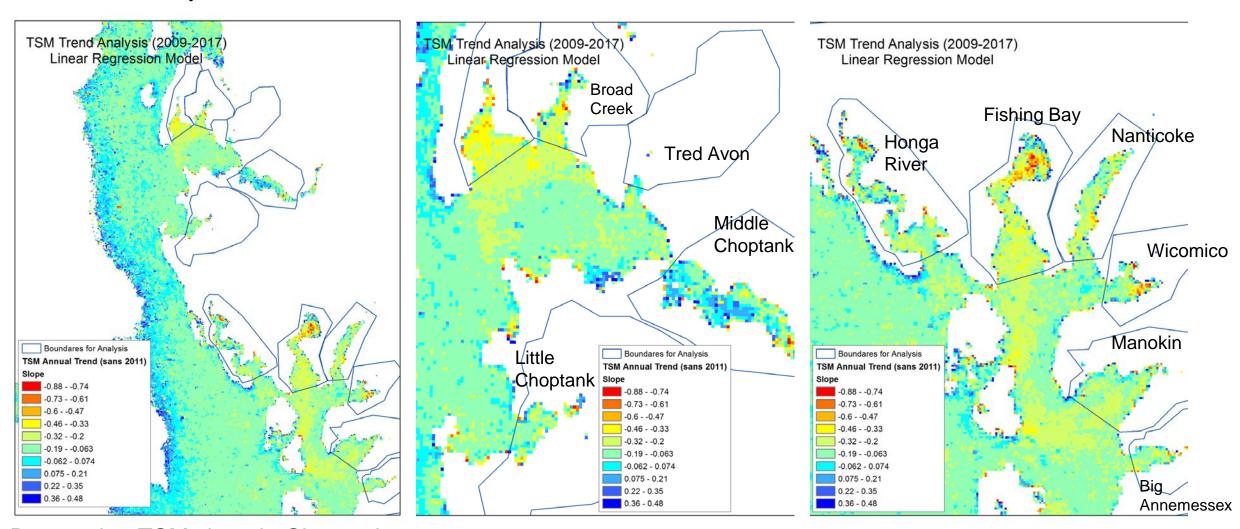
"13 Trib" Study Design

- Management Type: public, sanctuary, sanctuary with restoration
- 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)



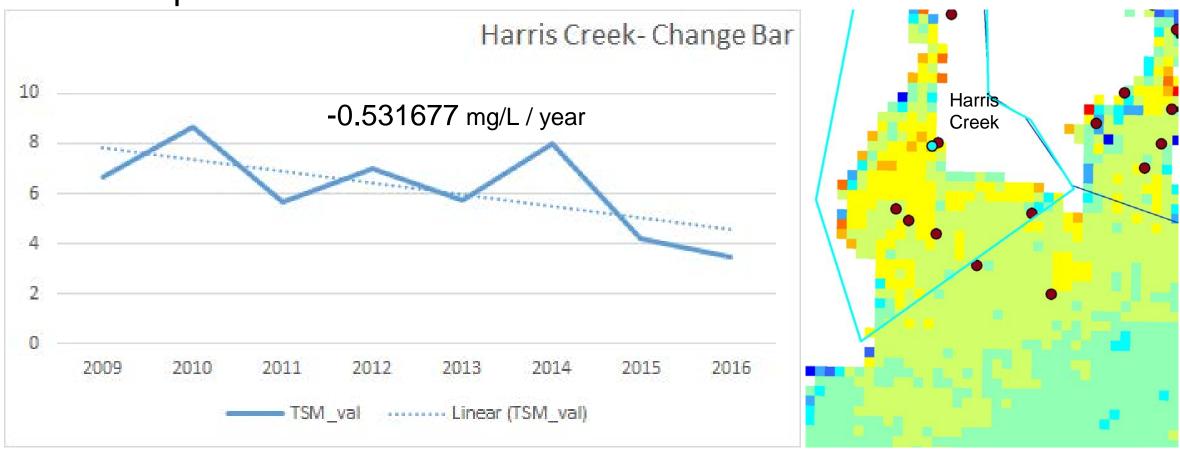
TSM annual trend for each satellite grid cell, 2009-2017 Slope (mg/L/year)



