

**1999 MWRA Annual Technical Workshop  
Summary**

**for**

**Meetings and Public Presentations Task 34  
MWRA Harbor and Outfall Monitoring Program: 1998-2001**

Submitted to

**Massachusetts Water Resources Authority**  
Environmental Quality Department  
100 First Avenue  
Charlestown Navy Yard  
Boston, MA 02129  
(617) 242-6000

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Prepared by

Heather K. Trulli (Ed.)

Battelle Duxbury Operations  
397 Washington Street  
Duxbury, MA 02332  
(781) 934-0571

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**1999 MWRA Annual Technical Workshop  
Battelle, Duxbury, MA  
Benthic Monitoring and Fish/Shellfish Monitoring – April 9, 1999  
Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling – April 12, 1999**

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## Key Points and Conclusions

### *Benthic Monitoring*

#### **Benthic Monitoring Thresholds Approach/Rationale** (*Mr. Ken Keay, MWRA*)

- Benthic thresholds are not done and completing them is a priority
- No changes to the benthic community are expected as a result of outfall discharges
- Focus on local or nearfield areas where any change is most likely to first be seen.
- Thresholds must be easy to apply and evaluate ecologically significant parameters.

#### **1998 Sediment Profile Imaging** (*Dr. Robert Diaz, VIMS*)

- Distribution of sediment textures at nearfield study area appeared to be dominated by physical processes, as indicated by the organisms sediment index (OSI)
- Surface features were dominated by biogenic activity.
  - Mounds and tubes were the dominant surface biogenic structures, and subsurface structures and organisms were common and widely distributed.
  - Well-developed fauna characterized as intermediate to advanced in successional stage.
- Sediments over much of the nearfield did not exhibit within-station variability with the silty-sand as the modal sediment type
- Three SPI images per station not enough to consistently estimate a 50% change in the RPD layer at all nearfield stations.

#### **1998 Hardbottom Community** (*Dr. Barbara Hecker, Hecker Environmental*)

- The structure of the hardbottom benthic community is controlled by location on the drumlins (concurrent depth), substratum type, local relief, and sediment drape.
- Most areas appear to be temporally stable.
- A number of areas are spatially heterogeneous.
- Differences between temporal and spatial variance are difficult to dissect.
- Some variability exists in the data. Hardbottom habitats are patchy in nature.
- Current program highly unlikely to be able to detect small shifts or changes in the composition of the hardbottom communities.
- The most likely “keystone” species would be *Lithothamnion* because it is very abundant, widely distributed, less patchy than *Asparagopsis*, and appears to be sensitive to sediment loading.

#### **Infaunal Community Overview** (*Dr. Roy Kropp, Battelle*)

The presentation focused on the findings of Blake *et al.* (1998) because 1998 data analysis was incomplete.

- Traditional ecological metrics (density, species numbers, diversity) were very similar among Nearfield and Midfield stations and, with the possible exception of species numbers, showed little or no apparent temporal trend. Species numbers may have showed an increasing trend with time.
- However, cluster analysis of the Nearfield and Midfield stations revealed two primary infaunal communities. One was typically associated with sandy substrates near the outfall and has been a relatively consistent feature for several years. The other was typically associated with siltier substrates located farther from the outfall.
- Cluster analysis of Farfield stations revealed two main types of infaunal community. One was comprised of stations in Cape Cod Bay. The second consisted of all the remaining Farfield stations. The geographic location and depth of the stations may offer a better explanation of the station groupings than measured sedimentary features.

**Benthic Community Threshold Assessment** (*Dr. Gene Gallagher, UMass – Boston*)

- At the community- and functional-group levels, thresholds will be based on significant changes in a “pooled” population of nearfield stations with respect to
  - Species diversity (richness and evenness)
  - Change in indicator species
  - Change in frequency of functional groups
- This threshold assessment can be made quickly (within 1 week).
- A full assessment of change in species composition will be made at the end of each year. This requires a longer QA/QC process for species composition.

**1998 Sediment Chemistry** (*Dr. Carlton Hunt, Battelle*)

- Contaminant concentrations consistent with previous sampling years.
- Changes due to shifts in grain size and TOC
- Lower concentrations at some stations than values found in the early 1990s.

*Fish and Shellfish Monitoring*

**Introduction to Fish and Shellfish Threshold** (*Dr. Carlton Hunt, Battelle*)

- This area of the HOM program is mature and has been executed consistently since 1994.
- Thresholds are well established.

**1998 Caged Mussel Studies**

- Contaminant concentrations were consistent with or slightly lower than previous years.
- A site in Quincy Bay was added to the monitoring program in 1998. This site was added to evaluate the effects of the diversion of Nut Island discharges.
- A site in eastern Cape Cod Bay was added to the monitoring program in 1998. This site was added as an offshore reference site.

**1998 Flounder and Lobster Chemistry Studies** (*Ms. Lisa Lefkowitz, Battelle*)

- 1998 results are consistent with previous years
- Organic contaminant concentrations
  - Generally highest at the Discovery (Boston Inner Harbor) site and lowest at the eastern Cape Cod Bay site.
  - Generally decreased since 1992, particularly at the Discovery and Deer Island sites.
- Metals concentrations
  - More variable than organic contaminant concentrations and relatively constant between years
  - Mercury concentrations in flounder livers have decreased since 1992.

**1998 Flounder Histopathology** (*Dr. Michael Moore, WHOI*)

- Catch per unit effort of winter flounder generally higher than in recent years, particularly at Broad Sound and the outfall.
- Histopathology findings were consistent with previous years at all sites.

## *Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling*

### **Modeling Results for 1993 and 1994** (*Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, HydroQual*)

- When compared to observed data, the model appears to capture the major temporal and spatial features of phytoplankton biomass, as indicated by chlorophyll a, and dissolved inorganic nutrients in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.
- The model also appears to capture the major temporal and spatial features observed in the dissolved oxygen data.
- Computed rates of bottom water dissolved oxygen are consistent with those estimated from the harbor outfall monitoring program data.
- the model approximately reproduces the seasonal and spatial features of sediment nutrient processes are indicated by comparing model computations against observed data for sediment oxygen demand, ammonia flux, nitrate flux, and phosphate flux.
- However, the model under-estimates dissolved silica fluxes in Massachusetts Bay.
- Model computations of DIN:DIP and DIN:Si ratios are consistent with the observed data and suggest that during the summer months primary productivity is limited by the availability of dissolved inorganic nitrogen.
- While the model appears to reproduce the major temporal trends in the observed data, particularly when viewed using seasonal averaging periods, the model does not reproduce species-specific algal blooms, such as were observed in the spring of 1992 and the fall of 1993.
- While the model partially reproduced the differences in bottom water minimum dissolved oxygen between 1992, 1993, and 1994, the model was unable to reproduce the minimum dissolved oxygen values observed in 1994.

### **1998 Physical Regime** (*Dr. Rocky Geyer, WHOI*)

- Forcing conditions
  - warm winter,
  - very wet spring (particularly May and June)
  - persistent southerly (upwelling) winds in summer
- Oceanographic conditions
  - warm bottom water (early)
  - very low salinity at surface and bottom
  - high stratification
  - less warming of bottom water than normal
- 1998 may have seen some upwelling events that affect biological conditions

### **1998 Water Quality Overview** (*Mr. Scott Libby, Battelle*)

- Lack of a Winter/Spring Bloom – The winter/spring period in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays is often characterized by the occurrence of a bloom in phytoplankton and chlorophyll. The presence of elevated nutrient concentrations, increasing light availability and water temperatures, and the onset of seasonal stratification establish conditions that are conducive for a bloom to occur in the bays. Other factors may play a role in the realization of a winter/spring bloom – zooplankton grazing, resident phytoplankton assemblage, and many other physical, chemical, and/or biological factors that have not been resolved. In the winter/spring period in 1998, no bloom was observed and elevated nutrient concentrations persisted in the surface waters until May. Nutrient and production data indicate that bloom conditions existed and that the phytoplankton community had started to bloom (nutrient drawdown between February and March and high productivity), but an increase in biomass was not achieved and a winter/spring bloom did not occur in Massachusetts Bay. In Cape Cod Bay, however, the data suggest that a bloom may have occurred prior to the first survey in February.

- July/August Upwelling – Physical and chemical data suggest that significant upwelling events occurred in July and August of 1998 and that these events input nutrients into the coastal surface waters. Evidence of this was observed at coastal stations along the south shore and in the western nearfield. The upwelling conditions, along with tidal transport from Boston Harbor, supplied nutrients to the nearfield that supported the high phytoplankton concentrations that were observed in August.
- September/October Fall Bloom – As with the winter/spring bloom, the fall bloom is not a consistent annual characteristic in the Bays. The intensity of the fall bloom and the phytoplankton species that bloom have varied from year to year during the baseline-monitoring period. In 1998, the fall bloom was not single species bloom, but rather a general increase in the numbers of a variety of chain-forming diatoms. The bloom was more clearly observed in the increased chlorophyll concentrations and productivity data that were collected.
- Extended Period of Stratification and DO decline – The onset of seasonal stratification was slightly delayed in 1998 compared to previous baseline monitoring years as was the overturn of the water column and the return to winter conditions. The water column was stratified until November throughout much of the nearfield and a deep halocline was present in December at the deeper eastern nearfield stations. The strength and duration of stratification are important factors in the decline of bottom water dissolved oxygen concentrations. Due to the persistence of stratified conditions in 1998, bottom water DO concentrations decreased over the entire June to December time period in the nearfield area. The delay in mixing, combined with a pulse of organic material from the atypical November/December bloom, led to the annual minimum in bottom water DO concentration ( $7 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ) observed in December. The DO minimum concentration was not extremely low in comparison to data collected during previous baseline monitoring years. Due to major storm events and the lack of an input of organic material from a winter/spring bloom, the bottom water DO concentrations observed in June were very high ( $11.2 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ), which subsequently lessened the effect of the delay in returning to well-mixed winter conditions.
- November/December Elevated Ammonia and Phosphate Concentrations – In November and December 1998, anomalously high concentrations of ammonium and phosphate were observed in the western nearfield that correlated with high concentrations observed by the MWRA in Boston Harbor. The source of these nutrients was not determined, but may have been due to the transfer of south system sewage flows from Nut Island to the Deer Island facility, increased dredging operations in the harbor, an ecological change in biological utilization of nutrients in the Harbor, or other factors. It is suspected that the anomalously high  $\text{NH}_4$  and  $\text{PO}_4$  concentrations triggered a localized bloom that was observed in the nearfield in December.

#### 1998 Plankton Overview (Dr. Jefferson Turner, UMass – Dartmouth)

- Whole-Water Phytoplankton Assemblage
  - Microflagellates and small cryptomonads were the numerical dominants.
  - Sustained increase in total phytoplankton abundance, from low levels in February through April to high levels in May through October, followed by declines in November and December.
  - No major winter/spring bloom or fall bloom
  - No confirmed nuisance algae blooms, although the fall *Pseudo-nitzschia pungens* records could have included some *P. multiseriata*. Maximum abundance of *P. pungens* did not exceed  $83 \times 10^3$  cells/L.
- Screened Water Phytoplankton
  - *Distephanous speculatum* (silicoflagellate) was dominant in February, followed by *Ceratium longipes* and *C. tripos*.
  - *C. longipes* and *C. tripos* dominant from March onward, followed by other dinoflagellates.
  - Sustained bloom of *C. longipes* and *C. tripos* was the major event

- Zooplankton
  - Dominated by copepod nauplii, adults, and copepodites of the small copepods *Oithona similis* and *Pseudocalanus* spp., with seasonal subdominant contributions from gastropod and bivalve veligers and a mixture of other normally occurring taxa.
  - Additional Cape Cod Bay stations samples during WF981, WF982, and WF984 extended total abundance recorded for F01 and F02.
  - Once outfall on line, expect the copepod abundance in the nearfield and farfield outside Boston Harbor will be dominated by *Oithona similis*, *Pseudocalanus* spp., and, to a lesser extent, *Paracalanus parvus*, *Centropages typicus*, *C. hamatus*, and *Calanus finmarchicus*.
  - Meroplankton abundance are “spikey” and more likely related to reproductive cycles of the macrobenthic parents than to processes in the plankton.
- Zooplankton Threshold. Suggest abundance of *Acartia tonsa*/*A. hudsonica* > 50% of the total non-naupliar copepods (adults and copepodites)

#### **1998 Productivity Overview** (Dr. Aimee Keller, URI)

- Annual production at N04, N18, and F23 lower than in prior years
- Seasonal productivity pattern dominated by fall bloom
- No winter-spring bloom despite increased chlorophyll-specific production during typical bloom period
- Bloom failure not correlated with nutrient availability or light limitation
- Bloom failure may be related to warm winter temperatures and increased grazing by zooplankton
- Productivity significantly correlated with composite parameter (but variable across years)

#### **1998 Nutrient Cycling in the Harbor** (Dr. Anne Giblin, Marine Biological Laboratory)

- Sediment trends in the highly impacted sites in the northern Harbor may be showing some decrease in fluxes even with the amphipods present.
- Denitrification rates have gone up and down a bit with amphipod colonization but still not a major factor in removing anthropogenic nitrogen.
- DIN/DIP ratio may have shifted up but the majority of 1998 data still shows benthic fluxes still less than 16 (i.e., would contribute to nitrogen limitation).

#### **Statistical Approach to Threshold Testing and Rule Setting** (Dr. Jeff Rosen, TPMC)

- Currently evaluating ways to aggregate data and conduct statistical tests
- Must define rules for aggregating the data.

## Introduction and Program Overview

The goals of the 1999 MWRA Annual Technical Review Workshop were to:

- Present, review, and discuss 1998 data in the context of historical understanding of the system,
- Provide a forum for discussing the 1998 results in the context of previous monitoring years and potential or predicted affects of the new outfall effluent to the Massachusetts Bay system,
- Debate the monitoring thresholds as appropriate,
- Develop themes and key presentations for the upcoming public OMSAP science meeting,
- Provide technical discussions that would enhance data interpretation in the annual reports,
- Convey progress toward outfall startup, post-discharge monitoring plan development, and reporting issues.

### *HOM Program Update*

Many facility improvements have been made over the last 10 years, resulting in improvements in solids discharges. The improvements include the cessation of sludge discharges in December 1991, the new primary treatment facility startup in 1995, the new secondary treatment facility startup in 1997, and the diversion of Nut Island flows to the Deer Island facility in 1998. Each improvement was followed generally by a decrease in effluent solids and contaminants loadings. Since 1992 the total effluent nitrogen loading has remained at approximately 10,000-12,000 tons per year. Modeled average dilution of sewage effluent under winter conditions shows that, historically, the effluent from existing harbor outfalls entered the system, and that the effluent will enter the system from the new Massachusetts Bay outfall but will be diluted much more quickly than effluent from existing outfalls.

MWRA's discharge permit is the most environmentally protective permit ever issued. The Outfall Monitoring Plan and the Contingency Plan have been incorporated into the permit. With the effluent discharge from the Massachusetts Bay outfall scheduled to begin in the fall of 1999, plans are being finalized for meeting and responding to the permit requirements. Section 8.a. of Draft NPDES Permit #MA0103284 essentially requires the on-time delivery of data products:

*the results of any monitoring required by the contingency plan shall be reported ... (annually)... except that if any parameter exceeds the corresponding early "caution level" or "warning level" the monitoring results shall be reported within ten (10) days after the results becomes available. The MWRA shall make all reasonable efforts to provide results within ninety (90) days after the sampling event, and MWRA shall obtain approval from EPA and the MADEP if the results will take longer than one hundred and fifty (150) days.*

To date, HOM3 has submitted data reports within the 90-day reporting requirement, with one exception (histology), and beaten the 1992-1997 average by two or more months for each report type. This performance confirms MWRA's ability to meet the permit-imposed deadlines.

In Section 8.b. of the draft permit describes the warning-level-reporting process.

*Section 8.a. Draft NPDES Permit #MA0103284: If any parameter exceeds the "warning level" listed above in Section 8.a., the MWRA shall (1) determine whether there are any adverse environmental impacts from such exceedance, (2) evaluate the extent to which MWRA discharge contributes to such impacts, and (3) unless MWRA demonstrates by convincing evidence, to the satisfaction of EPA and the MWDEP, that the MWRA discharge does not contribute to such adverse environmental impacts, develop a plan and schedule to address such impacts...*

Toward this end, the following activities are in the process of being completed.



### ***Outfall Monitoring Plan Status and Thresholds***

- Revised draft of the OMP in development
- Focusing on completing threshold statements
- Threshold testing will be one theme for the June (Tentative) 1998 OMSAP Public Science Meeting
- Automation of the threshold and monitoring comparison process pending completion of thresholds (Task 30). Will reside within the database. Review data on upload and acceptance
- Requires strict protocols for the data aggregation and defined statistical testing protocols

### ***Workshop Summary Organization***

A list of workshop participants immediately follows this introduction. Key points are summarized and presented by speaker. A complete compendium of presentation materials is included at the end of the document.

### Workshop Participants

April 9	April 12	Name	Affiliation
✓	✓	Mike Mickelson	MWRA
✓	✓	Ken Keay	MWRA
✓	✓	Mike Delaney	MWRA
✓	✓	Maury Hall	MWRA
	✓	Andrea Rex	MWRA
✓	✓	Joseph LoBuglio	MWRA
✓	✓	David Taylor	MWRA
✓	✓	Tara Toolan	MWRA
✓		Wendy Leo	MWRA
	✓	Doug Hersh	MWRA
	✓	Kelly Coughlin	MWRA
	✓	Dillon Scott	MWRA
✓	✓	Carlton Hunt	Battelle
✓	✓	Heather Trulli	Battelle
✓	✓	Wayne Trulli	Battelle
✓	✓	Roy Kropp	Battelle
✓		Lisa Lefkovitz	Battelle
	✓	Scott Libby	Battelle
✓	✓	Andy Parrella	Battelle
✓		Jeanine Boyle	Battelle
✓		Ellie Baptiste-Carpenter	Battelle
	✓	Liz Ferson	Battelle
✓		Bob Hillman	Battelle
✓		Don Rhoads	Consultant
✓		Barbara Hecker	Hecker Environmental
✓		Robert Diaz	Diaz and Daughters
✓		Tim Morris	Cove Corporation
✓	✓	Cathy Coniaris	NEIWPPC
✓		Gene Gallagher	U Mass – Boston
✓		Peggy Pelletier	U Mass – Boston
✓	✓	Brad Butman	USGS
✓		Marilyn Buchholz-ten Brink	USGS
	✓	Mike Moore	WHOI
	✓	Jefferson Turner	U Mass – Dartmouth
	✓	David Borkman	U Mass – Dartmouth
	✓	Jean Lincoln	U Mass – Dartmouth
✓		Nancy Maciolek	ENSR
✓		Jim Blake	ENSR
	✓	Kristyn Lemieux	ENSR
	✓	Steve Cibik	ENSR
	✓	Craig Taylor	ENSR
	✓	Brian Howes	CMAST – U Mass
	✓	Ted Loder	UNH
	✓	Rocky Geyer	WHOI
	✓	Anne Giblin	MBL
	✓	Charles Hopkinson	MBL
	✓	Jane Tucker	MBL
	✓	Aimee Keller	URI
	✓	Candace Oviatt	URI
	✓	Jim Fitzpatrick	HydroQual
	✓	Jeff Rosen	TPMC

## Key Points and Conclusions

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- Oceanographic conditions
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#### **1998 Water Quality Overview** (*Mr. Scott Libby, Battelle*)

- Lack of a Winter/Spring Bloom – The winter/spring period in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays is often characterized by the occurrence of a bloom in phytoplankton and chlorophyll. The presence of elevated nutrient concentrations, increasing light availability and water temperatures, and the onset of seasonal stratification establish conditions that are conducive for a bloom to occur in the bays. Other factors may play a role in the realization of a winter/spring bloom – zooplankton grazing, resident phytoplankton assemblage, and many other physical, chemical, and/or biological factors that have not been resolved. In the winter/spring period in 1998, no bloom was observed and elevated nutrient concentrations persisted in the surface waters until May. Nutrient and production data indicate that bloom conditions existed and that the phytoplankton community had started to bloom (nutrient drawdown between February and March and high productivity), but an increase in biomass was not achieved and a winter/spring bloom did not occur in Massachusetts Bay. In Cape Cod Bay, however, the data suggest that a bloom may have occurred prior to the first survey in February.
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nearfield. The upwelling conditions, along with tidal transport from Boston Harbor, supplied nutrients to the nearfield that supported the high phytoplankton concentrations that were observed in August.

- September/October Fall Bloom – As with the winter/spring bloom, the fall bloom is not a consistent annual characteristic in the Bays. The intensity of the fall bloom and the phytoplankton species that bloom have varied from year to year during the baseline-monitoring period. In 1998, the fall bloom was not single species bloom, but rather a general increase in the numbers of a variety of chain-forming diatoms. The bloom was more clearly observed in the increased chlorophyll concentrations and productivity data that were collected.
- Extended Period of Stratification and DO decline – The onset of seasonal stratification was slightly delayed in 1998 compared to previous baseline monitoring years as was the overturn of the water column and the return to winter conditions. The water column was stratified until November throughout much of the nearfield and a deep halocline was present in December at the deeper eastern nearfield stations. The strength and duration of stratification are important factors in the decline of bottom water dissolved oxygen concentrations. Due to the persistence of stratified conditions in 1998, bottom water DO concentrations decreased over the entire June to December time period in the nearfield area. The delay in mixing, combined with a pulse of organic material from the atypical November/December bloom, led to the annual minimum in bottom water DO concentration ( $7 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ) observed in December. The DO minimum concentration was not extremely low in comparison to data collected during previous baseline monitoring years. Due to major storm events and the lack of an input of organic material from a winter/spring bloom, the bottom water DO concentrations observed in June were very high ( $11.2 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ), which subsequently lessened the effect of the delay in returning to well-mixed winter conditions.
- November/December Elevated Ammonia and Phosphate Concentrations – In November and December 1998, anomalously high concentrations of ammonium and phosphate were observed in the western nearfield that correlated with high concentrations observed by the MWRA in Boston Harbor. The source of these nutrients was not determined, but may have been due to the transfer of south system sewage flows from Nut Island to the Deer Island facility, increased dredging operations in the harbor, an ecological change in biological utilization of nutrients in the Harbor, or other factors. It is suspected that the anomalously high  $\text{NH}_4$  and  $\text{PO}_4$  concentrations triggered a localized bloom that was observed in the nearfield in December.

#### 1998 Plankton Overview (Dr. Jefferson Turner, UMass – Dartmouth)

- Whole-Water Phytoplankton Assemblage
  - Microflagellates and small cryptomonads were the numerical dominants.
  - Sustained increase in total phytoplankton abundance, from low levels in February through April to high levels in May through October, followed by declines in November and December.
  - No major winter/spring bloom or fall bloom
  - No confirmed nuisance algae blooms, although the fall *Pseudo-nitzschia pungens* records could have included some *P. multiseriata*. Maximum abundance of *P. pungens* did not exceed  $83 \times 10^3$  cells/L.
- Screened Water Phytoplankton
  - *Distephanous speculatum* (silicoflagellate) was dominant in February, followed by *Ceratium longipes* and *C. tripos*.
  - *C. longipes* and *C. tripos* dominant from March onward, followed by other dinoflagellates.
  - Sustained bloom of *C. longipes* and *C. tripos* was the major event
- Zooplankton

- Dominated by copepod nauplii, adults, and copepodites of the small copepods *Oithona similis* and *Pseudocalanus* spp., with seasonal subdominant contributions from gastropod and bivalve veligers and a mixture of other normally occurring taxa.
- Additional Cape Cod Bay stations samples during WF981, WF982, and WF984 extended total abundance recorded for F01 and F02.
- Once outfall on line, expect the copepod abundance in the nearfield and farfield outside Boston Harbor will be dominated by *Oithona similis*, *Pseudocalanus* spp., and, to a lesser extent, *Paracalanus parvus*, *Centropages typicus*, *C. hamatus*, and *Calanus finmarchicus*.
- Meroplankton abundance are “spikey” and more likely related to reproductive cycles of the macrobenthic parents than to processes in the plankton.
- Zooplankton Threshold. Suggest abundance of *Acartia tonsa*/*A. hudsonica* > 50% of the total non-naupliar copepods (adults and copepodites)

#### **1998 Productivity Overview (Dr. Aimee Keller, URI)**

- Annual production at N04, N18, and F23 lower than in prior years
- Seasonal productivity pattern dominated by fall bloom
- No winter-spring bloom despite increased chlorophyll-specific production during typical bloom period
- Bloom failure not correlated with nutrient availability or light limitation
- Bloom failure may be related to warm winter temperatures and increased grazing by zooplankton
- Productivity significantly correlated with composite parameter (but variable across years)

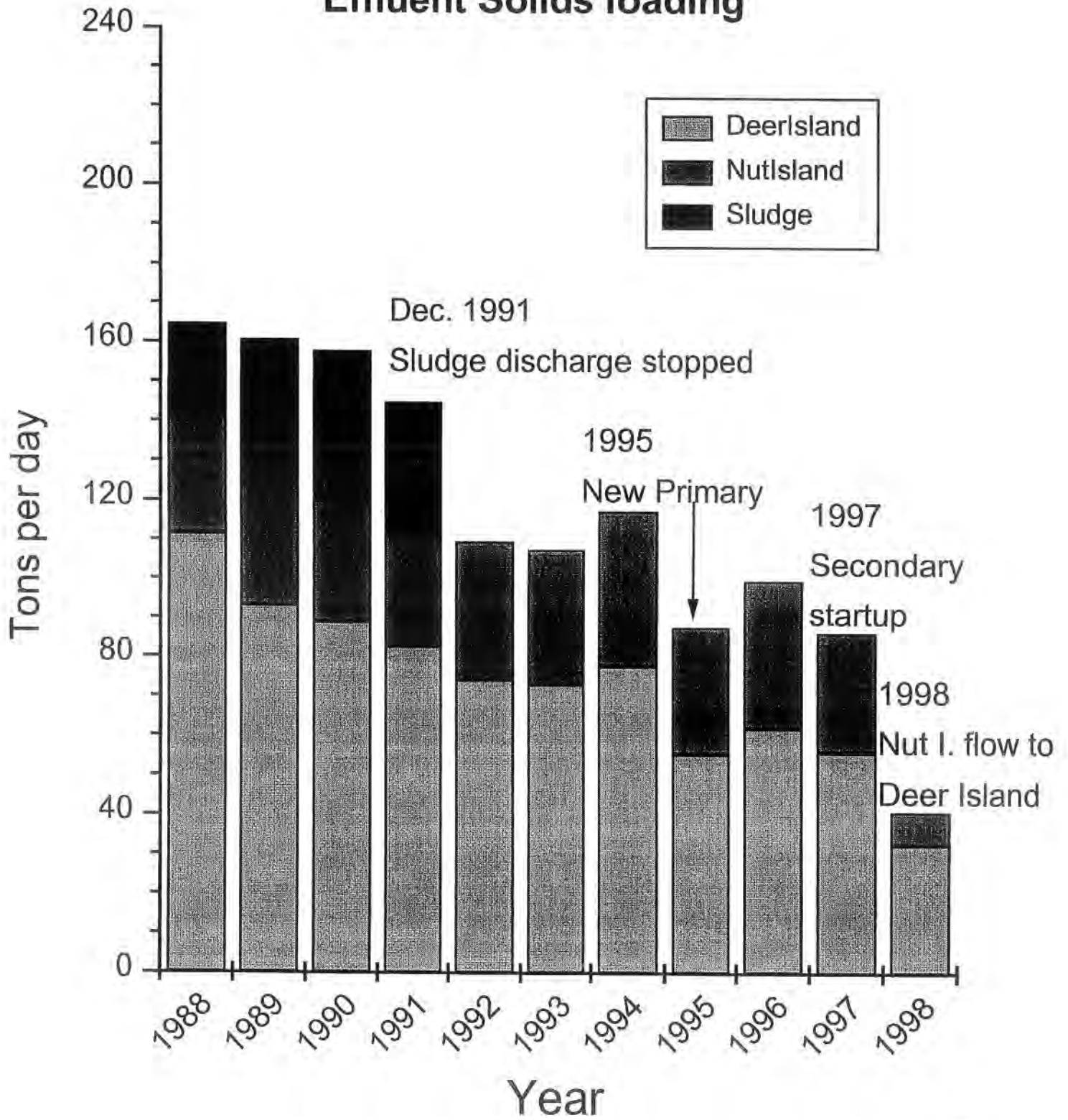
#### **1998 Nutrient Cycling in the Harbor (Dr. Anne Giblin, Marine Biological Laboratory)**

- Sediment trends in the highly impacted sites in the northern Harbor may be showing some decrease in fluxes even with the amphipods present.
- Denitrification rates have gone up and down a bit with amphipod colonization but still not a major factor in removing anthropogenic nitrogen.
- DIN/DIP ratio may have shifted up but the majority of 1998 data still shows benthic fluxes still less than 16 (i.e., would contribute to nitrogen limitation).

#### **Statistical Approach to Threshold Testing and Rule Setting (Dr. Jeff Rosen, TPMC)**

- Currently evaluating ways to aggregate data and conduct statistical tests
- Must define rules for aggregating the data.

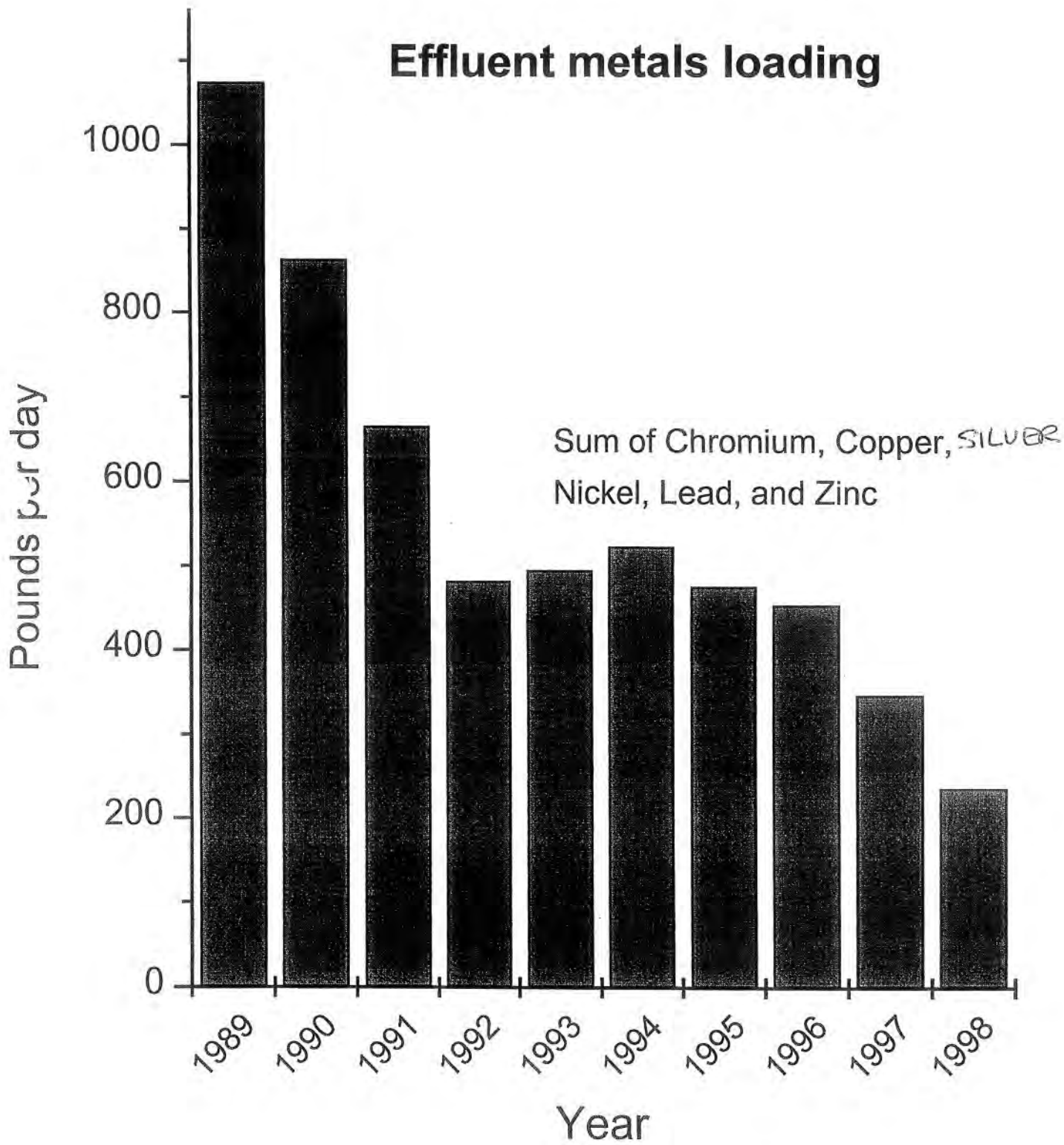
# Effluent Solids loading



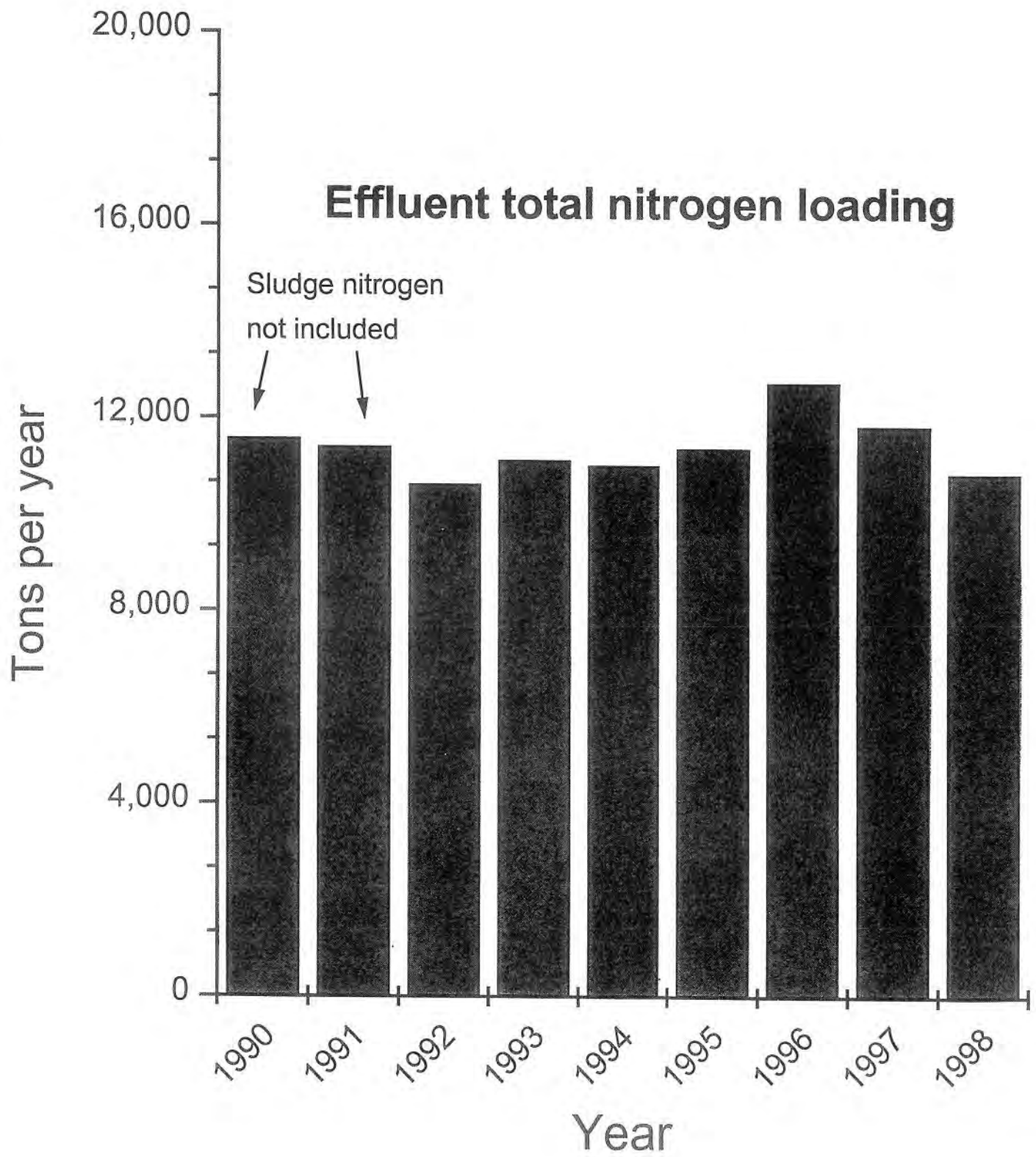


**Overview – Benthic Monitoring (Day 1)** (*Mr. Ken Keay, MWRA*)

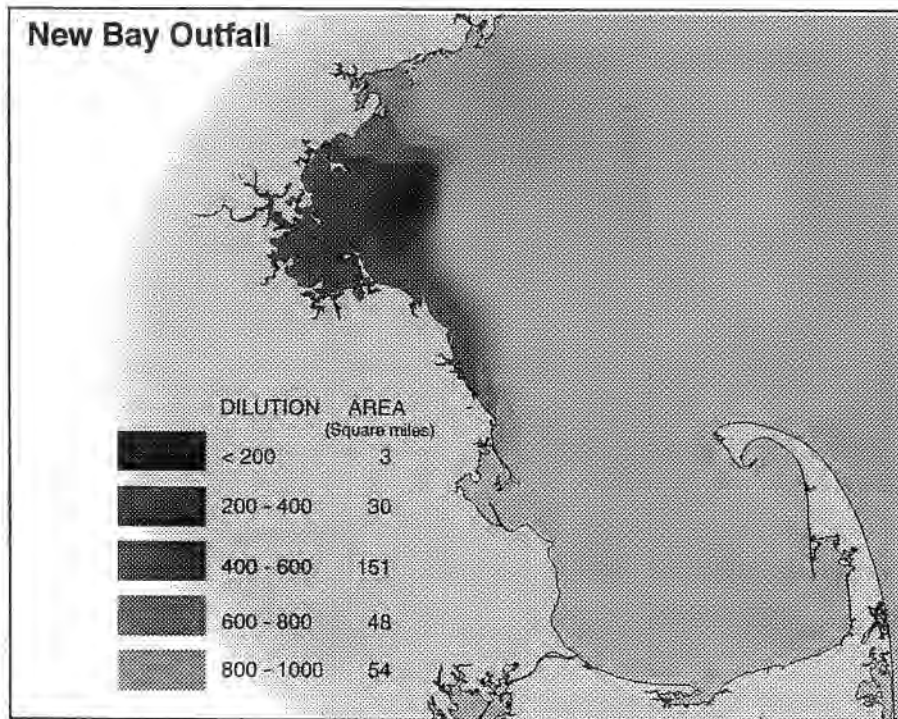
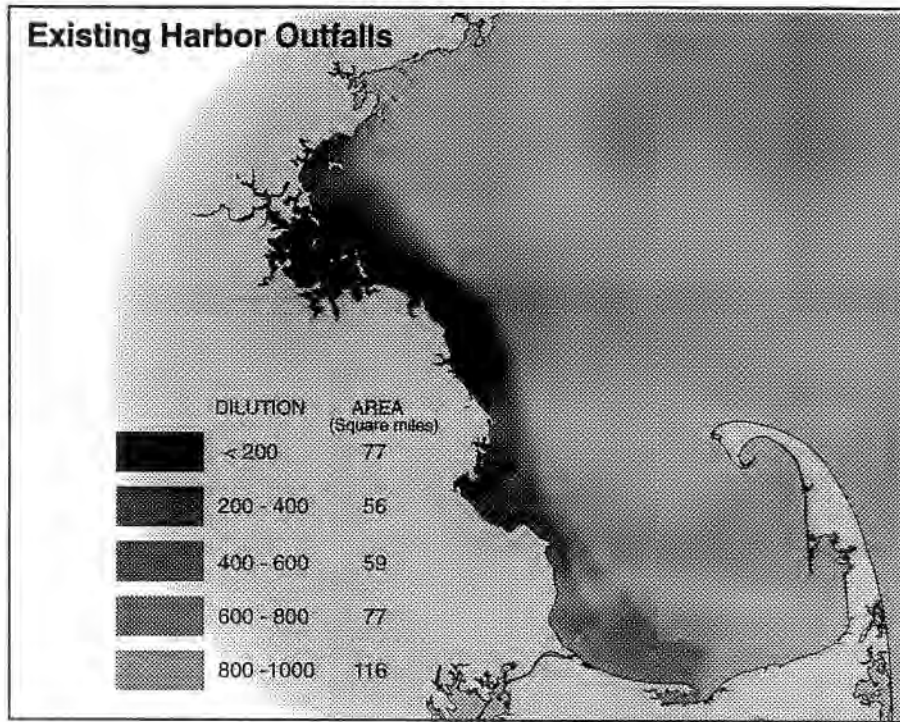
# Effluent metals loading



# Effluent total nitrogen loading



## Average Modeled Dilution of Sewage Effluent, Winter Conditions

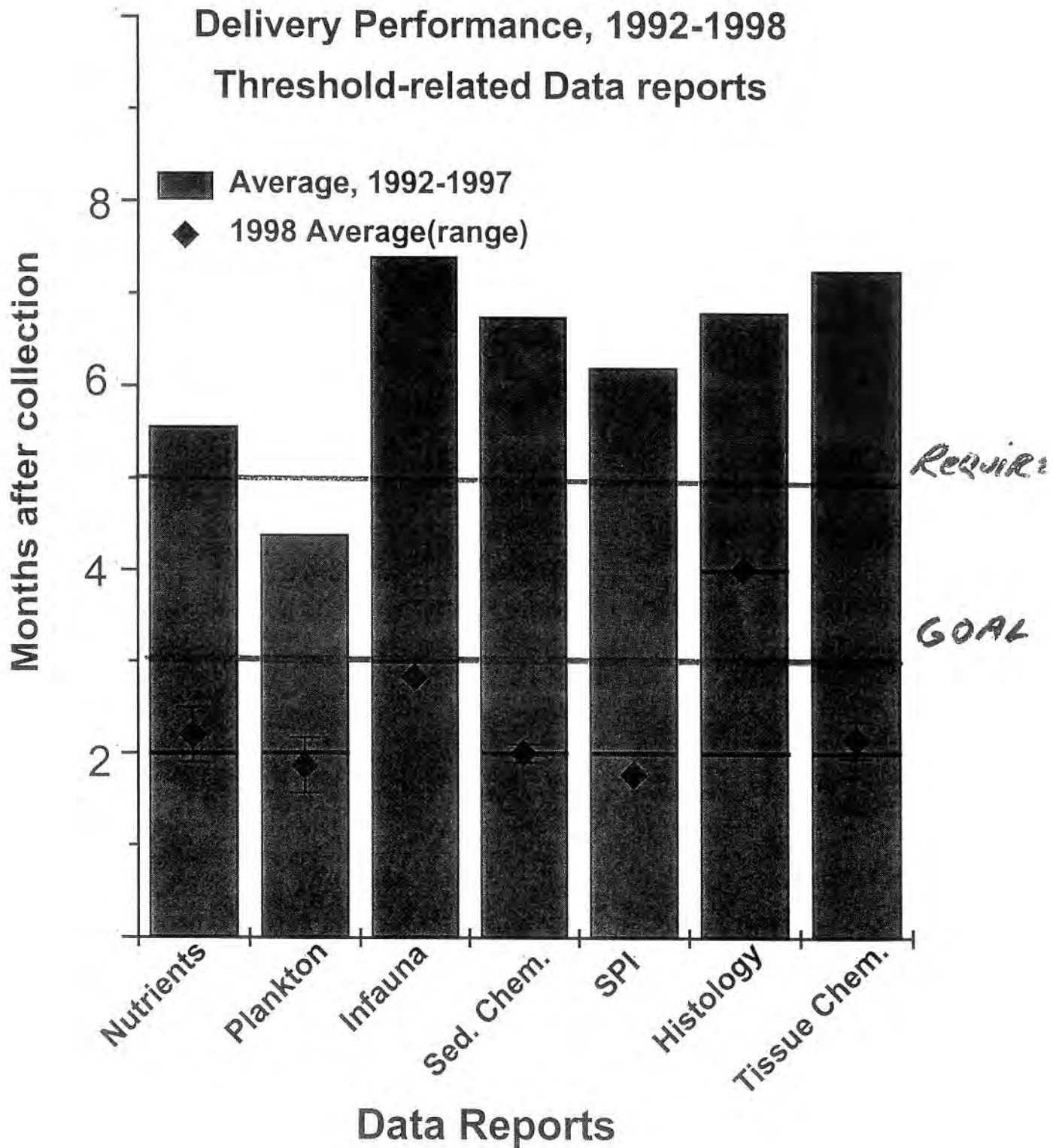


Draft NPDES permit #MA0103284, Section 8.a.

“The results of any monitoring required by the contingency plan shall be reported . .”(annually) “. except that if any parameter exceeds the corresponding early “caution level” or “warning level” the monitoring result shall be reported within ten (10) days after the result becomes available. The MWRA shall make all reasonable efforts to provide results within ninety (90) days after the sampling event, and MWRA shall obtain approval from EPA and the MADEP if the results will take longer than one hundred and fifty (150) days.”

# Delivery Performance, 1992-1998

## Threshold-related Data reports



## Contingency Plan Process

```
DO 100 i=1,many
C      i = years, j = Different thresholds
C      RDM = Routine Discharge Monitoring Data
C      CAUTN = Contingency Plan Caution level
C      WARN = Contingency Plan Warning level

      Do 200 j = 1,~50
      TRIGGR(i,j) = f(RDM(i))

          IF(TRIGGR(i,j) .lt. Cautn(j)) THEN
              write (everywhere,*) ' NO PROBLEM'
              OUTPUT = 'No Problem'

          ELSE IF(TRIGGR(i,j) >= CAUTN(j)) THEN
              CALL EVALUATE(TRIGGR,CAUTN,i,j,OUTPUT)
              CALL RESPONSE(MORE, CAUSAL, OUTPUT,
                  +
                          etc.)
              IF(OUTPUT = 'No Problem') THEN
                  write (everywhere,*) ' NO PROBLEM'
                  GO TO 200

          ELSE IF(TRIGGR(I,J) > WARN(J)) THEN
              CALL PROBLEM(OMTF, DEP, EPA, PUBLIC, etc.)
          ENDIF
200     CONTINUE
100    CONTINUE

DON'T STOP
DON'T END
```

Draft NPDES permit #MA0103284, Section 8.b.

“If any parameter exceeds the “warning level” listed above in Section 8.a, the MWRA shall: (1) determine whether there are any adverse environmental impacts from such exceedance, (2) evaluate the extent to which MWRA discharge contributes to such impacts, and (3) unless MWRA demonstrates by convincing evidence, to the satisfaction of EPA and the MADEP, that the MWRA discharge does not contribute to such adverse environmental impacts, develop a plan and schedule to address such impacts . . .”.



**Overview – Water Column Monitoring (Day 2)** (*Dr. Mike Mickelson, MWRA*)

Environmental and man-made perturbations which affect valued ecosystem components

Those effects which are of

- local scale,
  - understandable interaction, and
  - conceivable relevance to outfall
- are the basis of the Outfall Monitoring Plan

Outfall monitoring Plan.

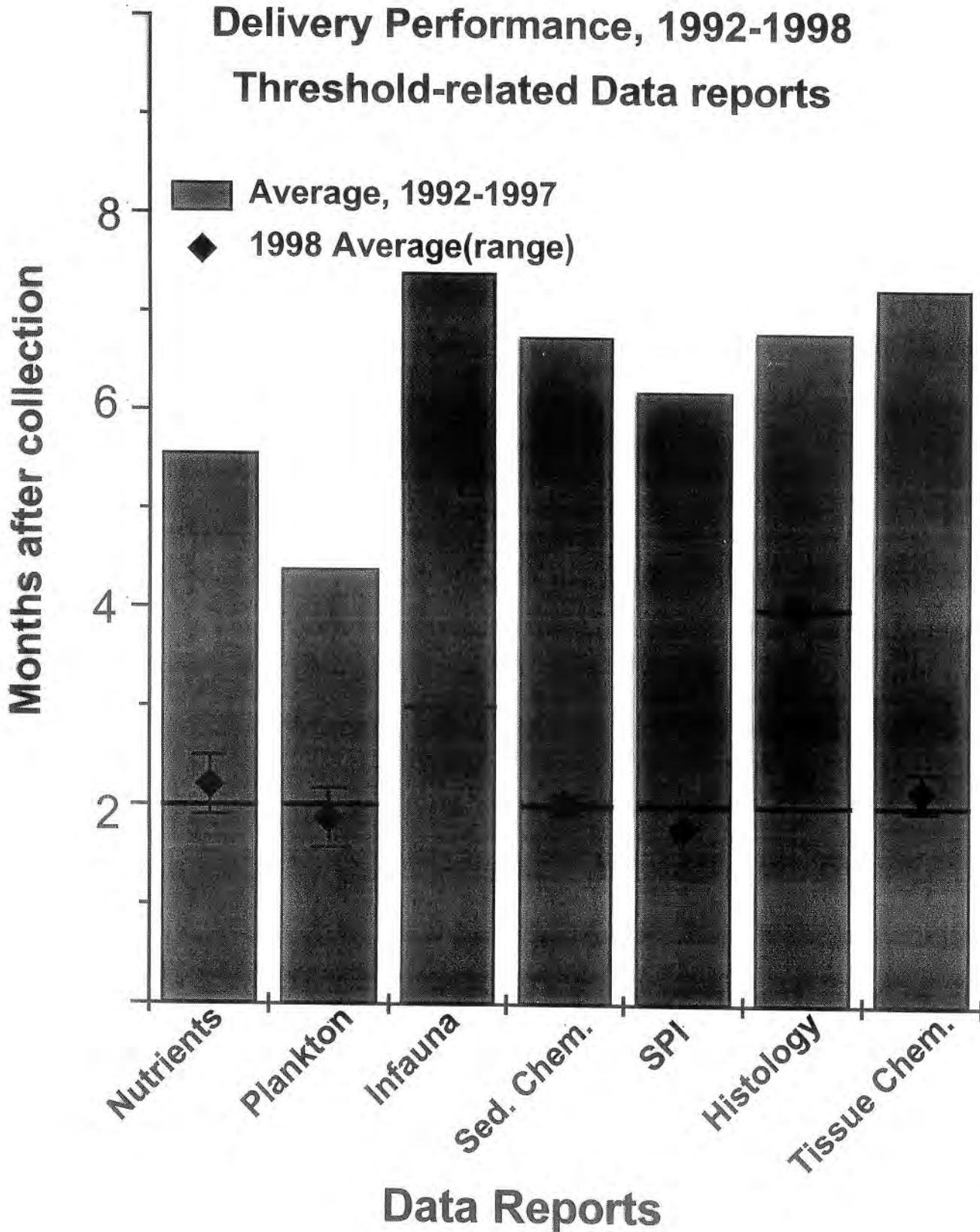
The Contingency Plan identifies selected measurements to be used as thresholds for action.

The other measurements are just as important because they

- Explain impact of exceedance
- Explain cause of exceedance
- Demonstrate ability to detect changes that do occur
- Further understanding of the ecosystem

# Delivery Performance, 1992-1998

## Threshold-related Data reports



Draft NPDES permit #MA0103284, Section 8.b.

"If any parameter exceeds the "warning level" listed above in Section 8.a, the MWRA shall: (1) determine whether there are any adverse environmental impacts from such exceedance, (2) evaluate the extent to which MWRA discharge contributes to such impacts, and (3) unless MWRA demonstrates by convincing evidence, to the satisfaction of EPA and the MADEP, that the MWRA discharge does not contribute to such adverse environmental impacts, develop a plan and schedule to address such impacts . . .".