Decreasing TSM slope in Choptank and Tangier Sound



TSM annual trend for each satellite grid cell, 2009-2017 Slope

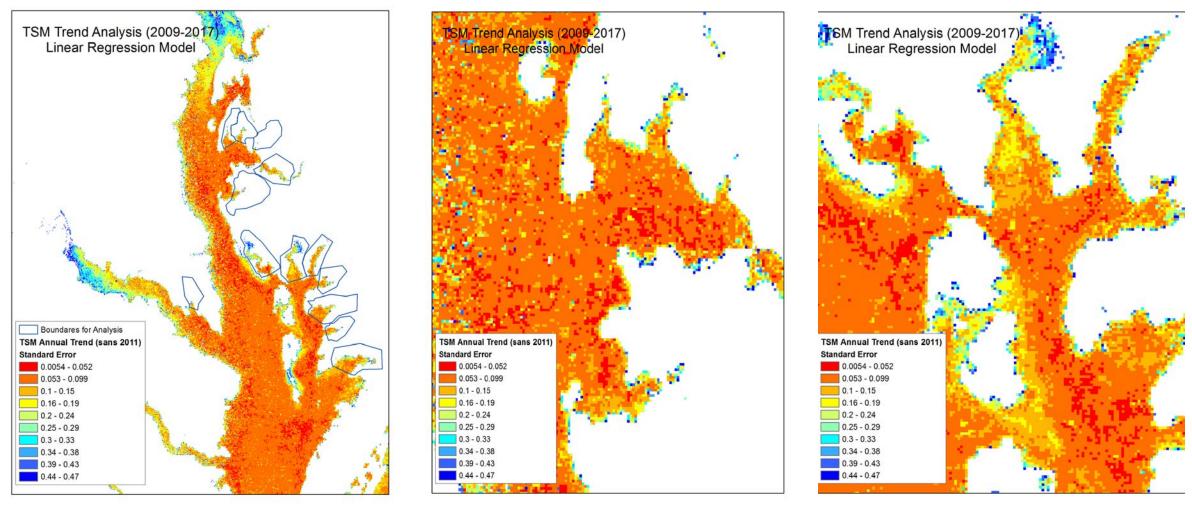


Single grid cell annual trend at AFS sample location (blue circle) on Change Bar oyster restoration site. Perimeter grid cells have a high amount of variability.

Spatial aggregations of grid cells with consistently high slopes might suggest real TSM decrease.

TSM annual trend for each satellite grid cell, 2009-2017

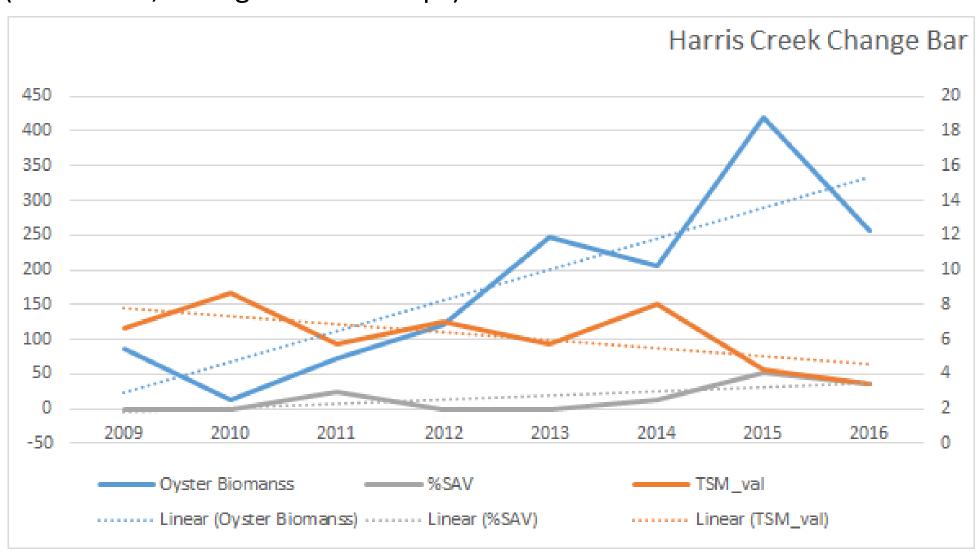
Slope Standard Error (SE) - measure of how well points fit on TSM/yr line



Decreasing TSM slope in Harris and Broad Creeks with small slope SE implies confidence in TSM decrease. Decreasing TSM slope in Fishing Bay with large slope SE -- TSM decrease not reliable.

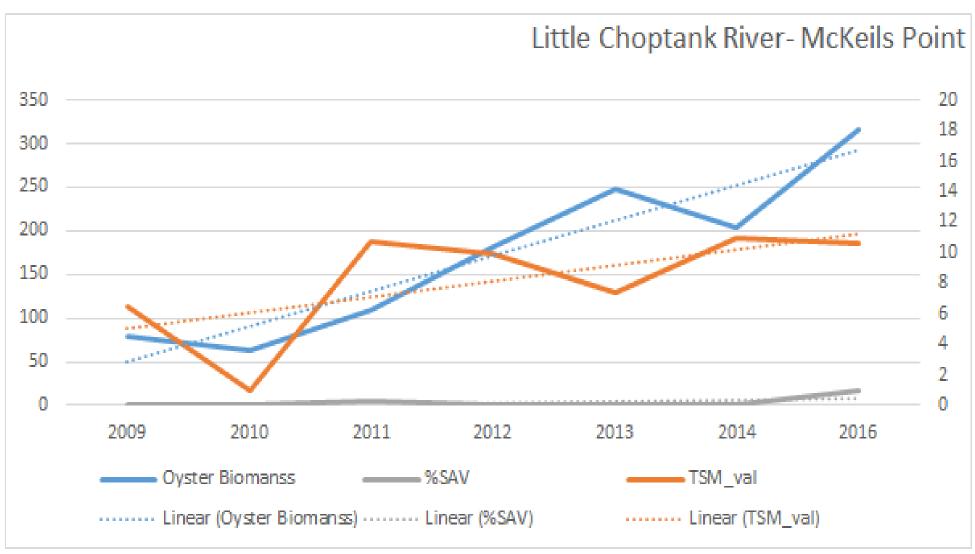
<u>Individual Temporal Trend Plots</u>

(2009-2016, stronger relationships)