# **Action list from EPA/MADEP permit for MWRA outfall T01**

Monitor effluent

Ambient monitoring

- Plan and modify design

- Report results

- Model eutrophication

- Model the whale-prey food web

- Test diffuser dilution

Contingency Plan

- Report exceedances

- Simulate a problem

Monitor pathogen exposure of shellfish

Maintain and operate the treatment plant

Implement Best Management Practices

Pollution prevention

- Limit industrial discharges

Monitor sludge quality for agricultural use

Monitor CSO facilities and storm spills

Impose water conservation

**Outfall Monitoring Plan: Development Status** *(Dr. Carlton Hunt, Battelle)*

## MWRA Outfall Monitoring Plan: Development Status

1998 Science Review Meetings

April 9 and 12, 1999

Battelle

Thresholds

thresholds 4/28/99 1

## Development status

- Revised draft of the OMP in development
- Focusing on completing threshold statements
- Threshold testing will be one theme for the June (Tentative) 1998 OMSAP Public Science Meeting
- Automation of the threshold and monitoring comparison process pending completion of thresholds (Task 30)
  - Will reside within the database
  - Review data on upload and acceptance
- Requires
  - Strict protocols for the data aggregation
  - Defined statistical testing protocols

Battelle

Thresholds

thresholds 4/28/99 2

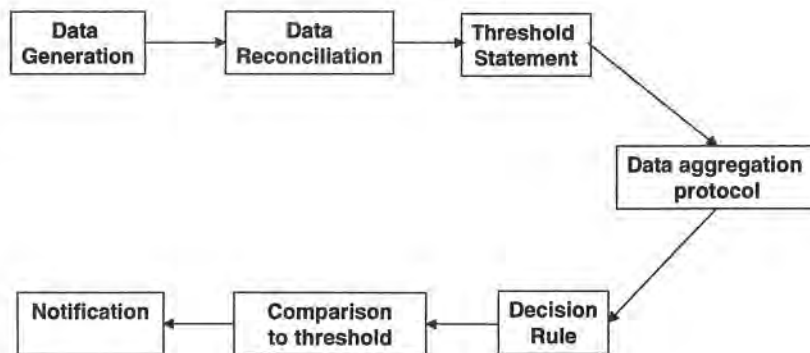
## Threshold Changes in the Last Year

- Effluent Removed floatable threshold (not in permit)
- Water
  - Oxygen Depletion rate threshold removed
  - Chlorophyll No changes
  - Nuisance species Modified Psuedonitzschia threshold
  - Zooplankton Modified threshold statement
- Fish and Shellfish
  - Contaminants Removed lipid based thresholds, clarify if do caution thresholds on dry or wet weight
  - Histopathology No changes
- Seafloor
  - Benthos Identified 5 candidate thresholds
  - Contaminants No changes
  - Organic loading No changes

**Battelle**

Thresholds  
manuscript 4/2019 3

## Threshold Testing Cycle



**Battelle**

Thresholds  
manuscript 4/2019 4



## Where are we in the process?

- Effluent Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
- Water
  - Oxygen Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
  - Chlorophyll Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
  - Nuisance species Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
  - Zooplankton Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
- Fish and Shellfish
  - Contaminants Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
  - Histopathology Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
- Seafloor
  - Benthos Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
  - Contaminants Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule
  - Organic loading Data Reconciliation; Threshold Statement; Test protocol; Decision Rule

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Thresholds  
battelle.pdf 4/28/11 5

## Threshold Work in Progress

- Water
  - Evaluating statistical approach to means testing and the development of 95th percentile testing
  - Evaluating the data aggregation protocols and statistical test (Decision rules)
  - Evaluating incorporation zero values that dominate the database into the testing
- Fish and Shellfish
  - Decision on wet versus dry weight for caution thresholds
- Seafloor
  - Working on decisions rules on the diversity thresholds and threshold statements
  - Evaluating the compositional and functional thresholds

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Thresholds  
battelle.pdf 4/28/11 6

## Activities and Schedules

- Complete draft synthesis reports for 1998: May - June time frame
- Complete threshold statements, data aggregation and decision rules - early June
- Develop rapid threshold review protocols - June - July
- Complete draft Outfall Monitoring Plan - June
- Develop presentations for the OMSAP public science meeting: May - June

**Battelle**

Thresholds  
6/16/99 4/20/99 7

## Meeting goals

- Review and discuss 1998 data
- Debate the thresholds as appropriate
- Develop themes and key presentations for the June OMSAP public science meeting

**Battelle**

Thresholds  
6/16/99 4/20/99 8

Draft  
4/8/99

**Table. Summary of thresholds against which monitoring data will be compared to evaluate whether significant environmental change occurs in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.**

Area/ Location	Parameter	Threshold #	Caution Level	Warning Level	Baseline /Permit Condition
<b>Effluent (prior to entrance into the outfall tunnel)</b>					
	Total nitrogen	E-1	Total nitrogen loading >12,500 tons/year	Total nitrogen loading >14,000 tons/year	
	Chlorine, residual	E-2	None	631 µg/L average daily 456 µg/L average monthly	
	PCBs	E-3	None	PCB (as Arochlor) limit =0.0045 ng/L monthly	
	Toxicity	E-4	None	<u>Acute</u> : effluent LC50 < 50% for shrimp; <u>Chronic</u> : effluent NOEC for fish growth and sea urchin fertilization < 1.5% effluent	
	CBOD	E-5	None	>40 mg/L weekly >25 mg/L monthly	
	Fecal coliform Bacteria	E-6	None	14,000 fecal coliforms/100 ml at point of dechlorination (weekly mean, monthly 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile, and 24 consecutive hours)	
	Total Suspended Solids	E-7	None	45 mg/L weekly 30 mg/L monthly	
Treatment plant performance	Non trigger parameters listed in Part one of the permit e.g., pH, Flow; selected contaminants; selected nitrogen species; settable solids; cyanide; Volatile organic compounds; etc	E-8	More than 5 violations of permit requirements/year.  Note: Specific conditions for each of these non trigger parameters can be found in Part I of the MWRA Discharge Permit	Operating in violation of the expected permit requirements more than 5% of the time per year.  e.g., pH <6 or >9 at any time; flow >436 MGD for dry day	

Draft  
4-8-99

**Table. Summary of thresholds against which monitoring data will be compared to evaluate whether significant environmental change occurs in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.**

Area/ Location	Parameter	Threshold #	Caution Level	Warning Level	Baseline /Permit Condition
<b>Water Column</b>					
Bottom water Nearfield; Stellwagen Basin	Dissolved oxygen concentration	W-1	Survey mean DO is less than 6.5 mg/L for any one survey during stratification (June-Oct.)	Survey mean DO is less than 6 mg/L for any one survey during stratification (June-Oct.)	No exceedances during baseline period.  Range in monthly means is across baseline period (1992 - 1998) is xx - xx mg/L
Nearfield	Chlorophyll level	W-2	Annual mean Nearfield concentration greater than 1.5x baseline annual mean	Annual mean Nearfield concentration greater than 2x baseline annual mean.	Baseline through 1997: (Gong 1998) Mean = 1.95 ± 0.47 mg/L Caution = 2.92 mg/L Warning = 3.89 mg/L
Nearfield	Chlorophyll level	W-3	Seasonal (Spring, Summer, Fall) Nearfield mean concentration exceeds 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile of the baseline seasonal distribution	None	Baseline through 1997: Gong 1998) Mean Spring: 1.61±0.63 mg/L Summer: 1.30 ±0.5 mg/L Fall: 2.45± 1.11 mg/L  Threshold (caution/warning) Spring: 2.68/3.35 mg/L Summer: 2.61/2.83 mg/L Fall: 4.95/5.66 mg/L
Nearfield	Nuisance algae abundance	W-4	Seasonal (Spring, Summer, Fall) mean concentration of <i>Alexandrium tamerenses</i> or <i>Phaeocystis pouchetii</i> exceeds 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile of the baseline seasonal mean.  Seasonal (Spring, Summer, Fall) mean concentration of confirmed <i>Pseudo- nitzschia multiseries</i> exceed 500,000 cells per liter.	None	Under development

Draft  
4-8-99

**Table. Summary of thresholds against which monitoring data will be compared to evaluate whether significant environmental change occurs in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.**

Area/ Location	Parameter	Threshold #	Caution Level	Warning Level	Baseline /Permit Condition
Nearfield	Zooplankton abundance	W-5	The abundance of <i>Acartia tonsa</i> / <i>A. hudsonica</i> becomes greater than 50% of the copepodite plus adult copepod abundance in a Nearfield sample.  Alternative: Nearfield abundance of copepodites and adult stages of <i>Calanus</i> , <i>Pseudocalanus</i> , <i>Centropages typicus</i> , <i>Oithona</i> does not decrease by more than 50% of the baseline mean and the abundance of copepodites and adult stages of <i>Acartia</i> , <i>Eurytemora</i> , <i>Centropogas hamatus</i> does not increase by more than 50% of the baseline mean.	None	Under development
Farfield	PSP extent in the Farfield	W-6	Any new incidence at a state PPS monitoring station having no previously reported incidence	None	PPS has never been observed at 3 of 18 monitoring stations
Plume	Initial dilution	W-7	None	Effluent dilution under stratified and unstratified conditions less than predicted by EPA as basis for NPDES permit	Dilution is expected to be 70:1 at a distance of 60m from the diffusers. Plume tracking studies in December 1999 and June 2000 will confirm dilution

Draft  
4-5-99

**Table. Summary of thresholds against which monitoring data will be compared to evaluate whether significant environmental change occurs in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.**

Area/ Location	Parameter	Threshold #	Caution Level	Warning Level	Baseline /Permit Condition
<b>Fish and Shellfish</b>					
Outfall site	Mercury	FS-1	Annual mean mercury dry-weight concentration in flounder, lobster, and caged mussel meat greater than twice the baseline mean.	Annual mean mercury concentration in flounder, lobster, and caged mussel meat greater than 0.8µg/g wet weight	Baseline Mean through 1998 (wet weight): Flounder = 0.0085 ppm Lobster = 0.154 ppm Caged Mussel = 0.022 ppm  Caution Level Flounder = 0.17 ppm Lobster = 0.031 ppm Caged Mussel = 0.044 ppm
Outfall site	PCB	FS-2	Annual mean PCB dry-weight concentration in flounder and meat greater than twice the baseline mean.	Annual mean PCB concentration in flounder, lobster, and caged mussel meat greater than 1.6 µg/g wet	Baseline Mean through 1998 (wet weight): Flounder = 38.1 ppb Lobster = 17.1 ppb  Caution Level Flounder = 76.2 ppb Lobster = 34.1 ppb
Outfall site	Lead	FS-3	Annual mean dry-weight lead concentration in caged mussel meat greater than greater than twice the baseline mean.	Annual mean lead concentration in caged mussel meat greater than 3 µg/g wet weight	Baseline Mean through 1998 (wet weight): Caged Mussel = 0.43 ppm  Caution Level Caged Mussel = 0.86 ppm
Flounder Outfall Site	Liver disease incidence	FS-4	Flounder liver disease (CHV) greater than harbor baseline prevalence (1991-1998)	None	Baseline Mean  Through 1997 = 24.9

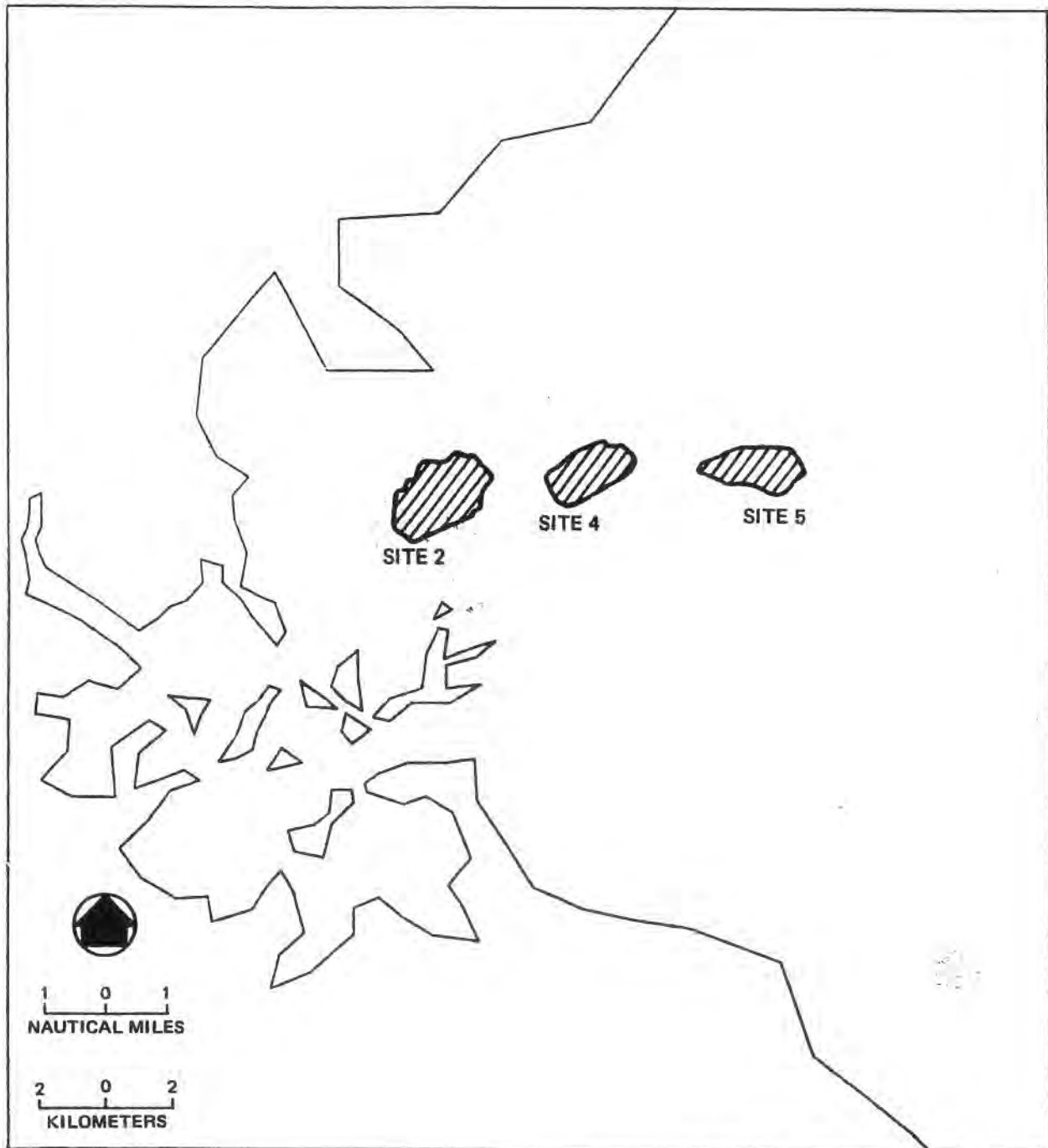
Draft  
4-8-99

**Table. Summary of thresholds against which monitoring data will be compared to evaluate whether significant environmental change occurs in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.**

Area/ Location	Parameter	Threshold #	Caution Level	Warning Level	Baseline /Permit Condition
<b>Sea Floor</b>					
Nearfield	Depth of Redox potential discontinuity	B-1	Redox potential discontinuity declines to less than 0.5 x baseline depth in the nearfield	None	Baseline mean Approximately 3.5 cm
Nearfield	Toxics	B-2	Nearfield mean surface sediment contaminant concentrations greater than 90% of the EPA's Equilibrium Partitioning Sediment Guideline (formerly sediment quality criteria)	Nearfield mean surface sediment contaminant concentrations greater than EPA's Equilibrium Partitioning Sediment Guideline or NOAA Effects range Median (ER-M) value	Under development OMP will include a table of the most recent marine ERM-M values
Nearfield	Benthic diversity	B-3	<u>Diversity threshold</u> Diversity does not decrease more than n... of the baseline .... J' (Evenness) Log $\alpha$ (Richness) E(S <sub>10</sub> ) (Evenness & Richness)  Exploring: the pooling versus separation of the sand and mud communities		Under development
Nearfield	Benthic Compositional	B-4	The sum of n (n = 4 to 6?) indicator species becomes more than x % of a community.  Should x be percent of community OR an increase relative to baseline?	The sum of n (n = 4 to 6?) indicator species becomes more than 50 % of a community?	Under development
Nearfield	Benthic Functional group  (Ecologically significant measure)	B-5	Exploring:		Under development
Nearfield	Benthic Families approach  (Ecologically significant measure)	B-6	Exploring:		Under development



*Benthic Monitoring*  
**Benthic Monitoring Thresholds Approach/Rationale** (*Mr. Ken Keay, MWRA*)





NOTE: NO DEGRADED AREAS

**LEGEND**

-  CHANGED AREA
-  DEGRADED AREA

**FIGURE 5.1.3.b. AREAS OF PREDICTED CHANGED AND DEGRADED BENTHIC COMMUNITIES DUE TO ORGANIC ENRICHMENT UNDER STRATIFIED CONDITIONS WITH SECONDARY TREATMENT FOR ALL SITES.**

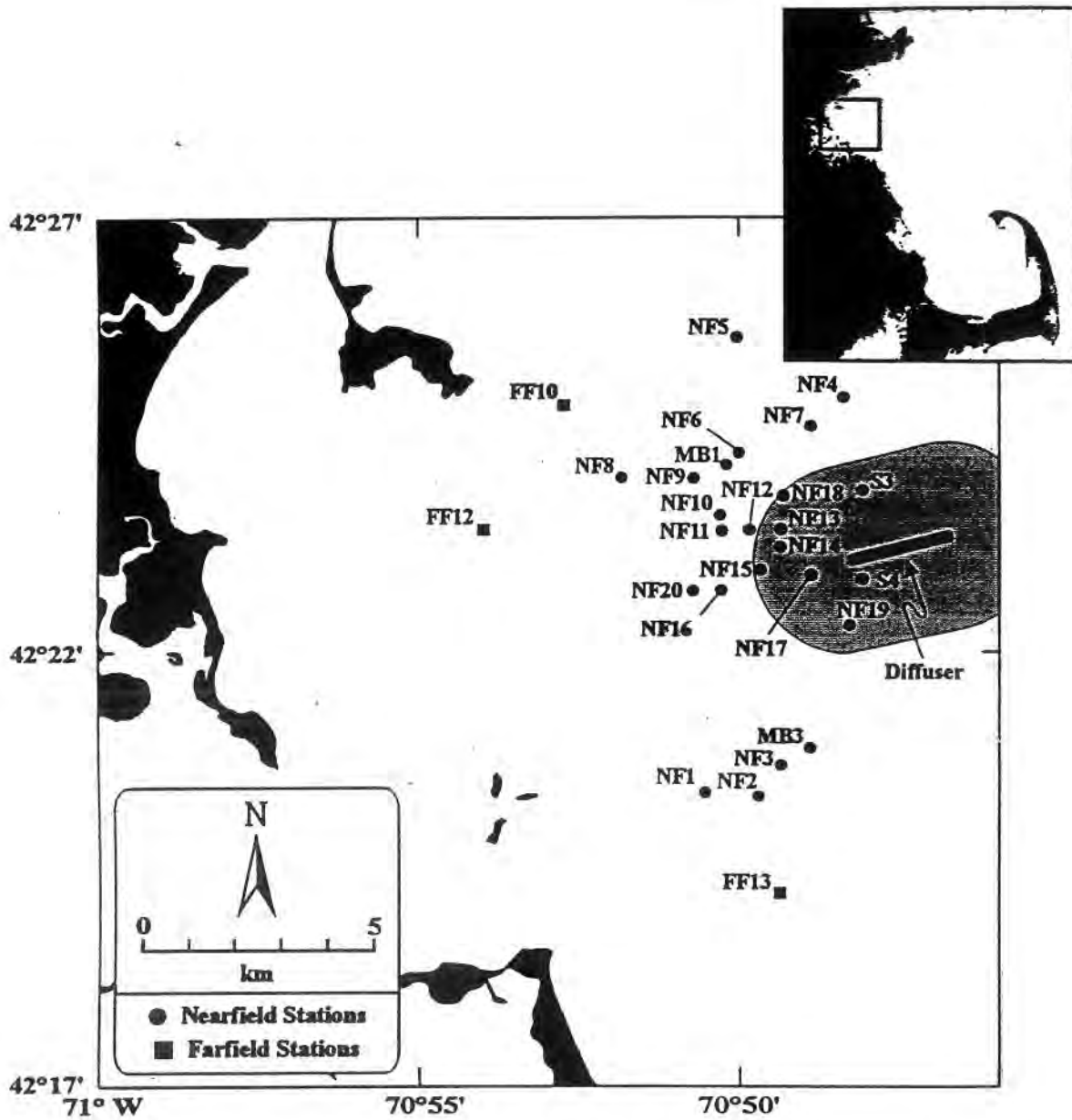
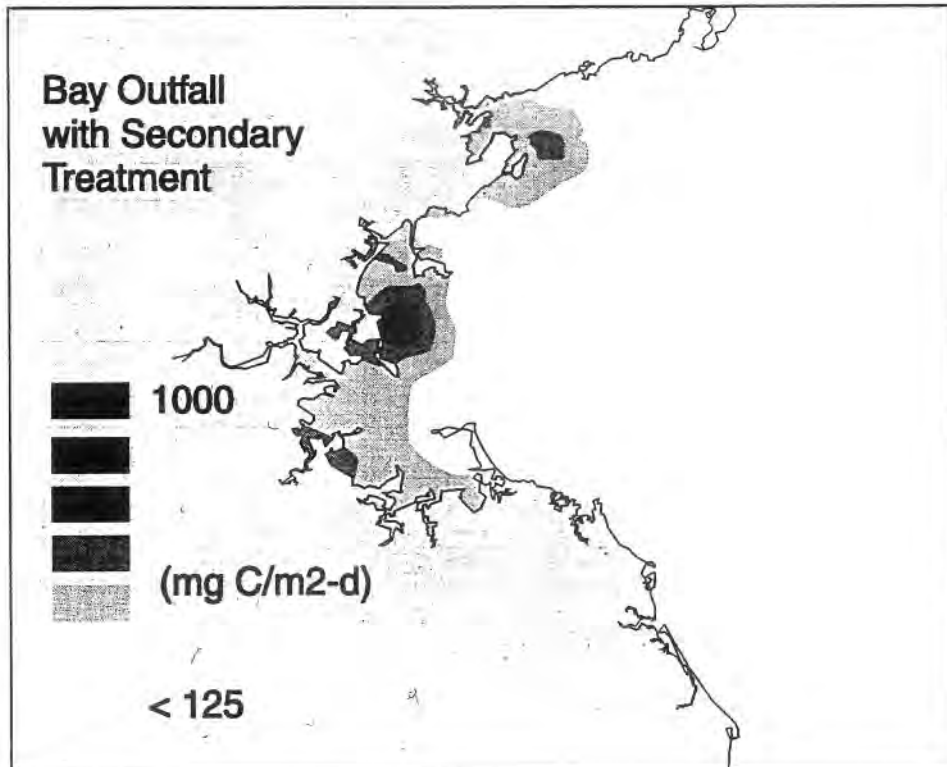
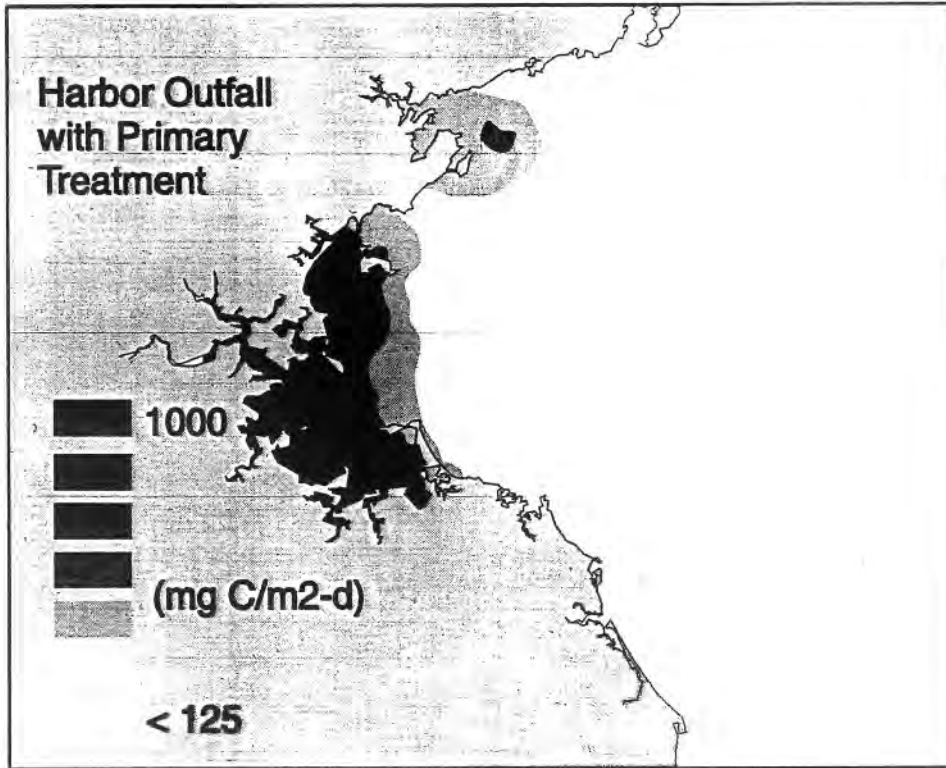


Figure 4. Location of near and farfield stations at midfield distances from the diffuser. The shaded area is the locus of points at a 2 km distance from the outfall. The inset shows the midfield study area location within Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays.

**Modeled deposition of particulate organic carbon (August)**





SEDIMENTARY ENVIRONMENTS  
 EROSION OR NONDEPOSITION

▣ Patterns with Isolated Reflection

▣ Patterns with Strong Backscatter

SEDIMENT REWORKING

▣ Patterns with Patches of Strong to Weak Backscatter

DEPOSITION

▣ Patterns of Weak Backscatter

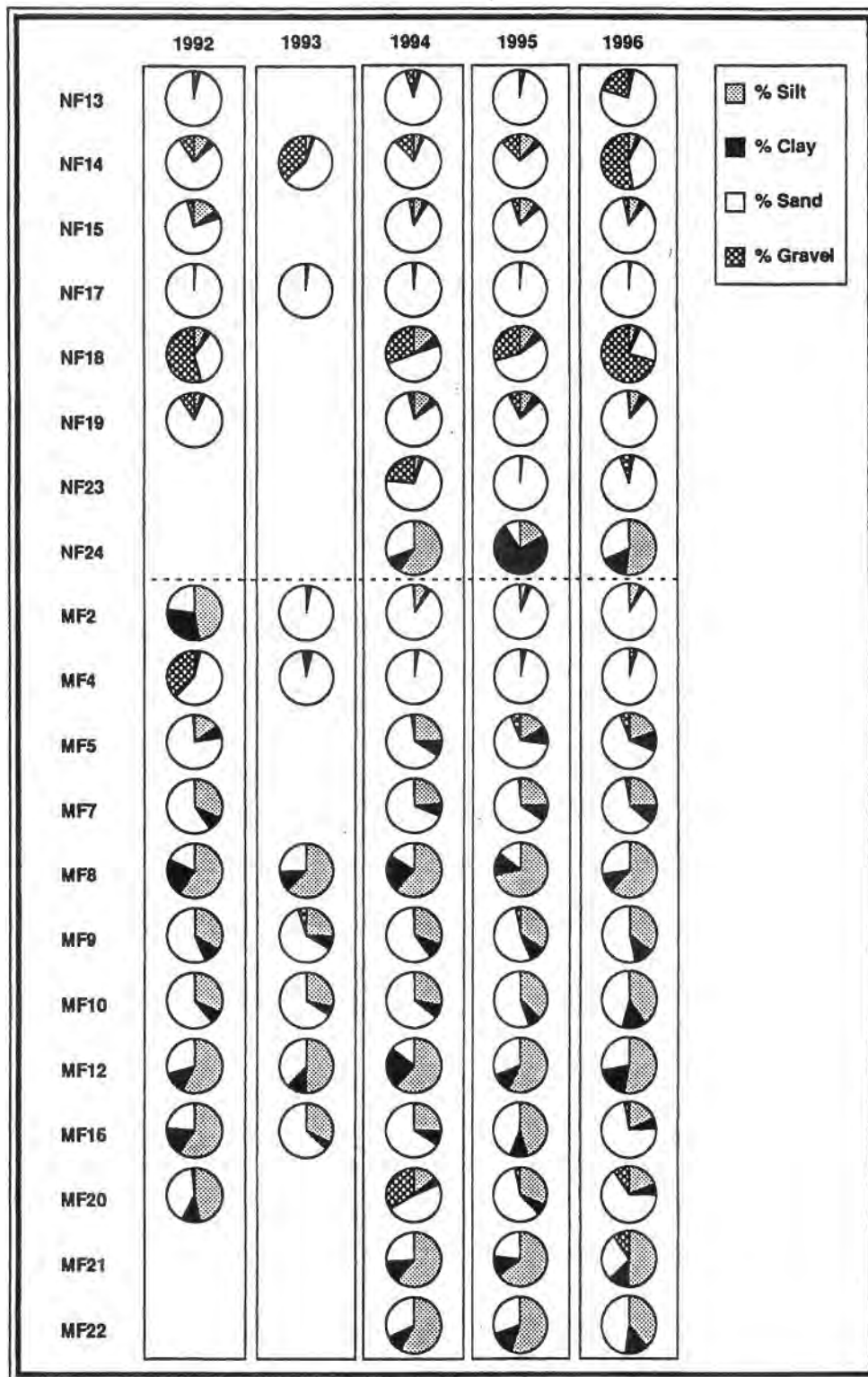


Figure 39. Sediment composition at nearfield and midfield stations for the period 1992-1996.

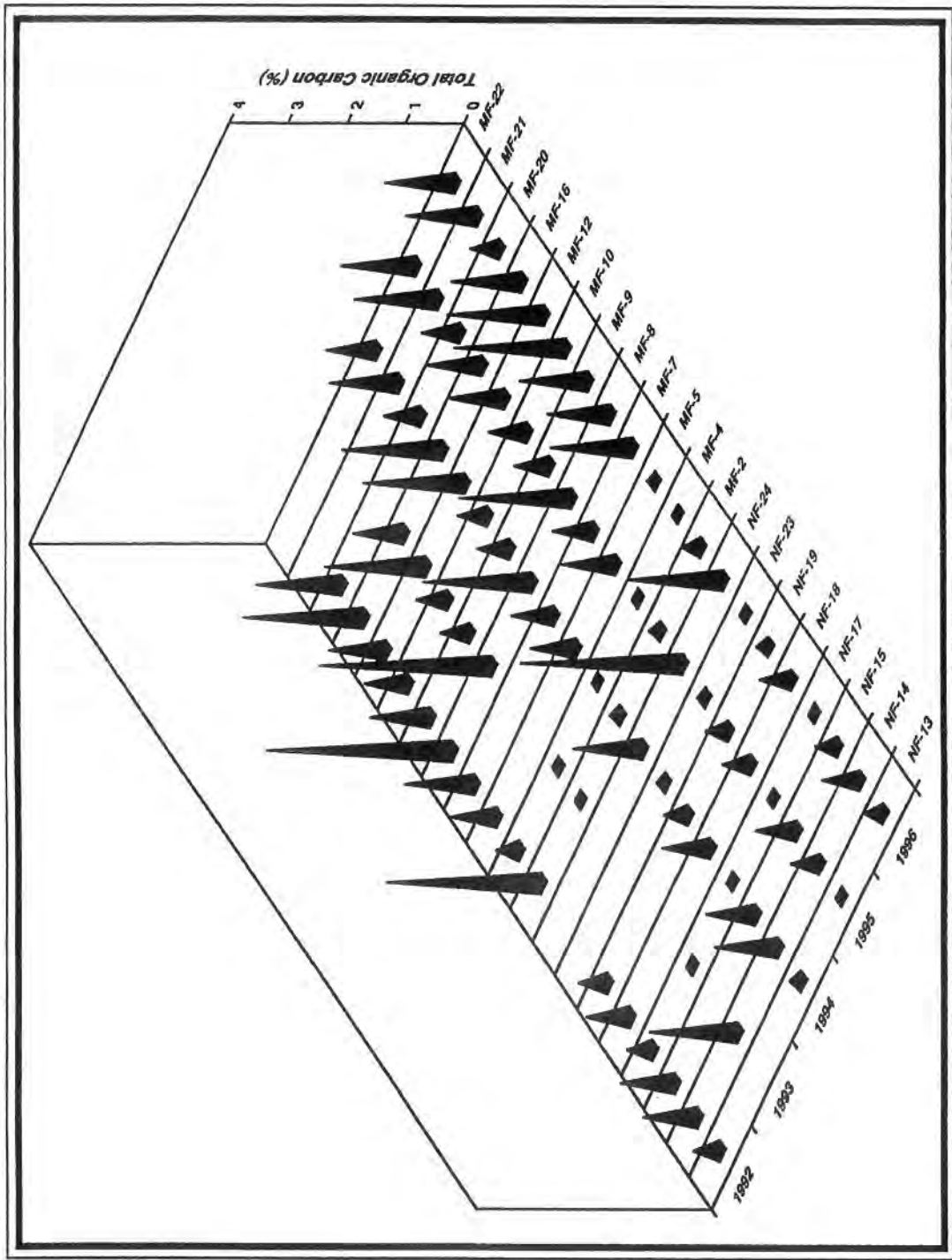


Figure 42. Total organic carbon concentrations at the nearfield and midfield stations for the period 1992-1996.

## Implications for sediment thresholds

- No expectation of substantial change.
- Change, if any, should be small, possibly not localized to the immediate vicinity of the outfall.
- Schedule leaves little or no time for detailed interpretation of the data prior to reporting on thresholds.
- Strong push from regulators & oversight committee for a KISS approach to threshold testing that's nonetheless ecologically and statistically valid.

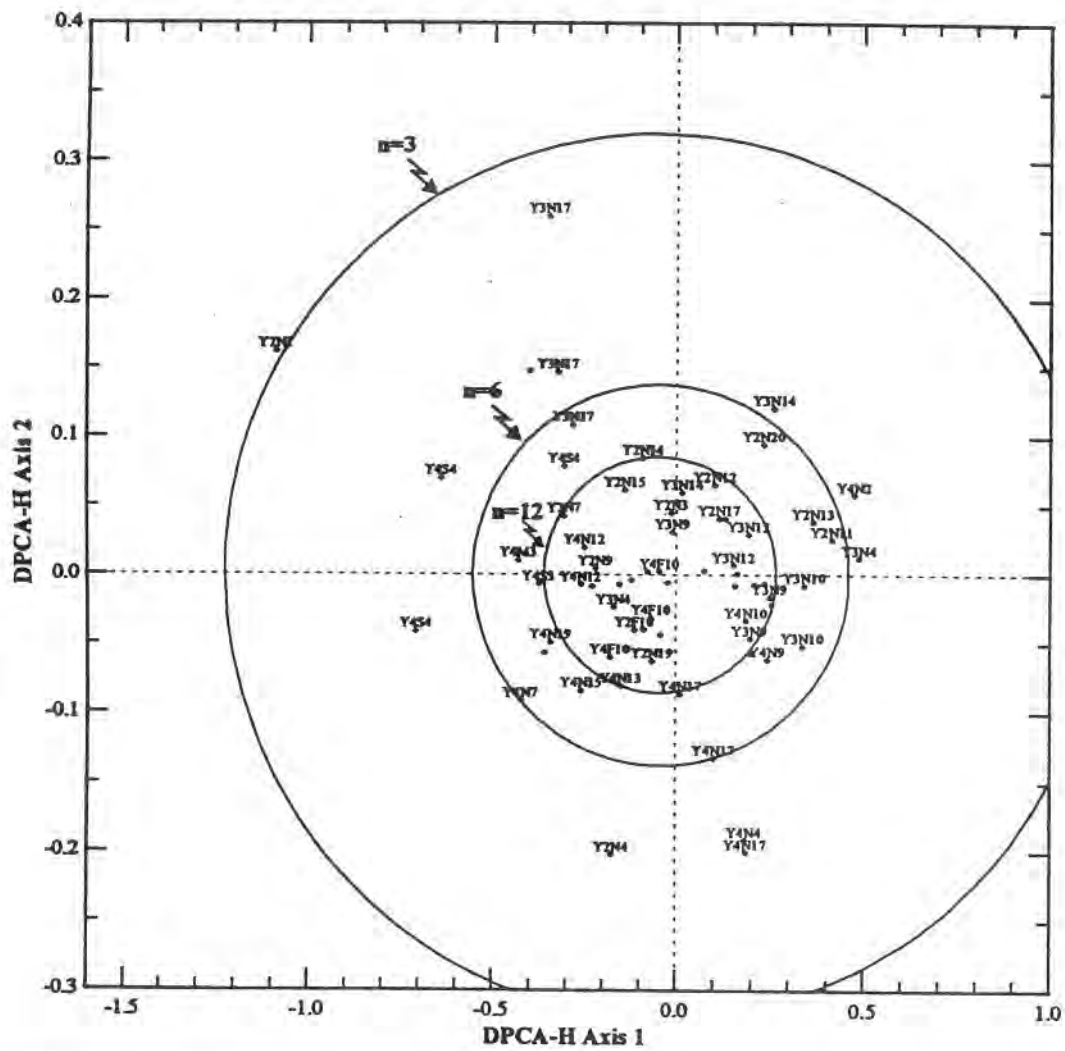


Figure 20. Adjusted DPCA-H coordinates. Equivalent to the residuals from the regression shown in Figures 18 and 19. The three ellipses delineate regions within which new mean values, computed with one of three sample sizes ( $n$ ), would not be significantly different from that of the baseline sentinel stations at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $\beta = 0.5$ . Replicate labeling is as described in Figure 12.



*Benthic Monitoring*  
**1998 Sediment Profile Imaging (Dr. Robert Diaz, VIMS)**

1.3 # NF05

>1.8 # NF04

0.8 # NF07

>2.9 # NF23

Diffuser

# 1.2 # NF24

0.5 # NF19

1.7 # NF18

>3.3 # NF13

# 0.8

>2.2 # NF14

>2.1 # NF17

1.9 # NF22

1.3 # NF21

2.0 # NF12

>2.2 # NF15

2.3 # FF10

1.8 # NF08

1.9 # NF09

1.7 # NF10

1.7 # NF16

NF02

2.2 # FF13

6 Kilometers

# Nearfield SPI 1998

Nearfieldsummary.cbf

# 0.5 - 0.9 cm

# 1 - 1.9

# 2 - 3



0 2 4 6 Kilometers



6.8  
#  
NF05

6.0  
#  
FF10

1.8  
#  
NF04

10.5  
#  
NF07

12.9  
#  
NF21

12.5  
#  
NF08

9.4  
#  
NF09

3.6  
NF23

4.4  
NF18

3.3  
NF13

8.0  
#  
NF10

13.6  
#  
NF12

2.9  
#  
NF15

3.7  
#  
NF14

2.1  
#  
NF17

5.0  
#  
NF20

13.4  
#  
NF16

1.6  
#  
NF19

7.2  
#  
NF24

0.3  
#  
NF02

9.1  
#  
NF22

12.8  
#  
FF13

3.4  
FF12

Diffuser

Nfdata.txt

# 0 - 2.9

# 3 - 4.9

# 5 - 10

# 10 - 15

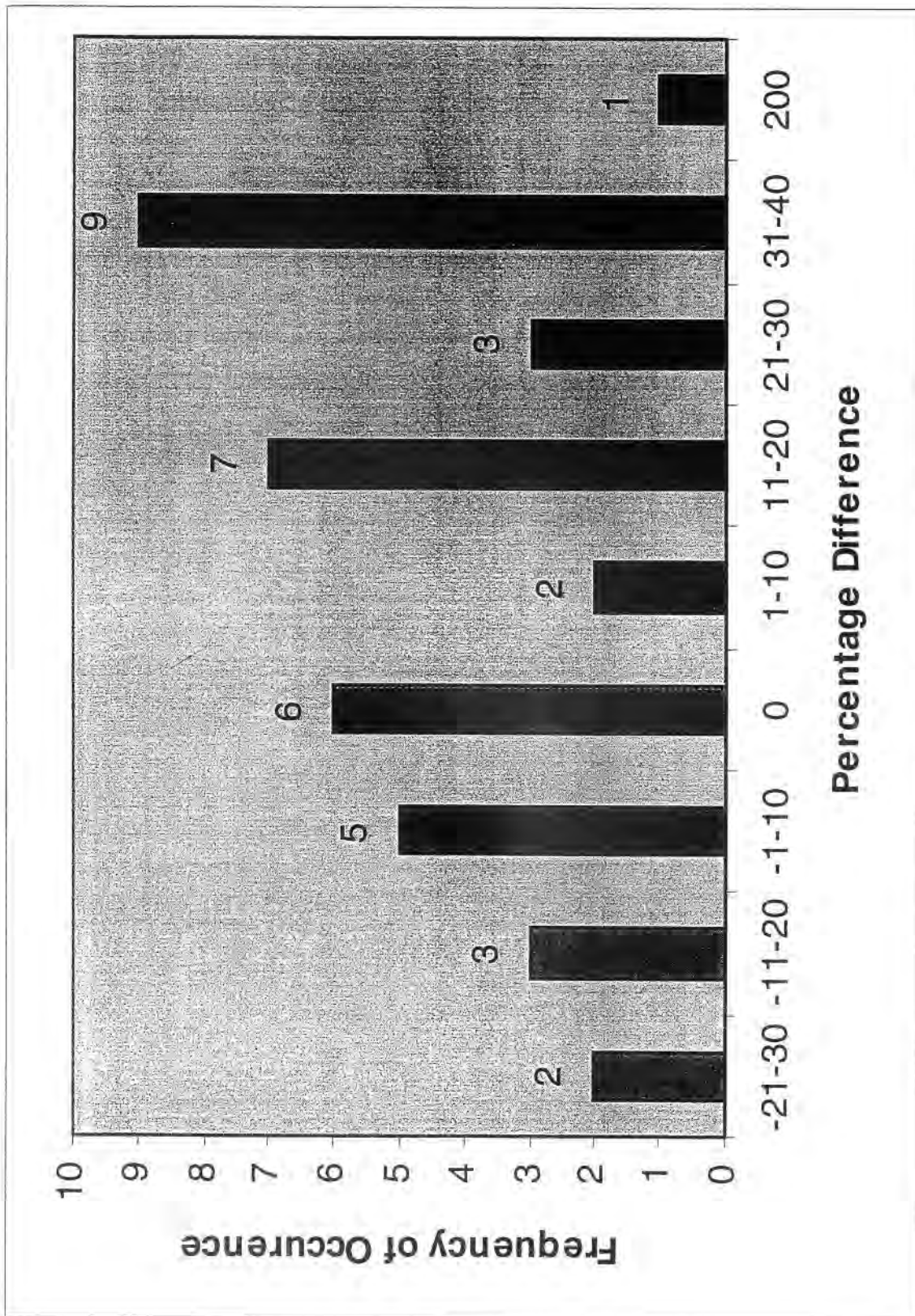
Prism Penetration (cm)

**Nearfield SPI 1998**



# Sediment Textures

- Dominated by broad-scale physical processes.
- Surface sediments were dominated by biological processes (bioturbation) .



RPD Measurements: QL - Detailed as %

- 38 station-replicate images that had measured RPD depths only one exceeded a difference of 50% (NF14-3).
- Indicates that Quick Look analysis has sufficient resolution to estimate RPD depths given the 50% change criteria.

- Test sensitivity of the Quick Look analysis for estimating RPD depths within 50% of the actual RPD value
- Quick Look value was expressed as a percentage of the computer analysis value

For 3 station-replicates that had  
>1 cm difference in RPD:

- Quick Look analysis values were  $\geq 3$  cm.
- Detailed analyses were 0.9, 1.0, and 1.8 cm for NF14-2, NF14-3, and NF18-3.
- Overestimated RPD depth related to light color and low contrast of sediment.
- Subsequently accounted for in the computer image analysis.



# Quick Look vs. Detailed Analyses

- Correspondence was very good.
- Prism penetration 1 in 69 station-replicates (NF23-1) differed by >1 cm.
- Surface relief 4 in 69 differed by >1 cm.
- RPD depth 3 in 69 differed by >1 cm

5.7  
#  
NF05

6.5  
#  
NF04

5.3  
#  
NF07

7.7  
#  
NF23

Diffuser

# 4.7  
#  
NF24

3.5  
#  
NF19

6.3  
#  
NF21

5.0  
#  
NF18

7.3  
#  
NF12

8.0  
#  
NF13

5.0  
#  
NF14

6.3  
#  
NF17

6.7  
#  
NF22

#  
NF02

8.0  
#  
FF13

7.3  
#  
NF09

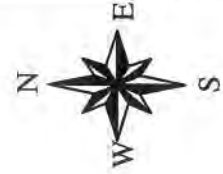
6.5  
#  
NF20

6.7  
#  
NF16

6.3  
#  
NF08

7.3  
#  
FF10

7.7  
#  
FF12



OSIXrnfdata.dbf

# Nearfield SPI 1998

6 Kilometers



# OSI (Rhoads and Germano 1986)

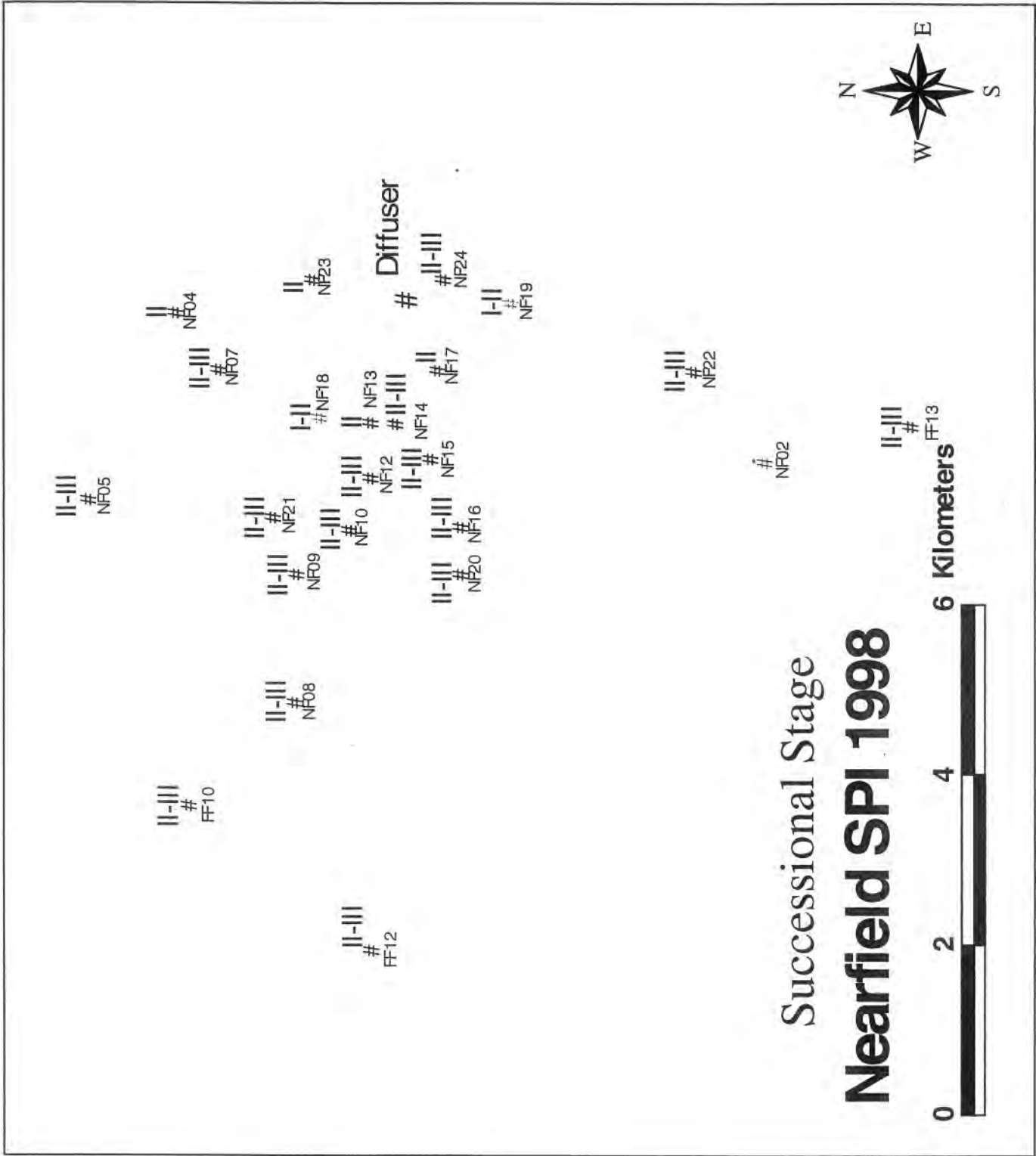
Depth of RPD: Successional stage:

0 cm 0	Azoic	-4
>0-0.75 1	I	1
0.76-1.50 2	I-II	2
1.51-2.25 3	II	3
2.26-3.00 4	II-III	4
3.01-3.75 5	III	5
>3.75 6	I on III	5
	II on III	5

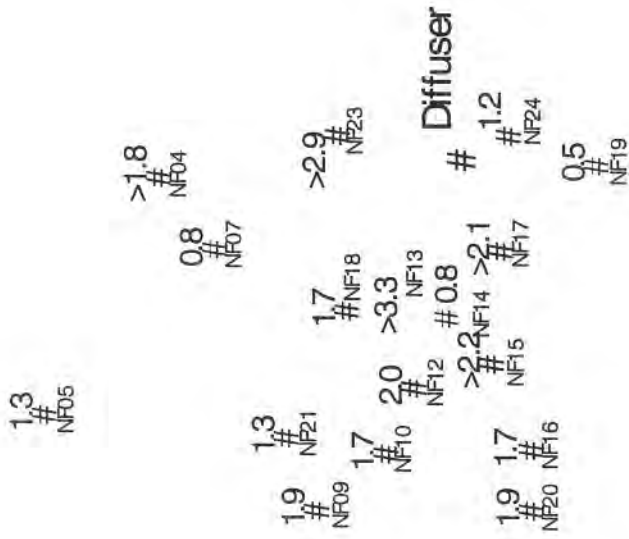
Other:

Methane voids present -2

No/Low DO -4



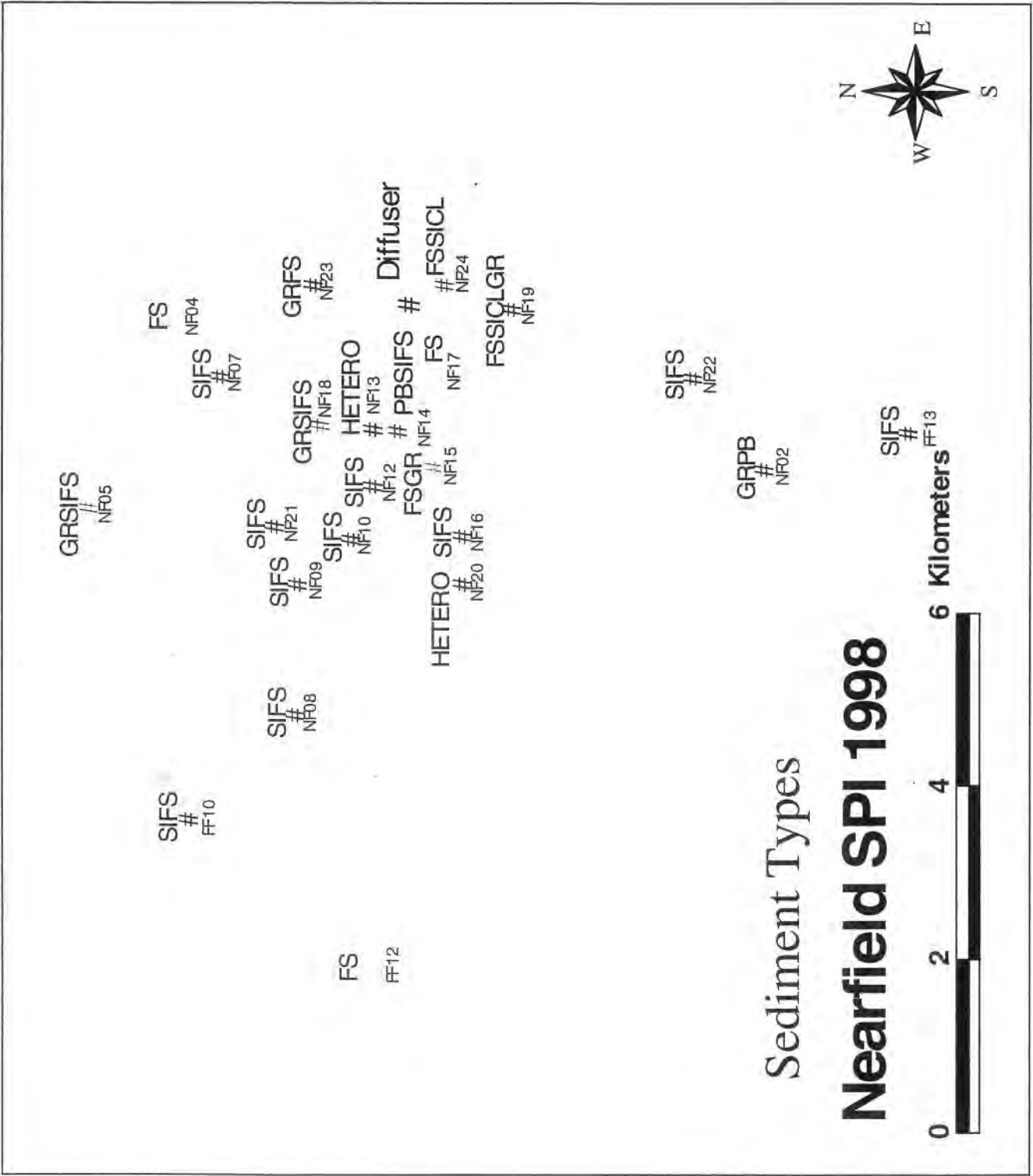
Parameter	Successional Stage		
	I	II	III
Average RPD (cm)	<1	1-3	>2
Max depth RPD (cm)	<2	>2	>4
Small Tubes	+++	++	+
Large Tubes	-	++	+++
Burrows	-	++	+++
Feeding Voids	-	+	+++
Small Infauna	+++	++	+
Large Infauna	-	+	++
Epifauna	+	++	++

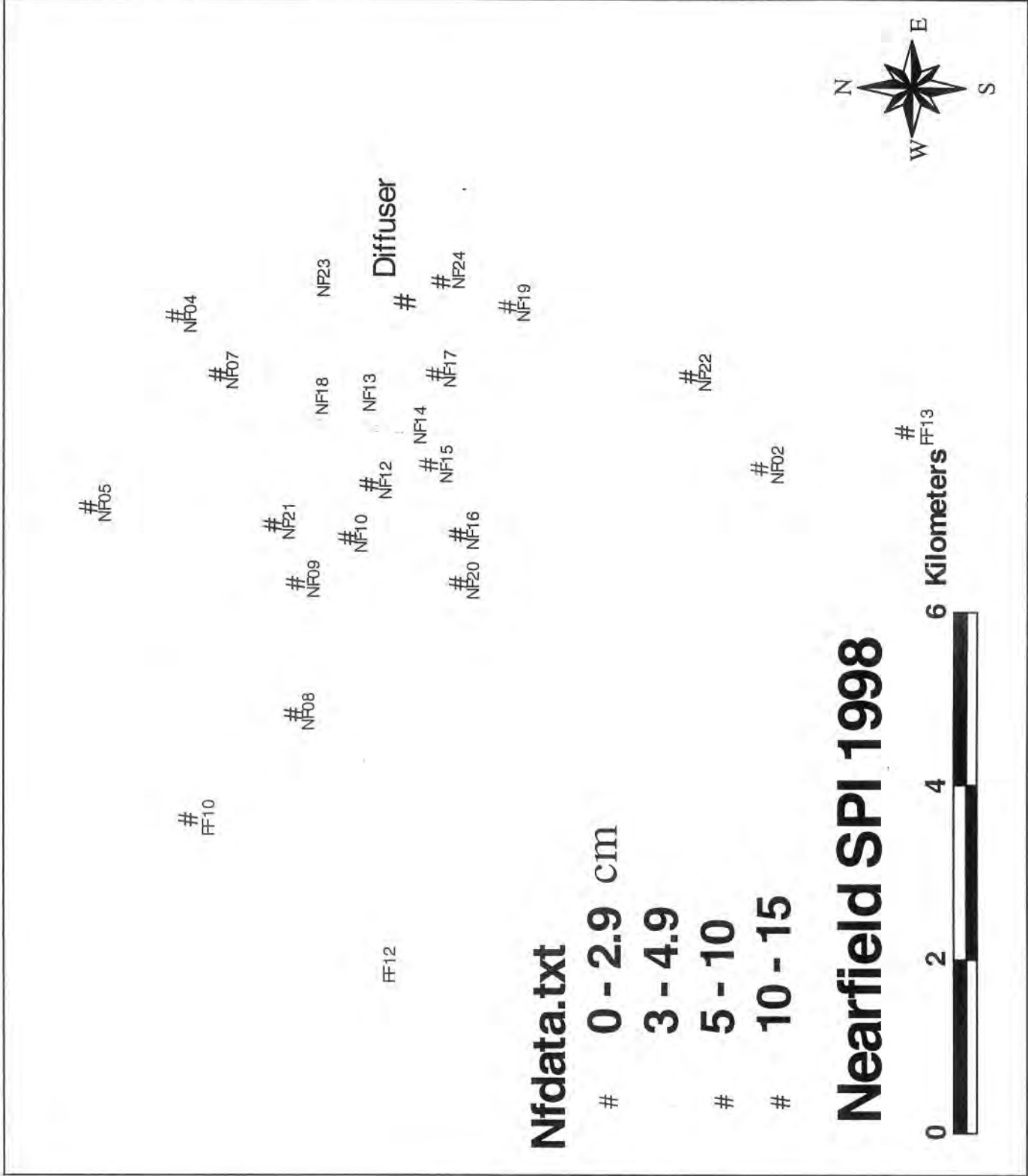


Apparent Color  
RPD Layer Depth (cm)

# Nearfield SPI 1998

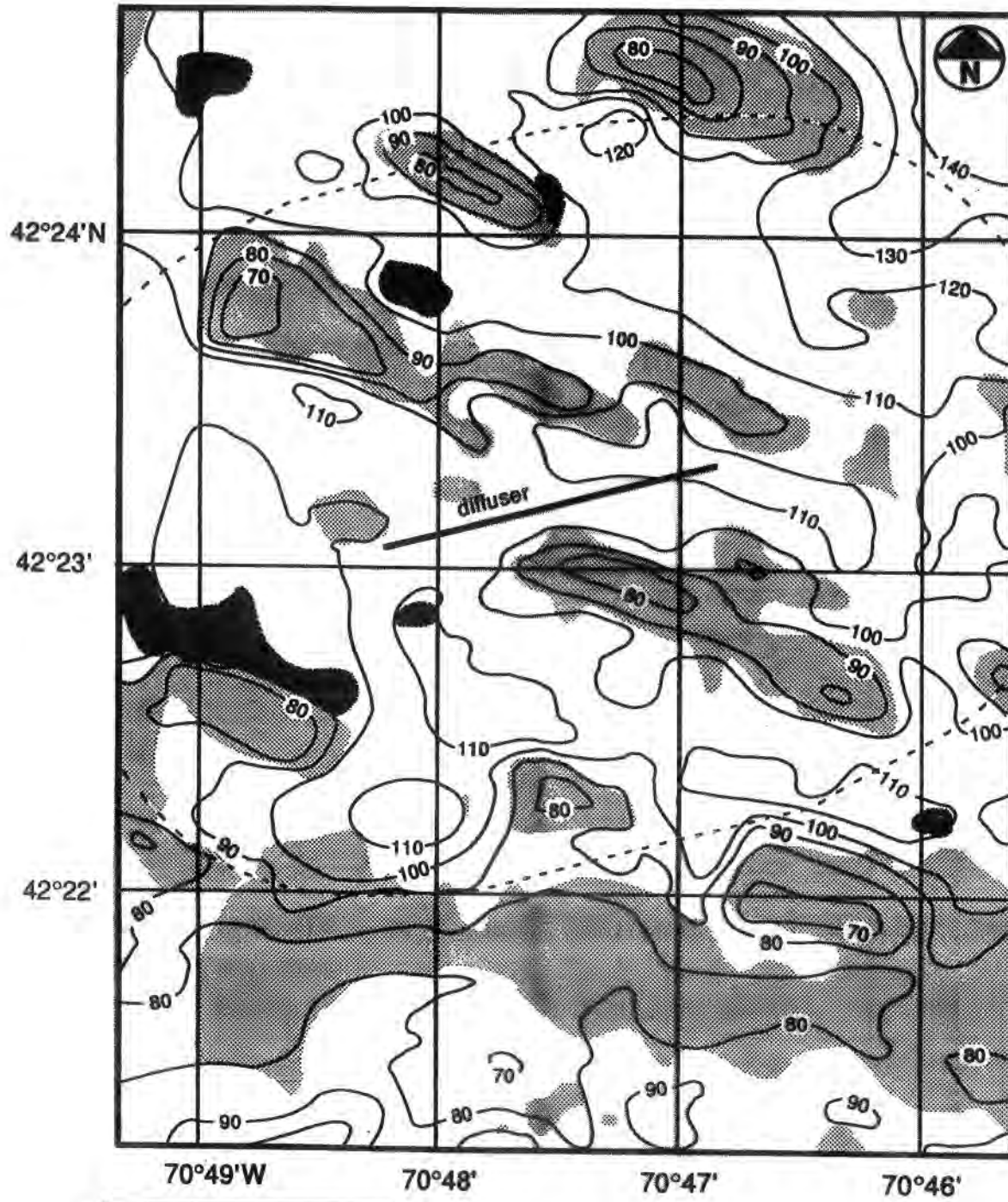




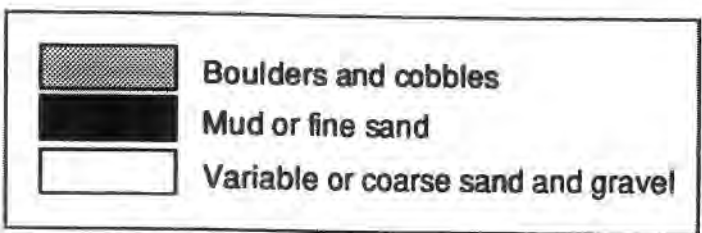




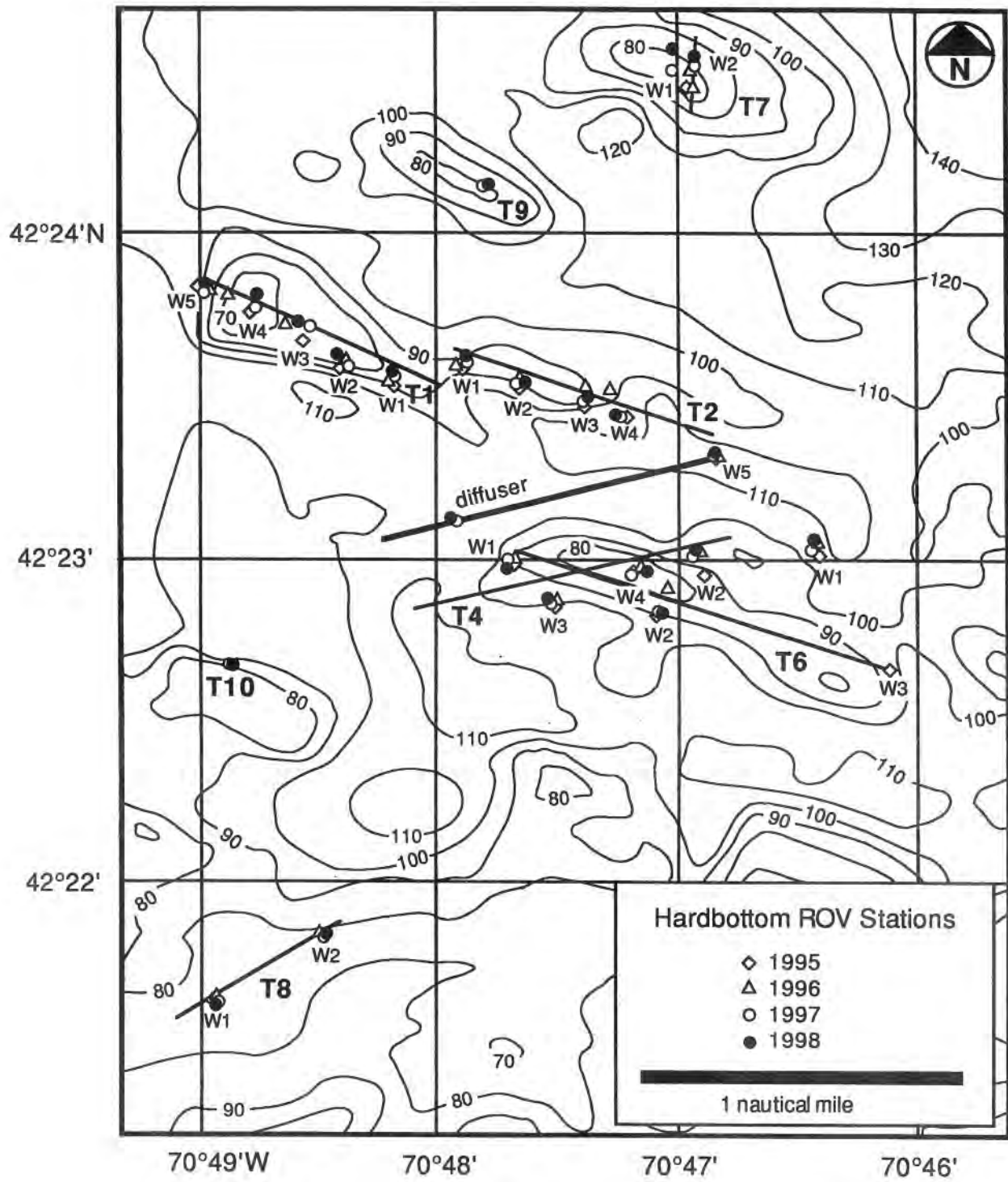
*Benthic Monitoring*  
**1998 Hardbottom Community** (*Dr. Barbara Hecker, Hecker Environmental*)

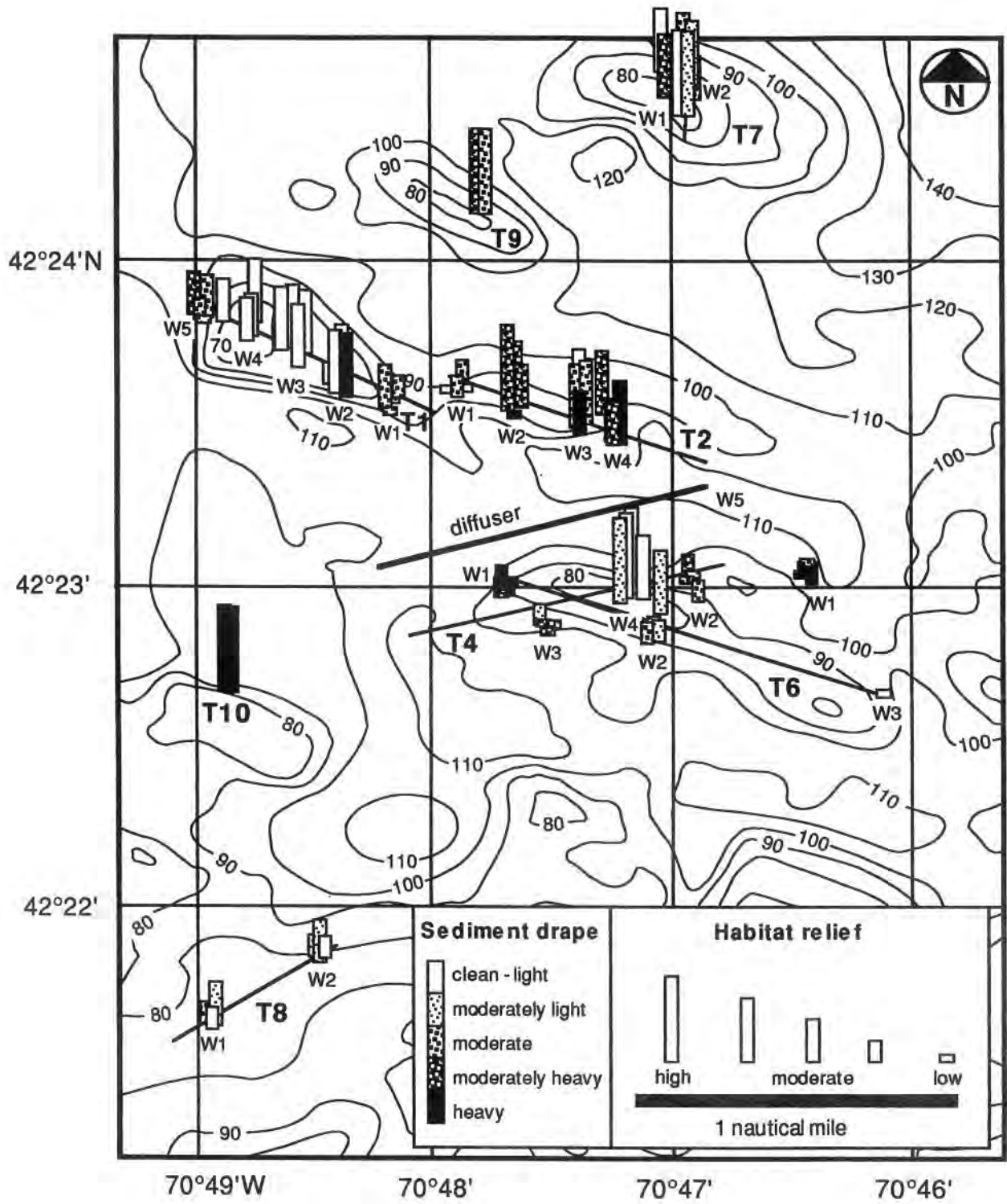


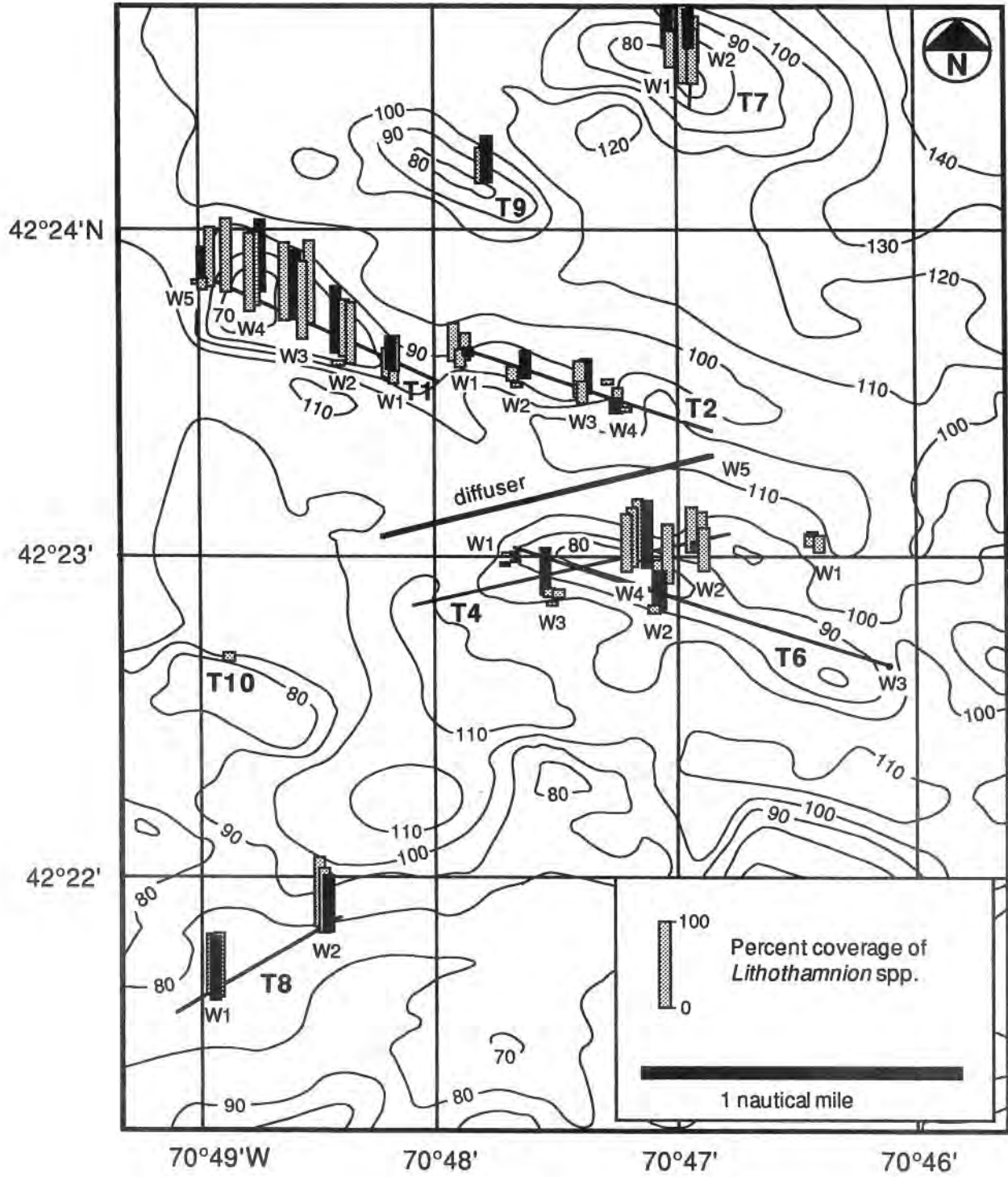
1 nautical mile



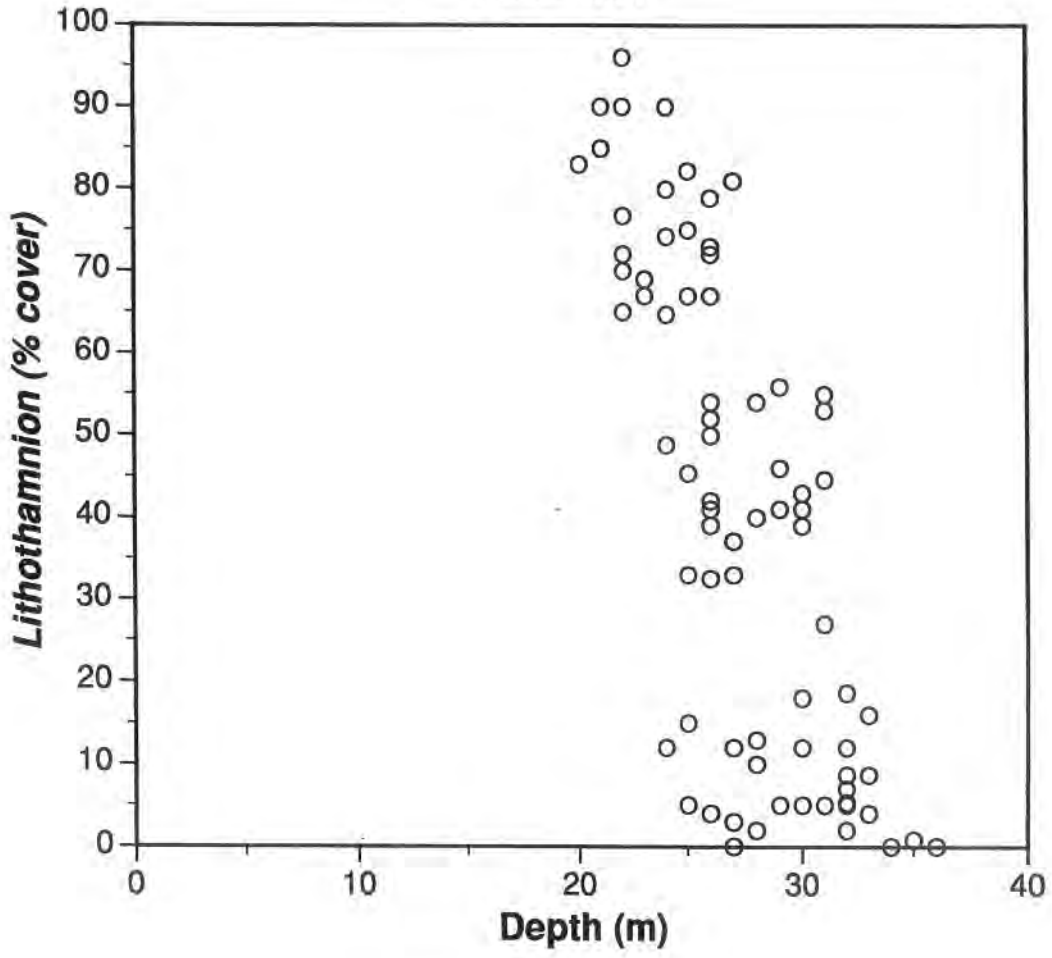
From Butman et al., 1992



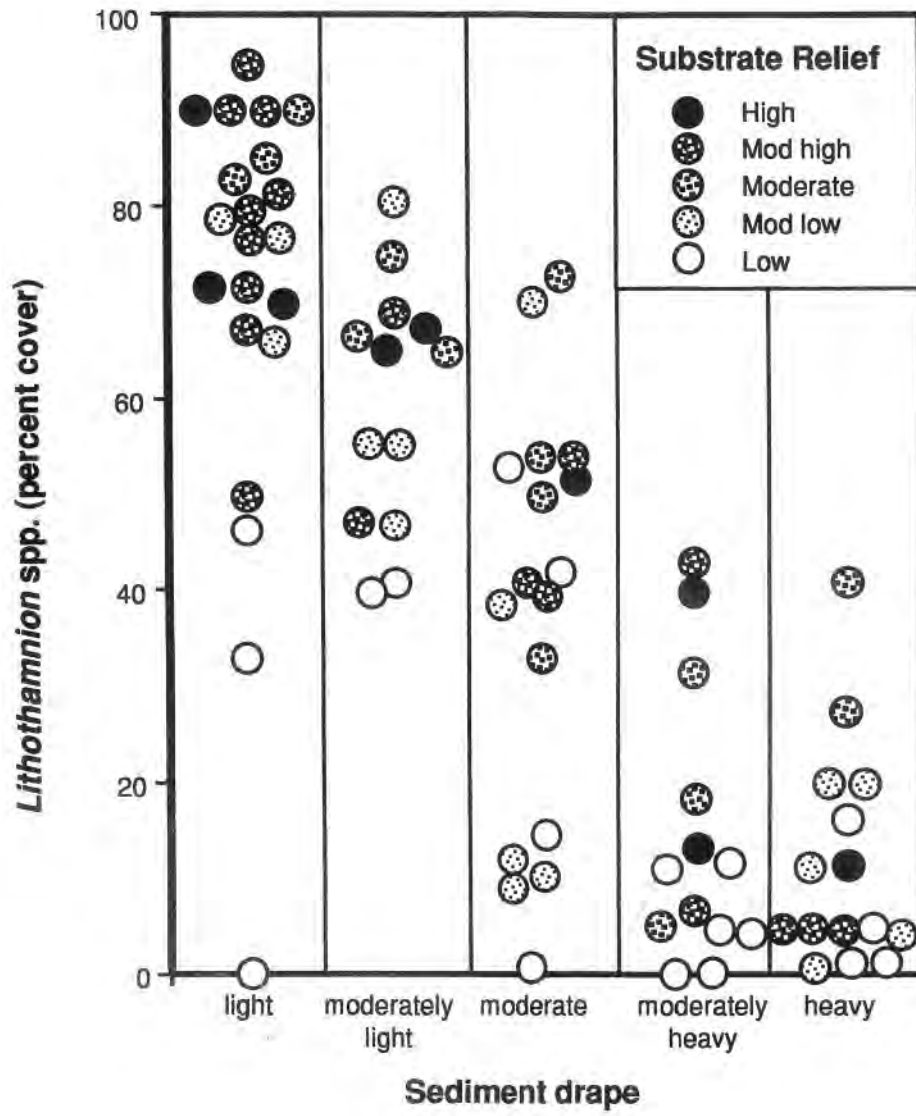




1995-1998

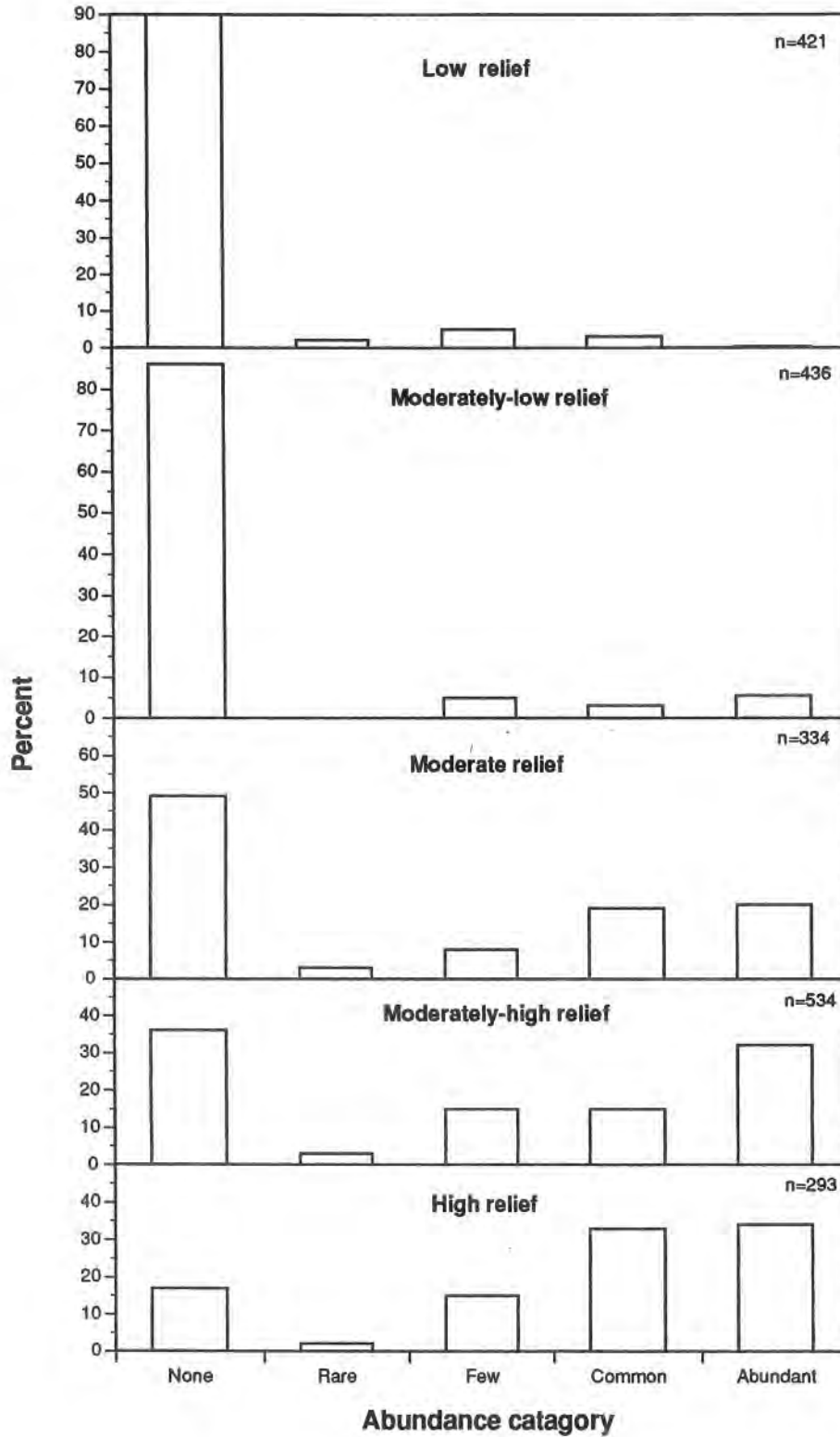


1995-1998



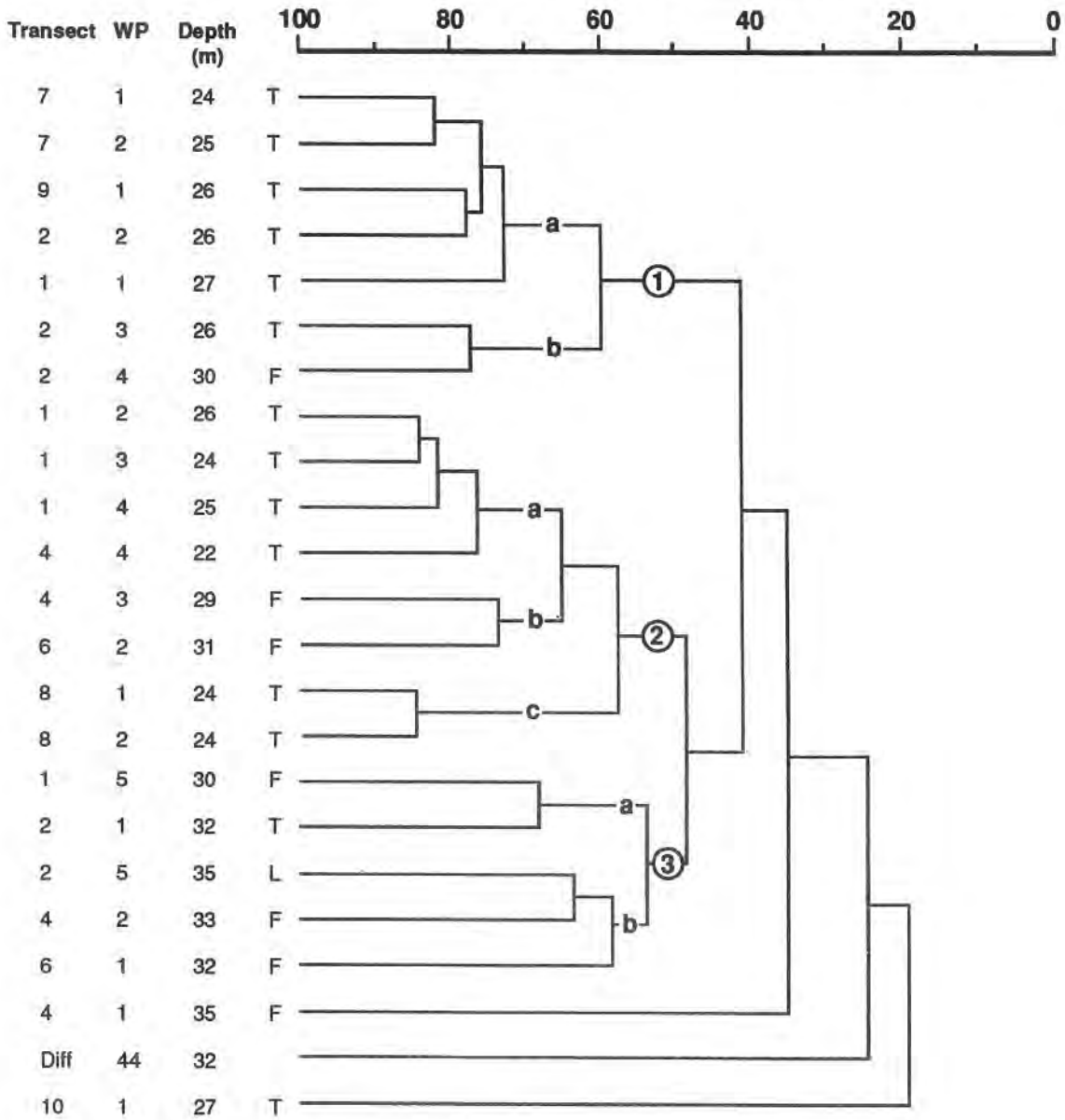
# *Asparagopsis hamifera*

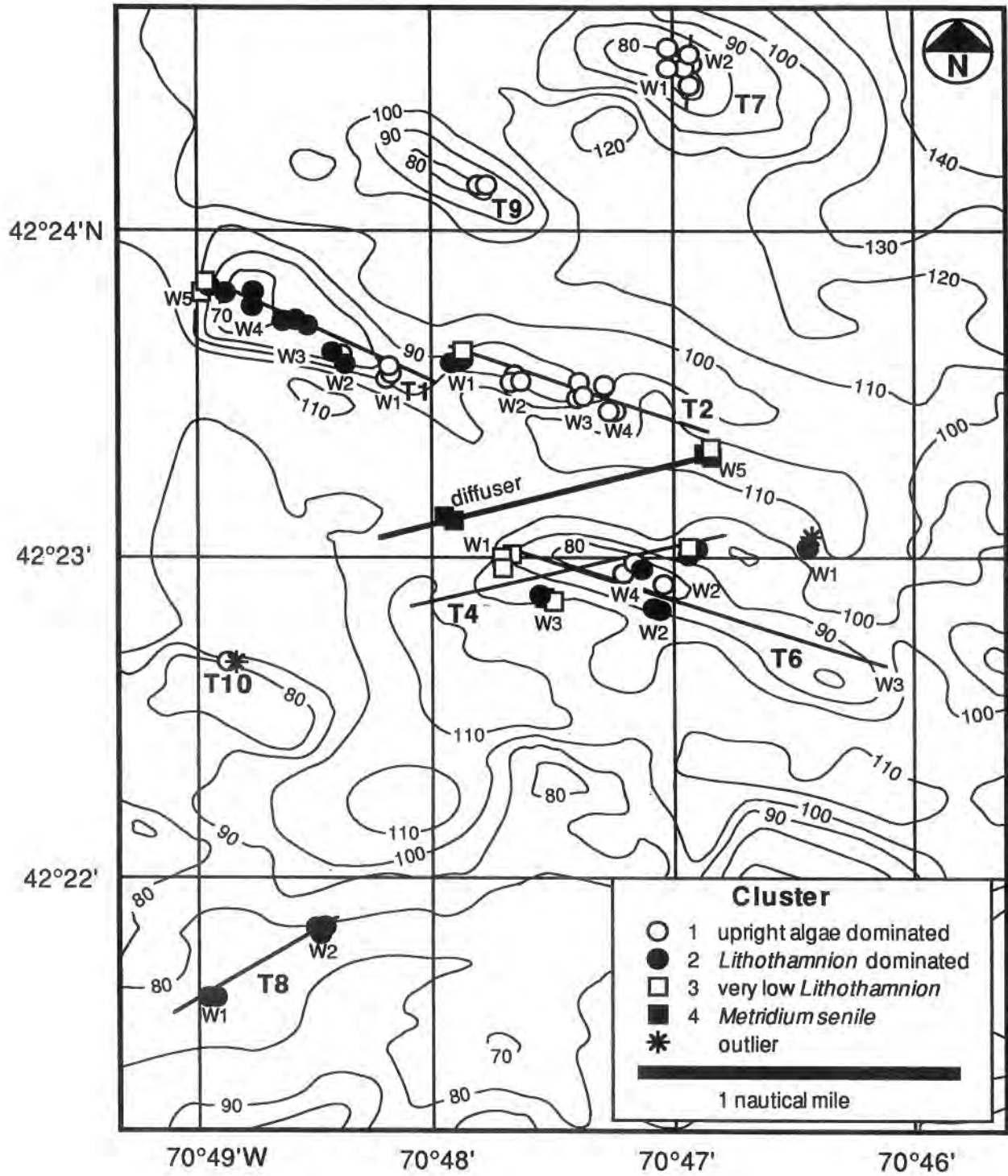
1995-1998





### Percent Similarity





**Cluster group designations  
1996-1998**

Transect	Waypoint	1996	1997	1998
<b>1</b>	1	1a	1a	1a
	2	<b>1b</b>	2	2a
	3	2a	2a	2a
	4	2a	2a	2a
	5	<b>2c</b>	3	3
<b>2</b>	1	2b	2b	<b>3</b>
	2	1c	1b	1a
	3	1a	1a	1b
	4	1c	1b	1a
	5	4	4	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	1		2c	<b>outlier</b>
	2	2b	2c	<b>3</b>
	3	3	3	<b>2b</b>
	4	1b	1a	<b>2a</b>
<b>6</b>	1	3	3	3
	2	<b>1b</b>	2b	2b
<b>7</b>	1	1a	1a	1a
	2	1a	1a	1a
<b>8</b>	1		2b	2c
	2	2a	2b	2c
<b>9</b>	1		1	1a
<b>10</b>	1		1	<b>outlier</b>
<b>Diff</b>	44		4	4

- 1 dominated by upright algae
- 2 dominated by *Lithothamnion* spp.
- 3 very low *Lithothamnion* spp.
- 4 diffusers - *Metridium senile*

***Lithothamnion* spp. (percent cover)**  
**1996-1998**

Transect	Waypoint	1996	1997	1998
<b>1</b>	1	35	42	37
	2	71	72	79
	3	90	96	80
	4	87	83	82
	5	<del>68</del>	<del>12</del>	<del>32</del>
<b>2</b>	1	45	33	<del>2</del>
	2	5	13	<del>33</del>
	3	27	41	39
	4	<del>7</del>	27	18
	5	<1	<1	<1
<b>4</b>	1		16	<del>&lt;1</del>
	2	41	53	<del>2</del>
	3	12	12	<del>56</del>
	4	72	67	77
<b>6</b>	1	2	4	5
	2	<del>62</del>	55	45
<b>7</b>	1	65	43	49
	2	53	54	45
<b>8</b>	1		73	74
	2	82	75	65
<b>9</b>	1		40	54
<b>10</b>	1		12	<del>&lt;1</del>
<b>Diff</b>	44		<1	<1

## Conclusions

**structure of benthic community** controlled by  
**location on drumlin** - concurrent depth  
**substratum type**  
**local relief**  
**sediment drape**

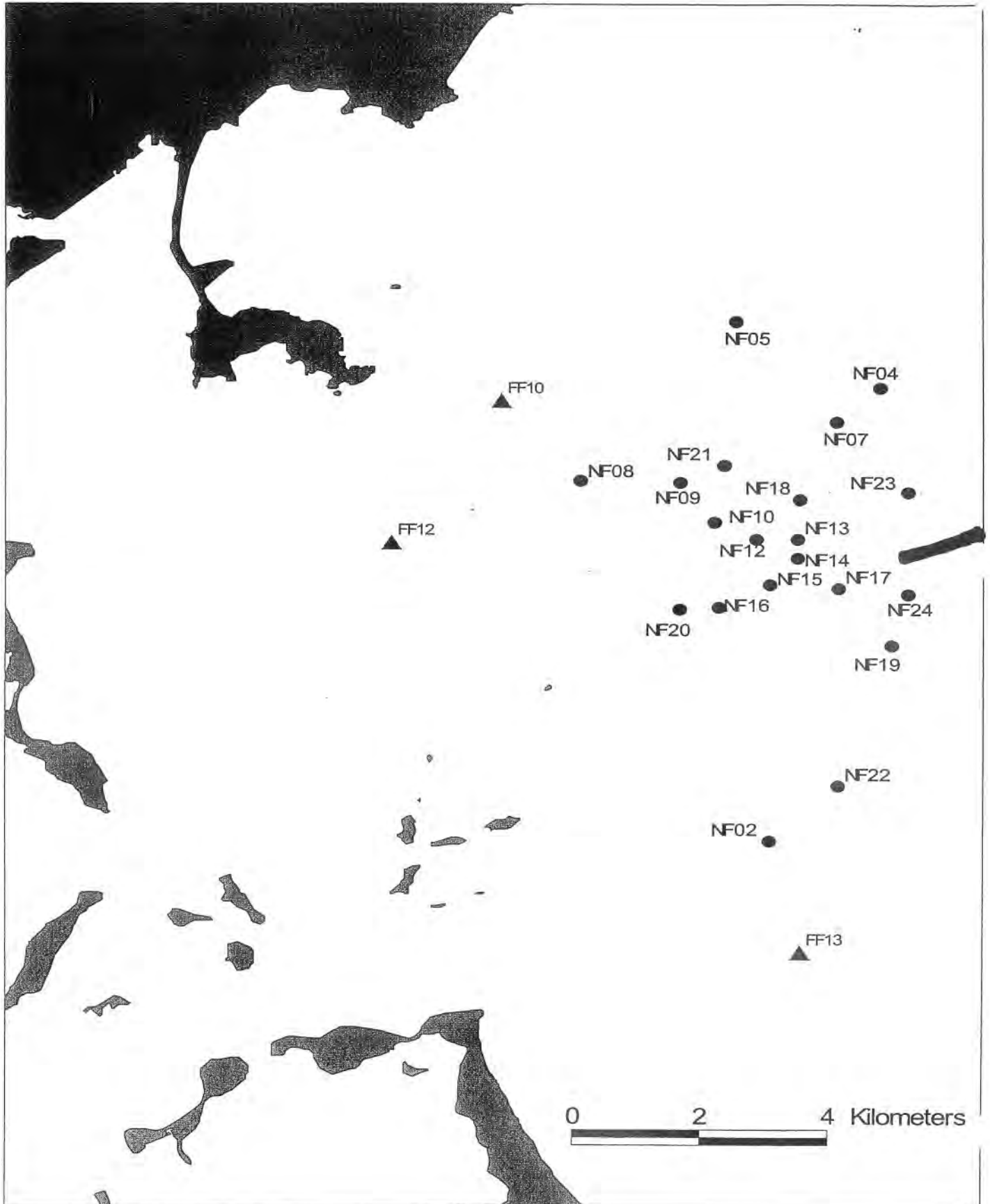
- 1) most areas appear to be **temporally stable**
- 2) but a number of areas are **spatially heterogeneous**
- 3) hard to dissect differences between temporal and spatial variance
- 4) some variability in data - **patchy** nature of hardbottoms
- 5) highly unlikely to be able to detect **small** shifts or changes in the composition of the hardbottom communities
- 6) probably the most likely "key-stone" species would be

### ***Lithothamnion***

- it is very abundant
- it is widely distributed
- less patchy than *Asparagopsis*
- appears to be sensitive to sediment loading

***Benthic Monitoring***  
**Infaunal Community Overview (Dr. Roy Kropp, Battelle)**

# Benthic Nearfield Stations



# Benthic Farfield Stations

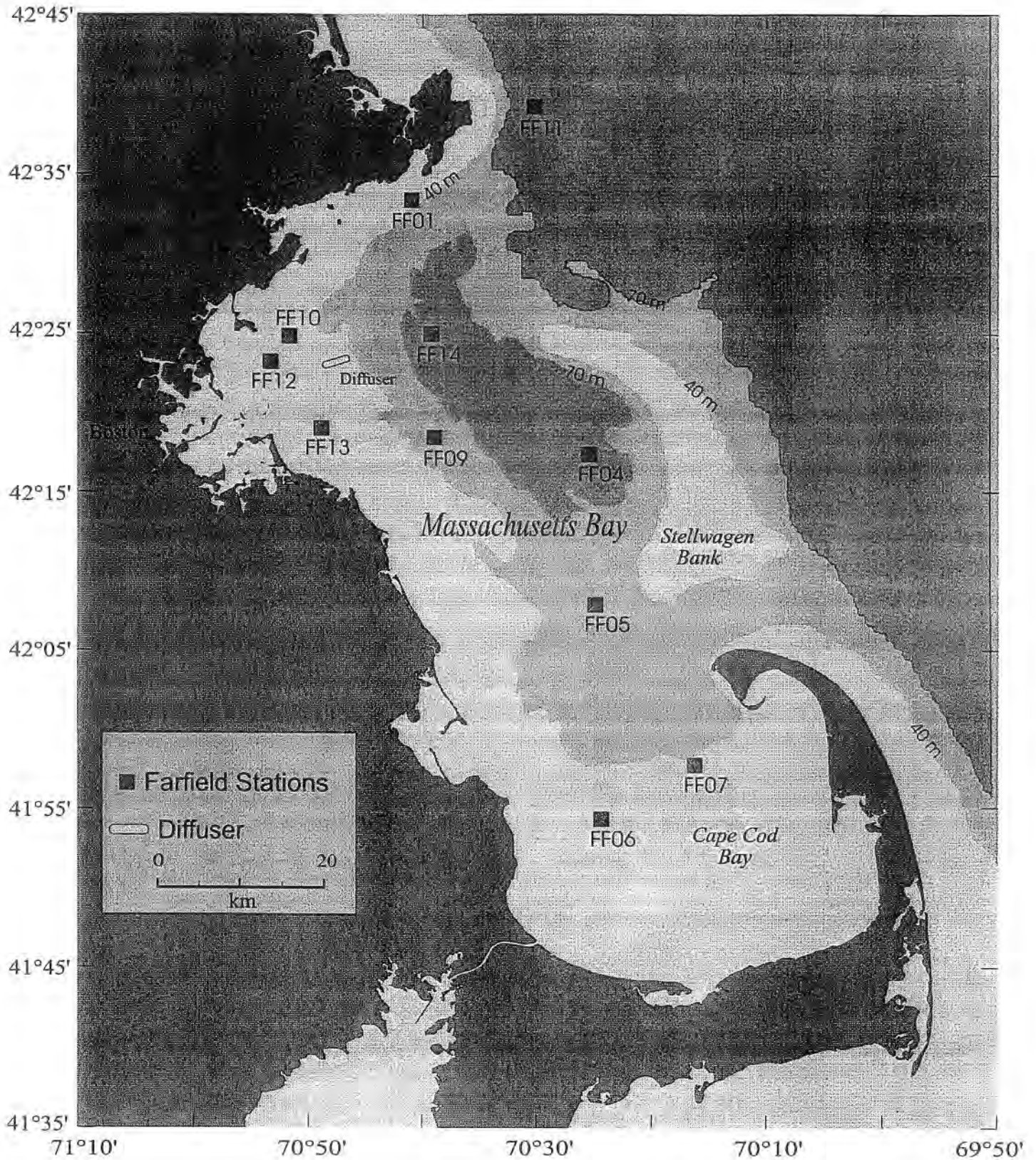
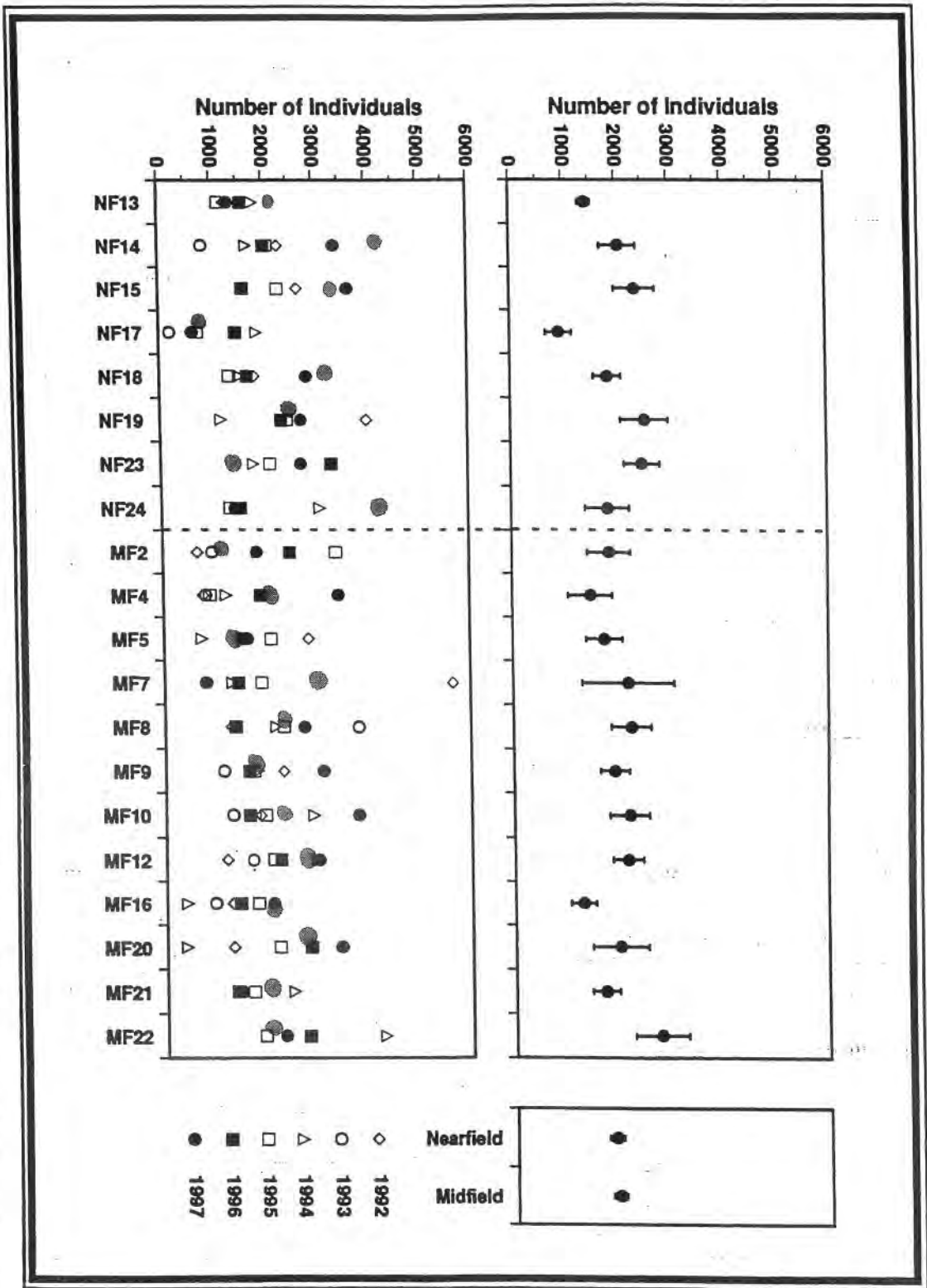




Figure 70. Infaunal densities at nearfield and midfield stations for the period 1992-1997. Top diagram shows the mean and standard error for each station; bottom diagram shows abundances for each year.