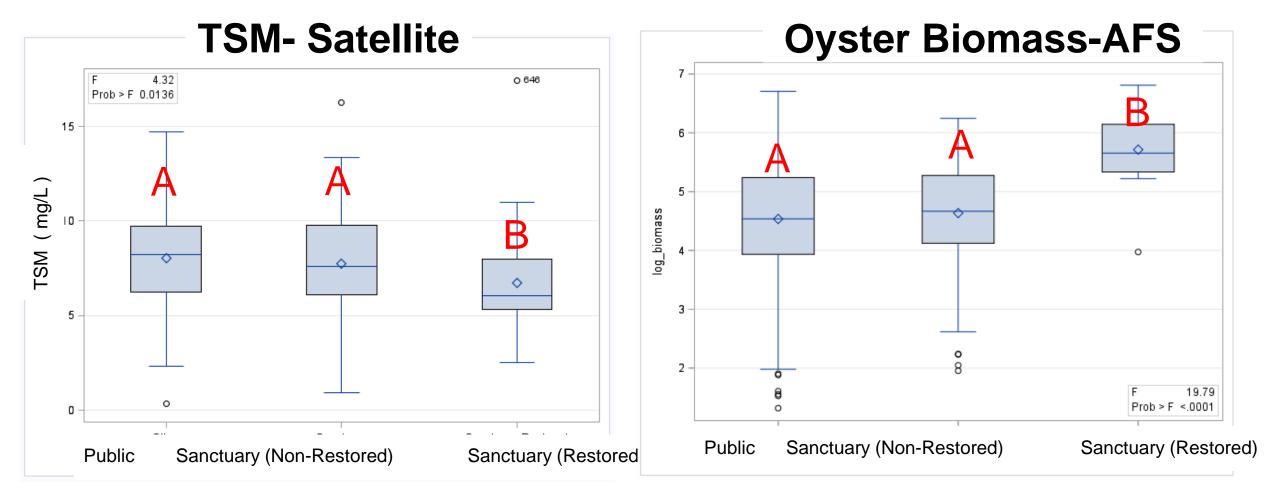
<u>Individual Temporal Trend Plots</u>

(2009-2016, relationships are unclear)





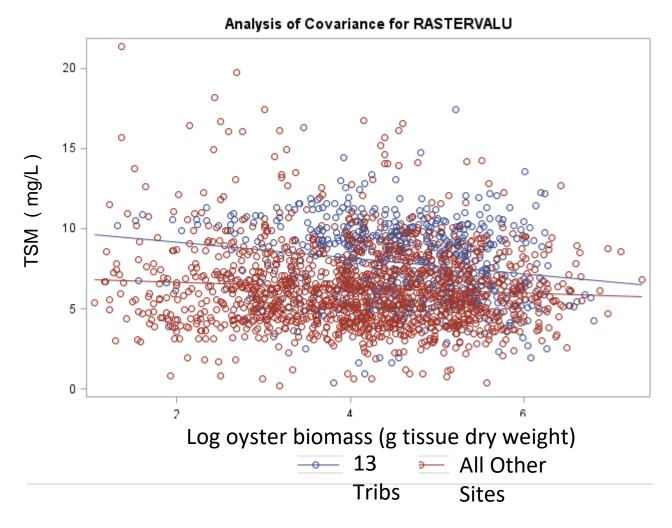
TSM and Oyster Biomass Relative to Oyster Fishery Management Regime



Pairwise comparison (Tukey): different letters have different mean values (alpha = 0.05)

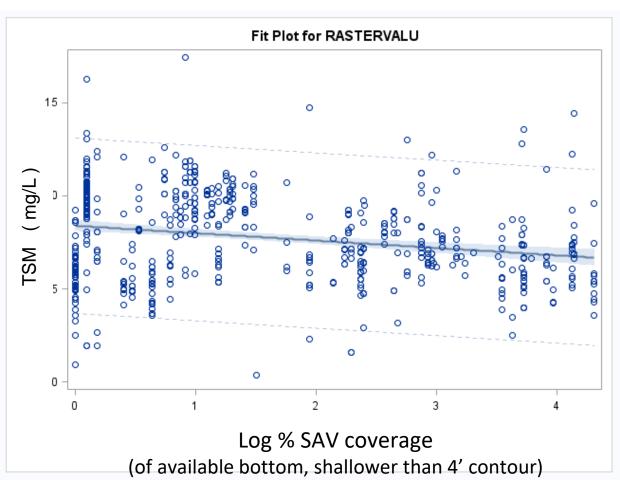


Is there a relationship between TSM and Oyster Biomass?



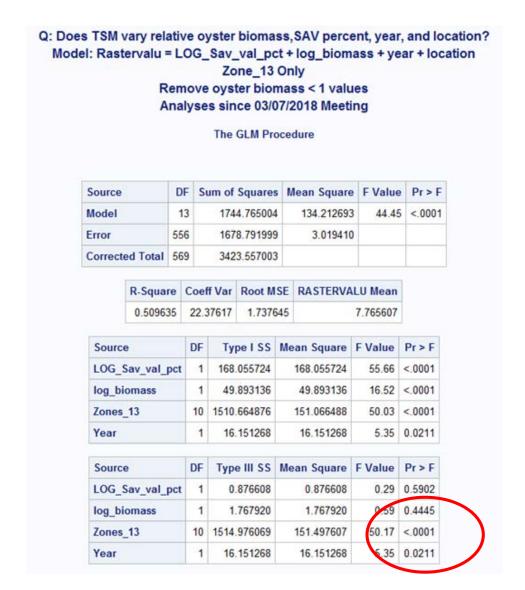
- Simple regression: TSM = log_biomass
 - 13 Trib sites (blue)
 - Slope = -0.49, p < 0.0001
 - n=601
 - r2 = 0.04 (4% of TSM variation is explained by oyster biomass)
 - Non-trib sites (red)
 - Slope = -0.17, p < 0.0024
 - n=1468
 - r2 = 0.0006 (0.06% of TSM variation explained by oyster biomass)
- ANCOVA: the two slope parameters are significantly different (p=0.0052)

Is there a relationship between TSM and SAV coverage?



- 13 Trib sites (blue)
- Simple regression: TSM = log % SAV coverage
 - Slope = -0.39, p < 0.0001
 - n=570
 - r2 = 0.05 (5% of TSM variation is explained by SAV coverage)

What Other Factors contribute to TSM variability?



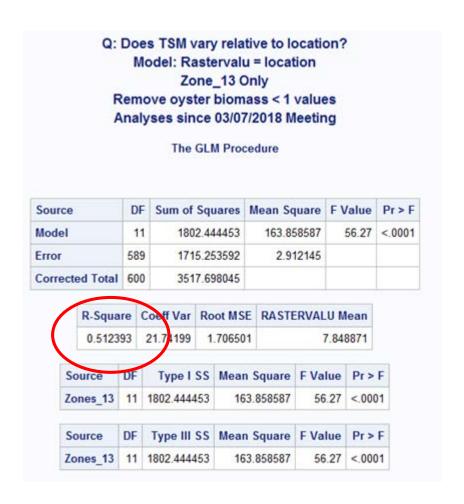
General Linear Model (GLM) analysis: Evaluate TSM against Time, Location, Oyster Biomass, SAV

Sum of Squares statistics(SS)

Type III SS: Considers all independent variables together

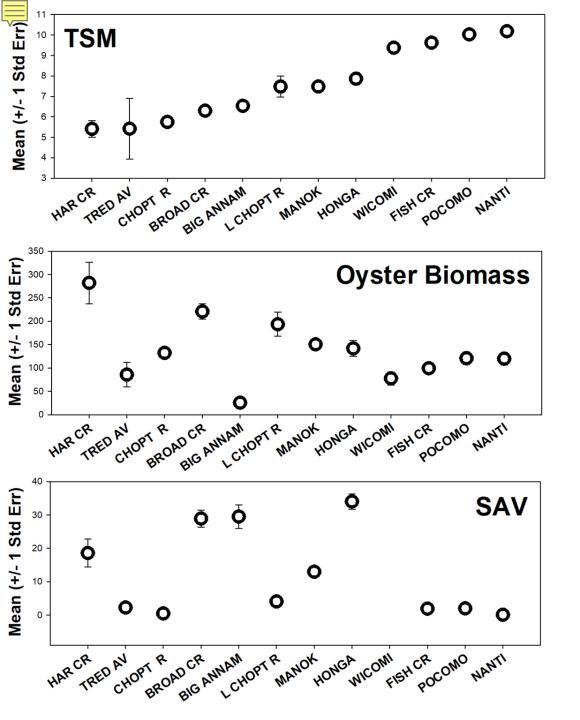
 When all variables are in the model TSM varies significantly only with Location (Zones_13) and Year (p values < 0.05)