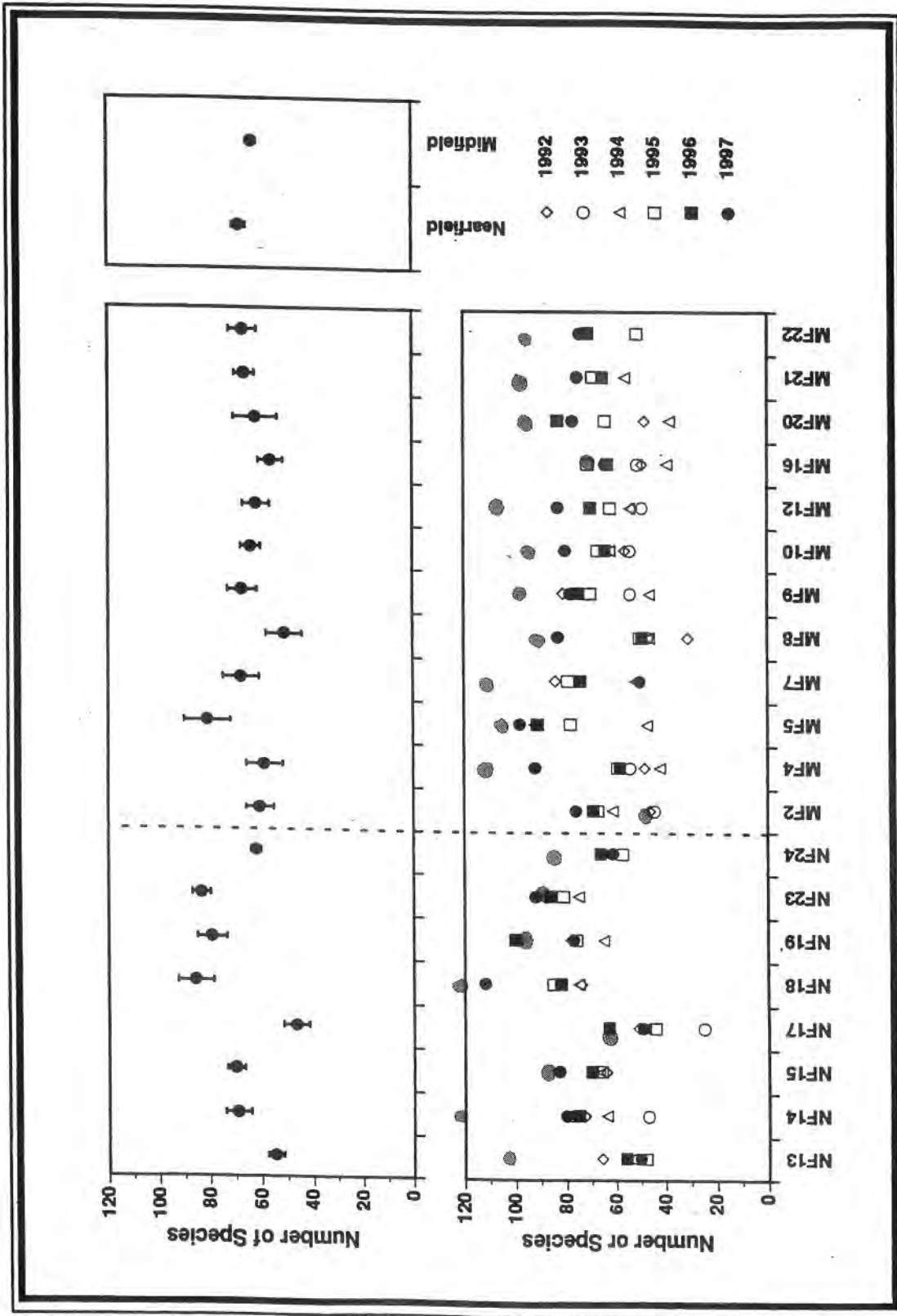
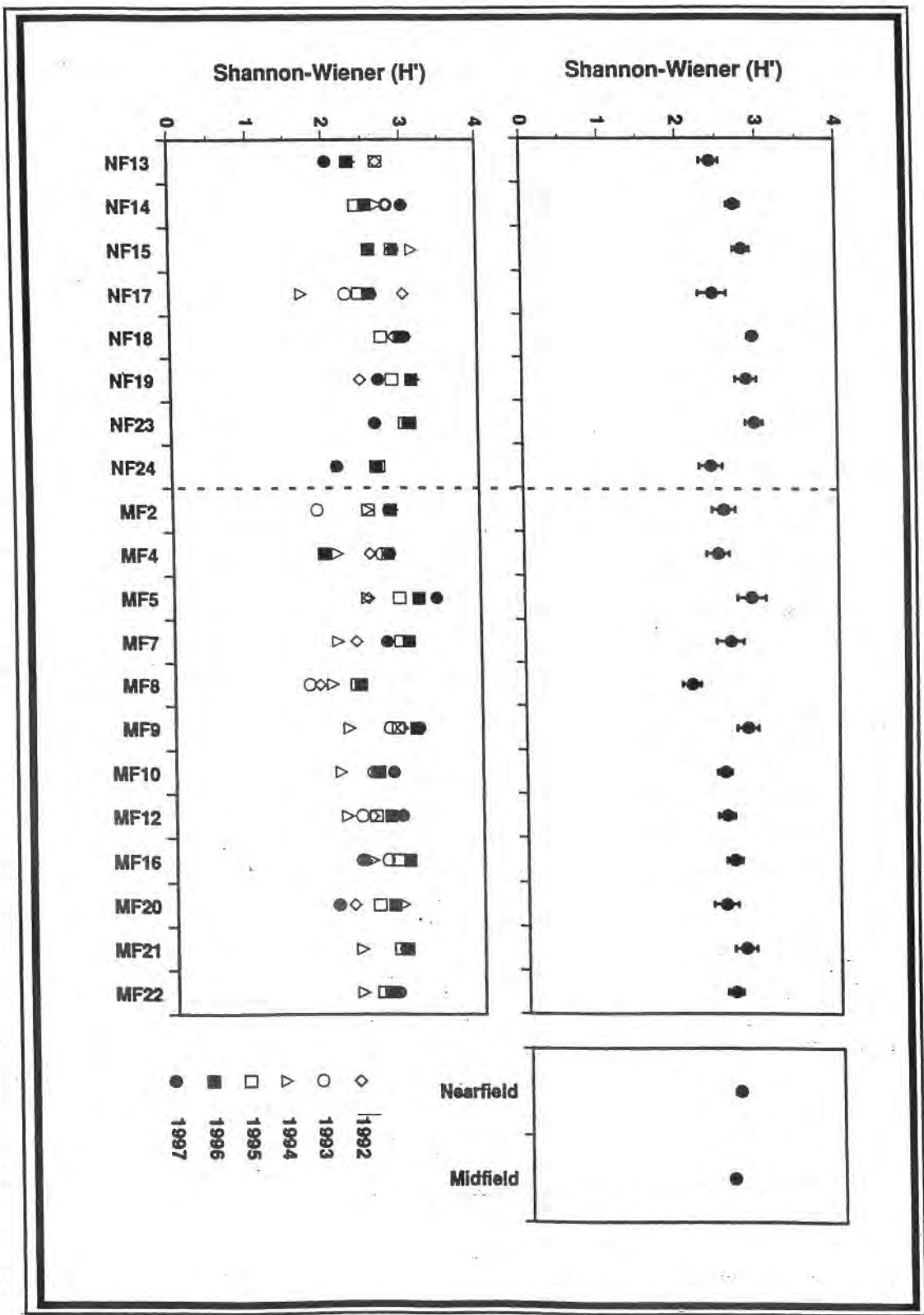
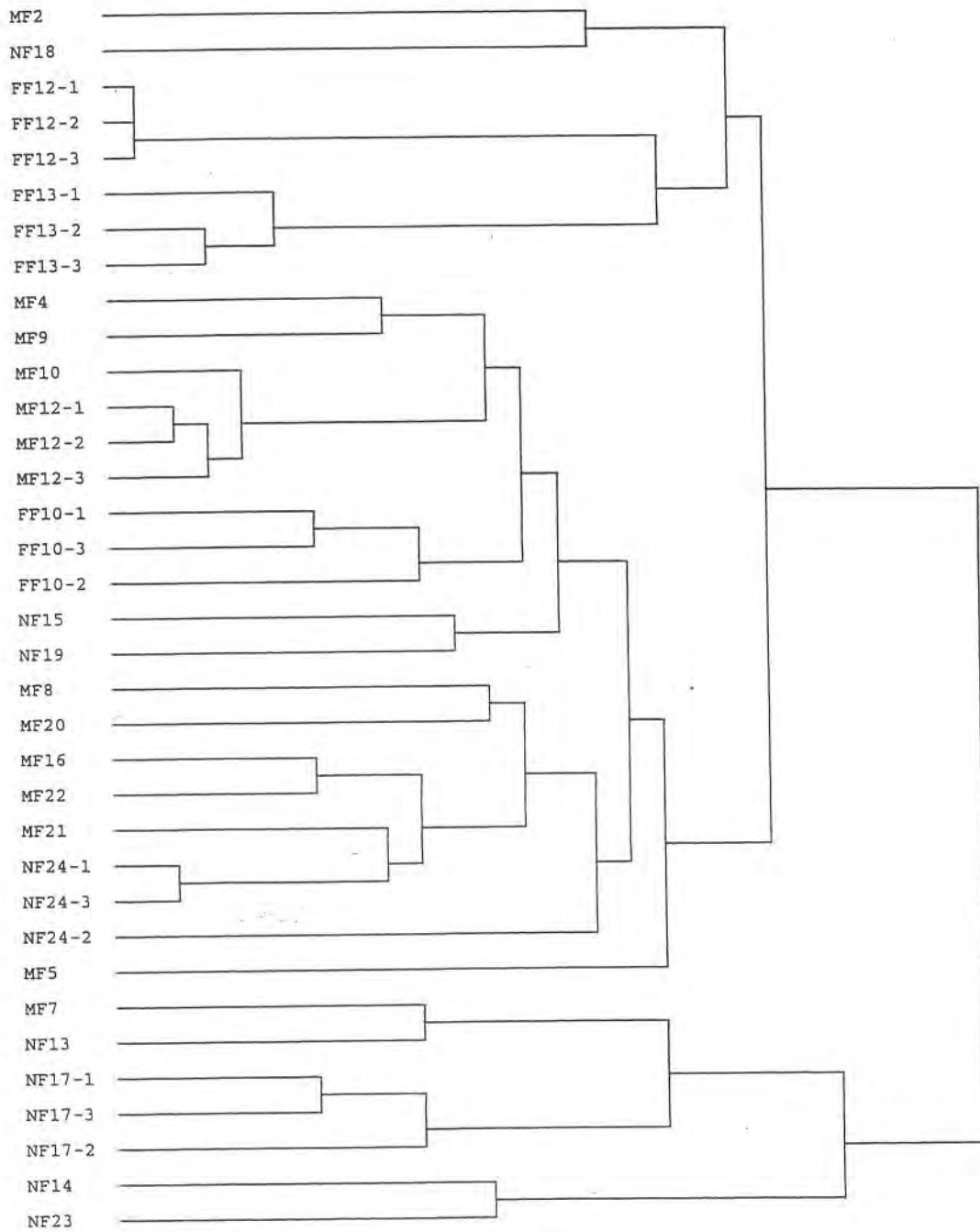


Figure 71. Number of species at nearfield and midfield stations for the period 1992-1997. Top diagram shows the mean and standard error for each station; bottom diagram shows values for each year.

Figure 72. Shannon-Wiener diversity at nearfield and midfield stations for the period 1992-1997. Top diagram shows the mean and standard error for each station; bottom diagram shows  $H'$  for each year.

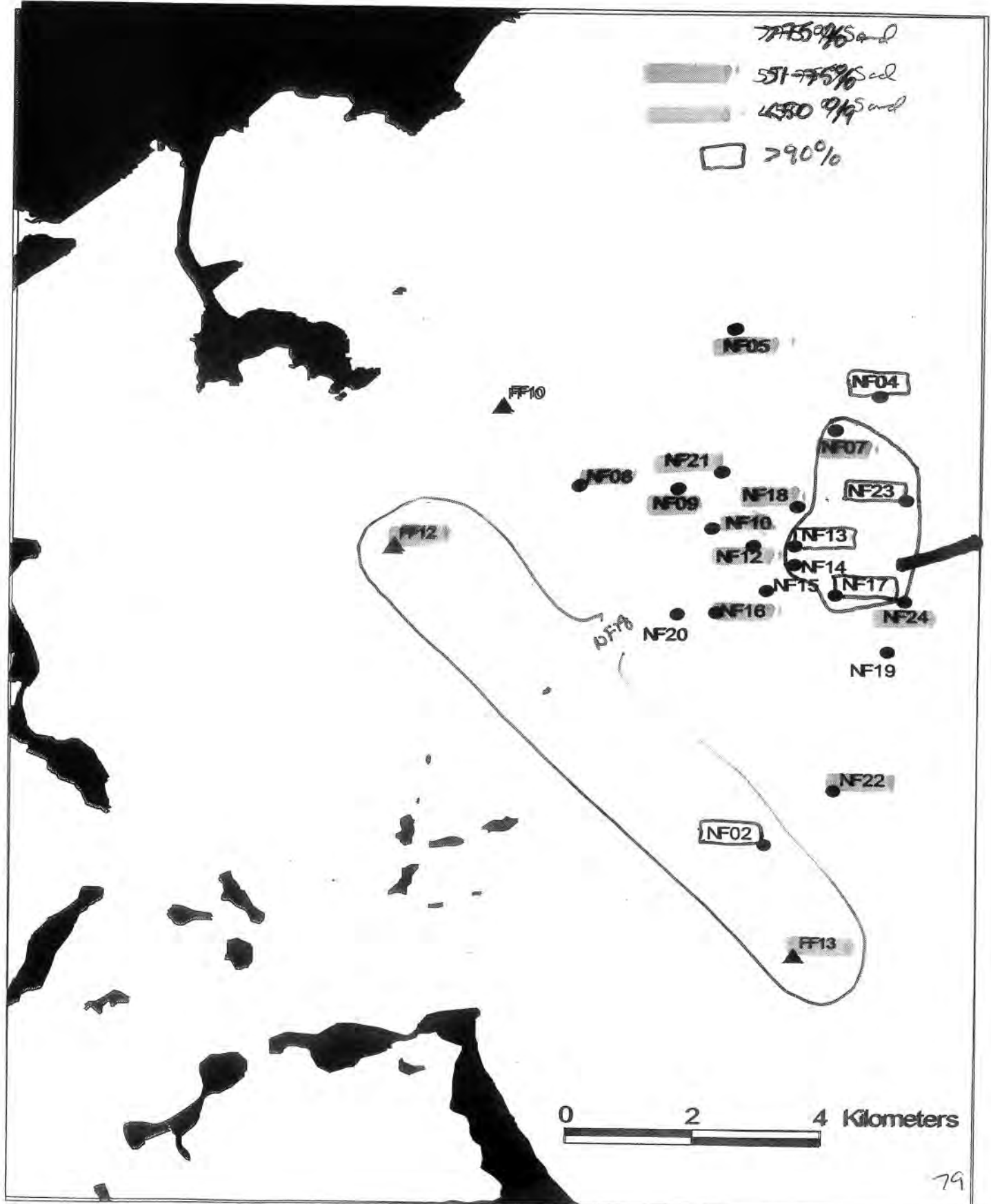




# Benthic Nearfield Stations



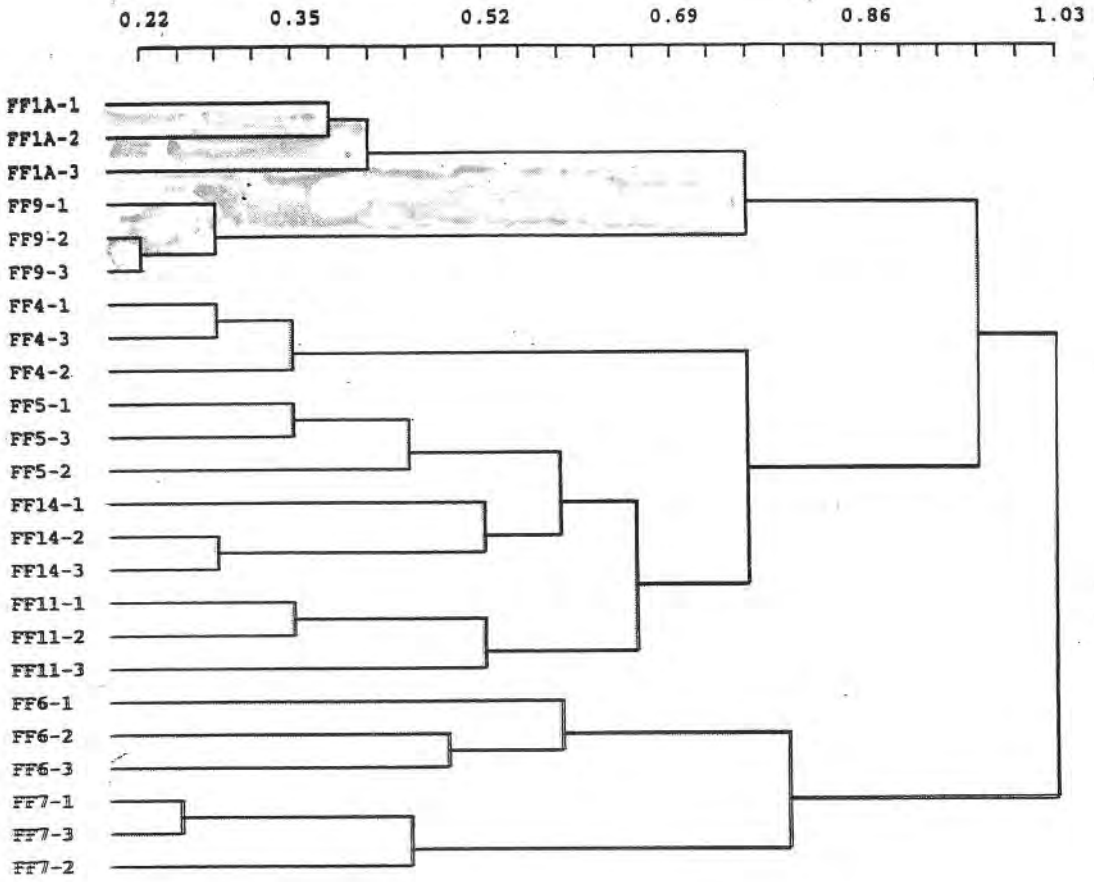
# Benthic Nearfield Stations



1998 Sed

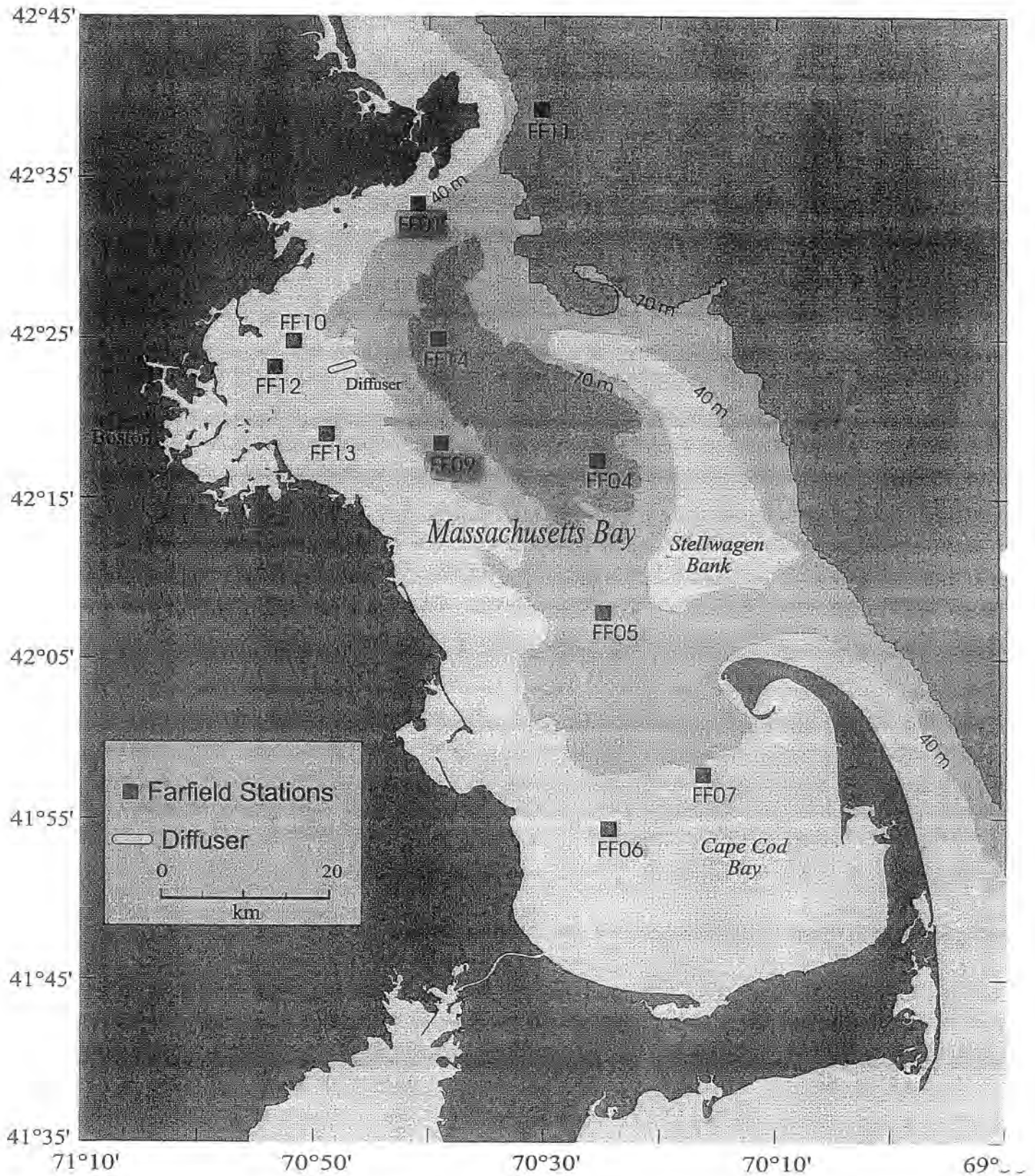
# Benthic Nearfield Stations







# Benthic Farfield Stations



***Benthic Monitoring***  
**Benthic Community Threshold Assessment (Dr. Gene Gallagher, UMass – Boston)**

## MA Bay Benthic Community Threshold Assessment

1999 MWRA Technical Workshop  
Battelle New England  
April 9, 1999

Eugene D. Gallagher  
Jim Blake, ENSR  
Peg Pelletier

UMASS/Boston

## Methods for assessing change

Species & functional groups

- Changes in diversity
  - Log-series alpha
  - $E(S_{17})$
  - Pielou's  $J'$
  - These diversity indices are sensitive to both species richness and species evenness
- Changes in functional group representation
  - MA Bay benthos has been classified into 8 functional groups
  - Chi-square tests
- Changes in indicator species

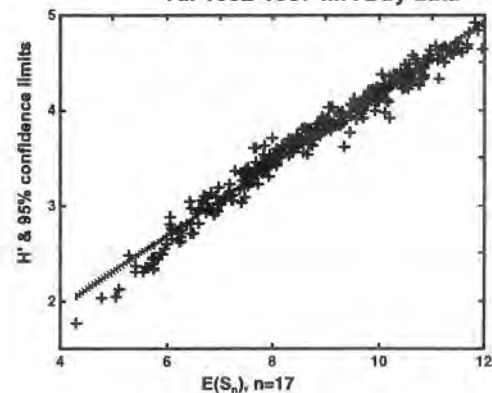
## Benthic thresholds

Issues to be resolved

- The after effects will be determined using the 1992-1999 benthic baseline data
- What is the statistical population for Nearfield sites?
  - Are there significant differences among sand and silt-clay habitats in species richness or evenness
  - Do these groups need to be split for establishing a baseline
- So far, no major differences in sand vs. Mud in species diversity

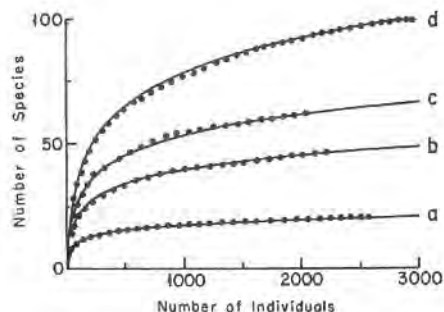
## $E(S_{17})$ and $H'$ are highly correlated

All 1992-1997 MA Bay data



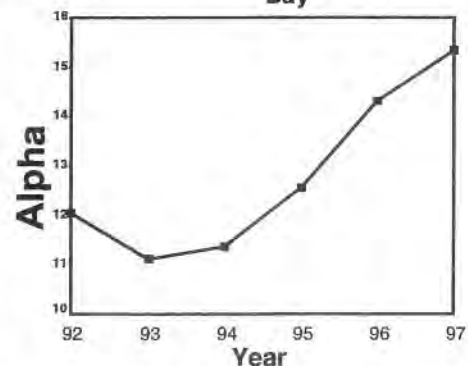
## May's Log-series

May (1975): Log series fits Sanders' rarefaction curves



## Log-series alpha

Alpha (species richness) has been increasing in MA Bay



## Species diversity

Evenness may be more informative than richness

- Sanders-Hurlbert rarefaction curves reveal both richness & evenness
- Caswell (1972) used log series as a null model
- May (1975): Benthic communities tend to fit the log series
- Gray argued that benthic communities are not log-series, but were lognormally distributed
- Hughes & Lamshead showed that benthic communities are not log-normally distributed; Hughes modeled the

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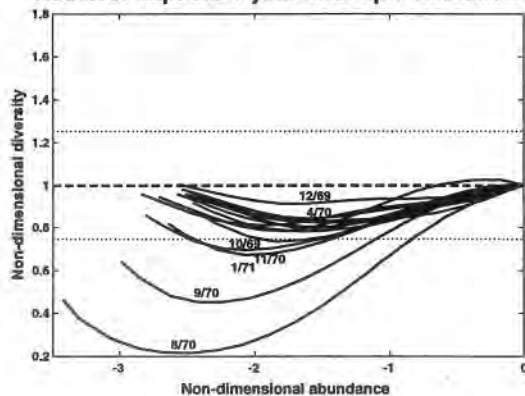
## Non-dimensional diversity

Calculates evenness relative to a log-series null.

- Steps in analysis
  - Generate a rarefaction curve
  - Generate the log-series expectation
  - Divide the observed diversity by the log-series expectation
  - Non-dimensionalize by dividing numbers by the species total and expected species by observed total species
- A deeply dipping curve indicates less evenness than log series.

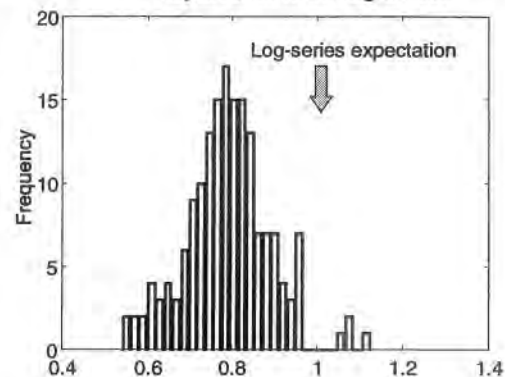
## West Falmouth Oilspill

Heaviest impacts 1 year after spill at Station 35



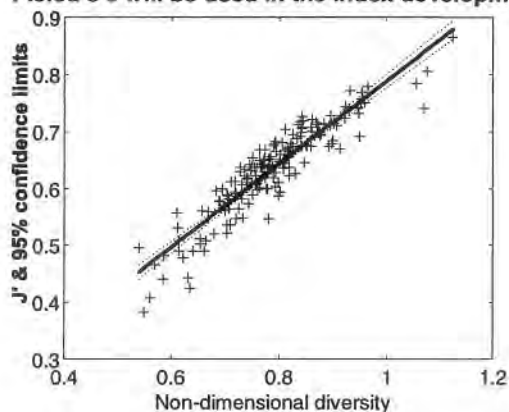
## 1992-1996 MA Bay

Departures from log series



## Pielou's J' correlated with ND-Div

Pielou's J will be used in the index development



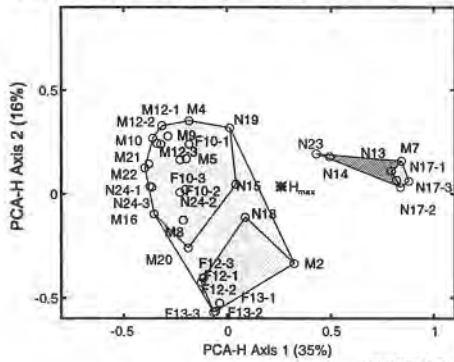
## PCA-H analysis

Ordination based on CNESS

- Steps in analysis
  - Convert species data to probabilities
  - Cluster samples and species
  - Order samples and species in space
- Results
  - Cluster analysis
    - Two major species & sample groups
    - Sand assemblage: *Corophium*
    - Three mud assemblages
  - Ordination analysis
    - Sand vs. mud the key environmental gradient
    - Interannual variability less important than space

# MA Bay benthos

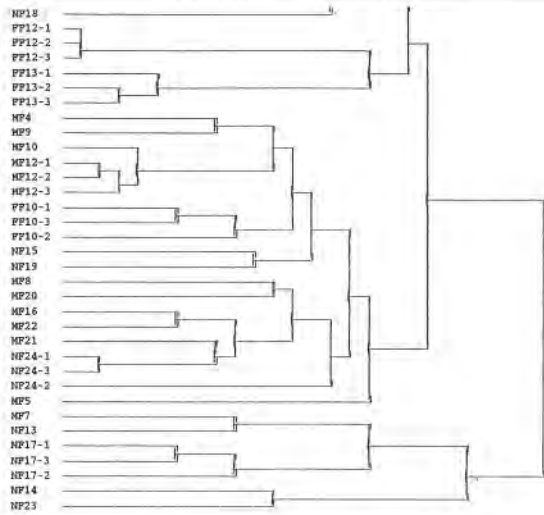
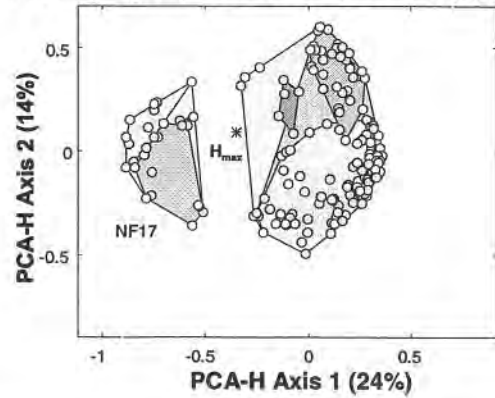
## 1997 Nearfield Community structure



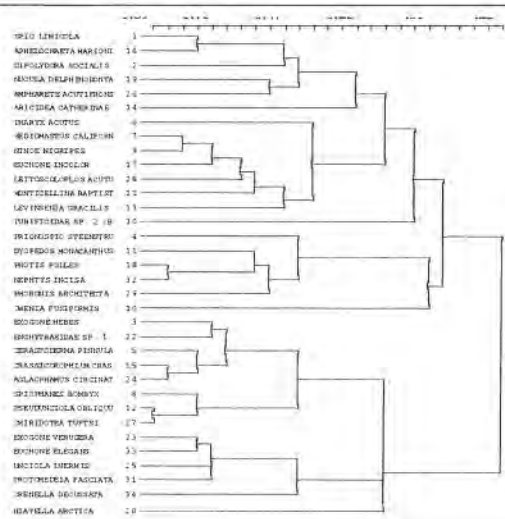
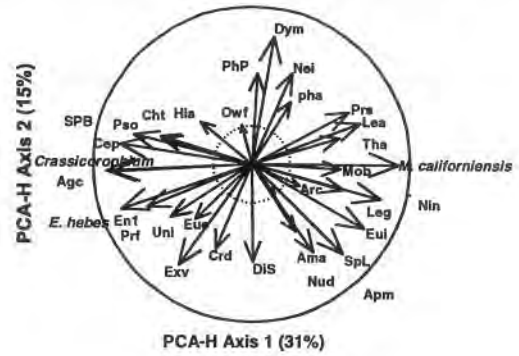
UMASS/Boston

# MA Bay 1992-1997 Nearfield

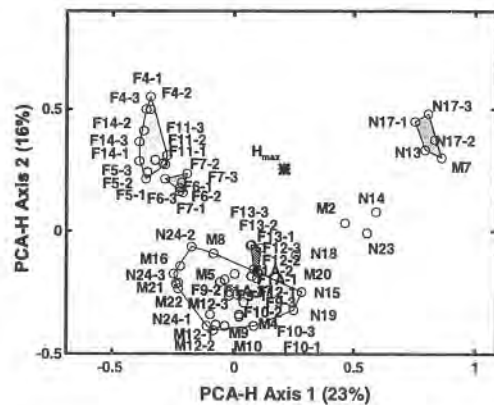
## Two major groups: Sand & Mud communities



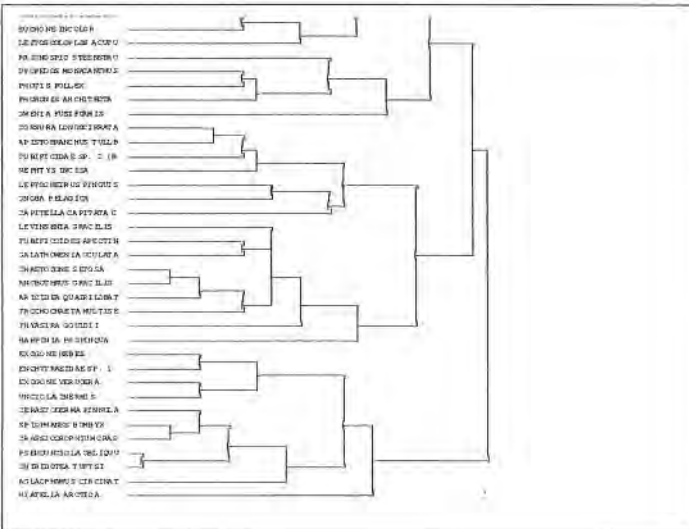
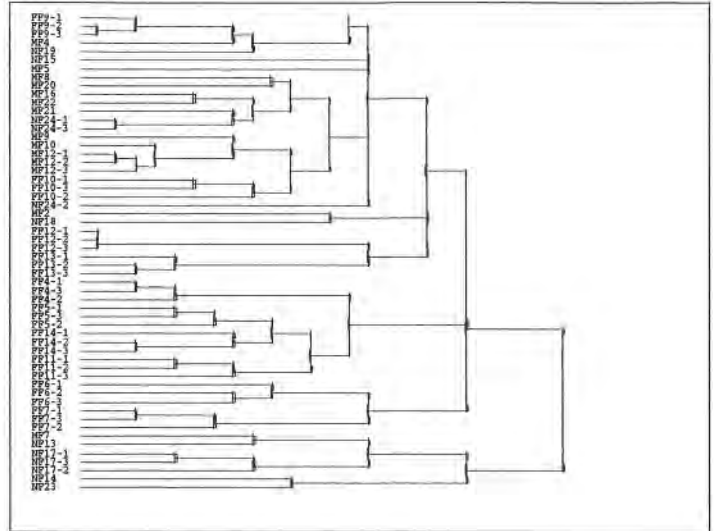
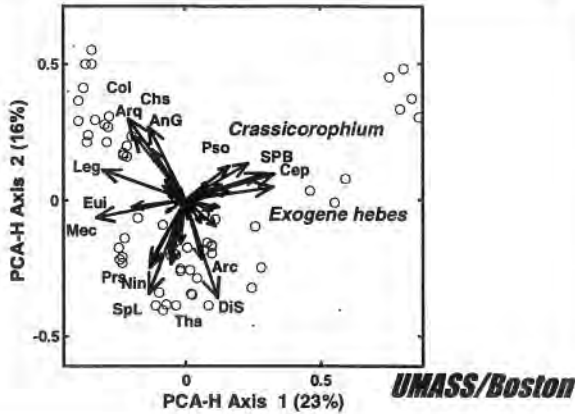
# Species groups in MA Bay



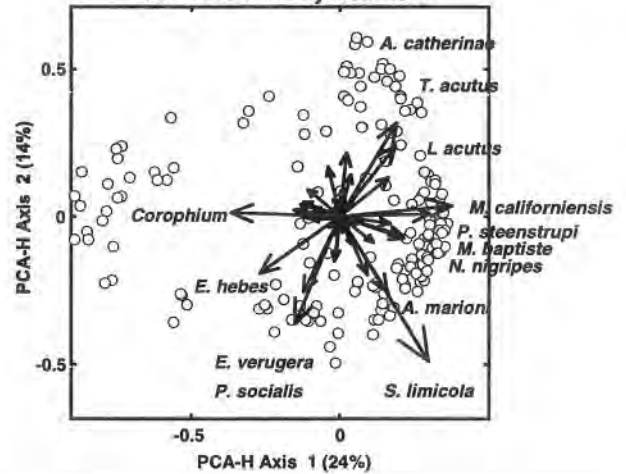
# 1997 Near and Farfield



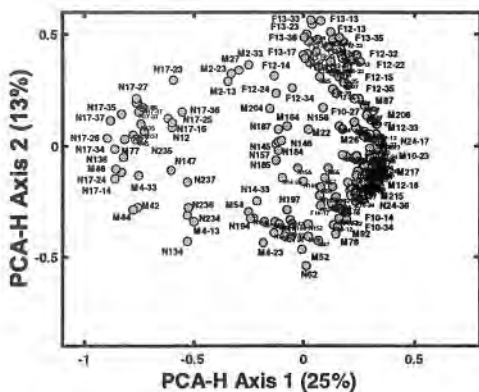
### All 1997 benthos



### 1992-1996 MA Bay Nearfield

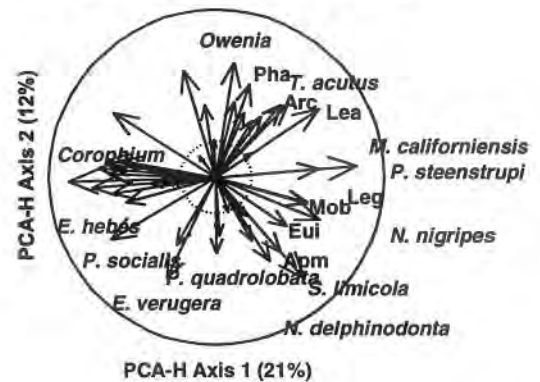


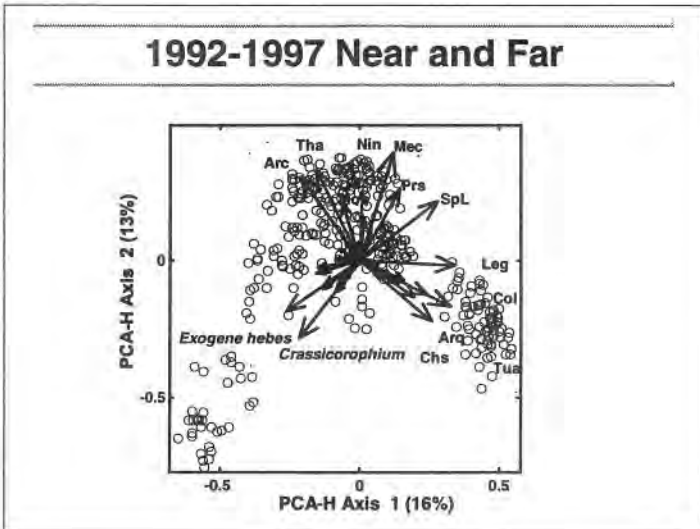
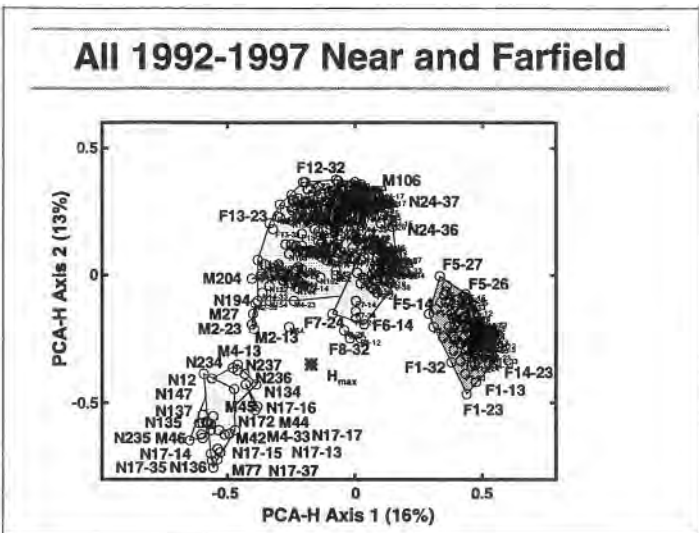
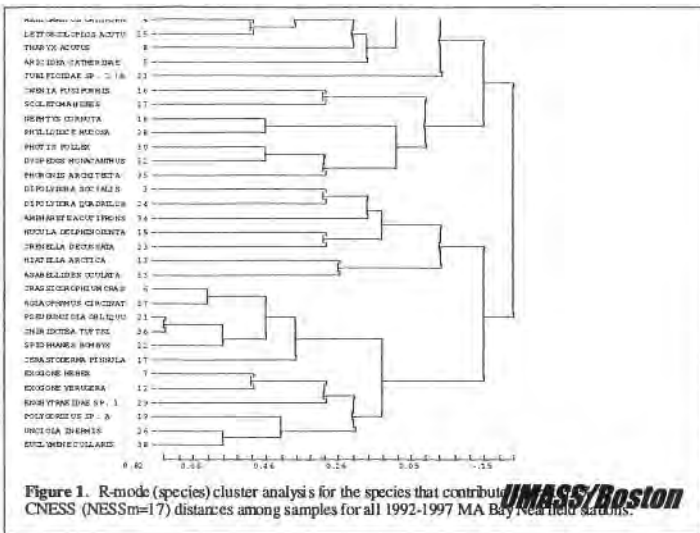
### All 1992-1997 Nearfield



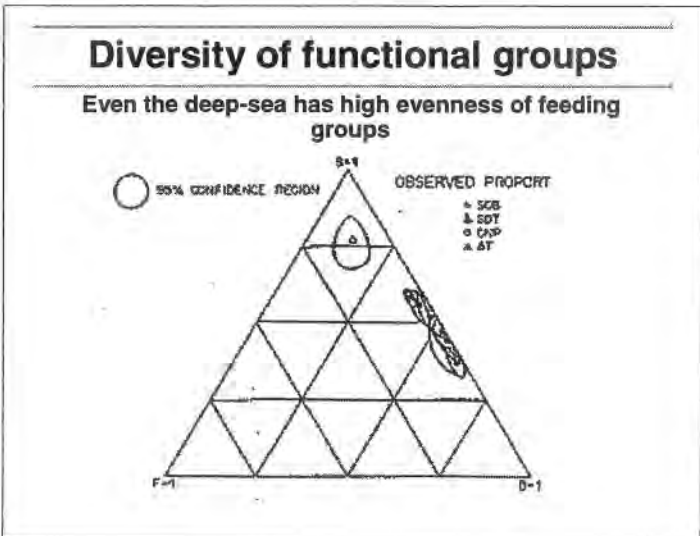
### MA Bay Species groups

4 species groups: 1 sand & 3 mud



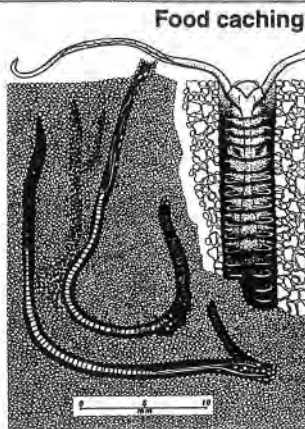


- ### Functional groups
- A dynamic explanation for the Hughes-type series
- Warwick, Clarke, Gray & Underwood argue that species id's not necessary
    - Major changes in community structure evident at phyla, class & family level
    - Tested on European pollution gradients
    - Not an explanations of dynamics
  - Dynamic explanation
    - It is the diversity of functional groups that counts!
    - Seems to apply from deep sea to shallow water



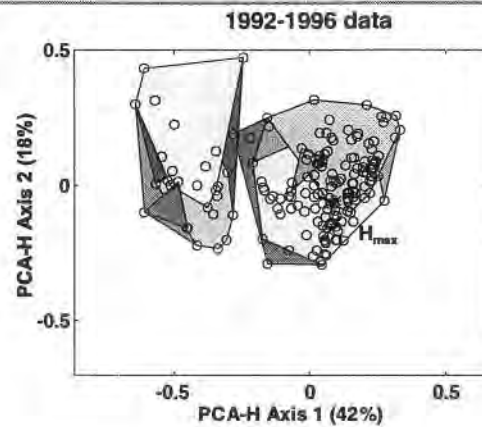
- ### Functional groups
- 50 most abundant species classified
- Suspension feeders
  - Interface feeders
  - Surface deposit feeders
  - Reverse conveyor-belt feeders
  - Subsurface deposit feeders
  - Top-down conveyor-belt species
  - Omnivores/scavengers
  - Predators

## Reverse conveyor-belt feeding

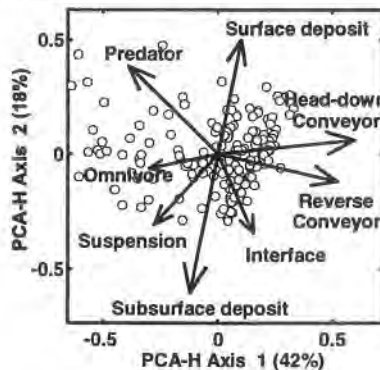


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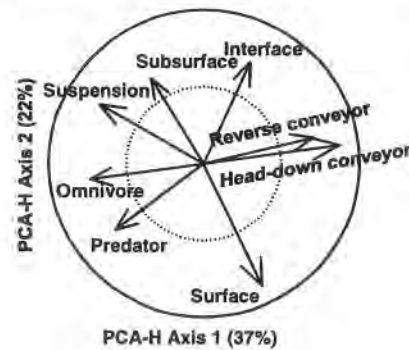
## Ordination of functional groups



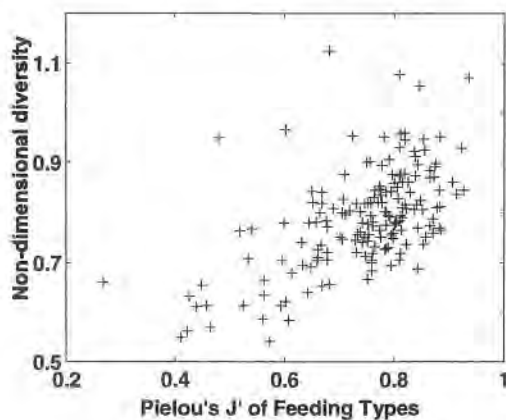
## Ordination based on functional groups



## Associations of functional groups



## Species vs. Functional Evenness



## Conclusions

- At the levels of communities and functional groups
- **Thresholds will be based on significant changes in a "pooled" population of nearfield stations with respect to:**
    - Species diversity (richness and evenness)
    - Change in indicator species
    - Change in frequency of functional groups
  - **This threshold assessment can be made quickly (approximately 1 week)**
  - **At the end of each year, a full assessment of change in species composition will be made. This requires a longer QA/QC process for species composition**



*Benthic Monitoring*  
**1998 Sediment Chemistry** (*Dr. Carlton Hunt, Battelle*)

## Sediment Contaminant Special Studies - 1998

### MWRA Benthic Science Review Meeting

April 9, 1999

**Battelle**

Sediment Contaminant Special  
Studies - 1998

battelle.pdf 4/7/99 1

## Sampling rationale

- Goal: Collect additional sediment collections and testing to address possible short-term transport and impact
  - Focus on high TOC/depositional areas
- Four locations were chosen based on the following criteria:
  - Historical fine grained material (>50% sand/silt);
  - Relatively stable area (grain size composition >50% sand/silt over the period monitored)
  - High TOC, relative to other locations nearby (at least 1% TOC)
  - Within the zone of particle deposition from the BEM
  - Expand areas sampled quarterly by USGS (avoid samples from near USGS stations (NF12 and NF17))

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Sediment Contaminant Special  
Studies - 1998

battelle.pdf 4/7/99 2

## Sampling rationale

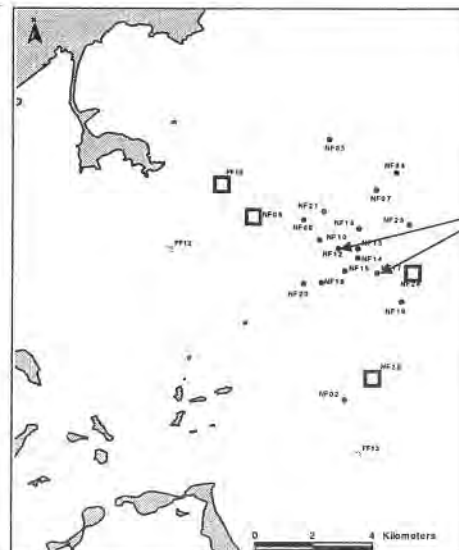
- Recommended sites: FF10, NF8, NF24, and NF 22.
  - The first three stations lie on a line extending to the northwest from the west end of the diffuser and provide spatial gradient extending from the diffuser. This gradient extends towards the high deposition area predicted by the model.
- NF 22 lies to the southwest of the west end of the diffuser and is along the projected long-term transport path from the diffuser.
- FF10 was selected over NF12 because it
  - .Extends the area of impact sampled under the contaminant special studies Task
  - .Represents a Farfield location near the center of the high deposition location predicted by the BEM model
- It is also a slightly more sandy location.

**Battelle**

Sediment Contaminant Special Studies - 1998

battelle.lyx 4/27/98 3

## Sampling rationale



USGS Stations are located approximately here.

**Battelle**

Sediment Contaminant Special Studies - 1998

battelle.lyx 4/27/98 4

## Results - FF10

FF10	Units	1992	1993	1994	1995	1998	1998	ER-M
N		2	2	2	1	3	Stdev	
Total PAH	ng/g	1,898	1,654	3,509	11,328	2,122	135	44,782
Total PCB	ng/g	4.54	9.07	10.22	11.53	5.88	1.87	180
Total DDT	ng/g	2.27	1.75	3.59	1.51	2.22	1.90	46.1
Total CHLOR	ng/g	ND	0.17	0.85	ND	0.10	0.09	6
Total PEST	ng/g	0.40	1.62	4.96	ND	0.01	0.01	NA
Total LAB	ng/g	53.0	ND	92.3	19.5	79.2	12.6	NR
CLAY	PCT	3.70	2.62	6.05	4.30	10.96	3.87	NR
SILT	PCT	27.3	30.6	40.4	26.8	39.0	17.3	NR
% fines	PCT	31.0	33.2	46.5	31.1	49.9	21.2	NR
SAND	PCT	68.0	66.4	51.9	62.6	49.0	19.8	NR
GRAVEL	PCT	1.00	0.37	1.60	6.20	1.02	1.36	NR
TOC	PCT	1.52	1.03	1.30	0.99	0.99	0.18	NR
CPERF	/GDV	1,680	1,810	2,285	2,167	1,627	180	NR
DIELDRIN	ng/g	0.24	0.66	ND	ND	ND	ND	8
ALUMINIUM	PCT	4.96	4.91	5.50	5.54	5.32	0.02	NR
CADMIUM	ug/g	0.13	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.06	0.06	9.6
CHROMIUM	ug/g	78.1	72.6	99.0	56.9	70.1	8.3	370
COPPER	ug/g	12.9	11.8	17.5	8.7	15.1	2.9	270
IRON	PCT	1.89	1.79	1.89	1.68	1.83	0.11	NR
LEAD	ug/g	32.9	34.6	34.0	30.8	31.4	1.5	218
MERCURY	ug/g	0.09	0.09	0.12	0.07	0.27	0.26	0.71
NICKEL	ug/g	14.9	13.5	17.5	11.6	15.0	1.7	51.6
SILVER	ug/g	0.35	0.19	0.35	0.29	0.30	0.01	3.7
ZINC	ug/g	51.5	40.9	47.5	42.4	43.8	2.0	410
Reasonably stable GS, TOC, and contaminants								

**Battelle**

Sediment Contaminant Special Studies - 1998

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## Results - NF08

NF08	Units	1992	1993	1994	1995	1998	1998	ER-M
N		1	2	1	1	3	Stdev	
Total PAH	ng/g	19,876	26,158	7,485	12,621	5,763	2,349	44,782
Total PCB	ng/g	77.1	129.2	43.1	40.2	26.9	7.1	180
Total DDT	ng/g	17.37	18.12	12.81	4.53	11.03	10.73	46.1
Total CHLOR	ng/g	ND	2.05	2.04	0.56	0.68	0.12	6
Total PEST	ng/g	10.64	2.63	8.09	0.64	0.74	0.24	NA
Total LAB	ng/g	2,037	1,774	833	191	290	53	NR
CLAY	PCT	22.9	12.3	22.7	14.0	11.1	2.9	NR
SILT	PCT	59.1	62.3	61.6	71.9	38.6	13.8	NR
% fines	PCT	82.0	74.6	84.3	85.9	49.8	16.7	NR
SAND	PCT	18.0	25.4	15.6	14.0	48.5	13.8	NR
GRAVEL	PCT	ND	ND	ND	ND	1.7	2.9	NR
TOC	PCT	6.33	5.89	3.80	3.84	2.62	0.55	NR
CPERF	#/GDV	8,100	8,835	9,060	320	4,590	361	NR
DIELDRIN	ng/g	2.61	2.50	ND	ND	0.33	0.06	8
ALUMINIUM	PCT	6.35	5.76	6.00	6.15	5.86	0.26	NR
CADMIUM	ug/g	0.81	0.89	0.56	0.46	0.24	0.06	9.6
CHROMIUM	ug/g	282	206	169	120	119	14.8	370
COPPER	ug/g	108.0	60.5	44.0	35.2	32.4	3.7	270
IRON	PCT	3.82	3.33	2.92	2.27	2.78	0.16	NR
LEAD	ug/g	117.0	81.3	84.5	54.6	49.6	3.0	218
MERCURY	ug/g	1.36	0.60	0.32	0.36	0.34	0.05	0.71
NICKEL	ug/g	32.3	34.9	31.0	22.9	21.8	1.0	51.6
SILVER	ug/g	3.06	2.25	1.73	1.07	0.90	0.17	3.7
ZINC	ug/g	200.0	145.5	98.0	91.9	81.1	8.0	410

**Battelle**

Sediment Contaminant Special Studies - 1998

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Shift in constraint levels between 92/93 and 95/98

Likely grain size and TOC driven in 98 94 and 95 appear to be "real" silt

## Results - NF22

NF22	Units	1994	1995	1998	1998	ER-M
N		1	1	3	Stdev	
Total PAH	ng/g	5,631	4,117	3,904	705	44,782
Total PCB	ng/g	21.0	20.7	11.1	2.7	180
Total DDT	ng/g	6.7	8.8	2.5	0.443	46.1
Total CHLOR	ng/g	1.28	0.38	0.27	0.06	6
Total PEST	ng/g	7.53	0.27	0.14	0.12	NA
Total LAB	ng/g	442	187	184	18.9	NR
CLAY	PCT	9.90	14.50	11.13	0.78	NR
SILT	PCT	58.1	55.2	34.8	5.18	NR
% fines	PCT	68.0	69.7	45.8	6.0	NR
SAND	PCT	31.9	30.2	51.8	1.28	NR
GRAVEL	PCT	0.10	0.10	2.50	4.07	NR
TOC	PCT	1.80	2.57	1.39	0.38	NR
CPERF	#/GDW	4,730	9,700	3,230	534	NR
DIELDRIN	ng/g	ND	ND	0.13	0.11	8
ALUMINUM	PCT	6.00	5.91	5.90	0.02	NR
CADMIUM	ug/g	0.21	0.24	0.11	0.02	9.6
CHROMIUM	ug/g	105.0	93.1	73.4	8.8	370
COPPER	ug/g	27.0	28.2	21.8	2.7	270
IRON	PCT	2.71	2.56	2.57	0.08	NR
LEAD	ug/g	50.0	51.7	40.0	2.9	218
MERCURY	ug/g	0.23	0.28	0.35	0.07	0.71
NICKEL	ug/g	26.0	21.9	19.8	3.1	51.6
SILVER	ug/g	0.97	0.91	0.59	0.10	3.7
ZINC	ug/g	69.0	83.5	63.4	3.4	410

Coarsing of sediments in 98, TOC down a bit  
Realitvely state concentrations 1994 to 1998

Battelle

Sediment Contaminant Special  
Studies - 1998

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## Results - NF24

NF24	Units	1994	1995	1998	1998	ER-M
N		2	1	3	Stdev	
Total PAH	ng/g	7,563	11,503	17,122	20,237	44,782
Total PCB	ng/g	19.1	52.9	20.7	9.8	180
Total DDT	ng/g	6.2	11.2	4.0	2.0	46.1
Total CHLOR	ng/g	0.80	1.09	0.27	0.27	6
Total PEST	ng/g	4.65	0.73	0.23	0.28	NA
Total LAB	ng/g	98.4	251.0	191.0	54.8	NR
CLAY	PCT	10.1	72.8	14.5	8.4	NR
SILT	PCT	58.8	17.2	46.1	28.9	NR
% fines	PCT	68.9	90.0	60.6	37.2	NR
SAND	PCT	31.1	10.0	38.7	34.7	NR
GRAVEL	PCT	ND	ND	0.67	0.83	NR
TOC	PCT	2.30	5.81	2.14	1.02	NR
CPERF	#/GDW	4,425	17,000	2,613	1,756	NR
DIELDRIN	ng/g	ND	ND	0.18	0.24	8
ALUMINUM	PCT	3.50	5.05	5.74	1.04	NR
CADMIUM	ug/g	0.15	0.46	0.11	0.07	9.6
CHROMIUM	ug/g	118	177	95.1	56.2	370
COPPER	ug/g	31.0	54.2	31.2	9.6	270
IRON	PCT	2.56	2.94	2.52	0.80	NR
LEAD	ug/g	59.4	92.8	55.4	23.5	218
MERCURY	ug/g	0.73	1.69	0.32	0.18	0.71
NICKEL	ug/g	22.5	31.7	19.9	7.8	51.6
SILVER	ug/g	0.50	1.10	0.70	0.43	3.7
ZINC	ug/g	74.0	131.5	72.3	28.4	410

\*Note: one of the three 1998 samples had high pyrogenic PAH content  
Finer, high TOC in '95

Contaminants similar levels 1994 and 1998

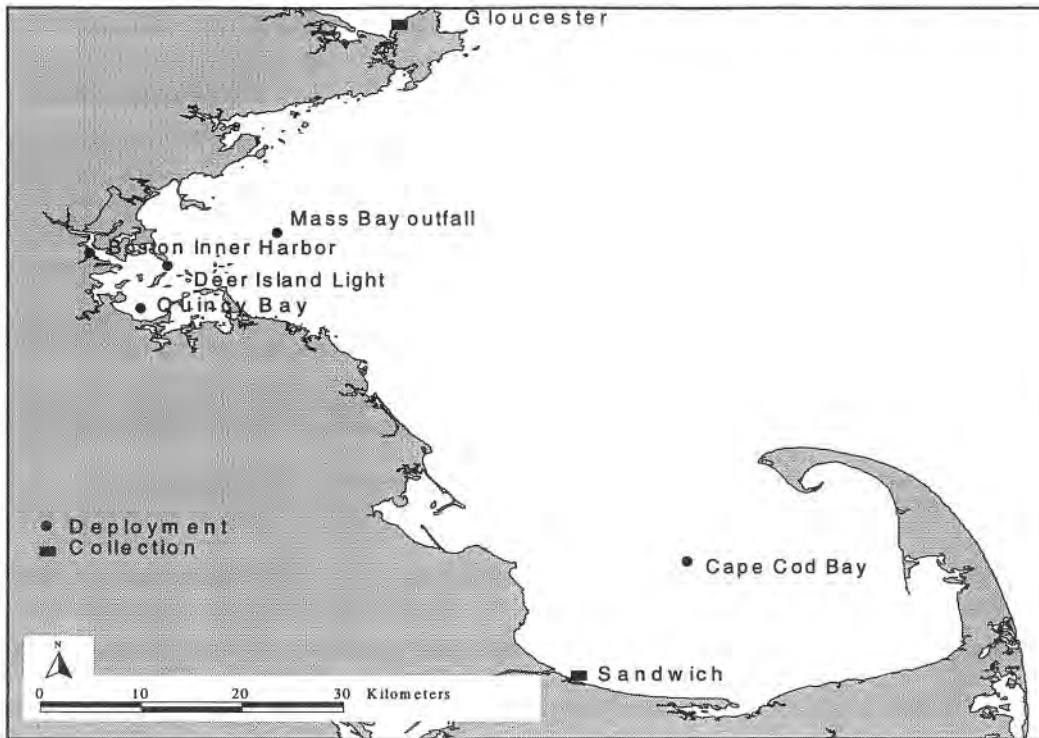
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Sediment Contaminant Special  
Studies - 1998

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*Fish and Shellfish Monitoring*  
**1998 Caged Mussel Studies** (*Ms. Lisa Lefkovitz, Battelle*)

# MUSSEL COLLECTION



Summary of Arrays Deployed and Recovered at 40- and 60-Days

Site	# Arrays Deployed (1)	40 Days # Arrays/Cages Recovered	60 Days # Arrays/Cages Recovered
Inner Harbor	3	<u>1 Array</u> 2 Gloucester 1 Sandwich	<u>1 Array</u> 2 Gloucester 1 Sandwich
Deer Island	3	<u>1 Array</u> 2 Gloucester 1 Sandwich	<u>0 Array</u> 0 Gloucester 0 Sandwich
Quincy Bay	3	<u>1/2 Array</u> 0 Gloucester 1 Sandwich	<u>1/2 Array</u> 0 Gloucester 1 Sandwich
Outfall	4	<u>1 Array</u> 2 Gloucester 1 Sandwich	<u>0 Array</u> 0 Gloucester 0 Sandwich
Cape Cod	4	<u>1 Array</u> 2 Gloucester 1 Sandwich	<u>1 Array</u> 2 Gloucester 1 Sandwich

(1) Each "Array" consisted of 2 Gloucester Cages and 1 Sandwich Cage

# MUSSEL MEASUREMENTS

## SUMMARY OF BIOLOGICAL CONDITION PARAMETERS

Parameter
Shell Length
Shell Volume
Shell Weight
Total Organism Weight
Total Soft Tissue Weight
Gonad-Mantle Weight
Non-Gonadal Tissue Weight

## SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL PARAMTERS

Sample Type	Number of Samples	Hg	Pb	PCBs	PAHs	Pests	Lipids
Gloucester	36			!	!	!	!
Sandwich	36	!	!	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

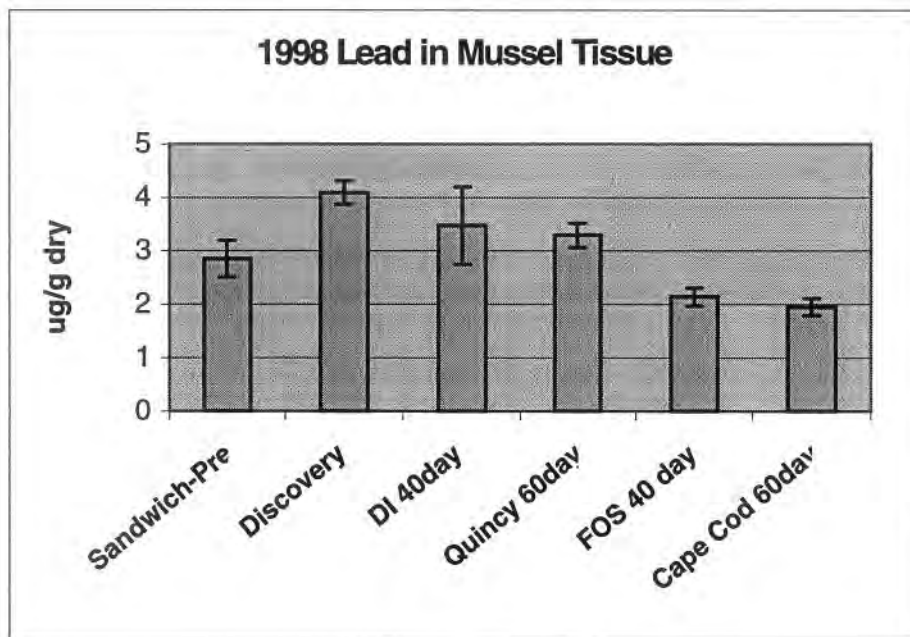
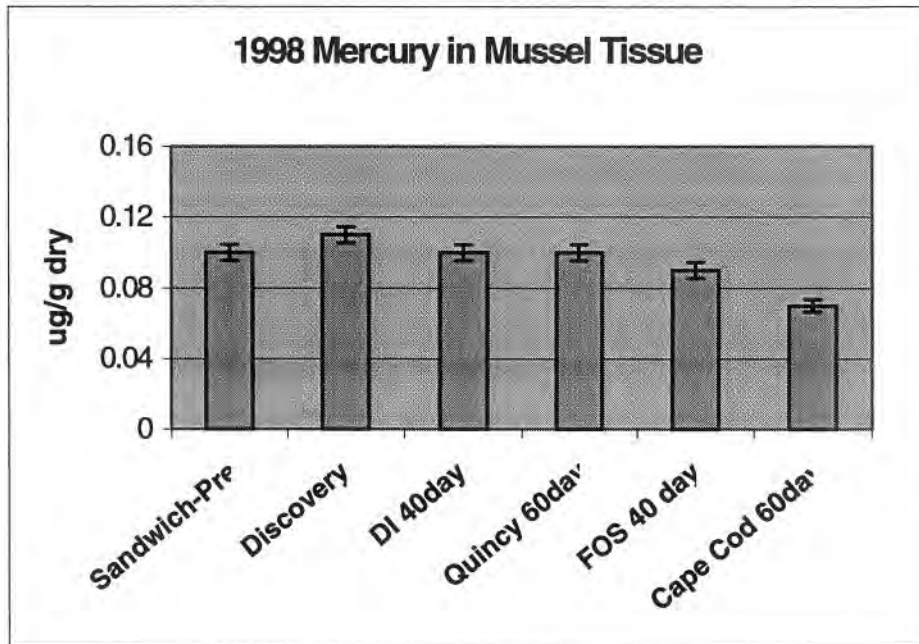
(1) Sandwich Predeployment mussels were analyzed for organics in order to compare to Quincy 60-day Sandwich mussels which were also analyzed for organics due to loss of Gloucester mussels.



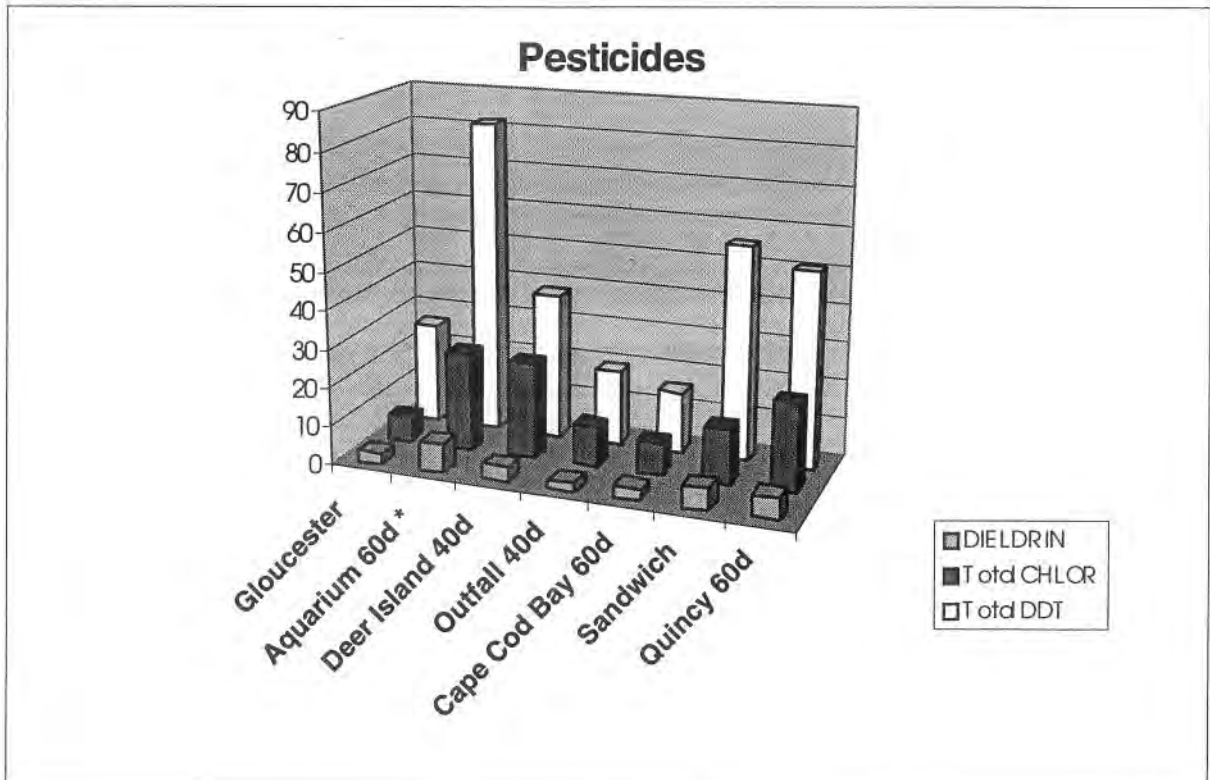
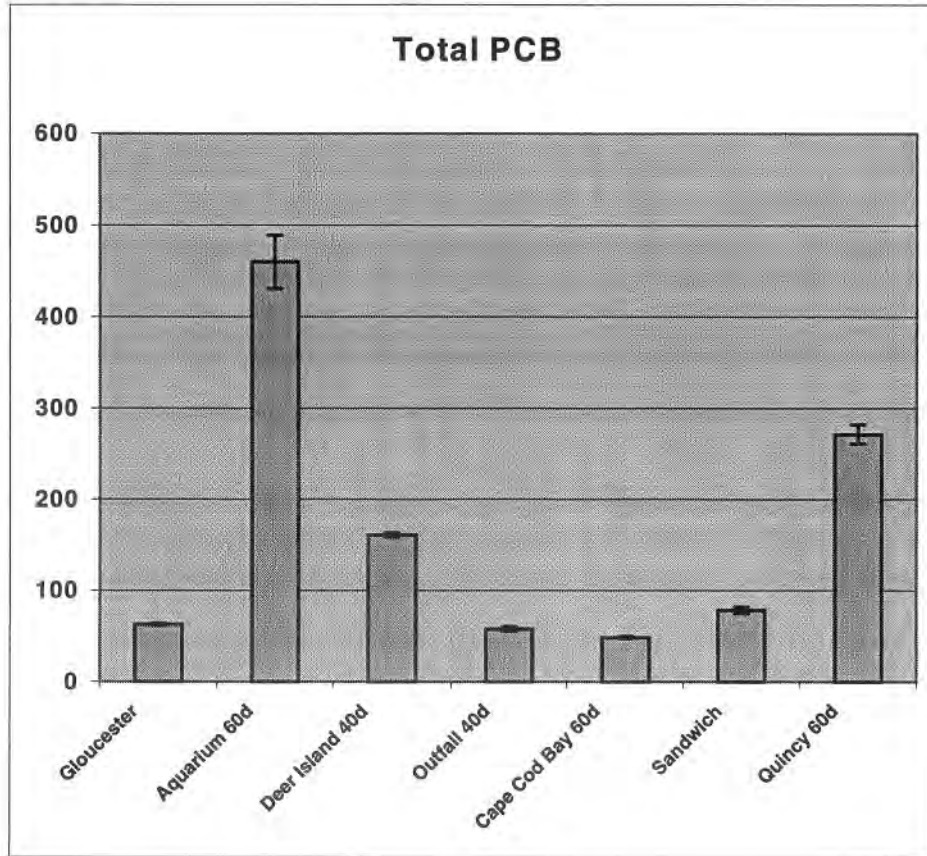
## **MUSSEL GROWTH AND CONDITION**

- **No acute mortality of deployed mussels at any of the locations.**
- **Shell length, volume and biomass increased during Discovery deployment.**
- **Did not assess biological condition at other stations due to lack of 60-day recoveries.**

# 1998 MUSSEL RESULTS - METALS



# 1998 MUSSEL RESULTS – Chlorinated Organics (ng/g dry weight)



# SUMMARY OF PAH LISTS OF ANALYTES

## 1997/ 1998 Complete PAH List

### Low Molecular Weight PAHs

1-METHYLNAPHTHALENE  
1-METHYLPHENANTHRENE  
2,3,5-TRIMETHYLNAPHTHALENE  
2,6-DIMETHYLNAPHTHALENE  
2-METHYLNAPHTHALENE  
ACENAPHTHENE  
ACENAPHTHYLENE  
ANTHRACENE  
BENZOTHIAZOLE  
BIPHENYL  
C1-DIBENZOTHIOPHENES  
C1-FLUORENES  
C1-NAPHTHALENES  
C1-PHENANTHRENES/ANTHRACENES  
C2-DIBENZOTHIOPHENES  
C2-FLUORENES  
C2-NAPHTHALENES  
C2-PHENANTHRENES/ANTHRACENES  
C3-DIBENZOTHIOPHENES  
C3-FLUORENES  
C3-NAPHTHALENES  
C3-PHENANTHRENES/ANTHRACENES  
C4-NAPHTHALENES  
C4-PHENANTHRENES/ANTHRACENES  
DIBENZOFURAN  
DIBENZOTHIOPHENE  
FLUORENE  
NAPHTHALENE  
PHENANTHRENE

### High Molecular Weight PAHs

BENZ(A)ANTHRACENE  
BENZO(A)PYRENE  
BENZO(B)FLUORANTHENE  
BENZO(E)PYRENE  
BENZO(G,H,I)PERYLENE  
BENZO(K)FLUORANTHENE  
C1-CHRYSENES  
C1-FLUORANTHRENES/PYRENES  
C2-CHRYSENES  
C2-FLUORANTHRENES/PYRENES  
C3-CHRYSENES  
C3-FLUORANTHRENES/PYRENES  
C4-CHRYSENES  
CHRYSENE  
DIBENZO(A,H)ANTHRACENE  
FLUORANTHENE  
INDENO(1,2,3-C,D)PYRENE  
PERYLENE  
PYRENE

## NOAA "Historic" PAH List

### Low Molecular Weight PAHs

1-METHYLNAPHTHALENE  
1-METHYLPHENANTHRENE  
2,3,5-TRIMETHYLNAPHTHALENE  
2,6-DIMETHYLNAPHTHALENE  
2-METHYLNAPHTHALENE  
ACENAPHTHENE  
ACENAPHTHYLENE  
ANTHRACENE  
BENZOTHIAZOLE  
BIPHENYL

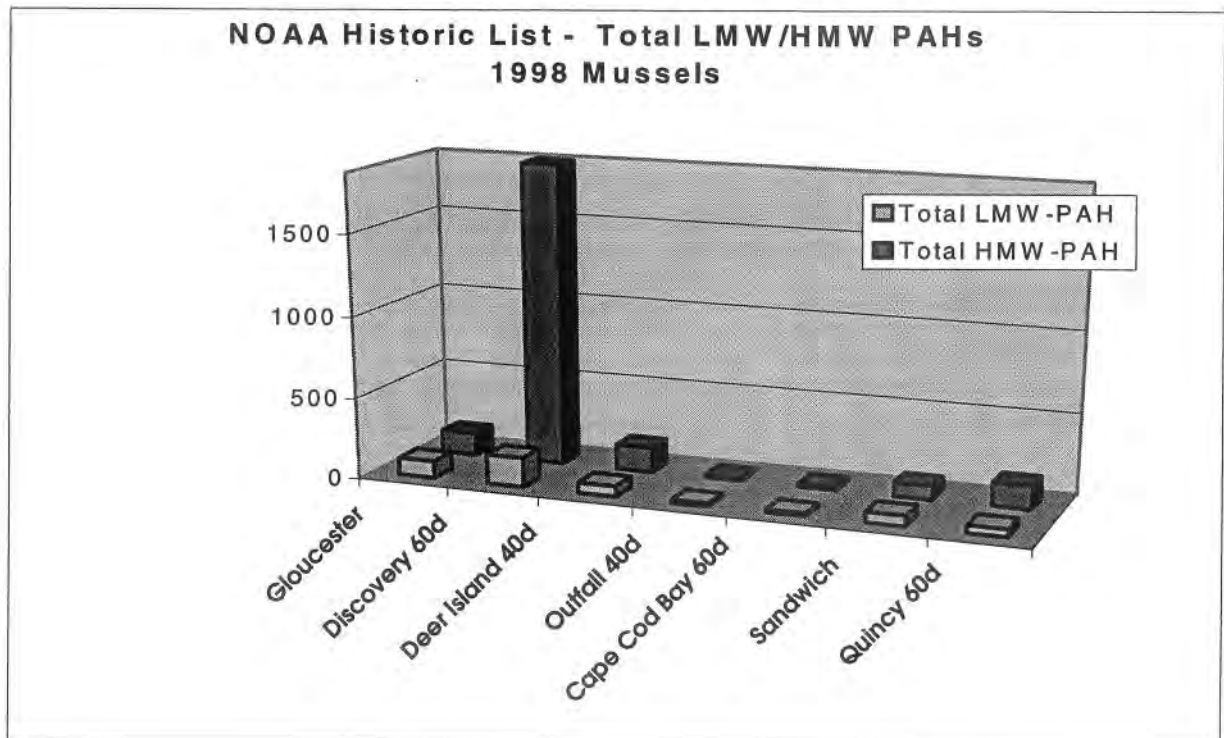
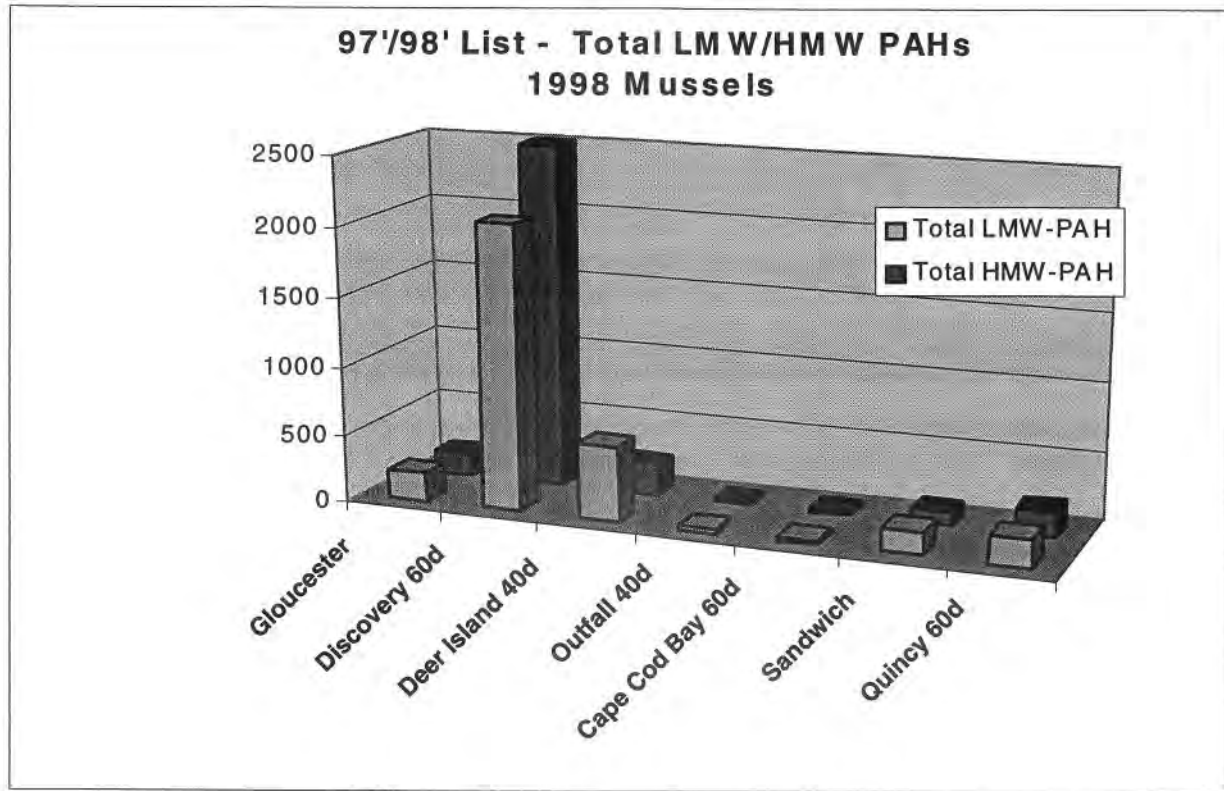
DIBENZOFURAN  
DIBENZOTHIOPHENE  
FLUORENE  
NAPHTHALENE  
PHENANTHRENE

### High Molecular Weight PAHs

BENZ(A)ANTHRACENE  
BENZO(A)PYRENE  
BENZO(B)FLUORANTHENE  
BENZO(E)PYRENE  
BENZO(G,H,I)PERYLENE  
BENZO(K)FLUORANTHENE

CHRYSENE  
DIBENZO(A,H)ANTHRACENE  
FLUORANTHENE  
INDENO(1,2,3-C,D)PYRENE  
PERYLENE  
PYRENE

# 1998 MUSSEL RESULTS- PAHs (ng/g dry weight)



**TEST FOR SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE FROM  
PRE-DEPLOYMENT CONCENTRATIONS  
(using 2-tailed student t-test)**

Parameter	Discovery	DI	FOS	Cape Cod Bay	Quincy
Mercury	No	No	No	Yes	No
Lead	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Total PCBs</b>					
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Total DDTs</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Total Chlordanes</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Dieldrin</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Lindane</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<b>PAHs - 97'/98' List</b>					
<b>Total LMWPAH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Total HMWPAH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Total PAH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

(1) Assume random sampling, normal distribution and equal variances

**TEST FOR SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE FROM  
PRE-DEPLOYMENT CONCENTRATIONS  
(using 2-tailed student t-test)**

Parameter	Discovery	DI	FOS	Cape Cod Bay	Quincy
<b>PAHs - 97'/98' List</b>					
<b>Total LMWPAH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Total HMWPAH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Total PAH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>PAHS - NOAA Historic List</b>					
<b>Total LMWPAH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Total HMWPAH</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Total PAH</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

(1) Assume random sampling, normal distribution and equal variances

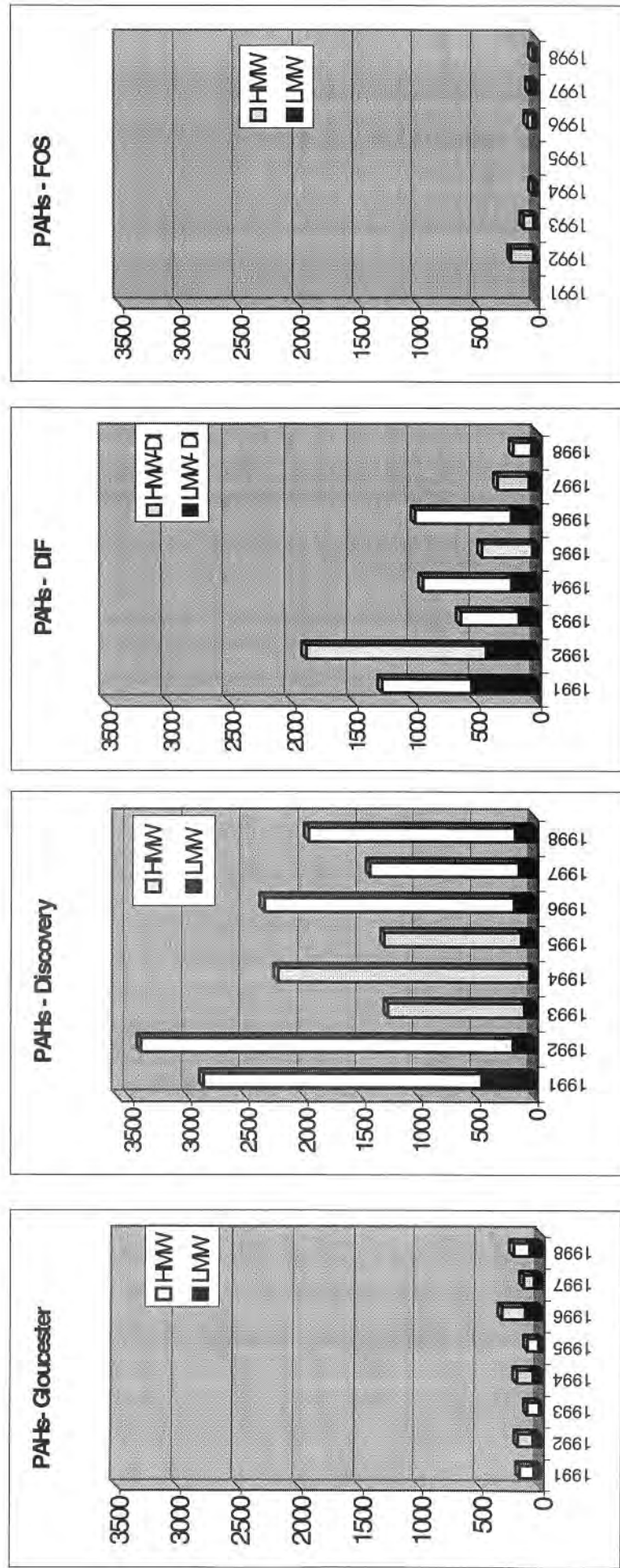
## COMPARISON BETWEEN GLOUCESTER AND SANDWICH PREDEPLOYMENT MUSSELS

Parameter	SANDWICH		GLOUCESTER		Significantly Different (P=0.05)
	mean	<i>s.d.</i>	mean	<i>s.d.</i>	
Total PCB	<b>79.1</b>	7.8	63.2	2.6	YES
Total Chlordane	<b>14.2</b>	1.4	6.8	0.5	<b>YES</b>
Total DDT	<b>55.8</b>	5.7	34.1	2.9	<b>YES</b>
DIELDRIN	<b>5.7</b>	0.5	2.8	0.3	<b>YES</b>
<b>97'/98' PAHs</b>					
Total LMW PAH	146.0	37.9	207.3	28.1	<b>NO</b>
HMW PAH	65.1	8.2	166.3	17.5	<b>YES</b>
Total PAH	211.1	22.8	373.6	39.7	<b>YES</b>
<b>NOAA Historic List PAHs</b>					
Total LMW	65.8	17.3	104.3	27.7	<b>YES</b>
Total HMW	58.1	8.3	138.6	14.4	<b>YES</b>
TOTAL PAH	123.9	21.7	242.8	33.4	<b>YES</b>



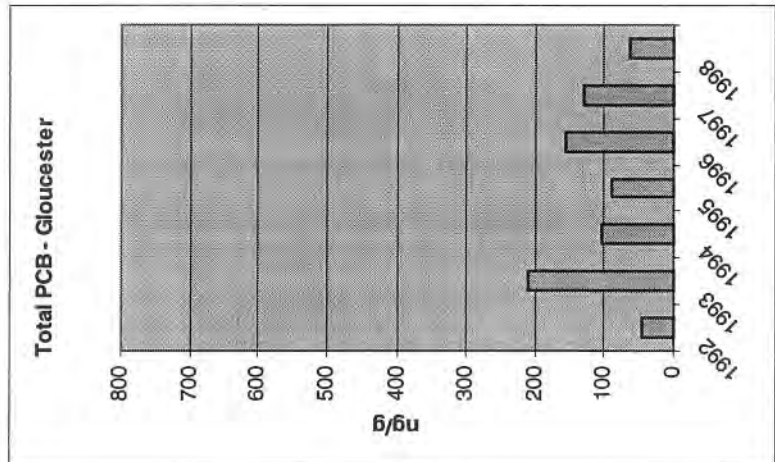
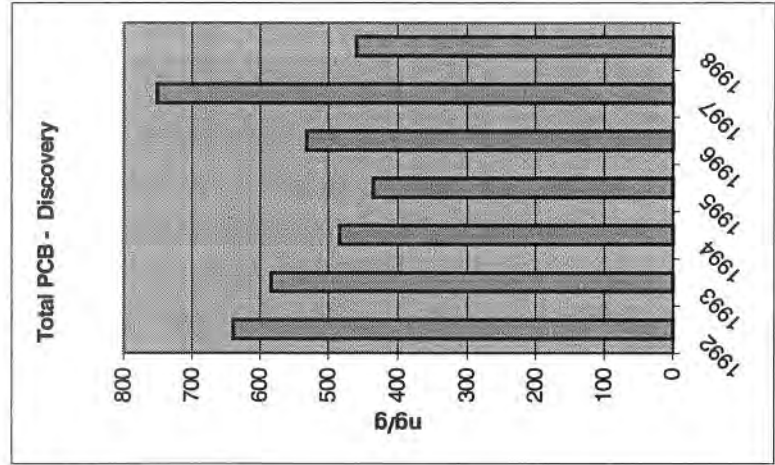
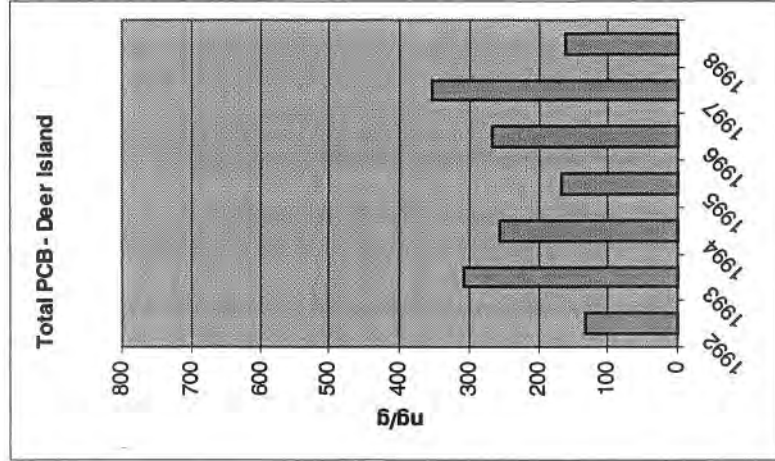
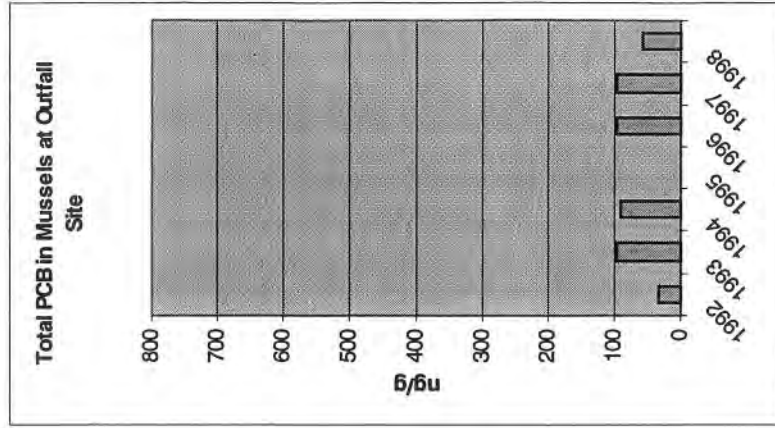
# ANNUAL AVERAGE PAHS FOR 1992 – 1998 MUSSELS

(ng/g dry weight)



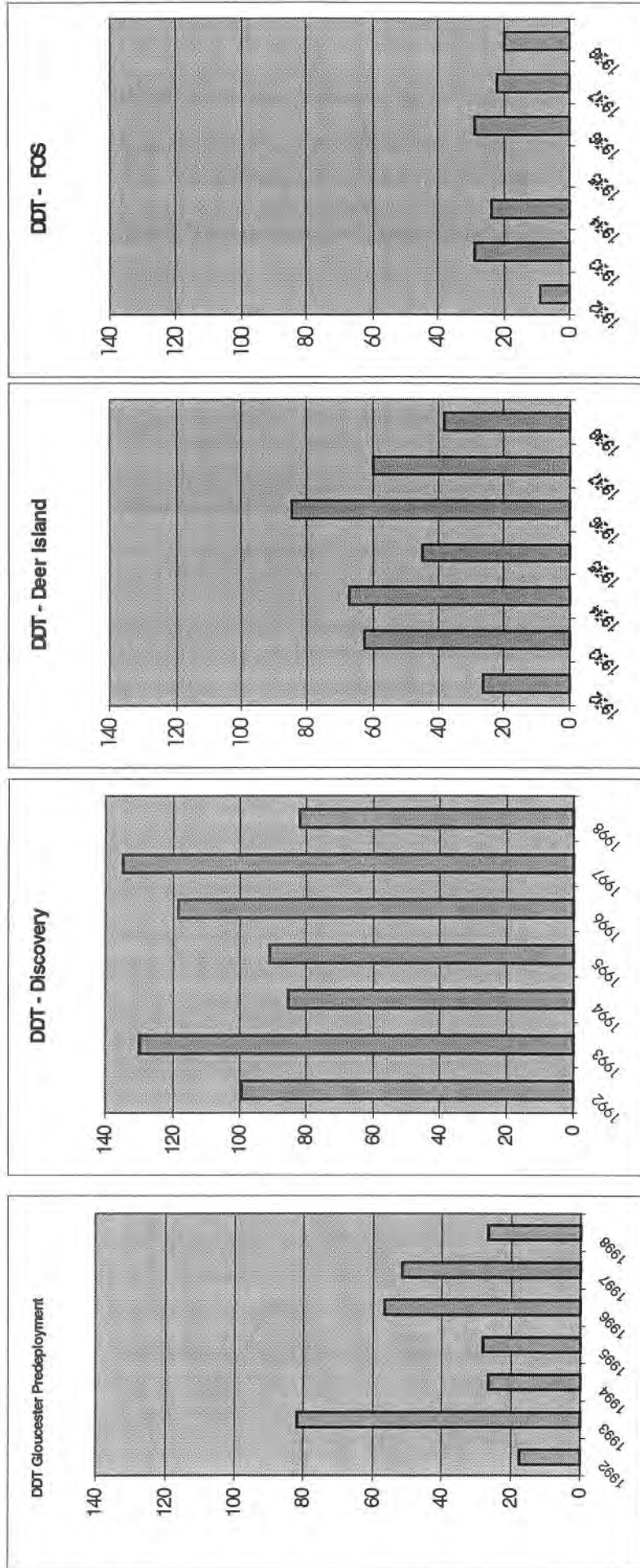
# ANNUAL AVERAGE Total PCBs FOR 1992 – 1998 MUSSELS

(ng/g dry weight)

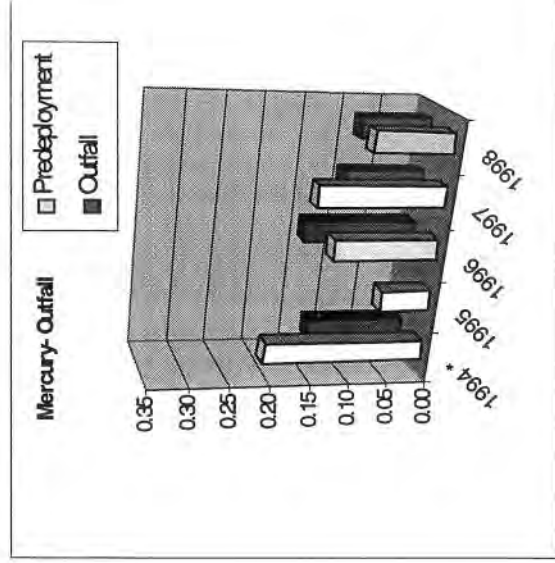
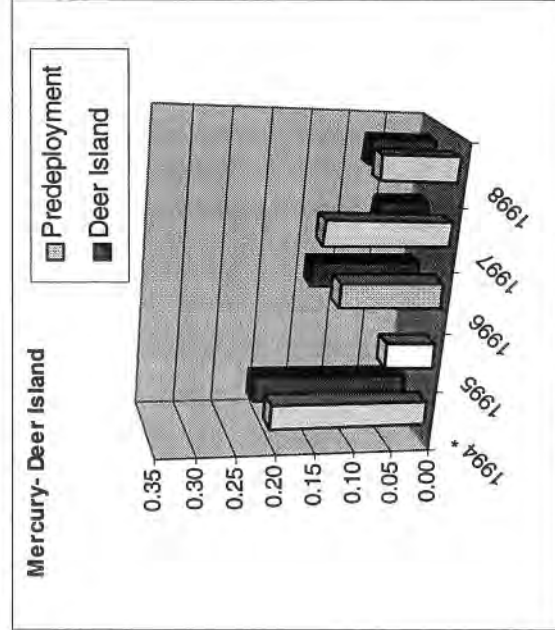
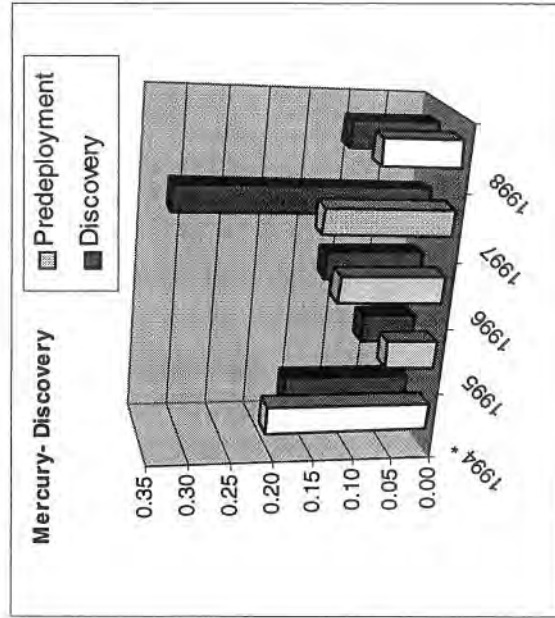
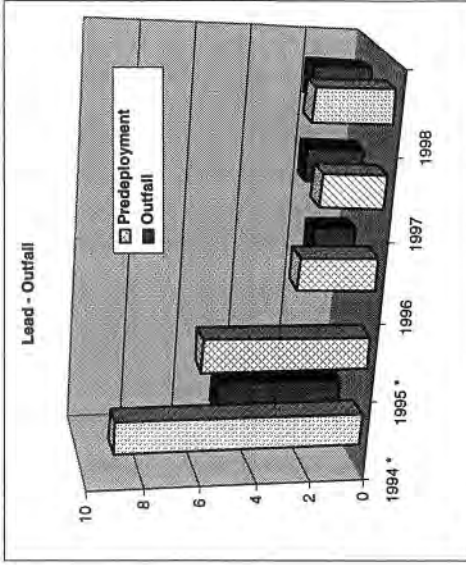
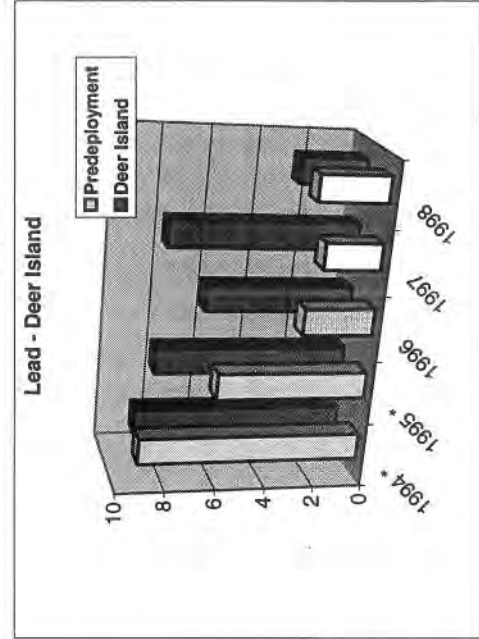
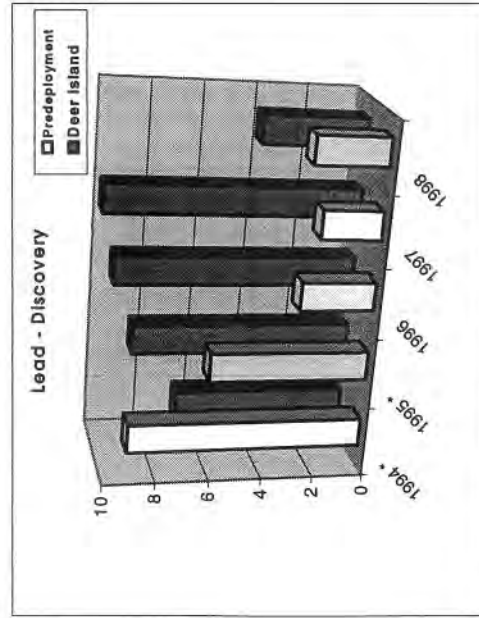