What Other Factors contribute to TSM variability: Location



Single Term GLM: Location Only

R2 – Location (Zones_13) explains **51%** of the variation in TSM

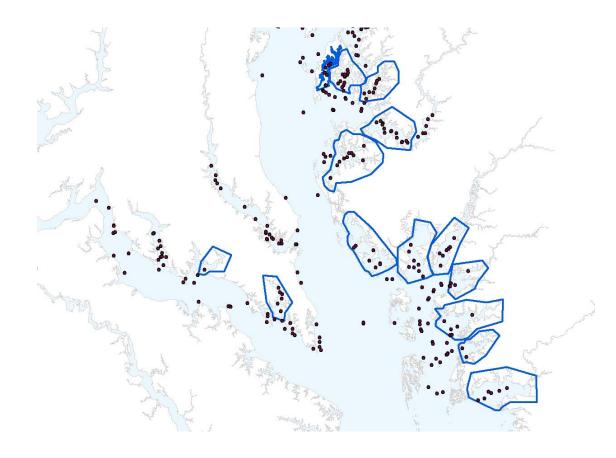


Data Summary by location "13

Tribs"

Lowest TSM values:

Harris Creek, Tred Avon River, Choptank River, Broad Creek, & Big Anamessex River



Summary

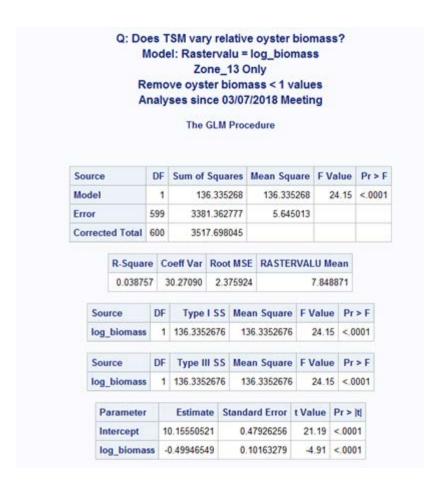
- Satellites are a good method of observing large-scale spatial and temporal patterns in water clarity
- Recent Oyster Biomass and SAV trends are improving over time (AFS & VIMS survey)
- Temporal TSM trend suggests a water quality improvement in Harris and Broad
 Creeks, and some parts of Tangier Sound, but no cause is implied
- TSM values are significantly higher on Public areas than Restored Sanctuary Management Areas. Inverse relationship for oyster biomass
- TSM decreases significantly with increased Oyster Biomass and increased SAV
- Oyster Biomass explains 4% of TSM variability; SAV explains 5% of TSM variability;
 unknown Location effects explain 51% of TSM variability

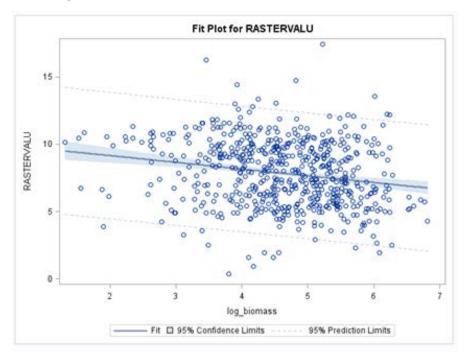
Next Steps?

- Examine additional location effects: land use, precipitation, basin morphology, wind vs. water depth, bay circulation patterns
- Explore using oyster abundance datasets other than AFS that are increasingly becoming available from Sanctuary and Restoration monitoring efforts
 - AFS may not do a great job of quantifying oyster biomass (length converted to biomass may introduce error)
- Revisit the TSM/oyster relationship in a few years when restored reefs are mature and restoration is complete

Backup Slides

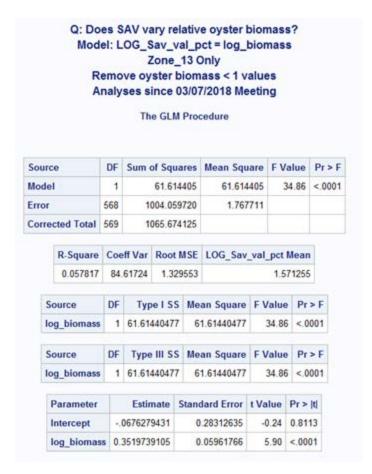
Question: What is the relationship between Oyster Biomass and TSM for Study Sites?

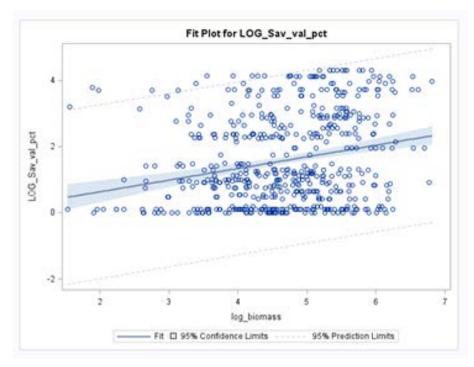




- Removed oyster biomass values that = 0
- TSM declines significantly with Biomass (oyster)
- Slope = -0.499
- Biomass explains ~4% of the variability in TSM (r²)
- Slope parameters (-0.413,-0.499) and r² (0.054, 0.039) are similar for the SAV and Biomass models respectively