# ANNUAL AVERAGE Total DDTs FOR 1992 – 1998 MUSSELS

(ng/g dry weight)



# ANNUAL AVERAGE METALS FOR 1992 – 1998 MUSSELS



\* Indicates pre-deployment mussels were collected from Gloucester. All other years used Sandwich Mussels

## Comparison of 1998 Mussel Results with Thresholds

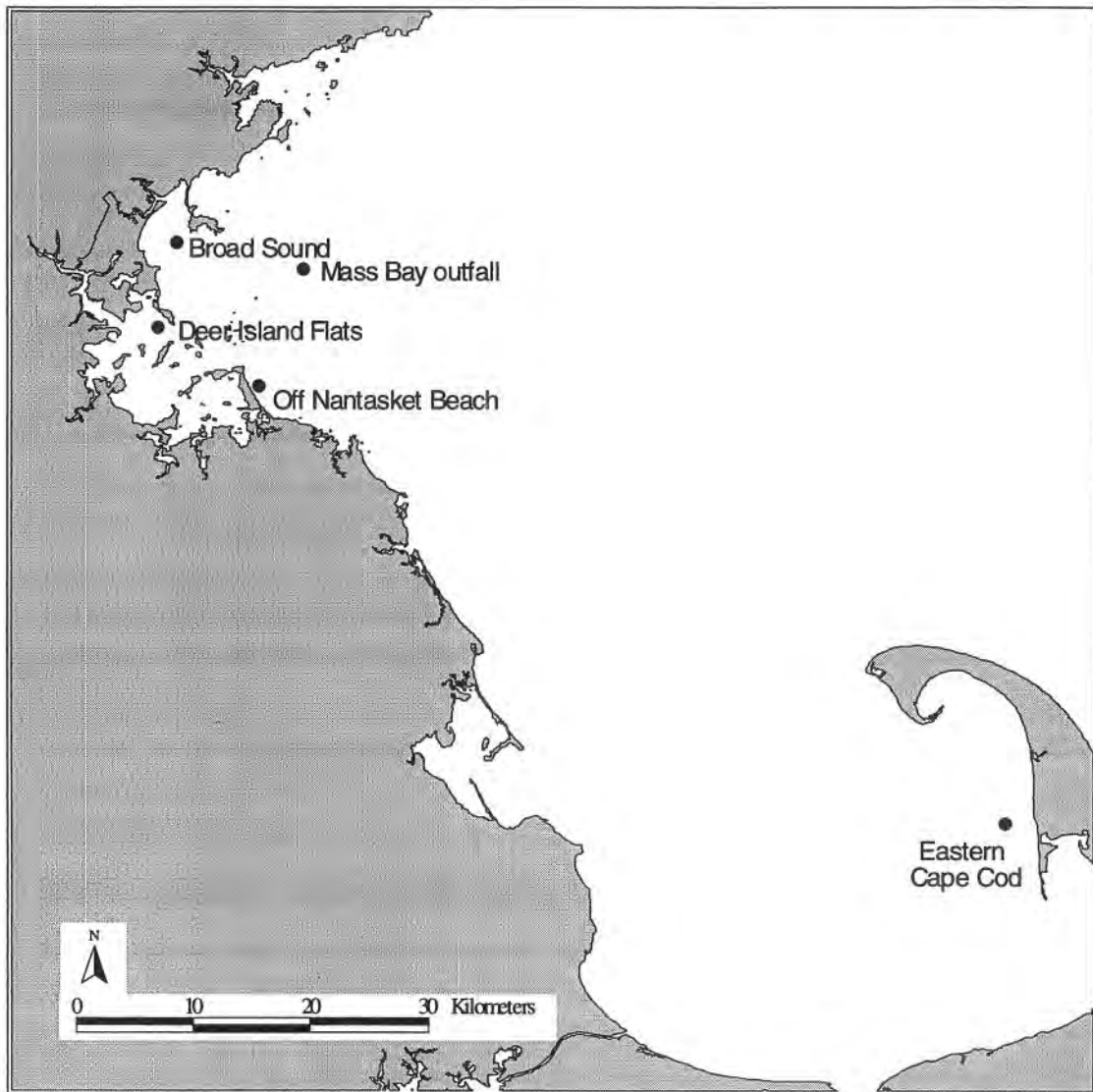
STATION	N	% Dry Wt.	Total PCB (ng/g wet wt.)		Total DDTs (ng/g DRY wt)		Total Chlordanes (ng/g wet wt.)		Total Dieldrin (ng/g wet wt.)		Total PAH (ng/g DRY wt.)		Mercury (Hg) (ug/g wet wt.)		Lead (Pb) (ug/g wet wt.)	
			Mean	s.e.	Mean	s.e.	Mean	s.e.	Mean	s.e.	Mean	s.e.	Mean	s.e.	Mean	s.e.
Deer Island(1)	5	14.75	23.7	1.7	38.0	0.6	3.7	0.14	0.60	0.02	217.7	3.9	0.016	0.001	0.57	0.13
Aquarium(6)	5	11.92	55.6	6.9	81.9	5.1	3.1	0.40	0.92	0.10	2047.0	127.4	0.016	0.001	0.58	0.04
Gloucester(7)	5	11.15	7.0	0.3	34.1	1.3	0.8	0.04	0.32	0.02	242.7	14.9	NA	0.000	NA	0.00
Sandwich(8)	5	13.29	78.7	0.4	55.8	2.5	14.2	0.08	5.67	0.03	150.4	9.7	0.015	0.001	0.44	0.05
Cape Cod (9)	8	18.32	8.9	0.4	15.8	1.1	1.5	0.12	0.52	0.03	37.1	5.2	0.014	0.001	0.40	0.03
Outfall(4)	8	15.77	9.2	0.4	19.8	1.3	1.6	0.09	0.35	0.01	38.1	3.7	0.015	0.001	0.36	0.03
Quincy(M7)	5	15.35	41.7	1.5	50.8	2.2	3.5	0.12	0.85	0.03	191.4	8.9	0.016	0.001	0.52	0.03
FDA Limit			2000		5000		300		300				1.000			
MWRA Caution Level (2 x Baseline 1992-1997)			28.4		45.3		2.4		0.57		258.8		0.044		1.1	
MWRA Warning Level (80% FDA)			1600										0.800			

***Fish and Shellfish Monitoring***  
**1998 Flounder and Lobster Chemistry Studies (Ms. Lisa Lefkovitz, Battelle)**

**FISH AND SHELLFISH 1998  
FLOUNDER AND LOBSTER STUDY  
CONCLUSIONS**

- **1998 Results are consistent with previous study**
- **Organic contaminant concentrations are generally highest at Discovery (Boston Inner Harbor) and lowest at ECCB with DI levels somewhere in between.**
- **Concentrations of organic contaminants have generally decreased since 1992, especially at Discovery and DI locations.**
- **Metals concentrations are more variable and most concentrations have been relatively constant during the study period.**
- **Mercury concentrations in flounder livers appear to have decreased since 1992.**

# FLOUNDER COLLECTION - 1998





# FLOUNDER MEASUREMENTS

## Physical/Biological Measurements

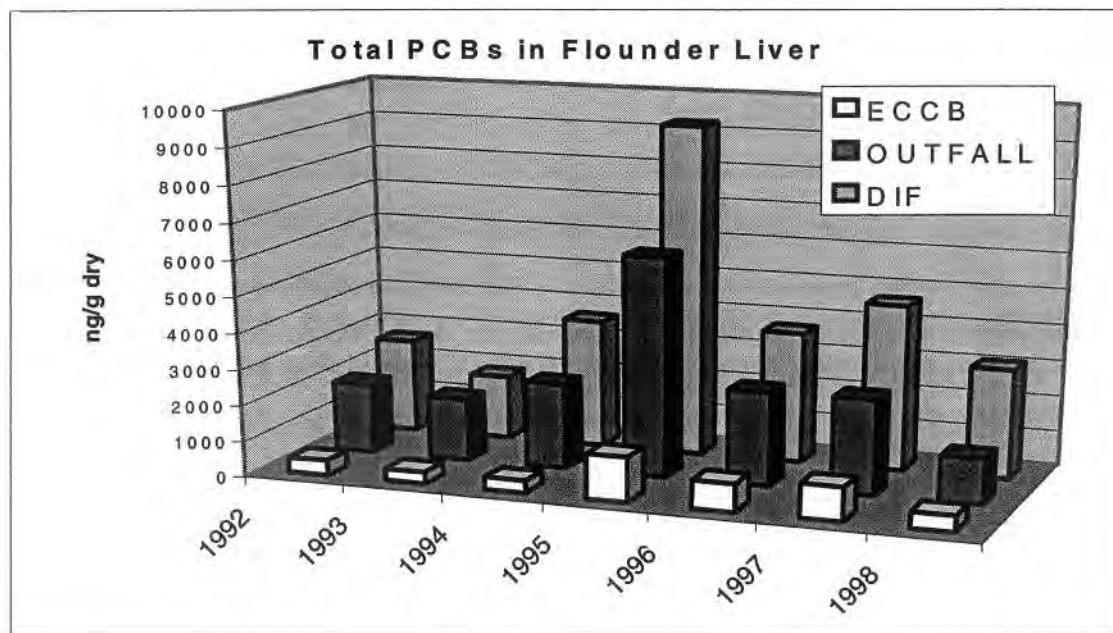
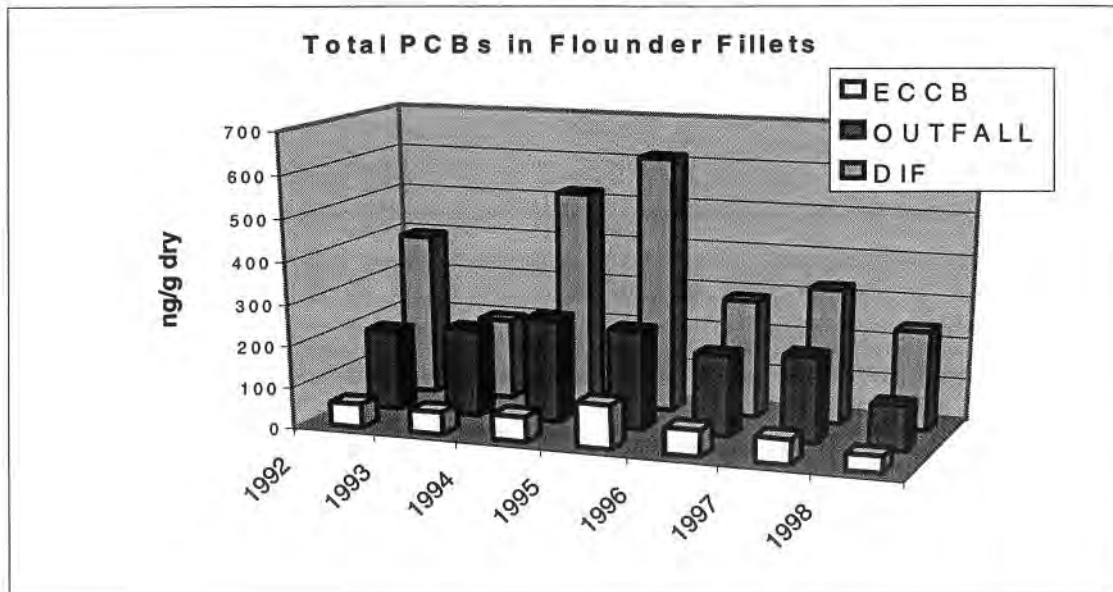
<b>Morphological Measurements</b>	<b>Histological Measurements</b>
Total Length (mm)	Neoplasm
Weight (g)	Focal HV
Age (yrs)	Tubular HV
Fin erosion	Centrotubular HV
Gross score/Lesions	Macrophage Aggregation
	Biliary proliferation

## Chemical Measurements

<b>Sample Type</b>	<b>Number of Samples</b>	<b>Metals (Ag, Cu, Cr, Cd, Pb, Ni, Zn)</b>	<b>Hg</b>	<b>Pb</b>	<b>PCBs</b>	<b>PAHs</b>	<b>Pests</b>	<b>Lipids</b>
Flounder Meat	9*		!		!		!	!
Flounder Liver	9*	!	!	!	!	!	!	!

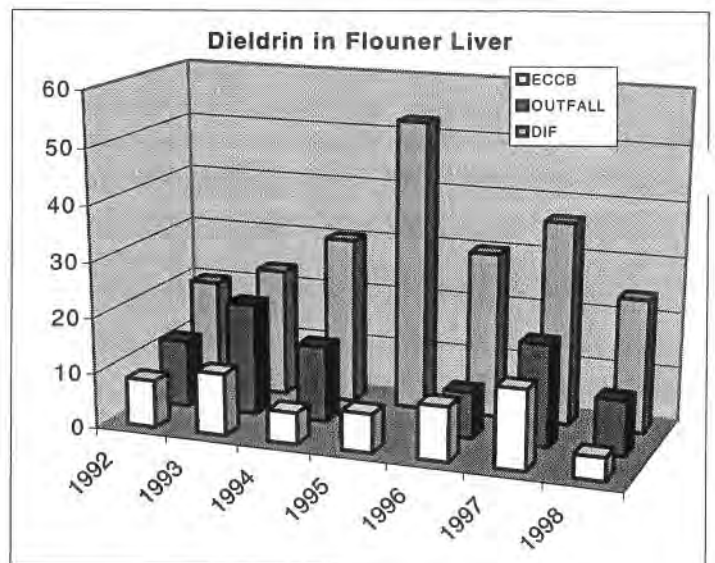
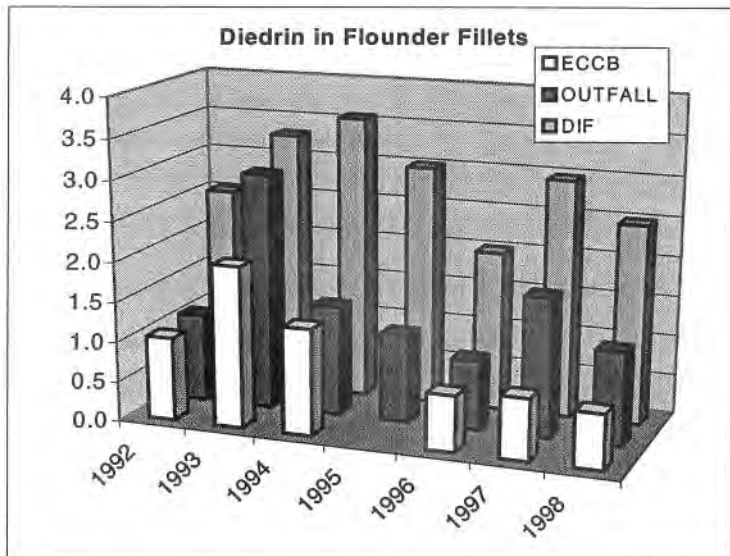
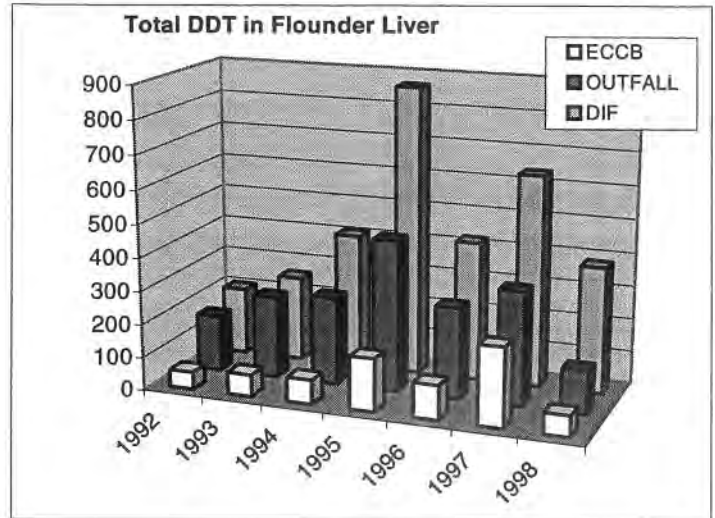
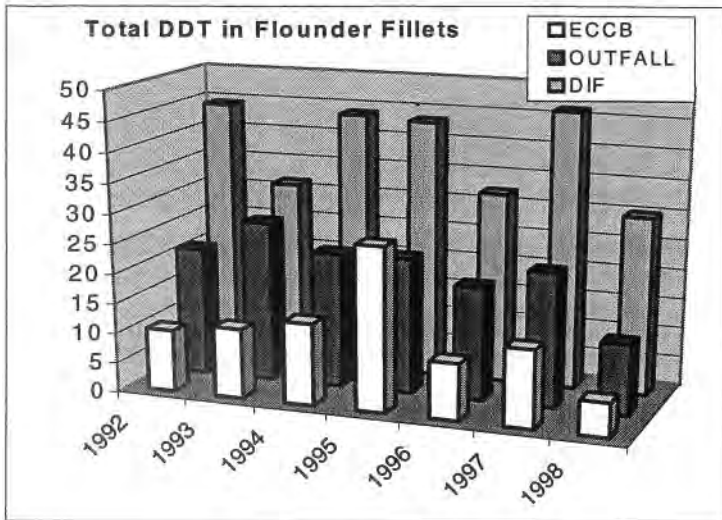
\* 1998 – 3 stations (3 composites each) analyzed for chemistry (DI, FOS, ECCB).

## 1992 - 1998 FLOUNDER RESULTS TOTAL PCBs (ng/g dry weight)



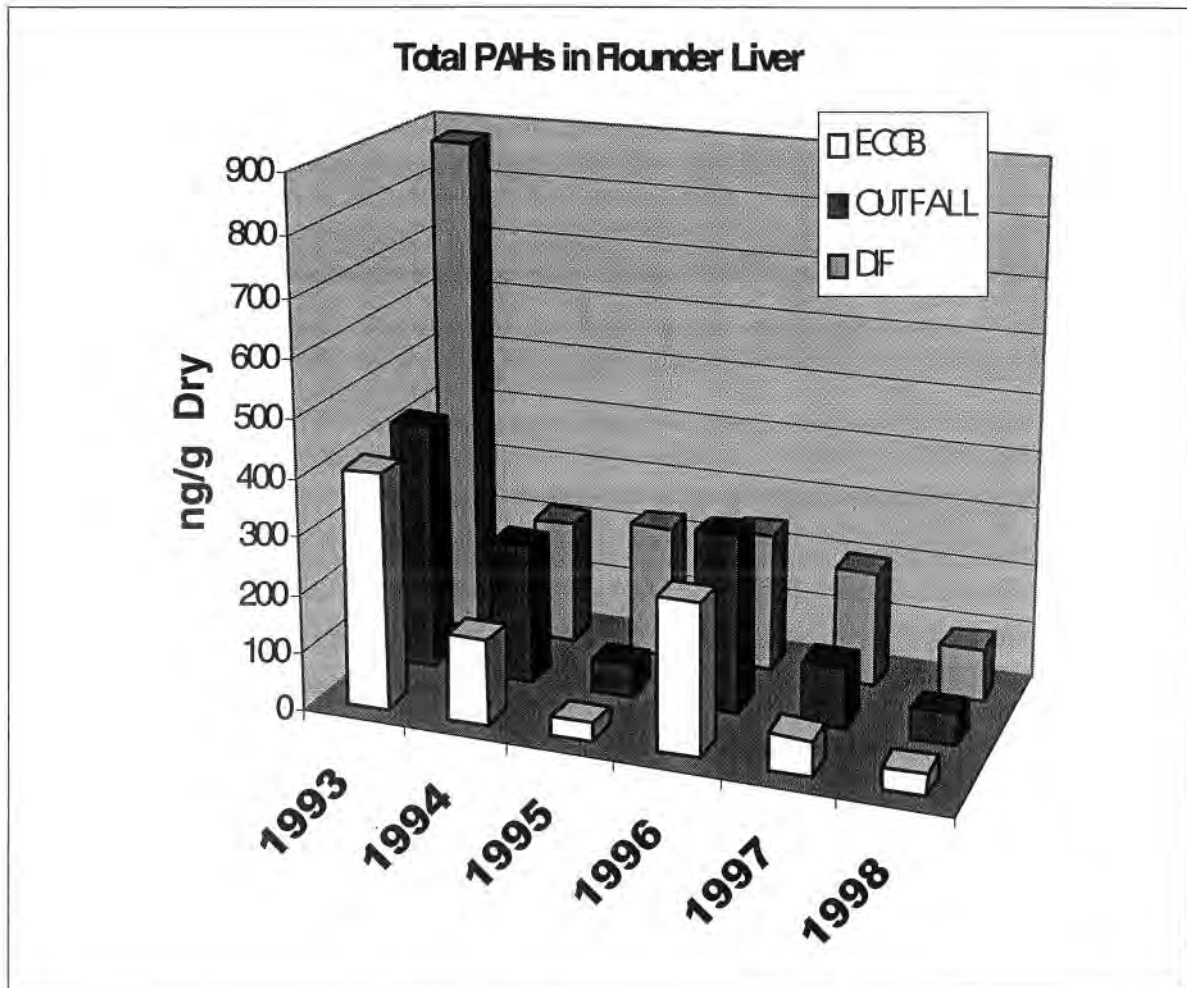
- **Total PCB concentrations in 1998 are lower than in recent years;**
- **The trend shows highest concentrations at DIF and lowest at ECCB, consistent with previous study years**

## 1992 - 1998 FLOUNDER RESULTS SELECTED PESTICIDES (ng/g dry weight)



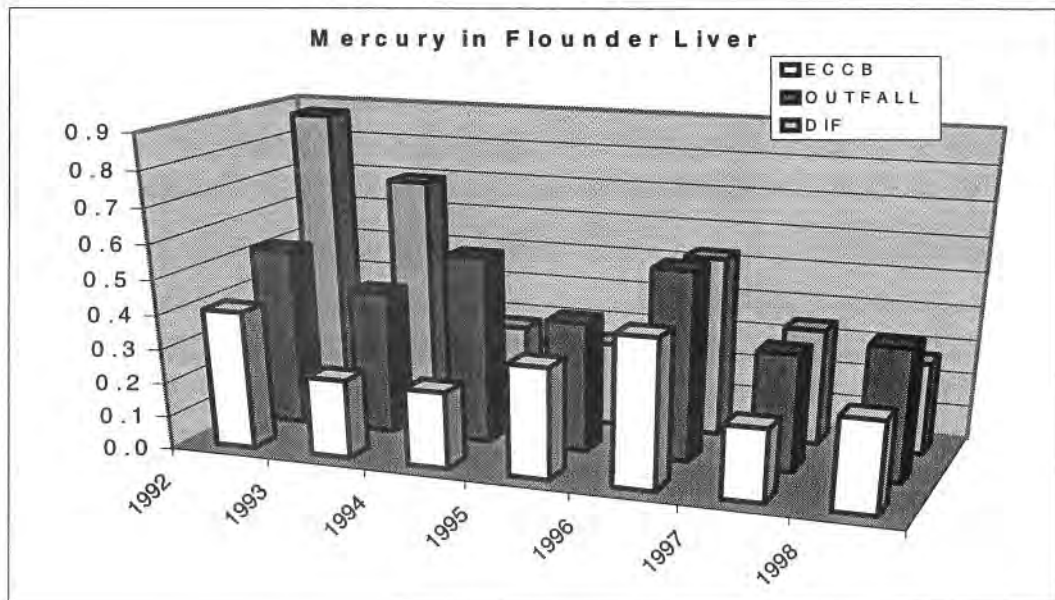
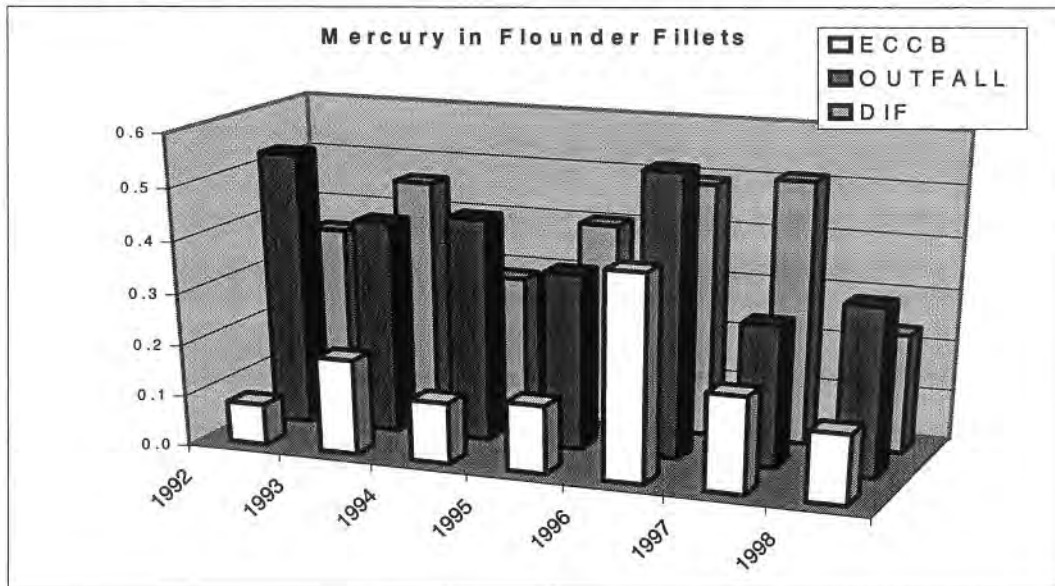
- Pesticide concentrations in 1998 are within the range of previous years, t-DDTs are lowest since 1992 (except Mirex in livers)
- The trend shows highest concentrations at DIF and lowest at ECCB, consistent with previous study years
- No clear response to major infrastructure changes (91/92' DI sludge removal; 96 secondary treatment on-line)

## 1992 - 1998 FLOUNDER RESULTS TOTAL PAHS IN LIVER (ng/g dry weight)



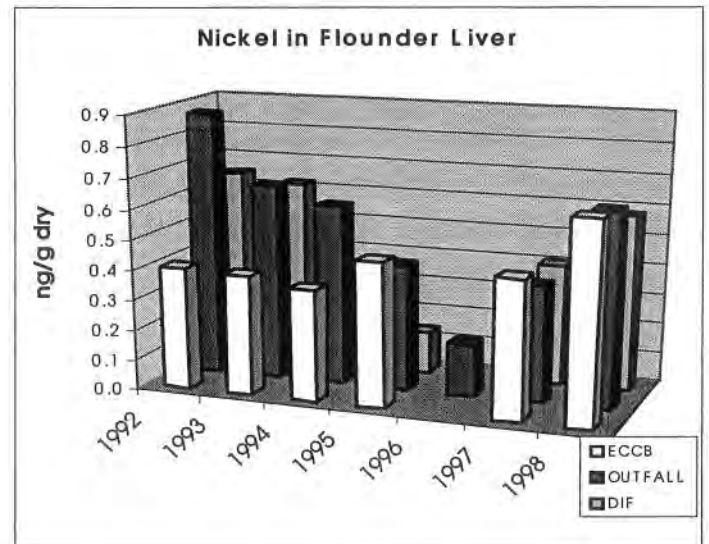
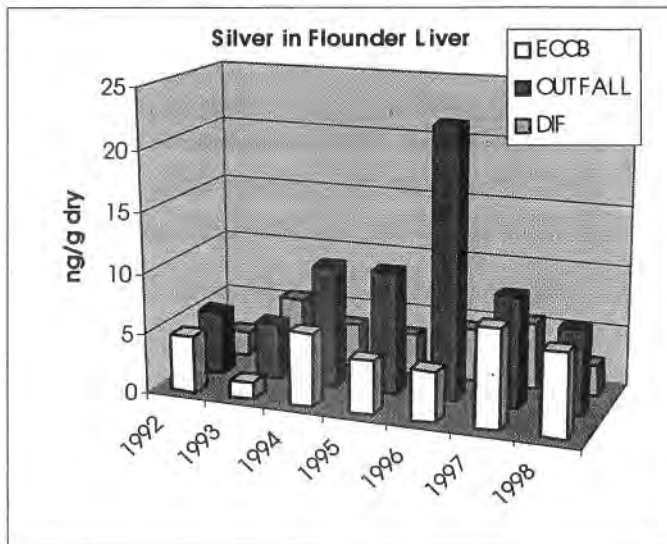
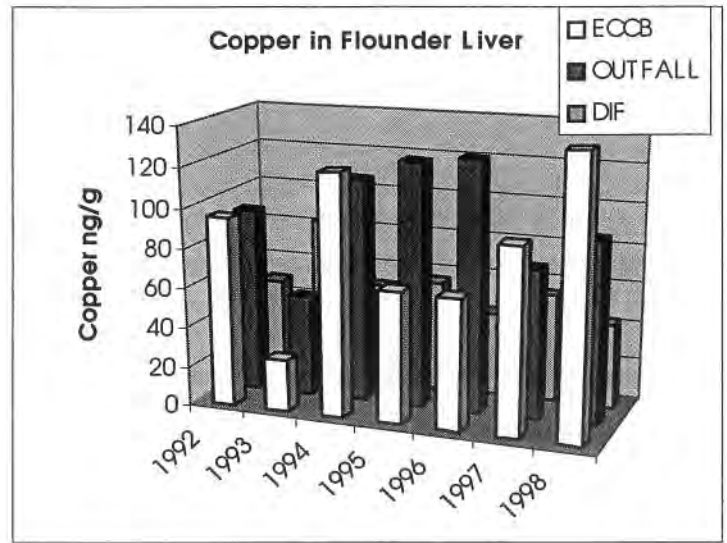
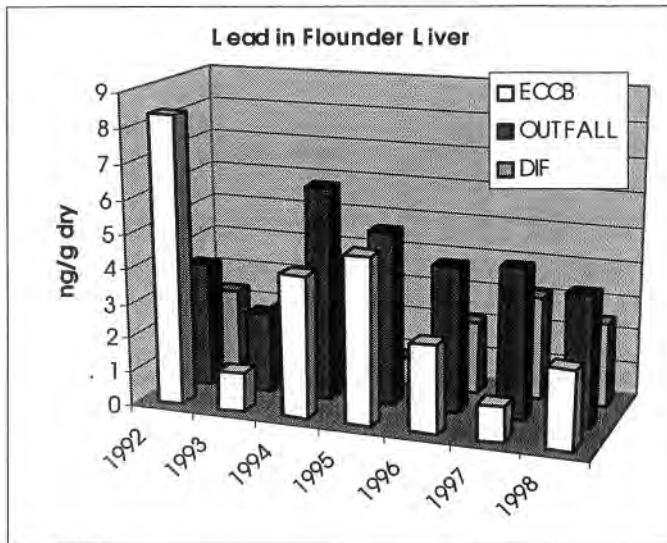
- Total PAH concentrations in 1998 are among the lowest measured during study at all locations;
- The trend shows highest concentrations at DIF and lowest at ECCB, consistent with previous study years;
- Gradual decline in concentrations; corresponds to 1992 sludge removal at DI.

## 1992 - 1998 FLOUNDER RESULTS SELECTED METALS (ug/g dry weight)



- 1998 fillet Hg, lowest at ECCB, highest at Outfall. 1998 Hg patterns in livers, similar to fillets.
- Liver Hg concentrations are generally similar at DIF and FOS and lowest at (except Hg at DIF in 92', 93').
- 1998 levels are generally consistent since 1995.

## 1992 - 1998 FLOUNDER RESULTS SELECTED METALS (ug/g dry)



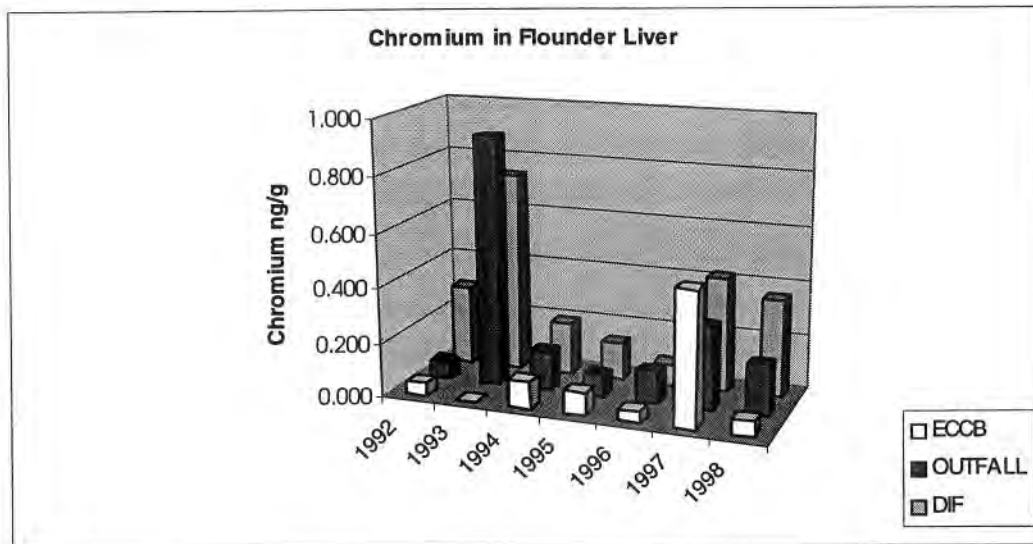
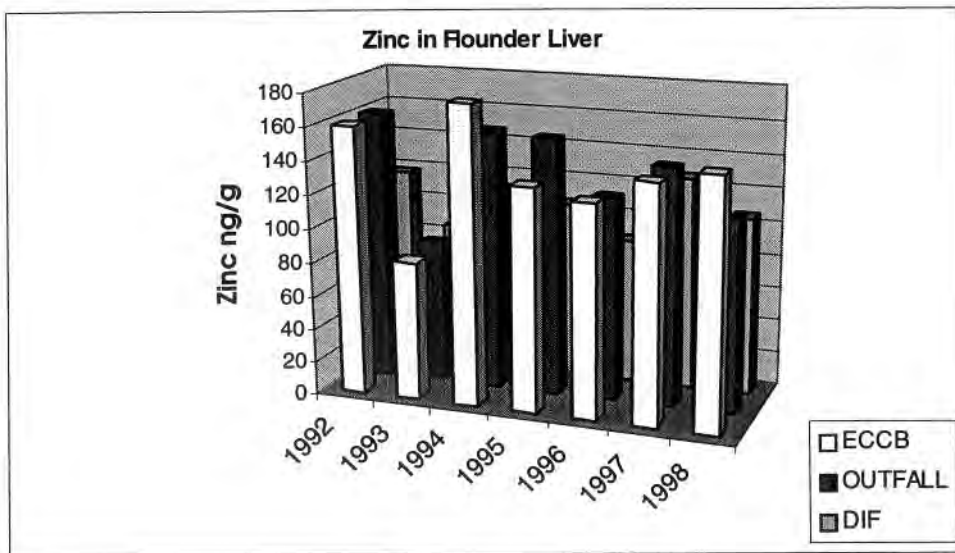
- Generally, metals concentrations in livers are highest at the FOS and lowest at DI, unlike organic contaminant patterns.
- 1998 levels are within the range of previous measurements and are generally lower; except Cu, Ni, Pb at ECCB, Cu, Ni at FOS and Ni at DIF.
- Overall, the trend is for similar or decreasing metals concentrations at all sites since 1992.

## Comparison of Selected Flounder Parameters to FDA and MWRA Thresholds

STATION	Total PCB		Total DDTs		Total Chlordanes		Dieldrin		Mercury (Hg)	
	(ng/g wet wt)		(ng/g DRY wt)		(ng/g wet wt)		(ng/g wet wt)		(ug/g wet wt)	
	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.
DIF(1)	52.4	8.0	29.9	4.7	3.0	0.4	0.55	0.05	0.05	0.01
OUTFALL(4)	19.7	11.0	11.9	7.14	1.0	0.6	0.22	0.11	0.06	0.02
ECCB(5)	8.10	0.6	5.74	0.67	0.3	0.0	0.14	0.01	0.03	0.01
<b>FDA Limit</b>	2000		(5000 ng/g wet)		300		300		1.0	
<b>MWRA Caution Level (2 x Baseline; 1992-1997)</b>	79.5		47.55		3.0		0.57		0.16	
<b>MWRA Warning Level (80% FDA)</b>	1600								0.8	

# 1992 - 1998 FLOUNDER RESULTS

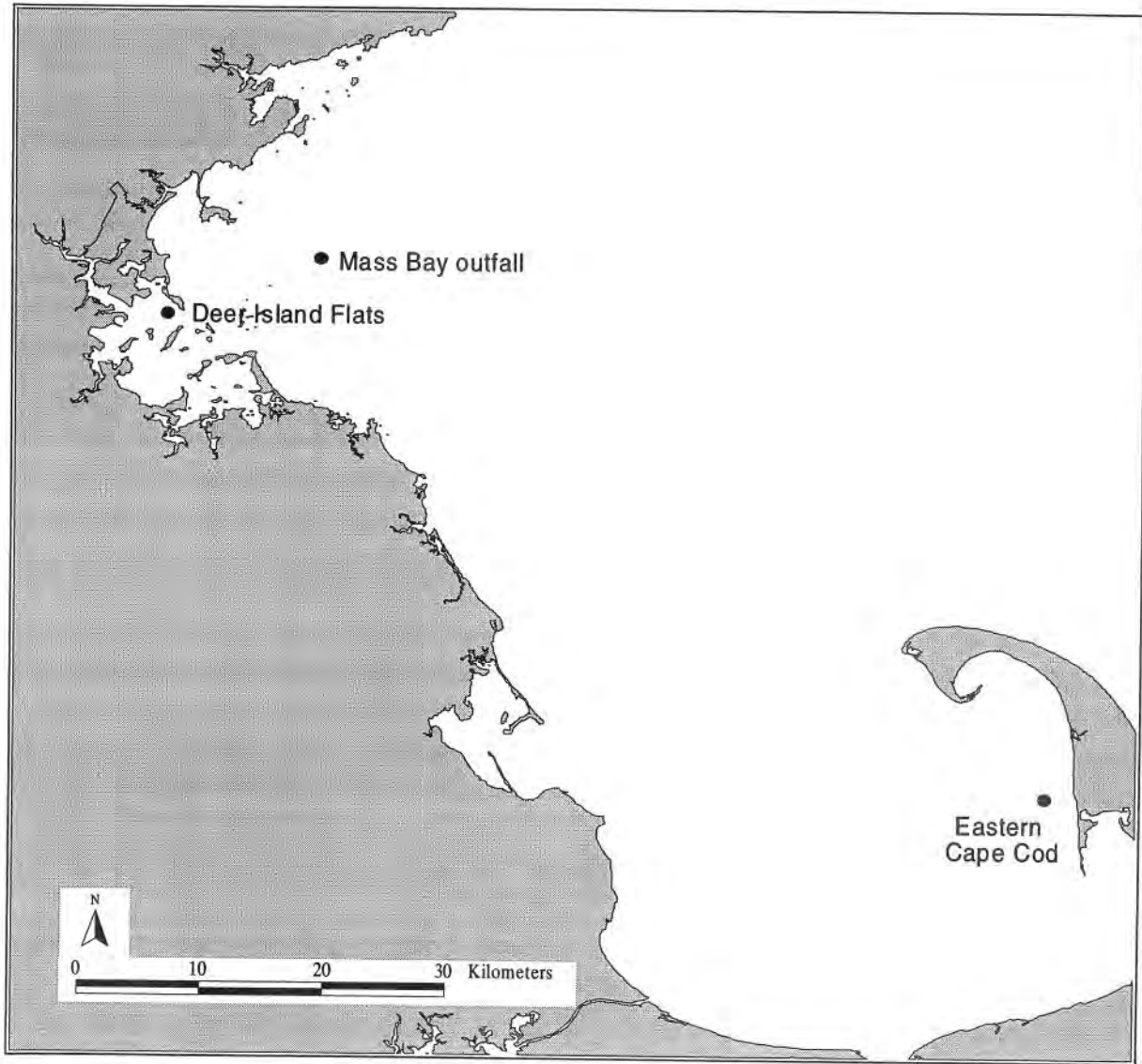
## Additional SELECTED METALS (ug/g dry)





# LOBSTER COLLECTION

## September 1998



# LOBSTER MEASUREMENTS

## Physical/Biological Measurements

<b>Parameter</b> <b>CARAPAPICE LENGTH (mm)</b> <b>WEIGHT (g)</b> <b>SEX_RATIO (FEMALE: MALE)</b> <b>EXTERNAL CONDITION</b> <b>BLACK_GILL</b> <b>EXT_TUMORS</b> <b>PARASITES</b> <b>SHELL_EROS</b>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Parameter	N	Deer Island		Outfall		Cape Cod	
		Station Mean	S.E.	Station Mean	S.E.	Station Mean	S.E.
<b>CARAP_LEN (mm)</b>	15	113.0	3.6	114.6	2.7	116.3	1.6
<b>WEIGHT (g)</b>	15	458.5	19.5	518.7	14.8	497.1	20.8
<b>SEX_RATIO F:M*</b>	15	0.88	--	0.5	--	0.0	--

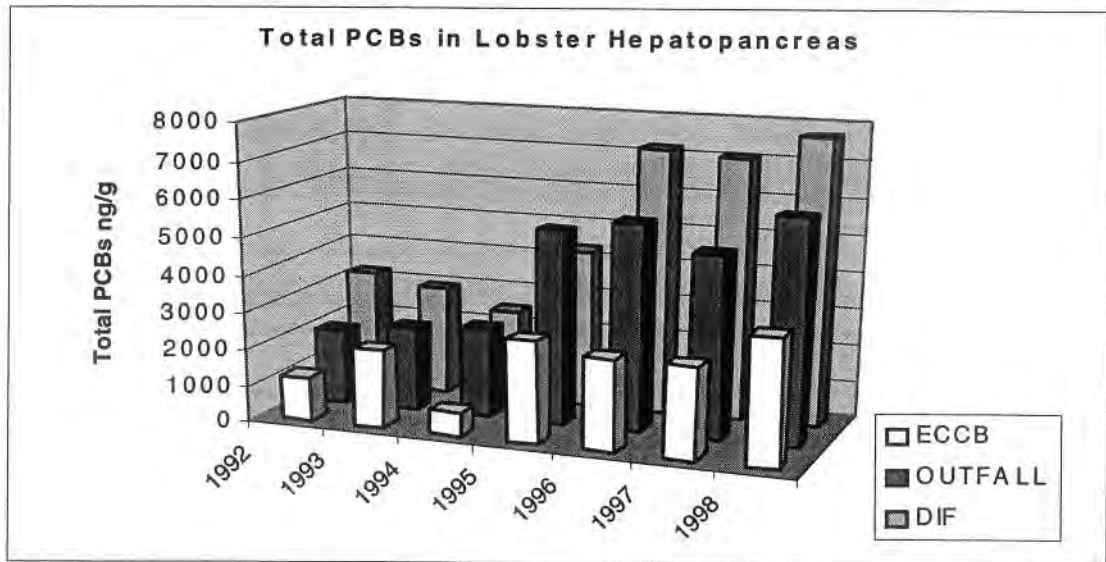
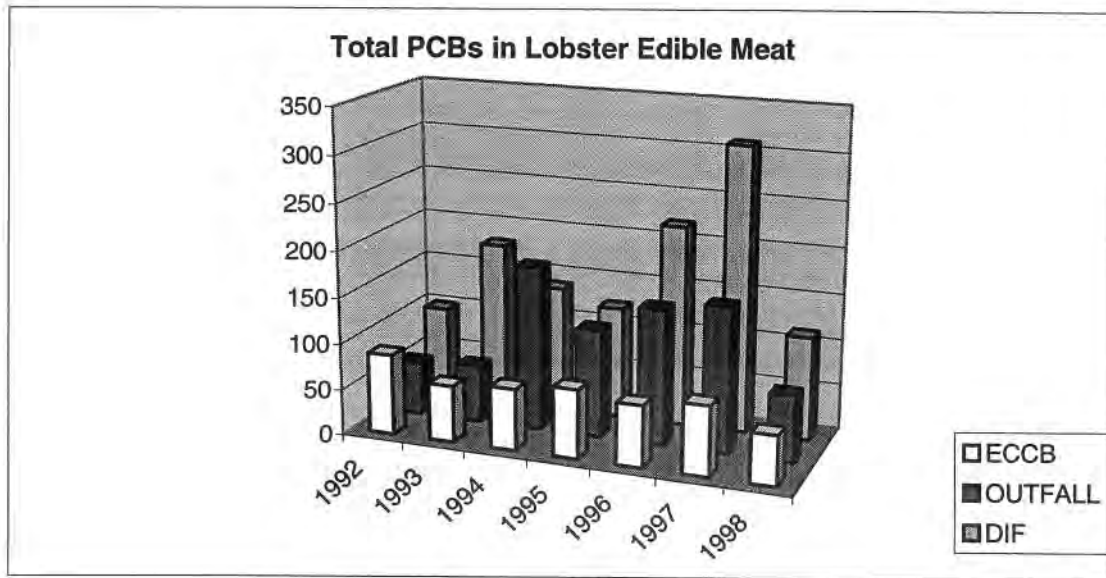
\* A sex ratio of 0 indicates that all 15 lobsters were male.

## CHEMICAL MEASUREMENTS

Sample Type	Number of Samples	Metals (Ag, Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Zn)	Hg	Pb	PCBs	PAHs	Pests	Lipids
Lobster Meat	9		!		!		!	!
Lobster Hepatopancreas	9	!	!	!	!	!	!	!

# 1992 - 1998 LOBSTER RESULTS

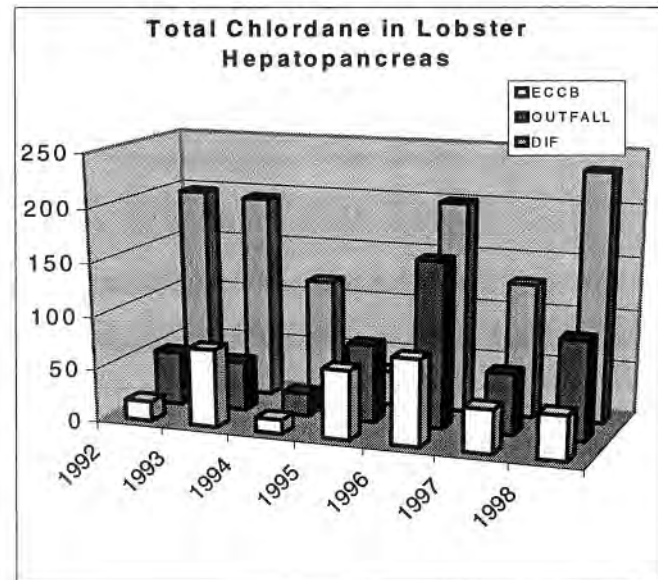
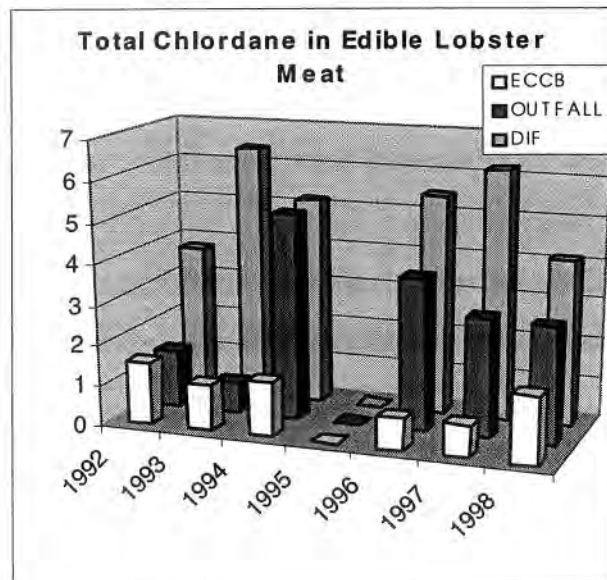
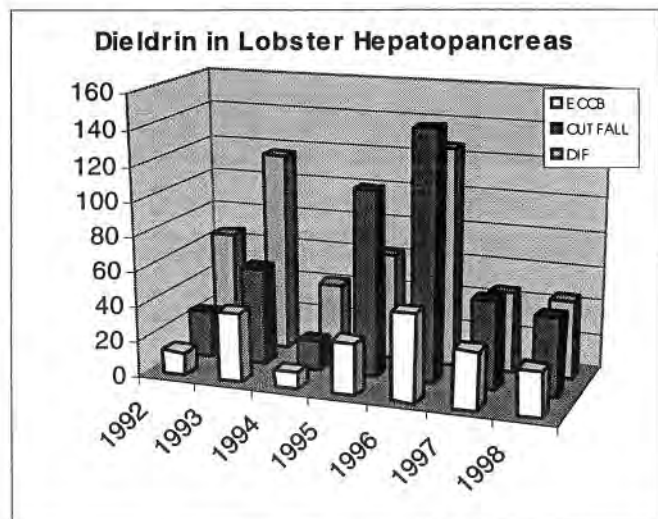
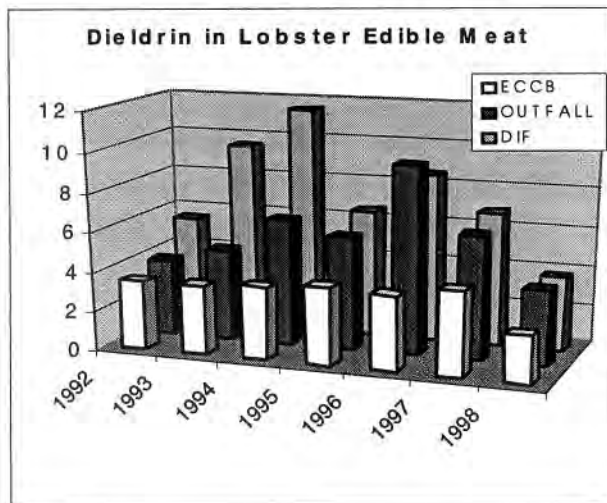
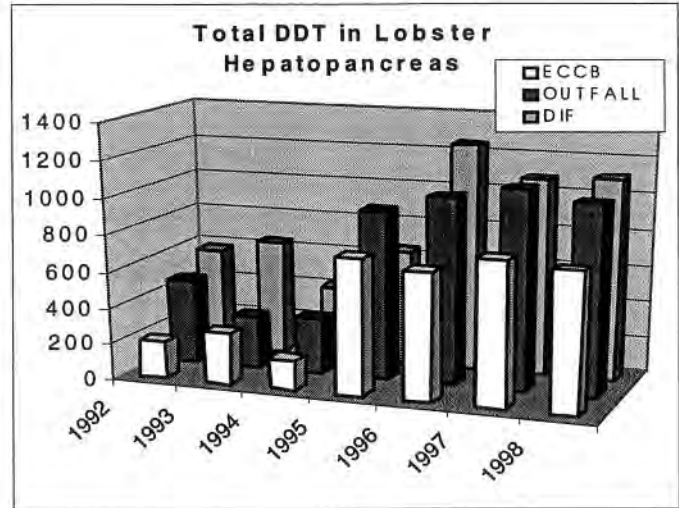
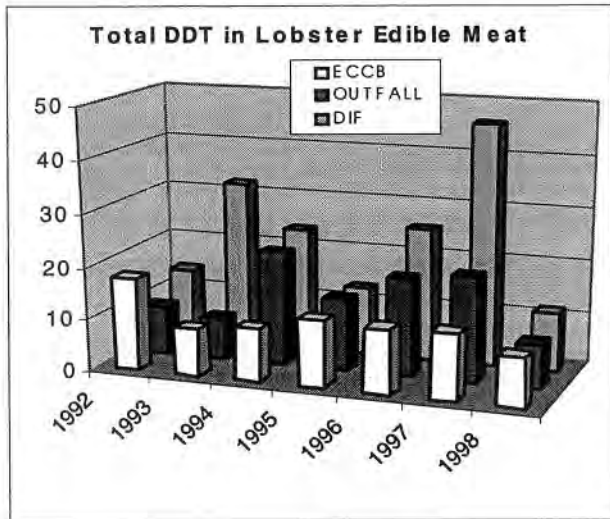
## TOTAL PCBs (ng/g dry weight)



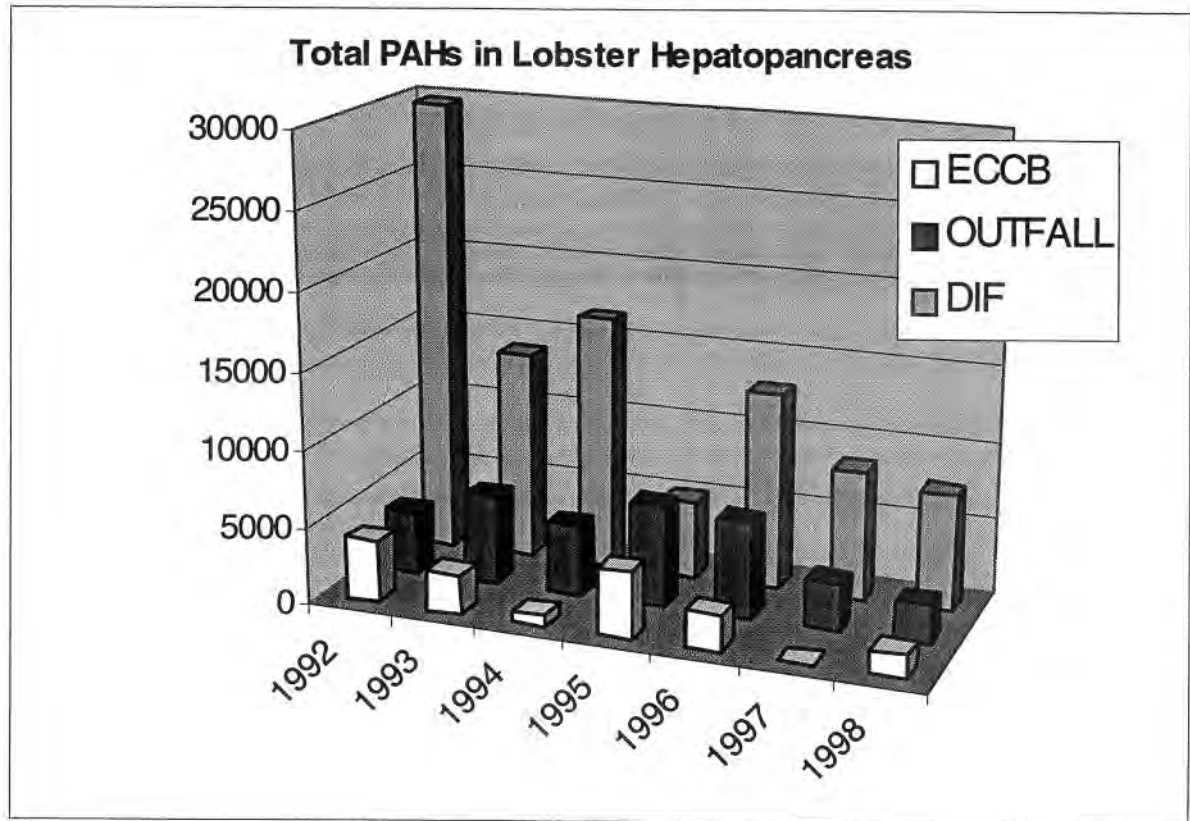
- **1998 Total PCB concentrations in lobster meat are lower than in recent years.**
- **1998 Total PCB concentrations in lobster hepatop. are consistent with recent years.**
- **Highest concentrations at DIF and lowest at ECCB, consistent with previous study years.**

# 1992 - 1998 LOBSTER RESULTS

## SELECTED PESTICIDES (ng/g dry weight)

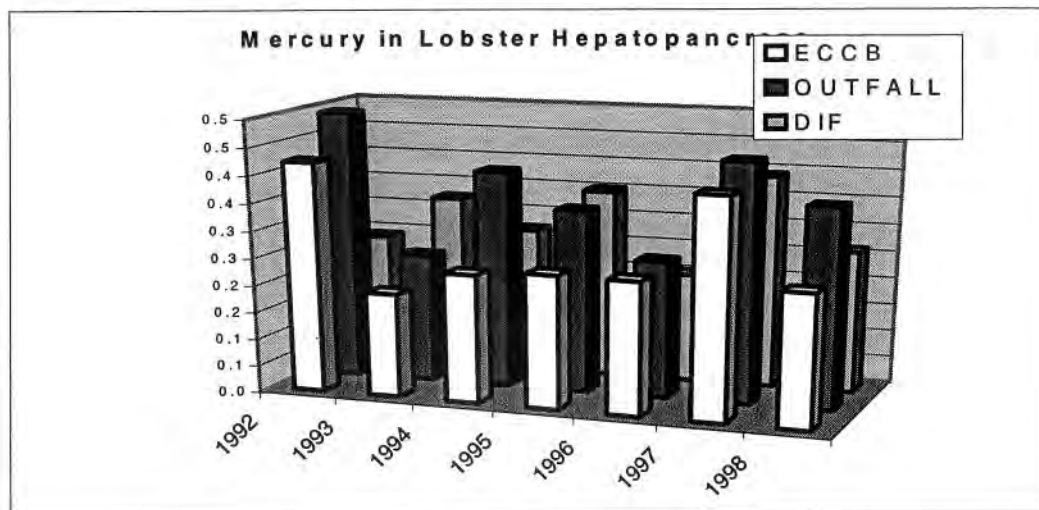
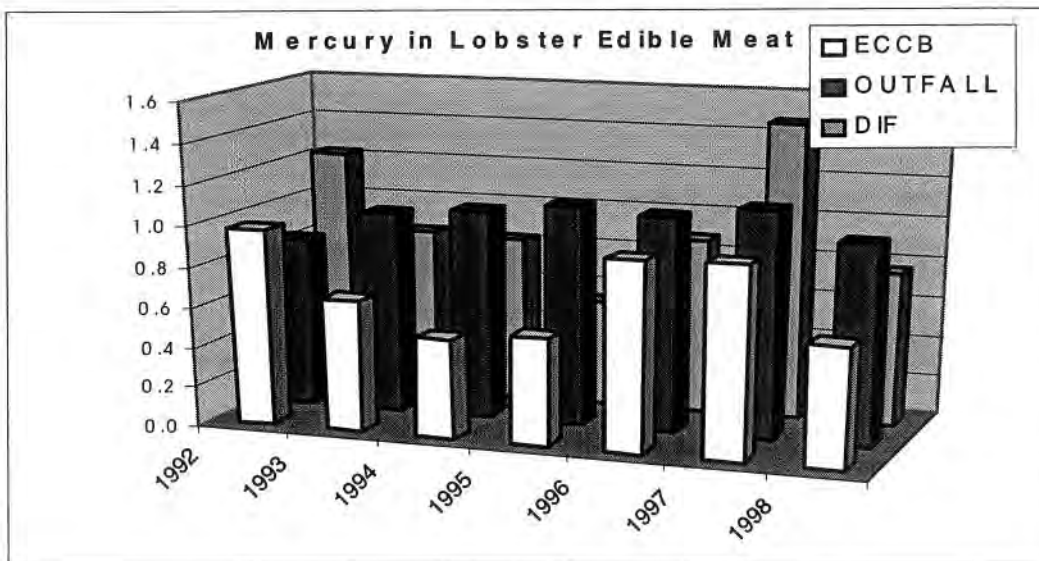


# 1992 - 1998 LOBSTER RESULTS TOTAL PAHS IN HEPATOPANCREAS (ng/g dry weight)



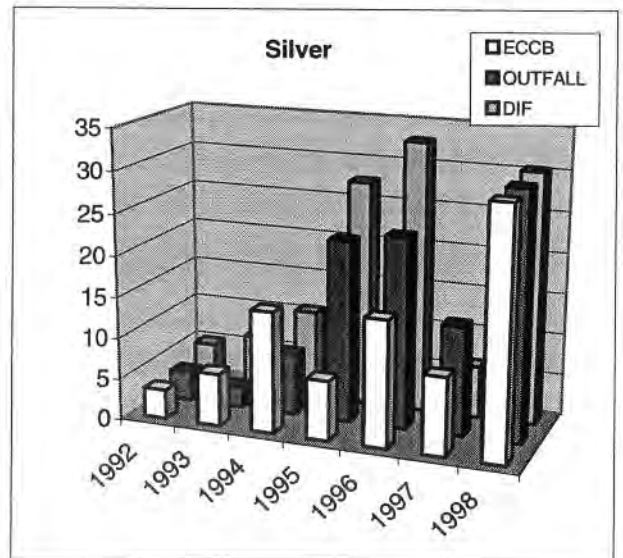
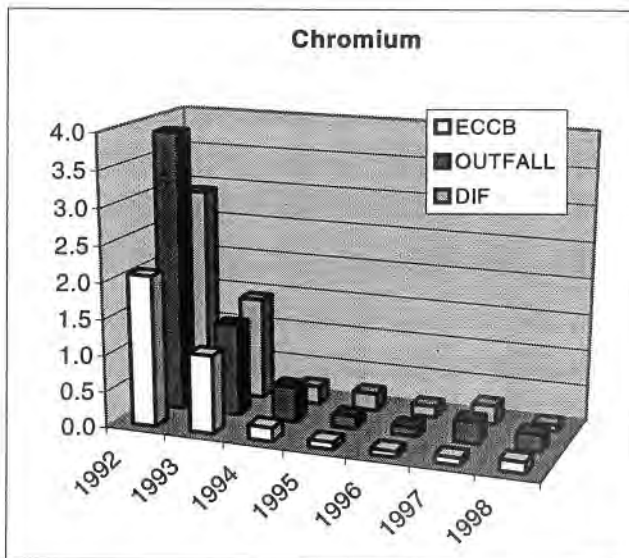
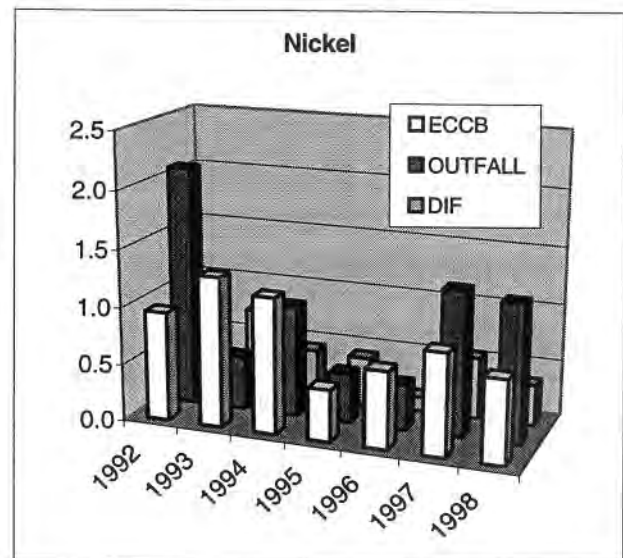
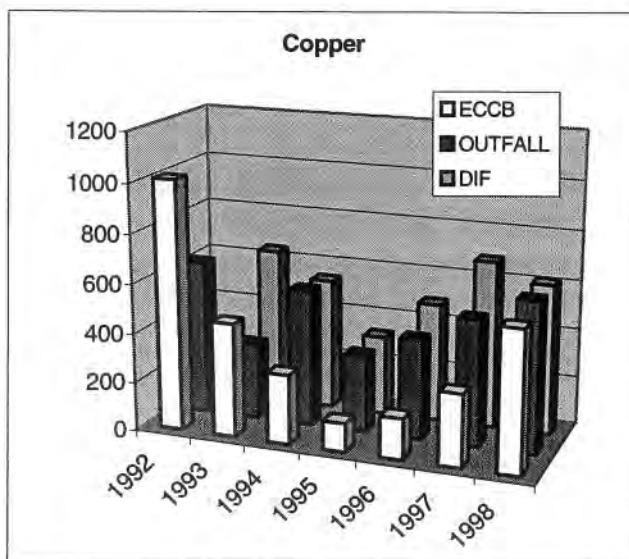
- Total PAH concentrations in 1998 are consistent with previous years.
- The trend shows highest concentrations at DIF and lowest at ECCB.
- Decline in concentrations at DIF after 1992; corresponds to sludge removal at DI.

## 1992 - 1998 FLOUNDER RESULTS SELECTED METALS (ug/g dry)



- **1998 lobster meat and hepatopancreas Hg concentrations are lower than 1997; within range of previous years.**
- **No discernable trends between stations or years.**

## 1992 - 1998 LOBSTER RESULTS SELECTED METALS (ug/g dry)



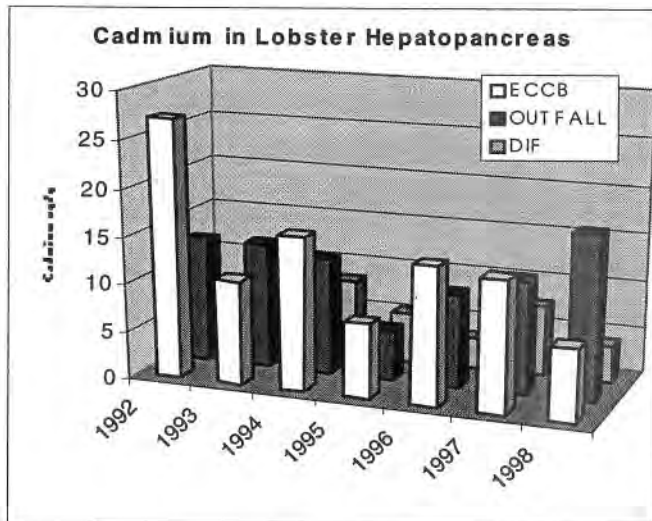
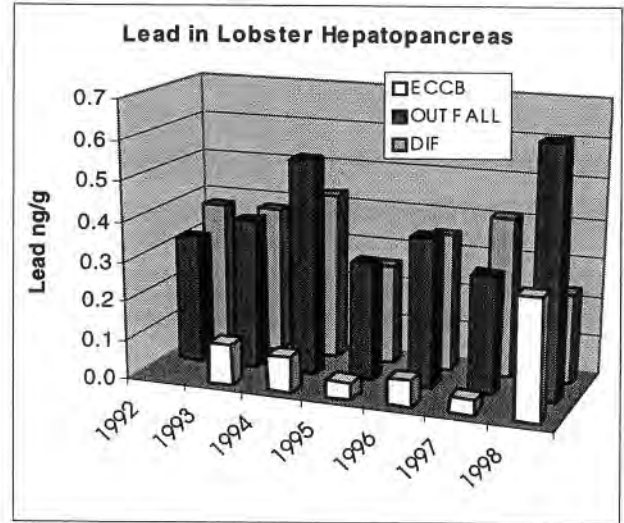
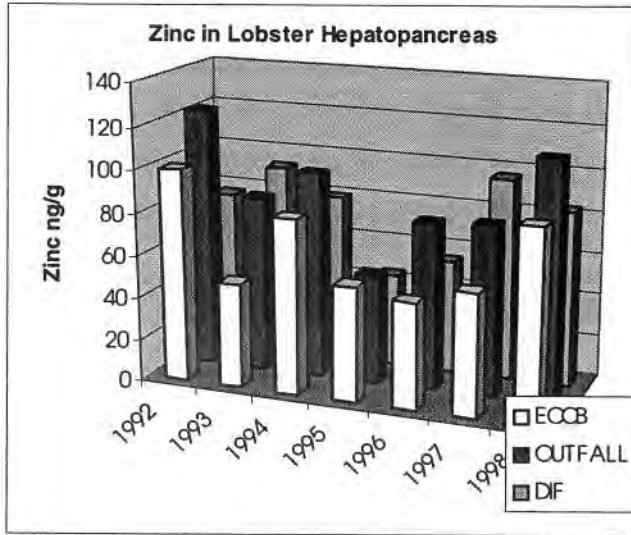
- **1998 levels are within the range of previous measurements; except for Ag.**
- **Generally, metals concentrations in lobster hepatopancreas have been constant over the study period; except for Ag and Cr.**

## Comparison of Selected Lobster Parameters to FDA and MWRA Thresholds

STATION	Total PCB (ng/g wet wt)		Total DDTs (ng/g DRY wt)		Total Chlordanes (ng/g wet wt)		Dieldrin (ng/g wet wt)		Mercury (Hg) (ug/g wet wt)	
	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.	Mean	s.d.
DIF(1)	16.73	3.42	11.3	1.1	0.60	0.09	0.56	0.09	0.11	0.01
OUTFALL(4)	9.69	2.63	8.46	2.6	0.39	0.16	0.52	0.02	0.13	0.02
ECCB(5)	7.79	1.76	9.46	2.2	0.24	0.02	0.34	0.01	0.09	0.01
<b>FDA Limit</b>	2000		(5000 ng/g wet)		300		300		1.0	
<b>MWRA Caution Level (2 x Baseline; 1992-1997)</b>	36.1		31.6		0.84		1.9		0.32	
<b>MWRA Warning Level (80% FDA)</b>	1600								0.8	



# 1992 - 1998 LOBSTER RESULTS ADDITIONAL SELECTED METALS (ug/g dry)



*Fish and Shellfish Monitoring*  
**1998 Flounder Histopathology** (*Dr. Michael Moore, WHOI*)

## WINTER FLOUNDER MILESTONES

- 1975 Howe and Coates - migration south of the Cape ( 10's of miles) vs. North (~1 mile.) Hence a better station marker north of Cape.
- 1975 Murchelano describes finrot in NY Bight and associates with pollution.
- 1985 Murchelano and Wolke - tumors and vacuolated cells from Boston Harbor winter flounder.
- 1987 to 1991 - Moore - progression of vacuolation, definition of tumor types, initiation and initiation of monitoring database.
- 1988 Gardner et al. - Quincy Bay study - risk assessment and health advisory.
- Gardner et al (1989) , Myers et al (1994) and HOM - linkage of tumors and vacuolated cells to contaminants - PAH and pesticides especially
- 1990 NOAA Reproductive Success study - no linkage to contaminants in Boston samples
- 1991 to present Moore, Hillman et al. - 5 station survey.

# Winter Flounder FF981

Survey Date: April 21-23, 1998

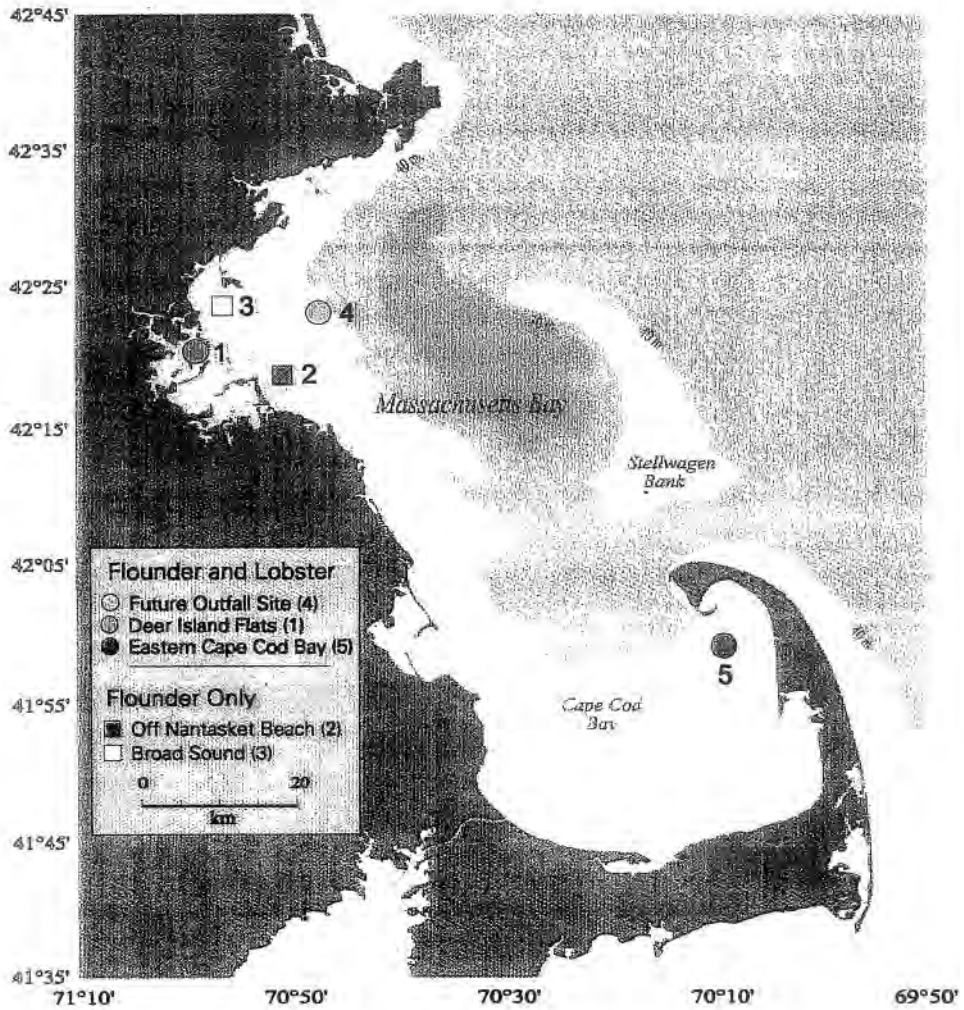
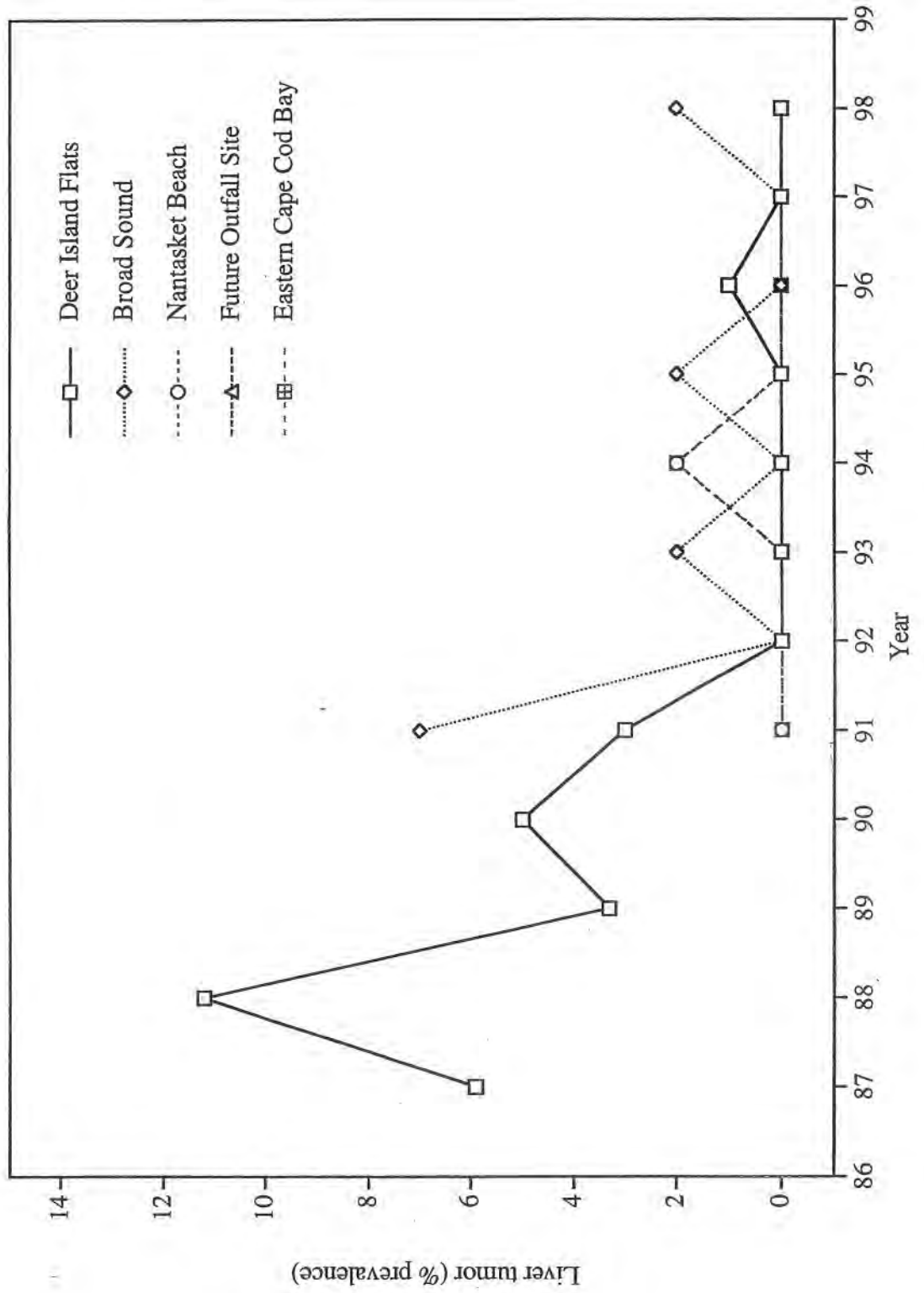


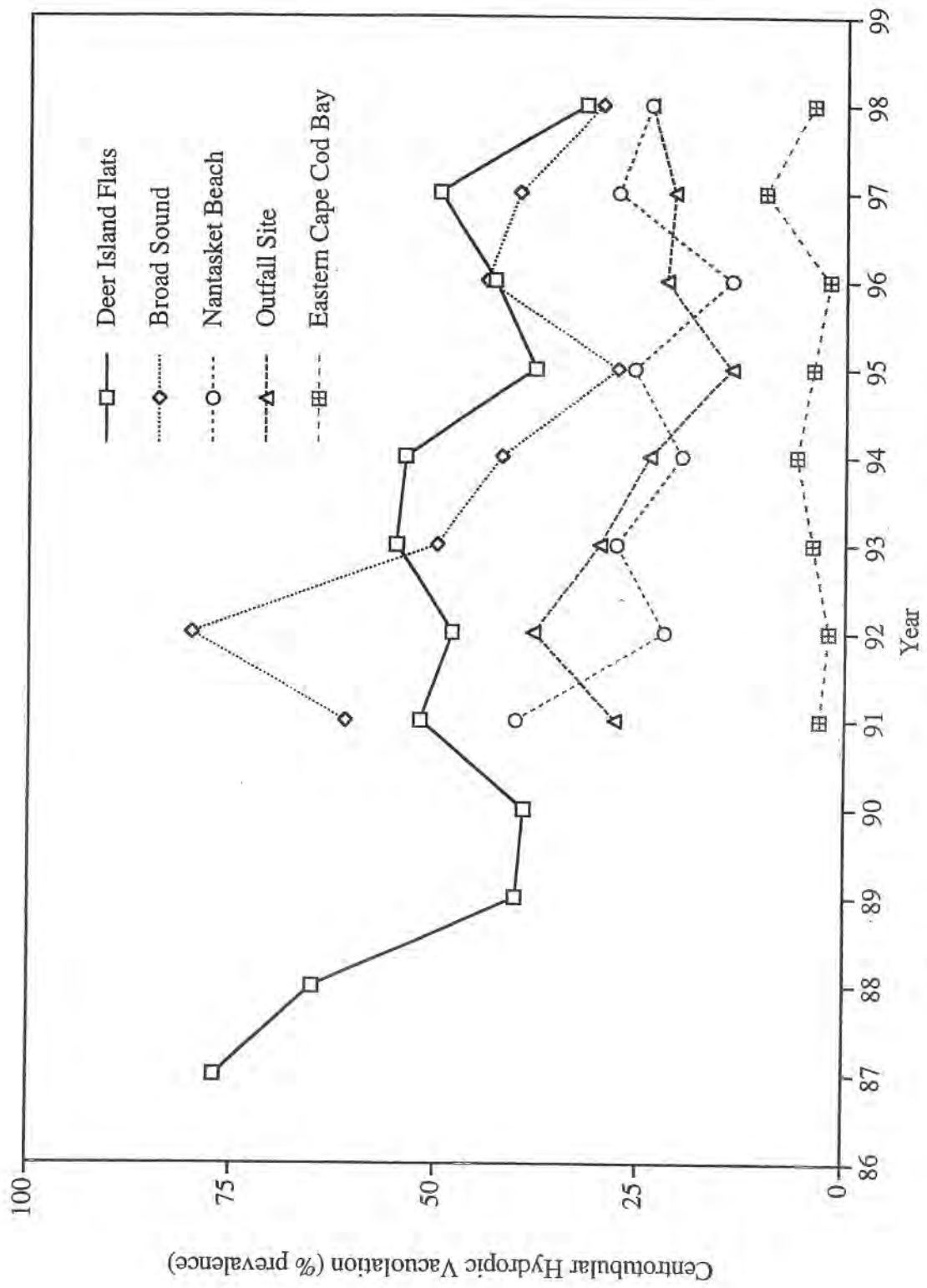
Figure 1. Flounder Sampling Stations.

Table 1 - Catch per unit effort (# of fish per min. of bottom time) for winter flounder trawled in April/May

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Deer Island	0.38	0.23	0.15	0.39	0.10	0.16	0.11	0.69
Nantasket Beach	0.48	1.29	1.52	0.76	0.88	0.77	0.43	0.56
Broad Sound		2.80	0.49	0.42	0.29	0.23	0.59	2.57
Future Outfall	0.13	0.48	0.62	0.24	0.60	0.31	0.81	2.62
Eastern Cape Cod Bay	0.67	0.49	0.77	0.42	0.21	1.38	0.32	0.23

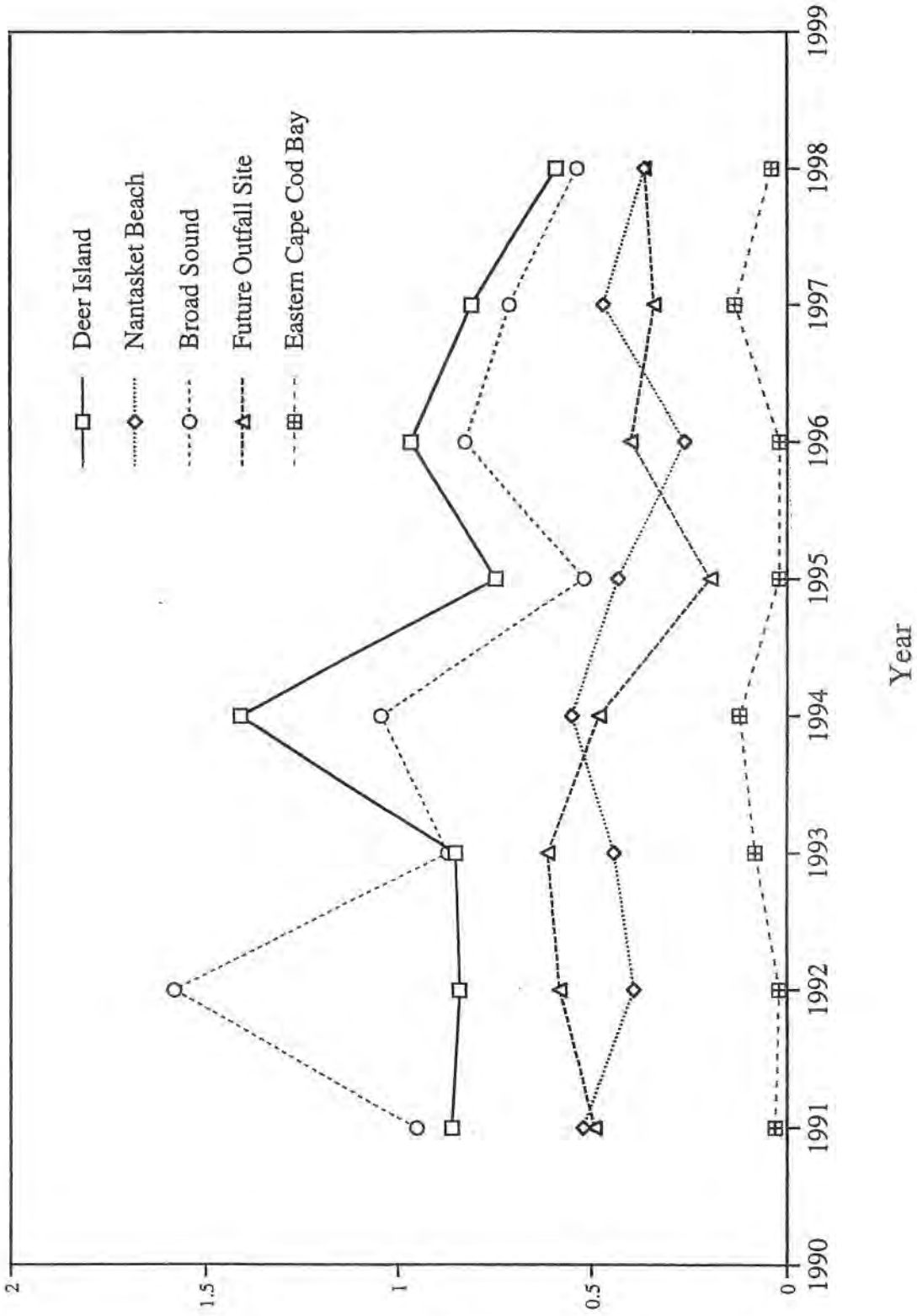
The same vessel and net was used at all times





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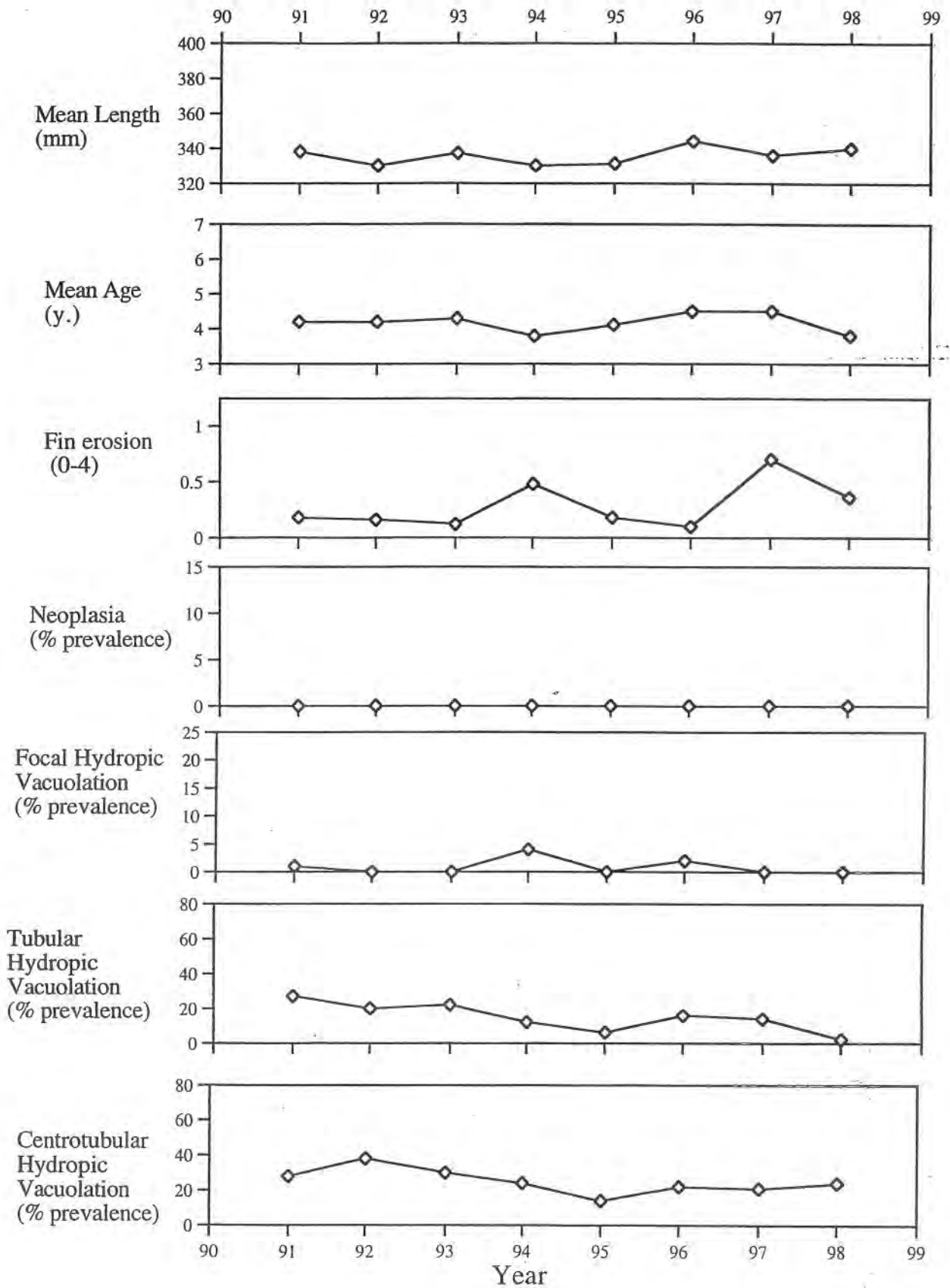
Centrotubular Hydropic Vacuolation Severity Compared Between Sites and Years



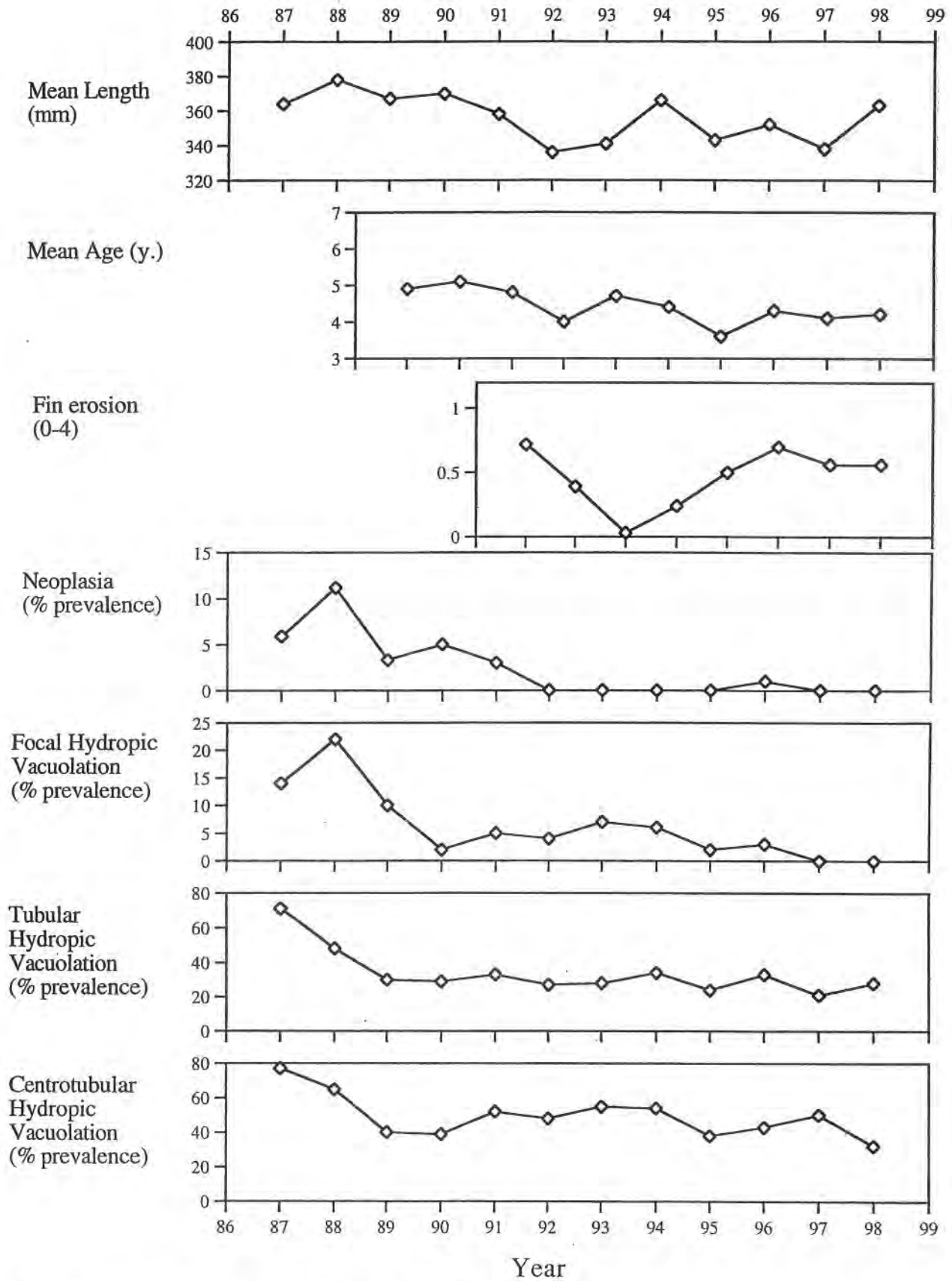
Mean severity of centrotubular hydropic vacuolation for each station (0-4)



### FUTURE OUTFALL SITE (STATION 4)

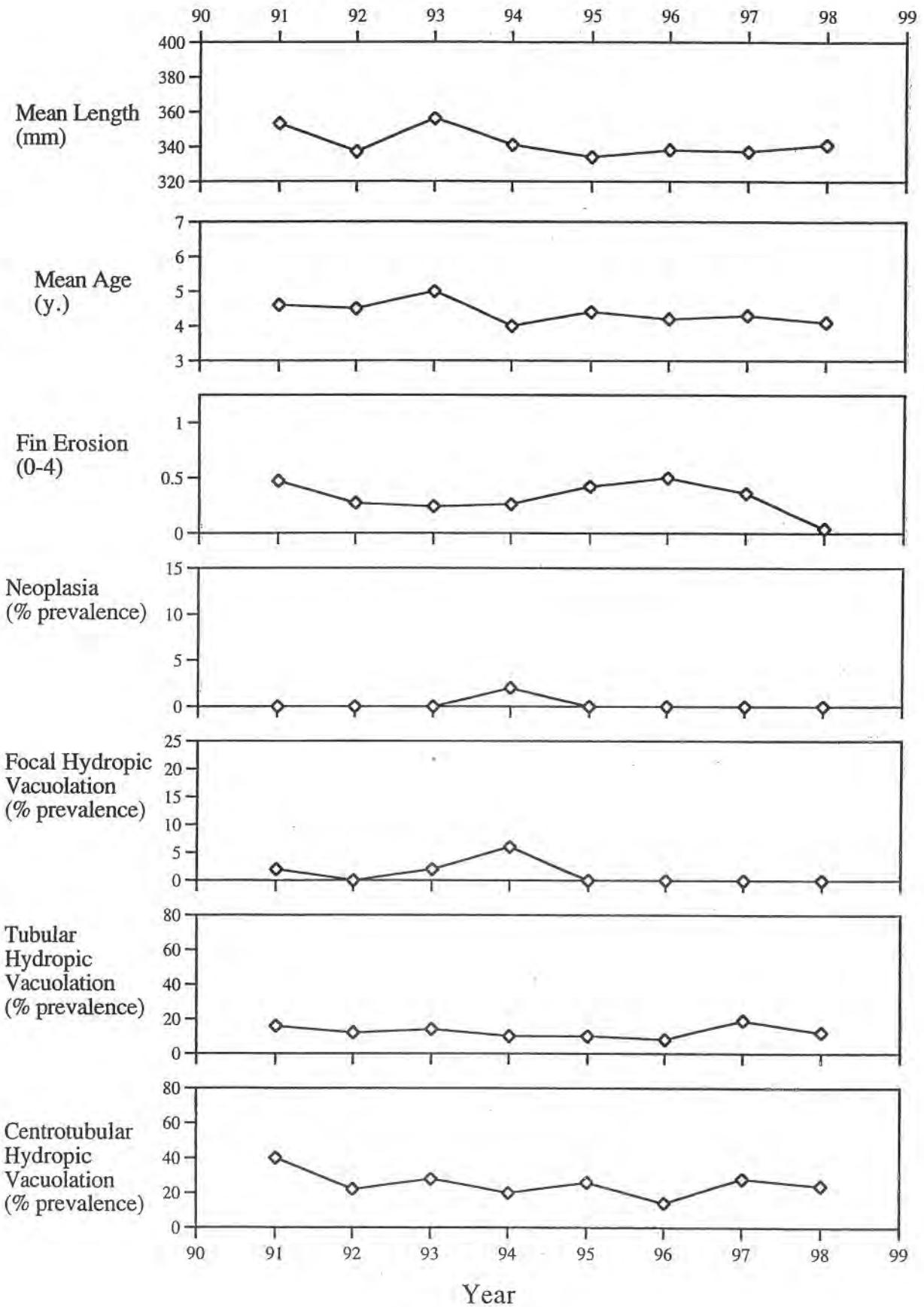


# DEER ISLAND (STATION 1)

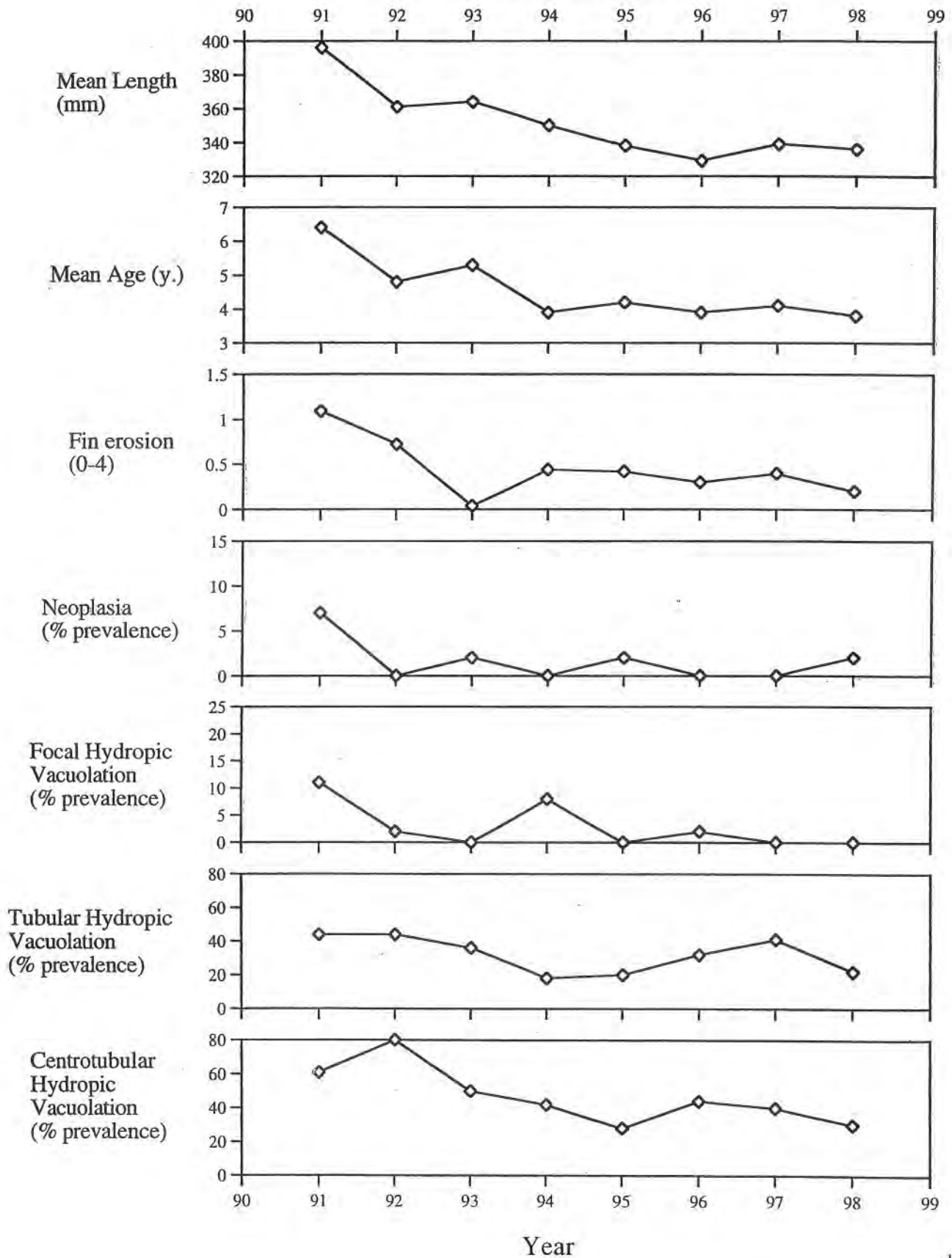


Liver slices examined per fish: 1 for 1987 to 1990, 3 thereafter

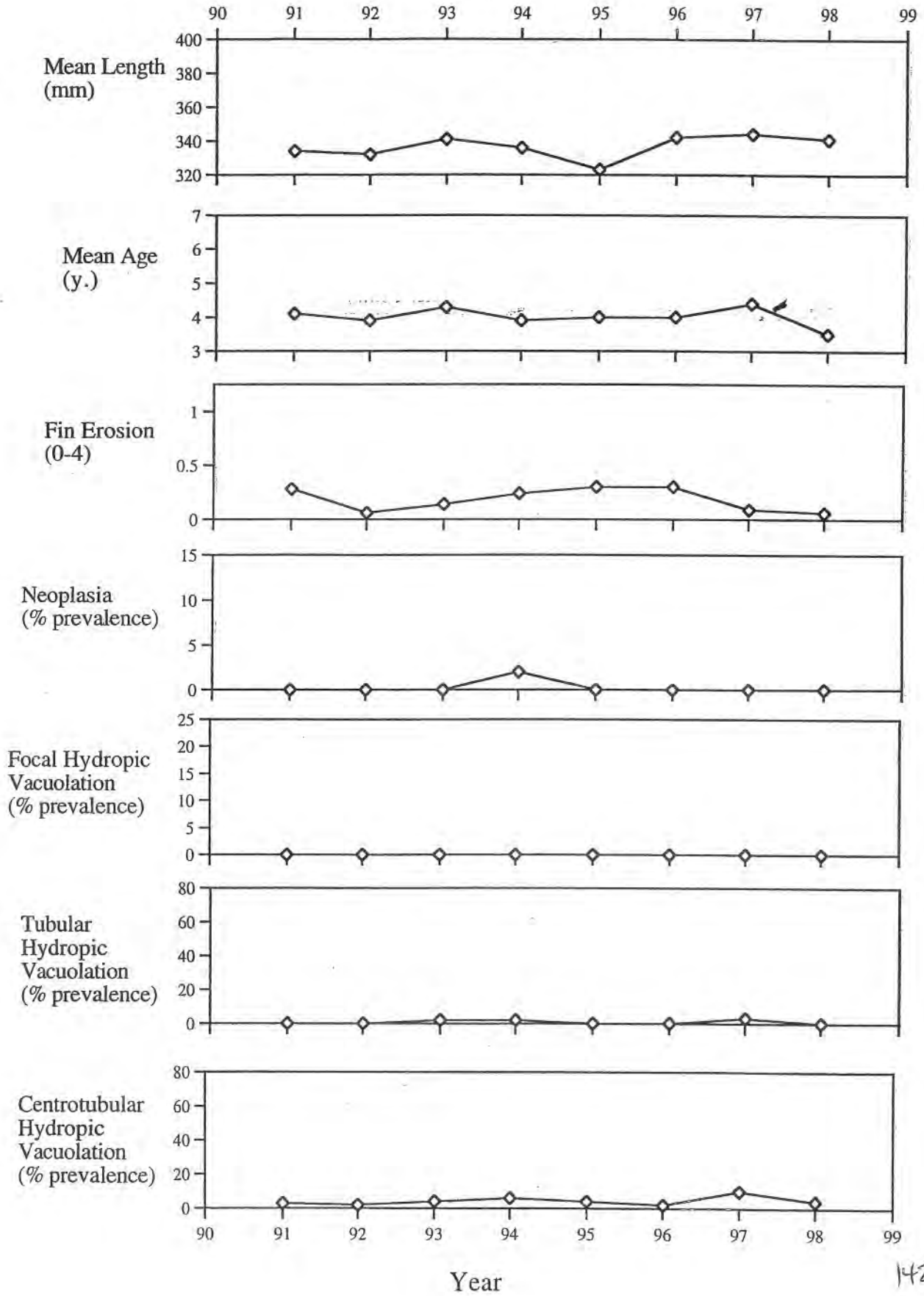
# NANTASKET BEACH (STATION 2)