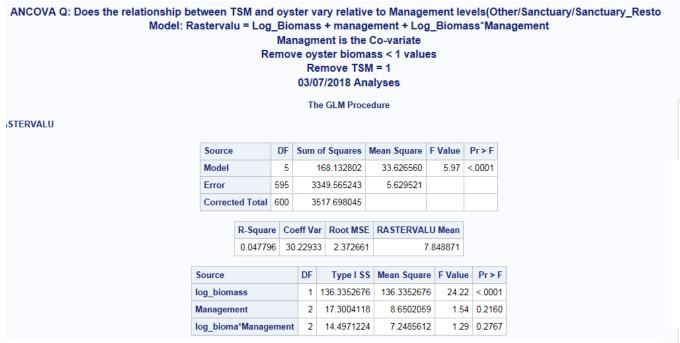
Question: Is there a relationship between Oyster and SAV?





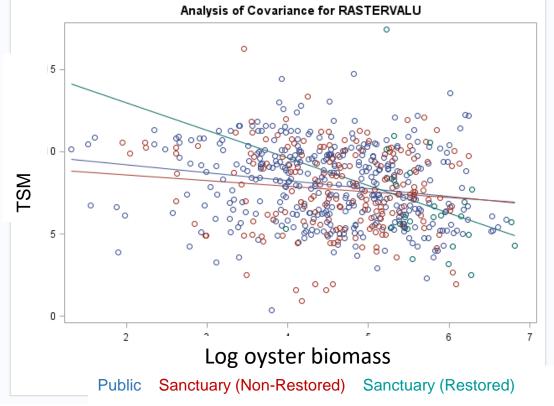
- Removed oyster biomass values that = 0
- SAV increases significantly with Biomass (oyster)
- Slope = +0.35
- Biomass explains 6% of the variability in SAV

Question: If Management type is significant, and we're managing for oysters, does relationship between TSM and oyster biomass vary by managment type?

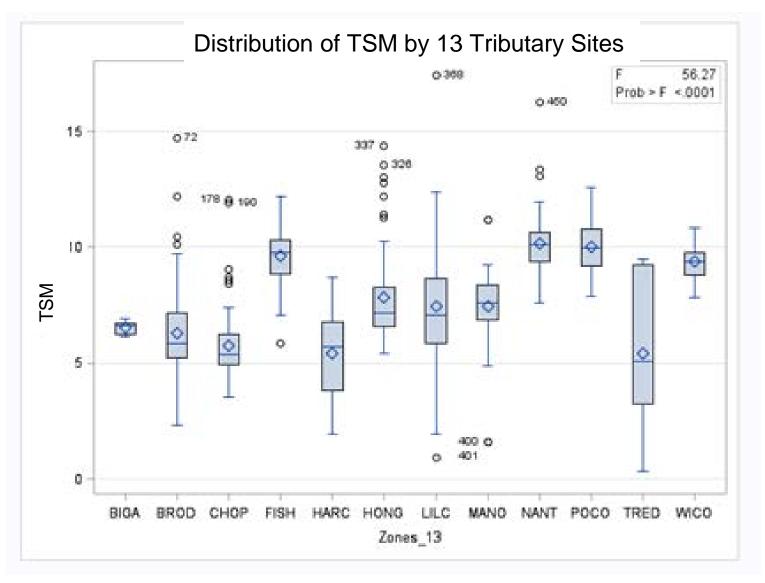


• ANCOVA Results: A significant relationship exists between TSM and biomass but it is not affected by management regimen.

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

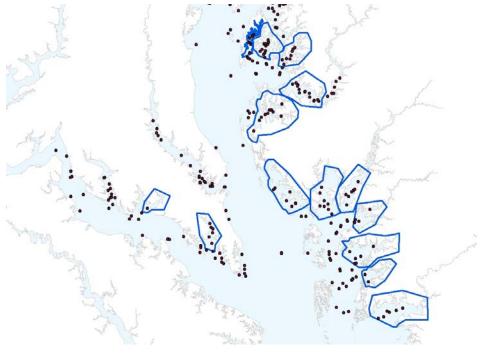


Data Distribution by Area- "13 Tribs"

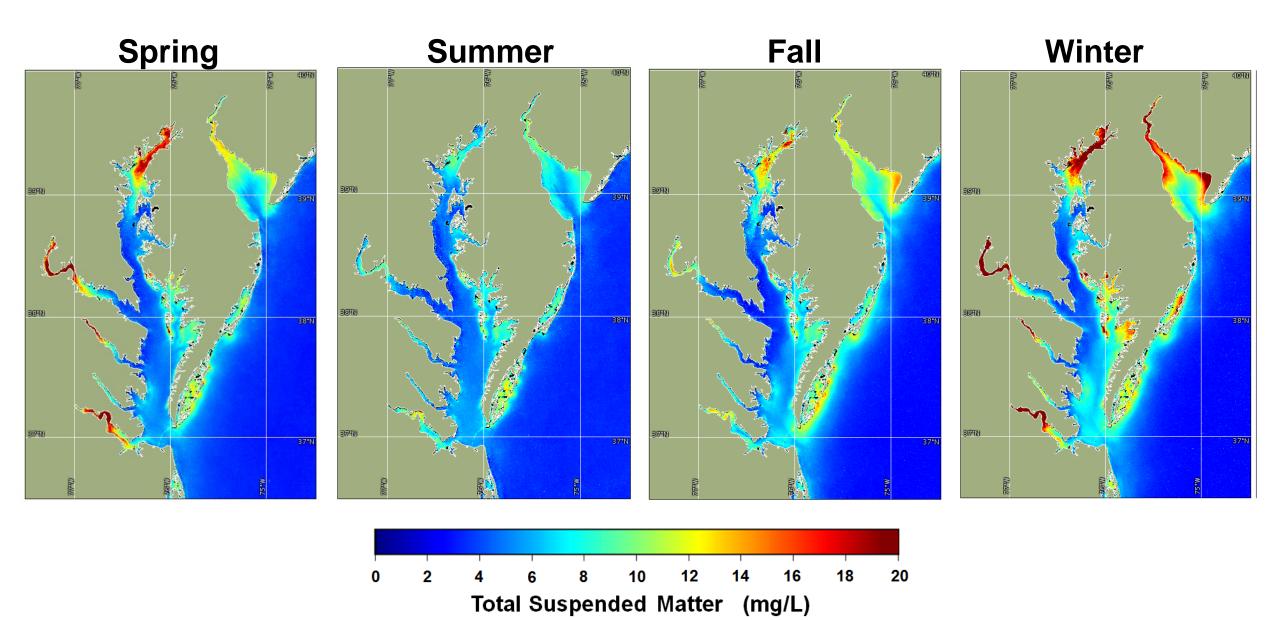


Lowest TSM values: Big Anamesssex, Broad Creek, Choptank River, Harris Creek,

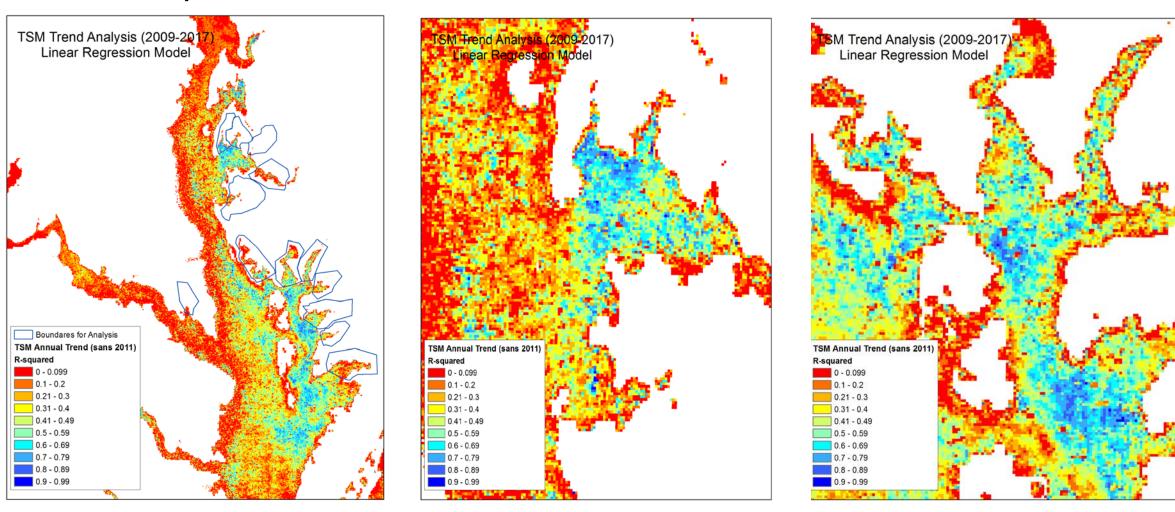
and Tred Avon River



Satellite TSM Seasonal Averages, 2009-2015

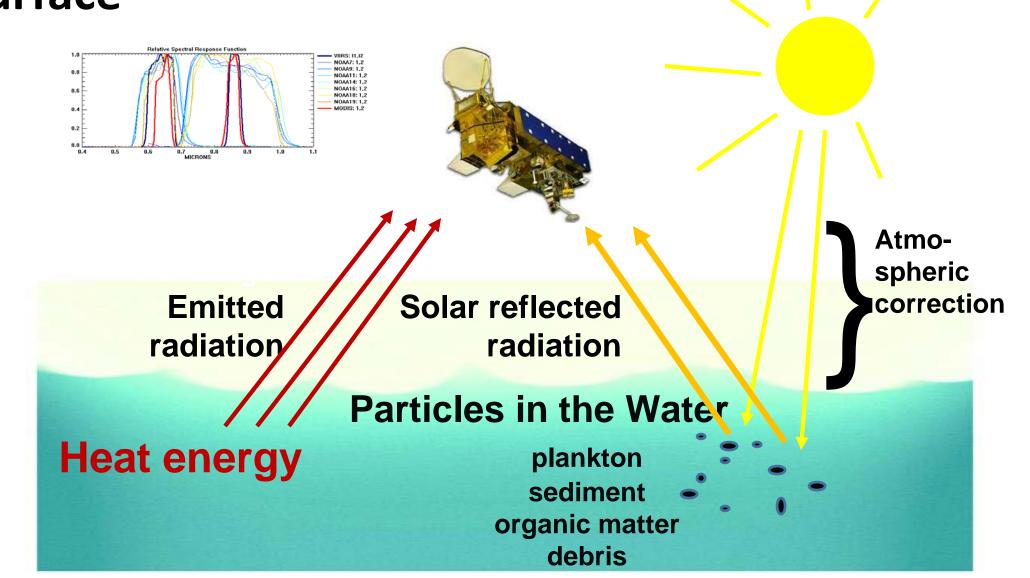


TSM annual trend for each satellite grid cell, 2009-2017 R-Squared



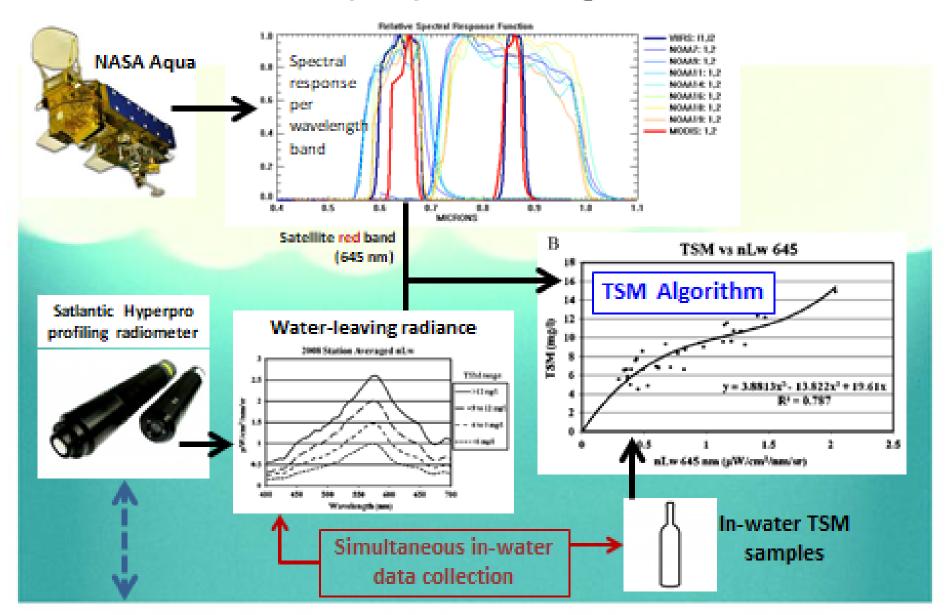
Decreasing TSM slope in Harris and Broad Creek with small slope SE and high R^2 suggests a water quality improvement but with no cause implied. Some areas of Tangier Sound also show this (but not Fishing Bay).

How a satellite instrument measures the earth surface



Algorithm Description

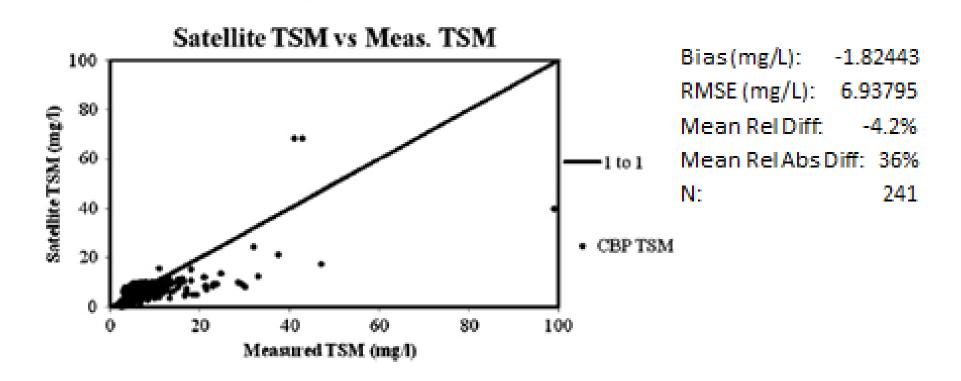
Ondrusek et al., 2012, Remote Sensing of Environment



Satellite TSM Accuracy

Chesapeake Bay Program in-water TSM samples were spatially & temporally matched to satellite TSM values at single pixels, Bay-wide for one year: 2009

(Ondrusek et al., 2012, Remote Sensing of Environment)



TSM values <20 mg/L are more accurate than values >20 mg/L