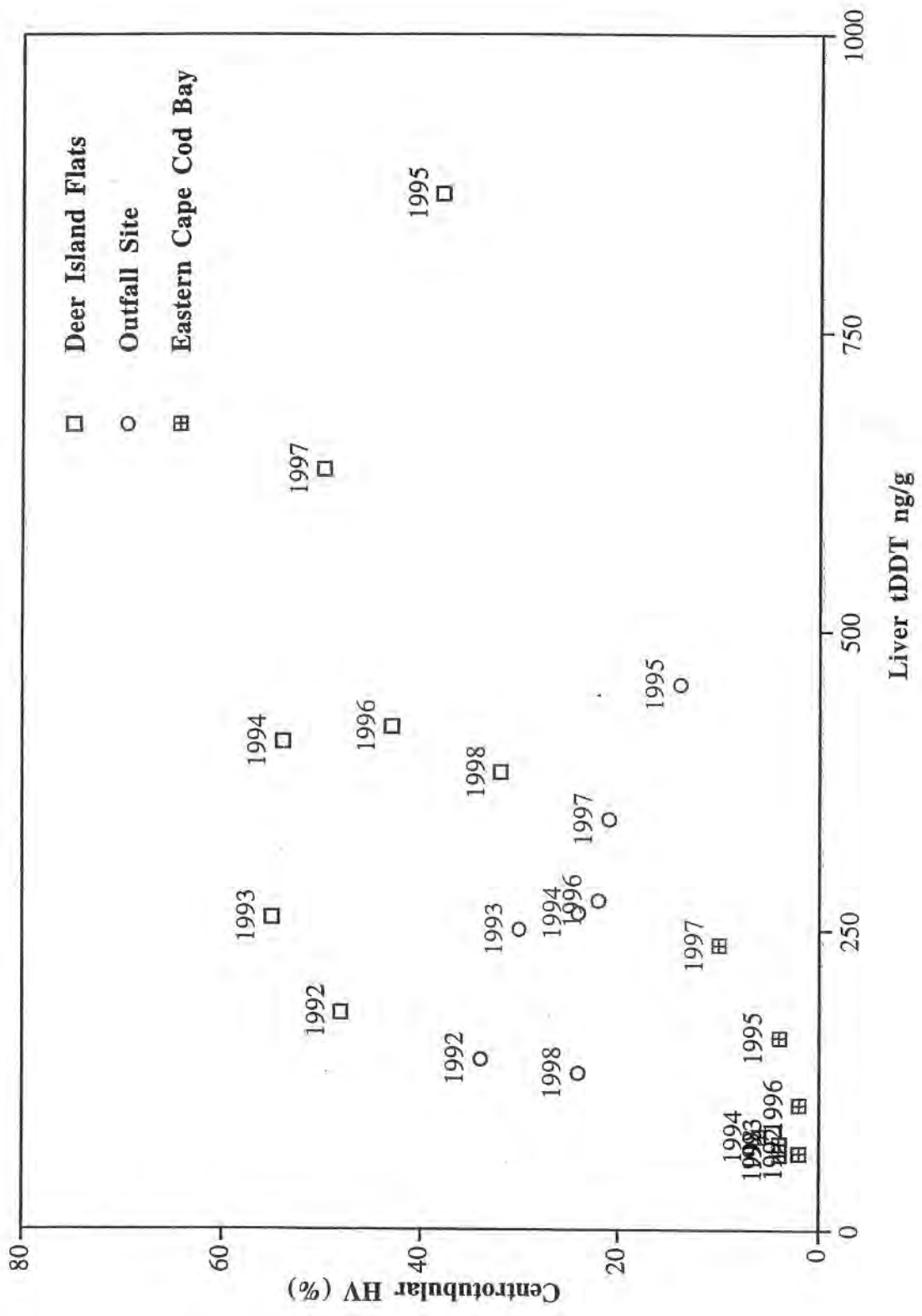


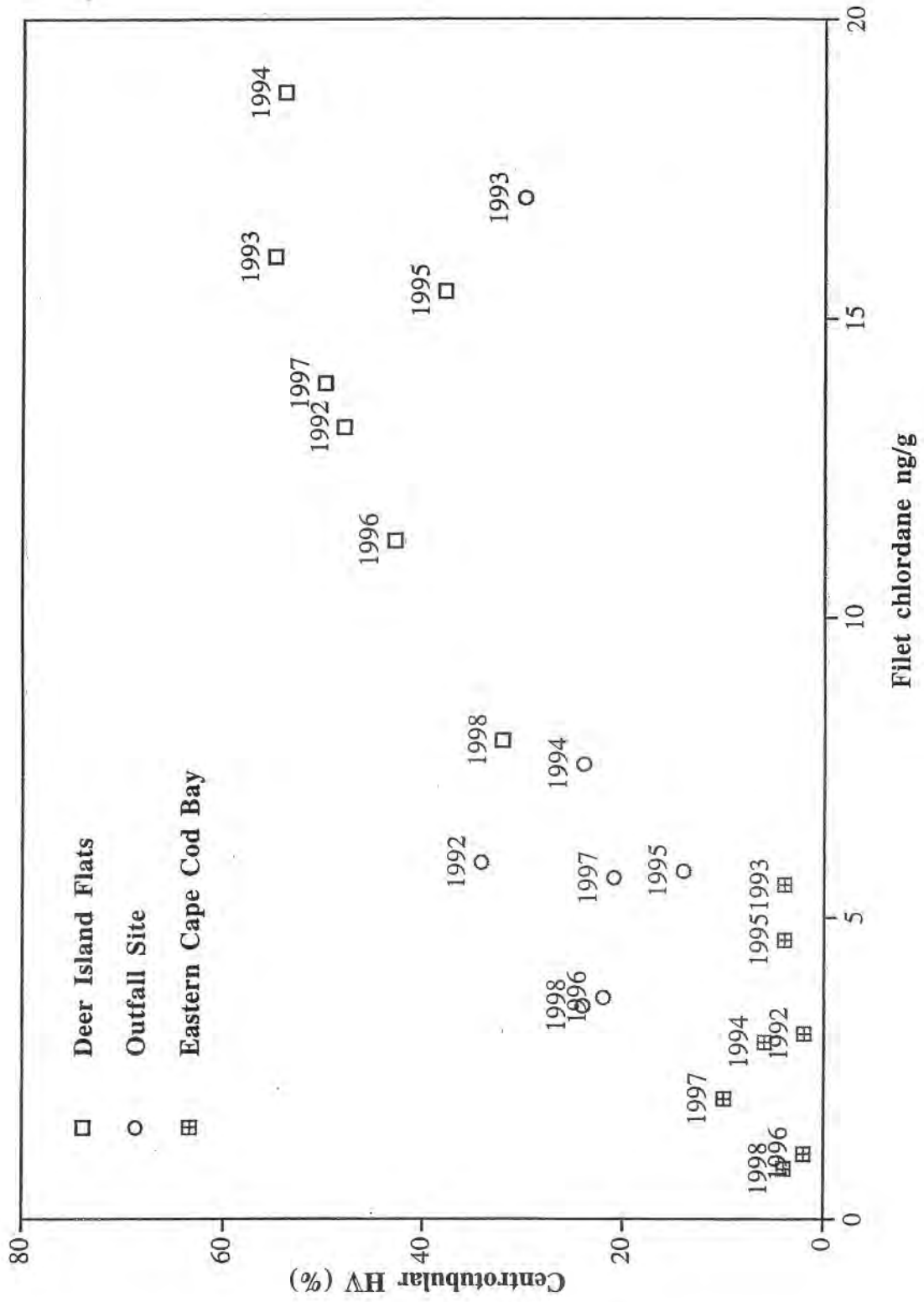
### BROAD SOUND (STATION 3)

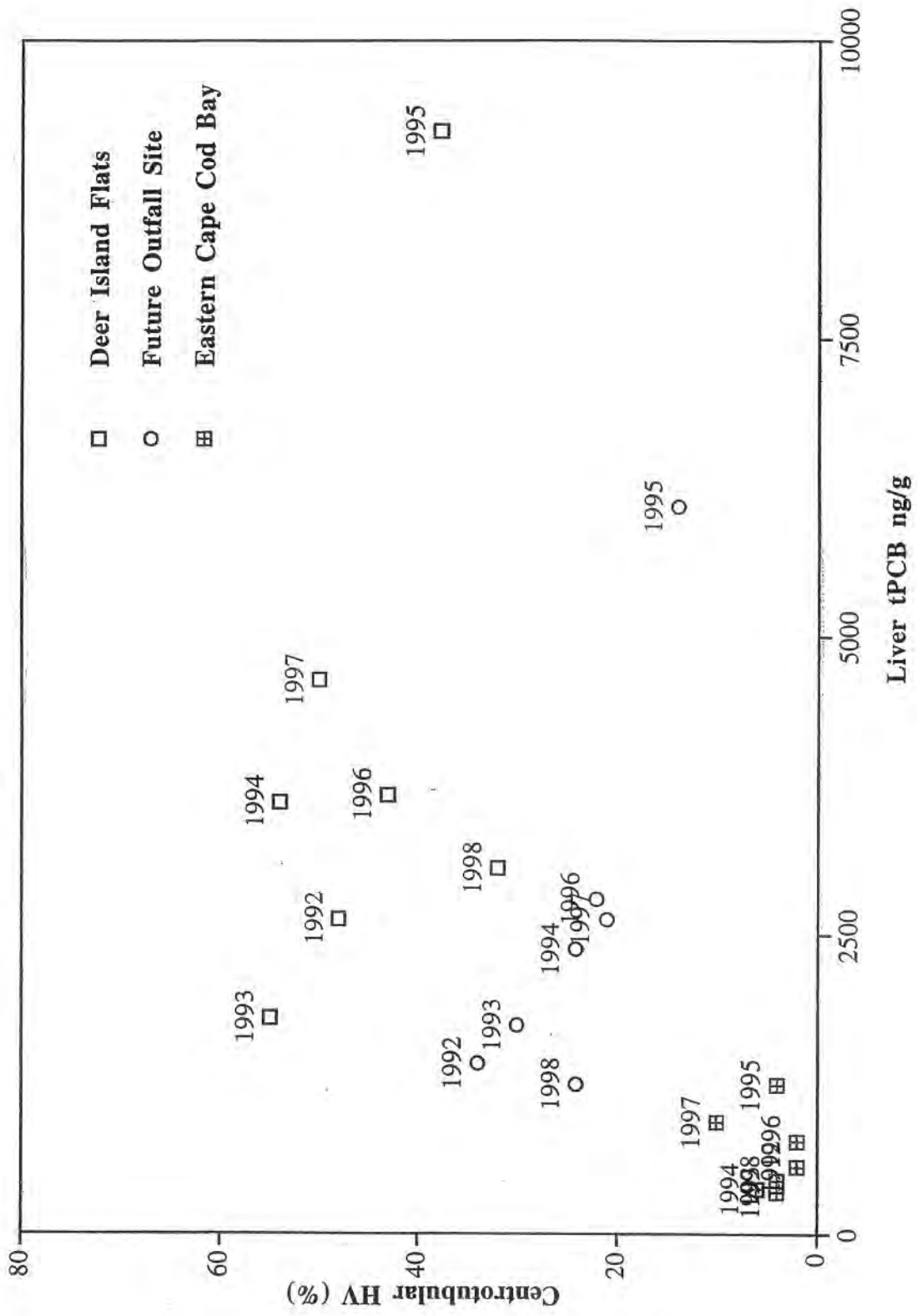


# EASTERN CAPE COD BAY (STATION 5)

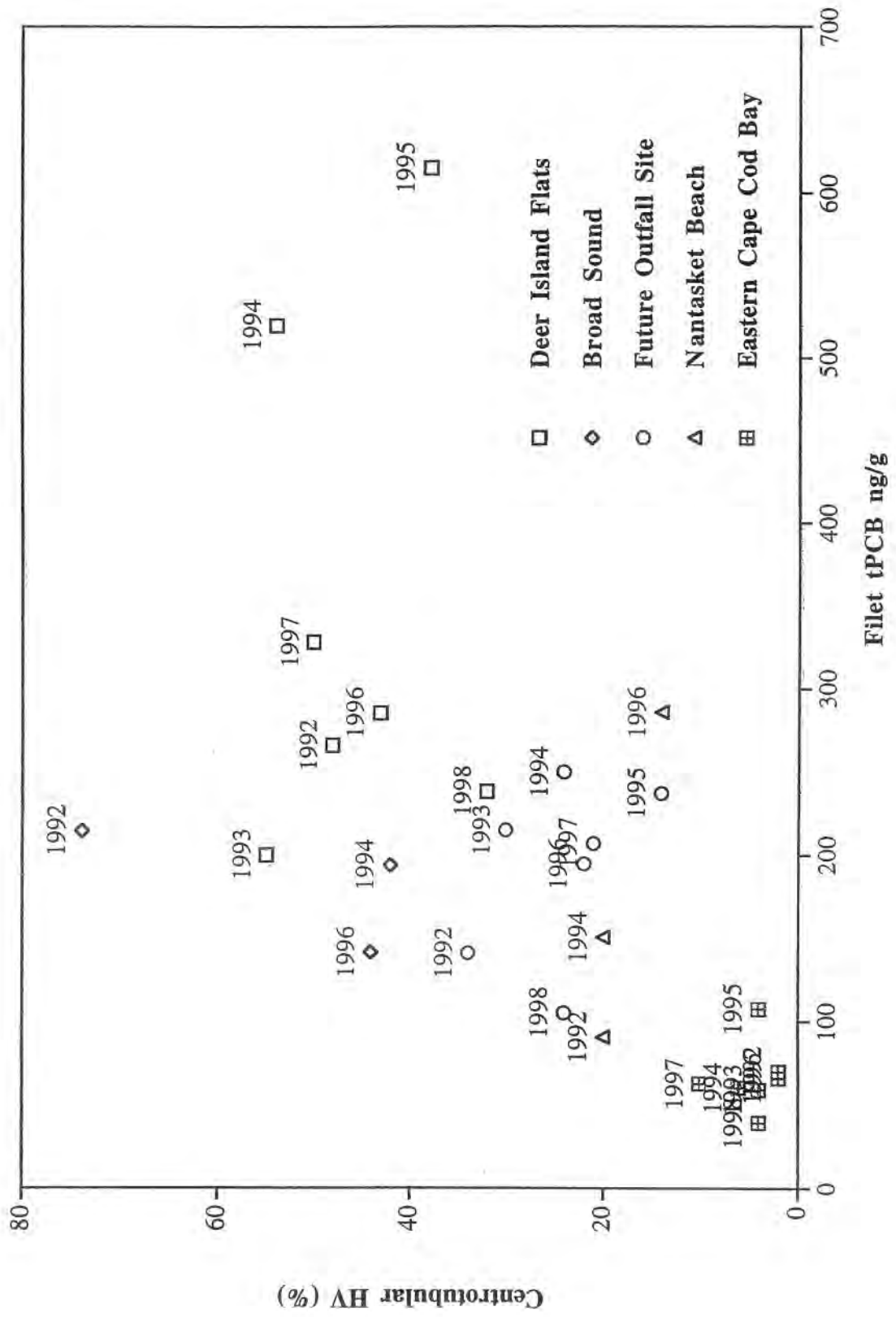


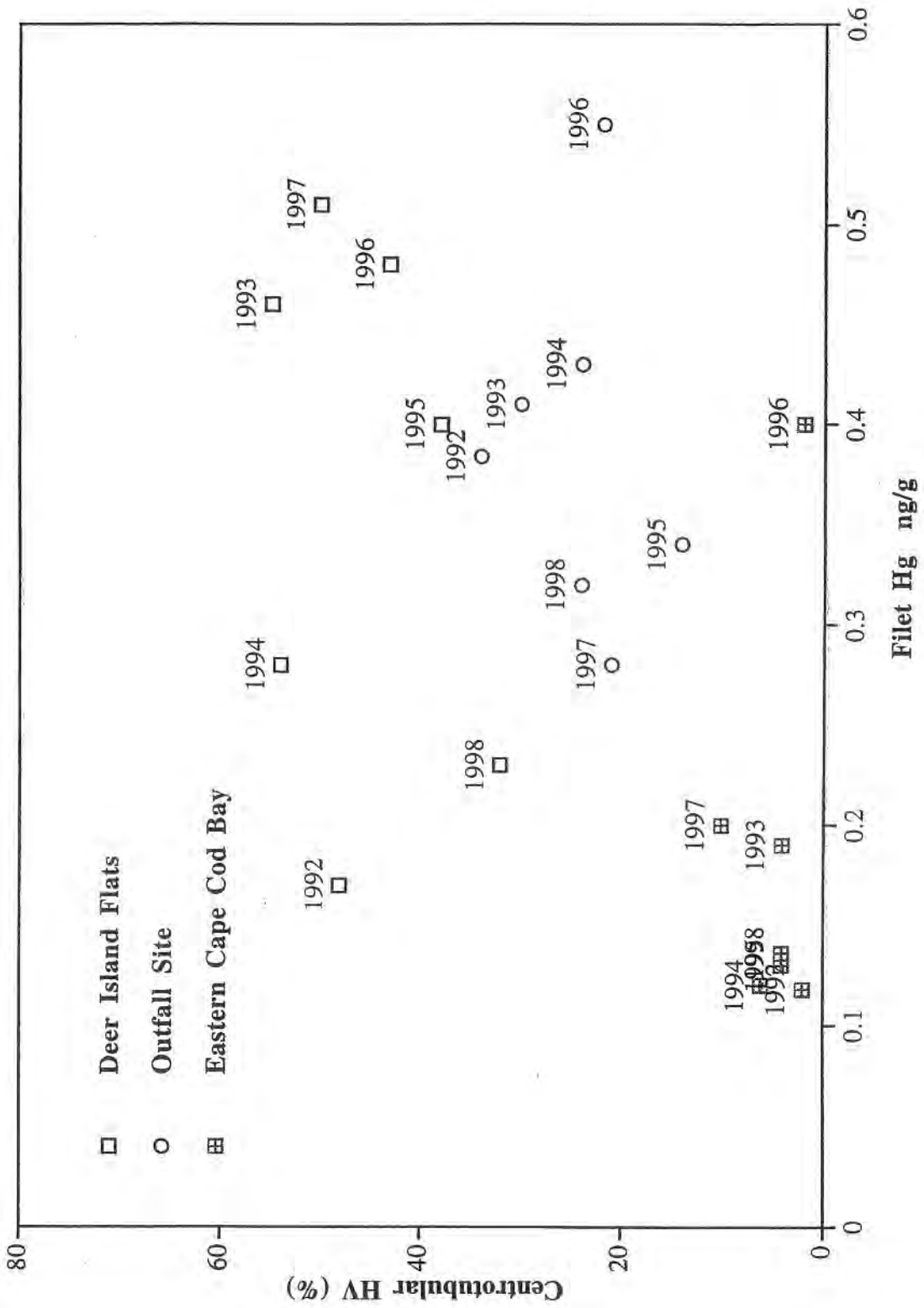




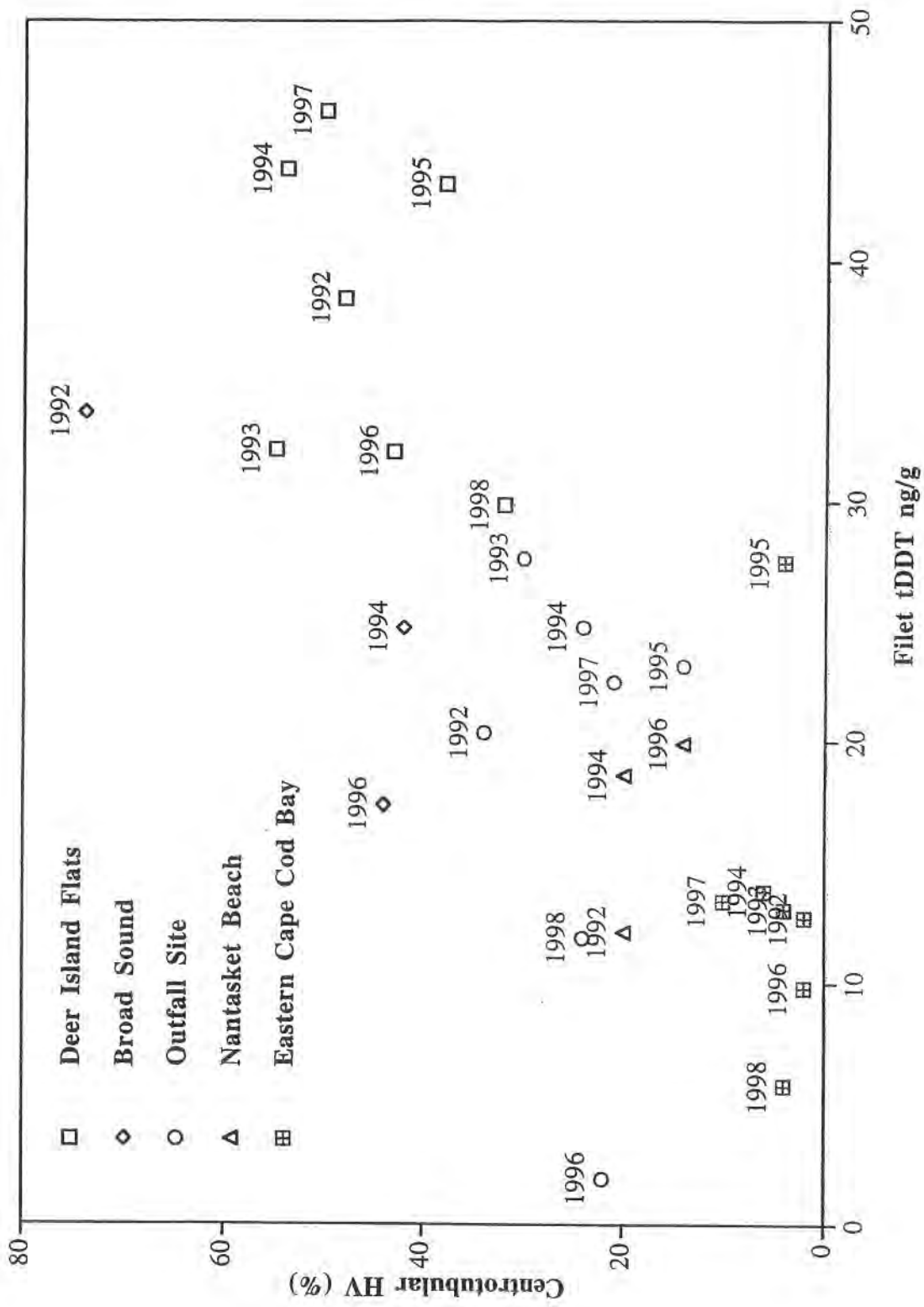












***Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling  
Modeling Results for 1993 and 1994 (Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, HydroQual)***

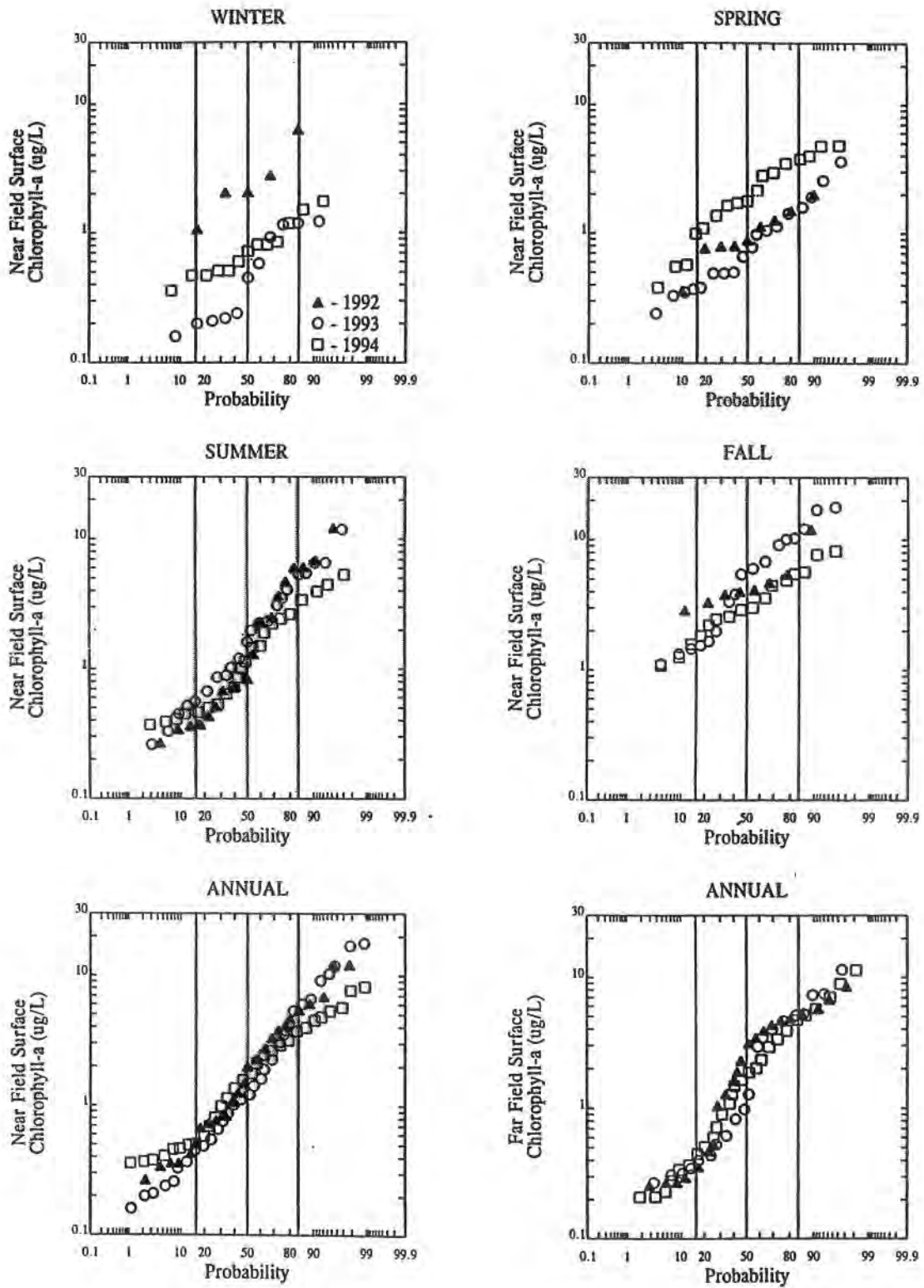


Figure 3-11. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Surface Chlorophyll-a

Surface chl-a 1992-1994

△ - 1992

○ - 1993

□ - 1994

near field - seasonal

near field, far field - annual

- different years dominated different seasons

winter 1992

spring 1994

fall 1993 - high conc in 1993

Asterionellopsis

Kelly et al,  
Cibik et al

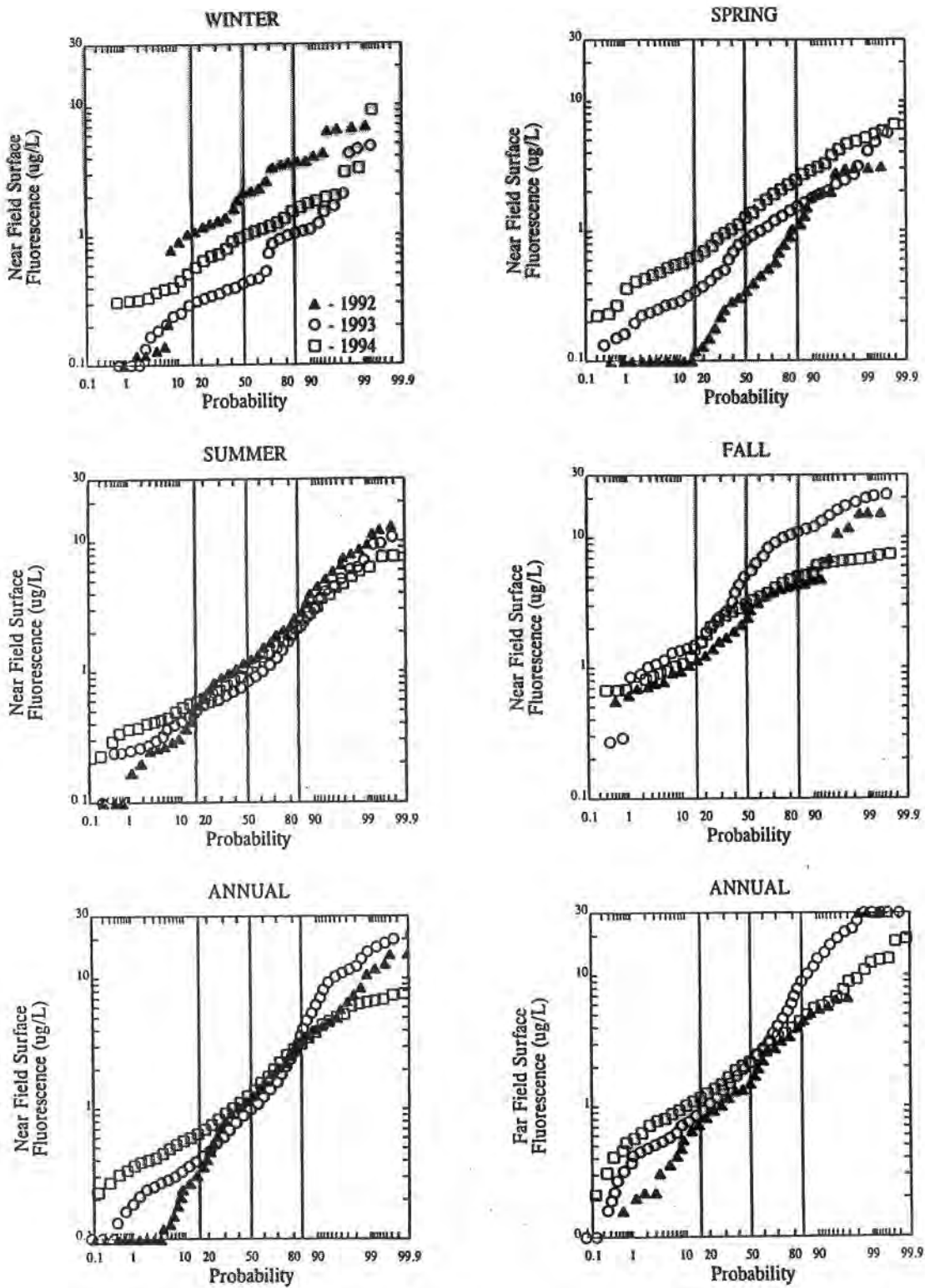


Figure 3-13. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Surface Fluorescence



- a little more obvious in the fluorescence data

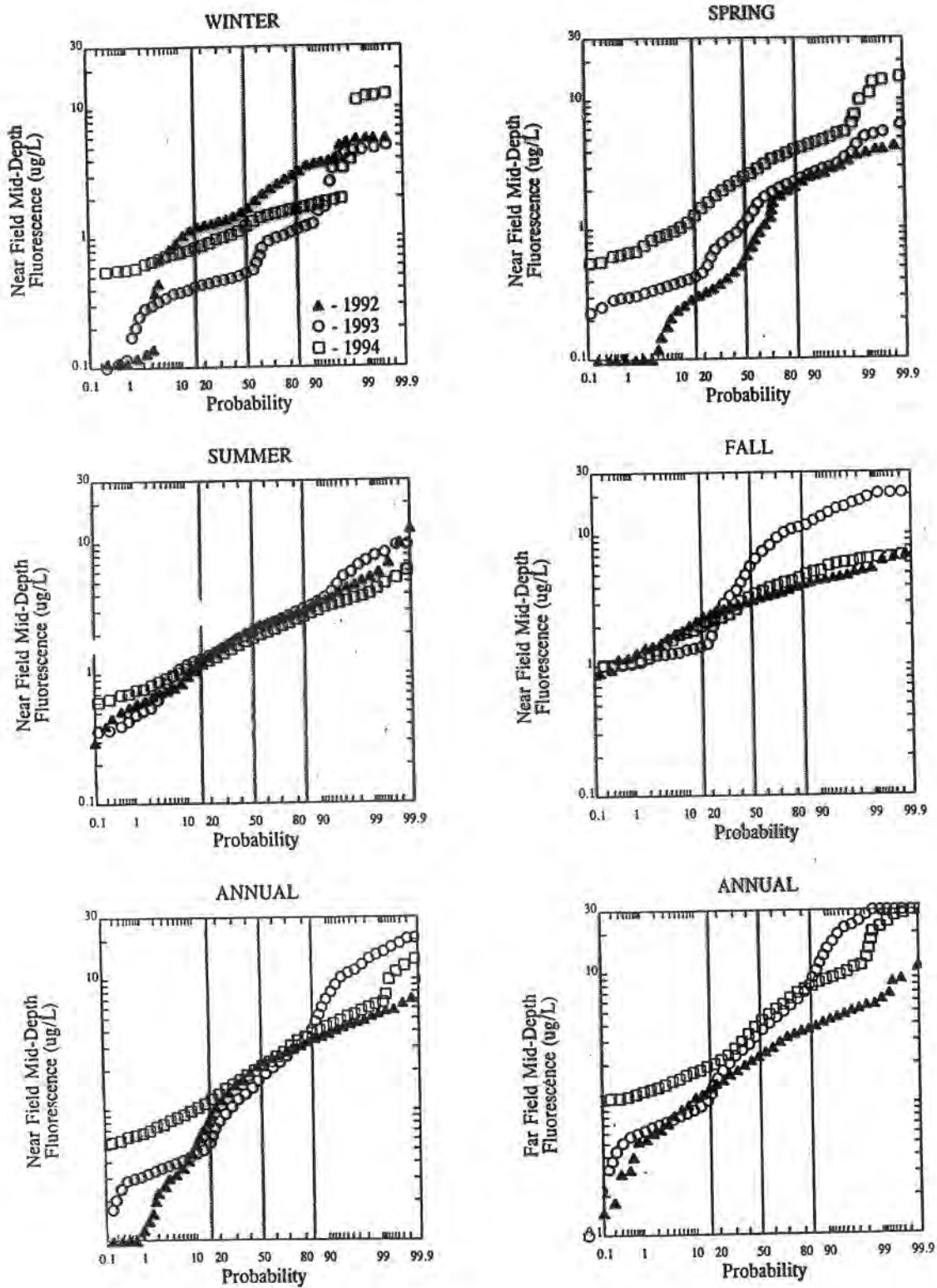


Figure 3-14. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Mid-Depth Fluorescence

- Again you can see it in the mid-depth fluorescence
- So there is evidence that blooms occur at different times during the three years

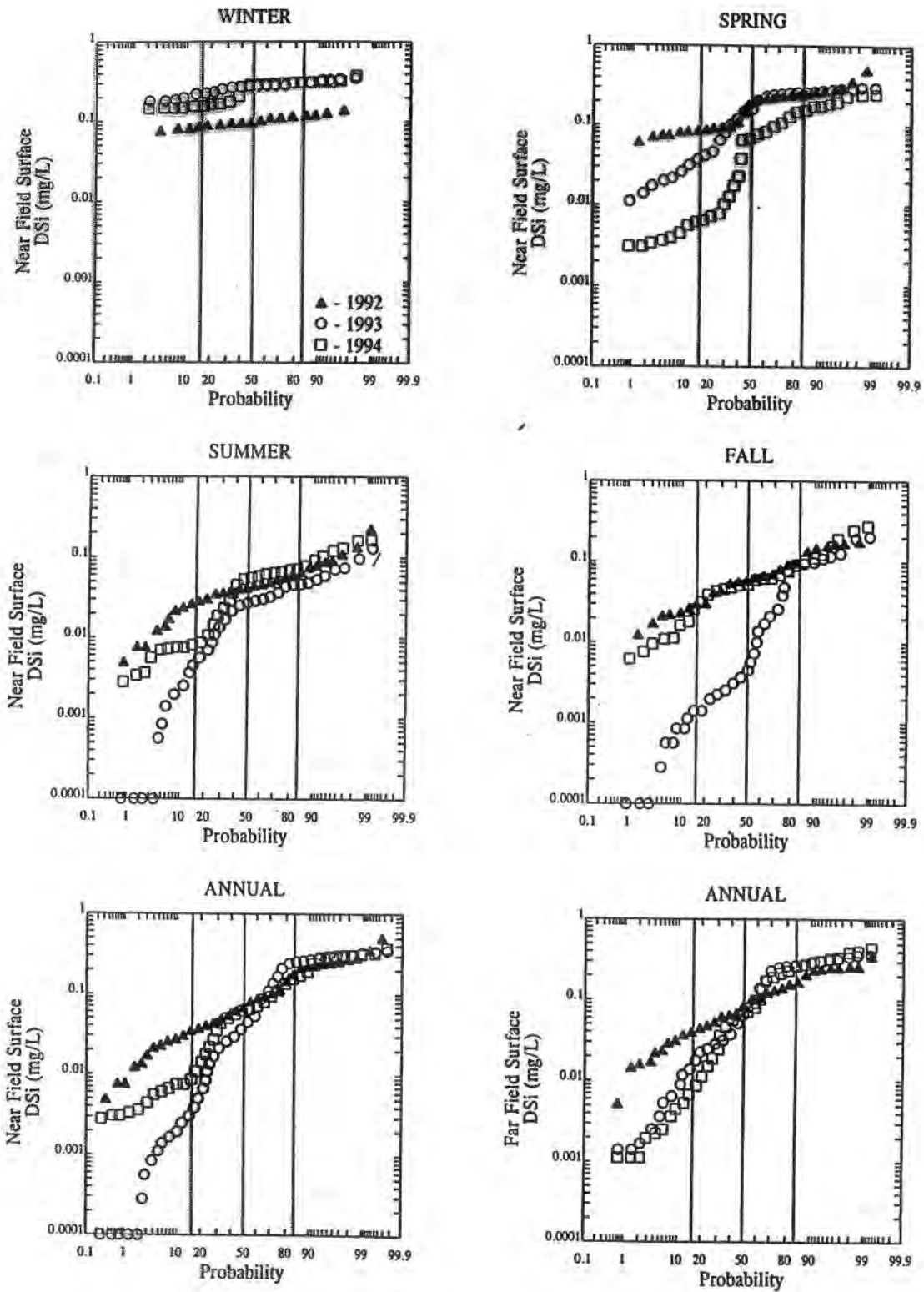


Figure 3-18. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Surface DSI

- Differences in Surface PSI
- Appear to be associated with blooms
- Probably dealing with diatom bloom

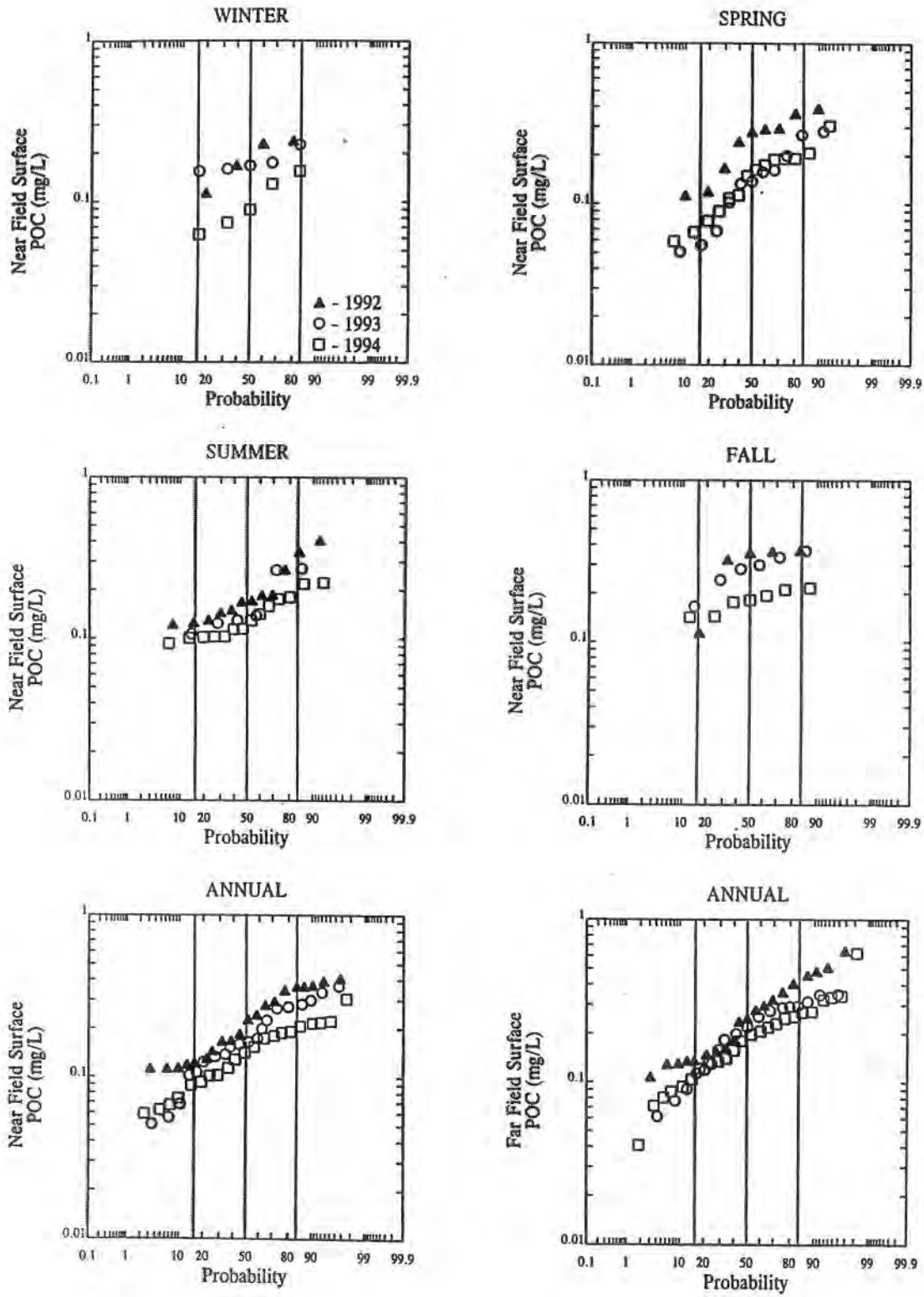


Figure 3-15. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Surface POC

-  $^{13}\text{C}$  data are more sparse but the evidence of different amounts of biomass are not as clear

- Persistently different species with different  $\text{C}:\text{CH}_2$

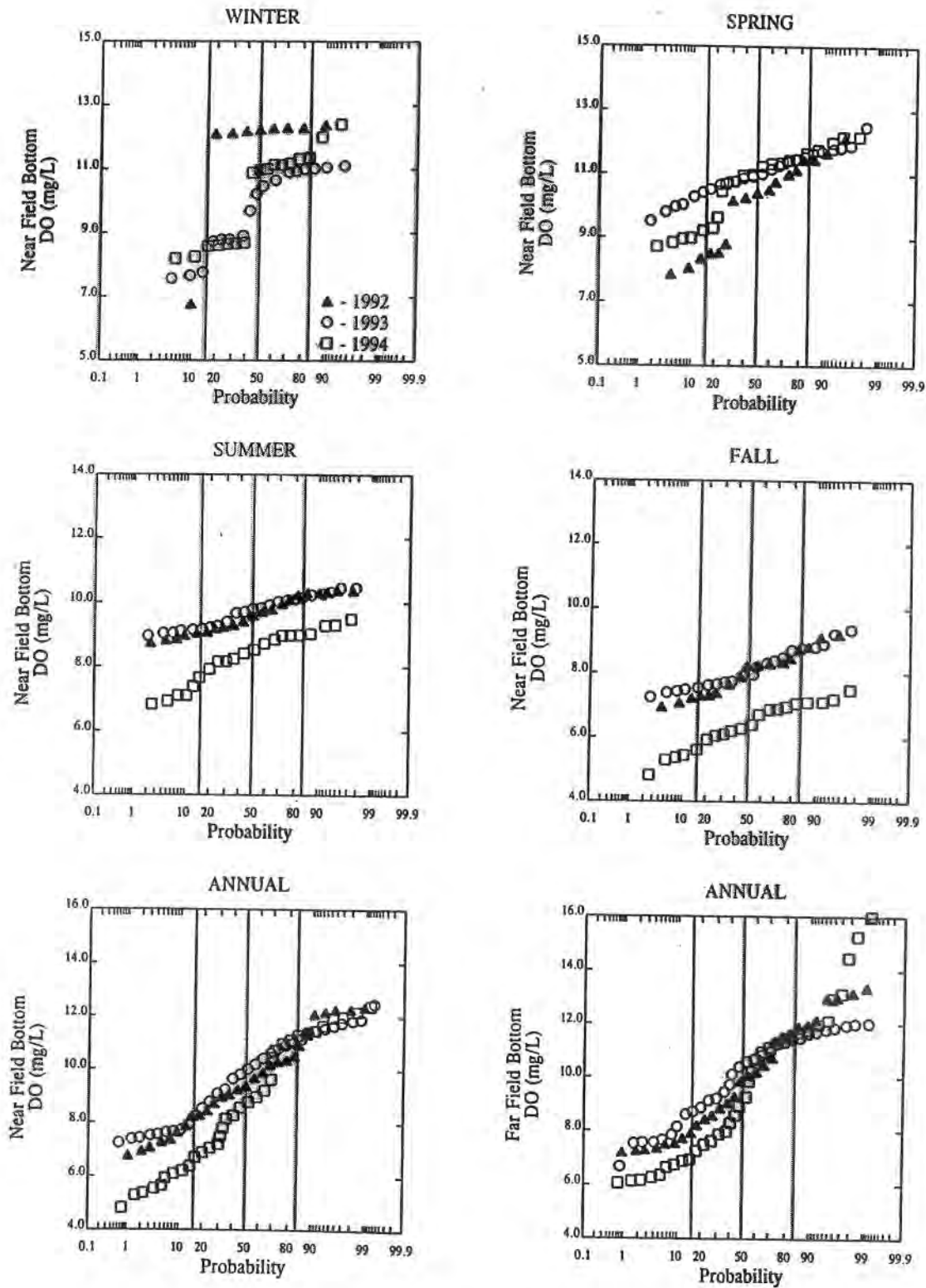


Figure 3-21. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Bottom DO



- Observed differences in bottom DO
- especially summer and fall 1994
- The gap increase from summer to fall so the rate of ~~the~~ decline is not the same from year to year
- Standard never  $< 6.0$  mg/L
- MWRB could potentially have been blamed
- Data show natural variability such as the does occur without the selected outfall
- Low DO's observed more often in the nearfield location
- Why lower DO in 1994?

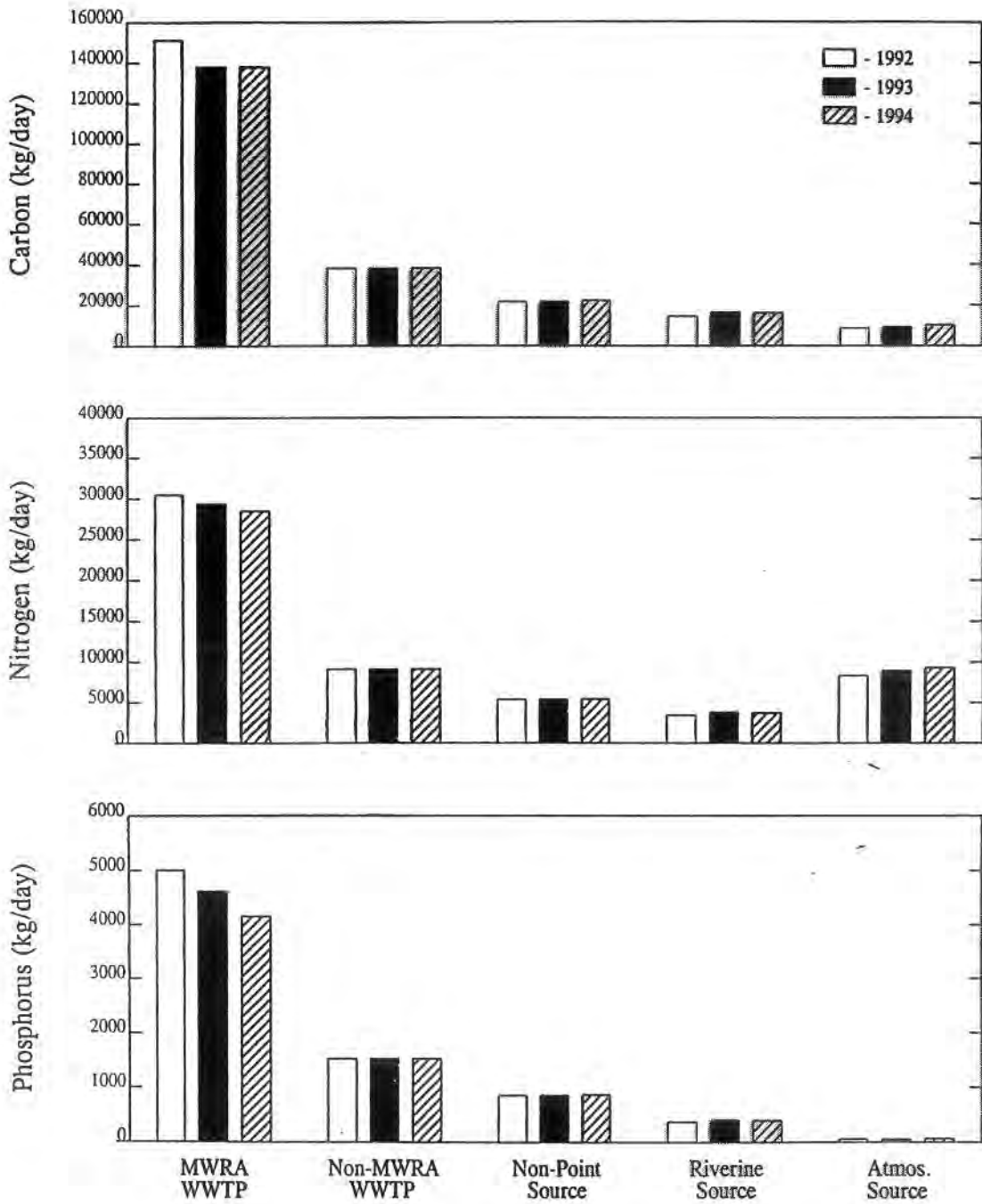


Figure 2-1. Loading Comparison of Sources for 1992 through 1994

- Loading Similar between the 3 years

□ - 1992

~~□~~ - 1993

▣ - 1994

- Similar River Flows

- Similar meteorological forcings

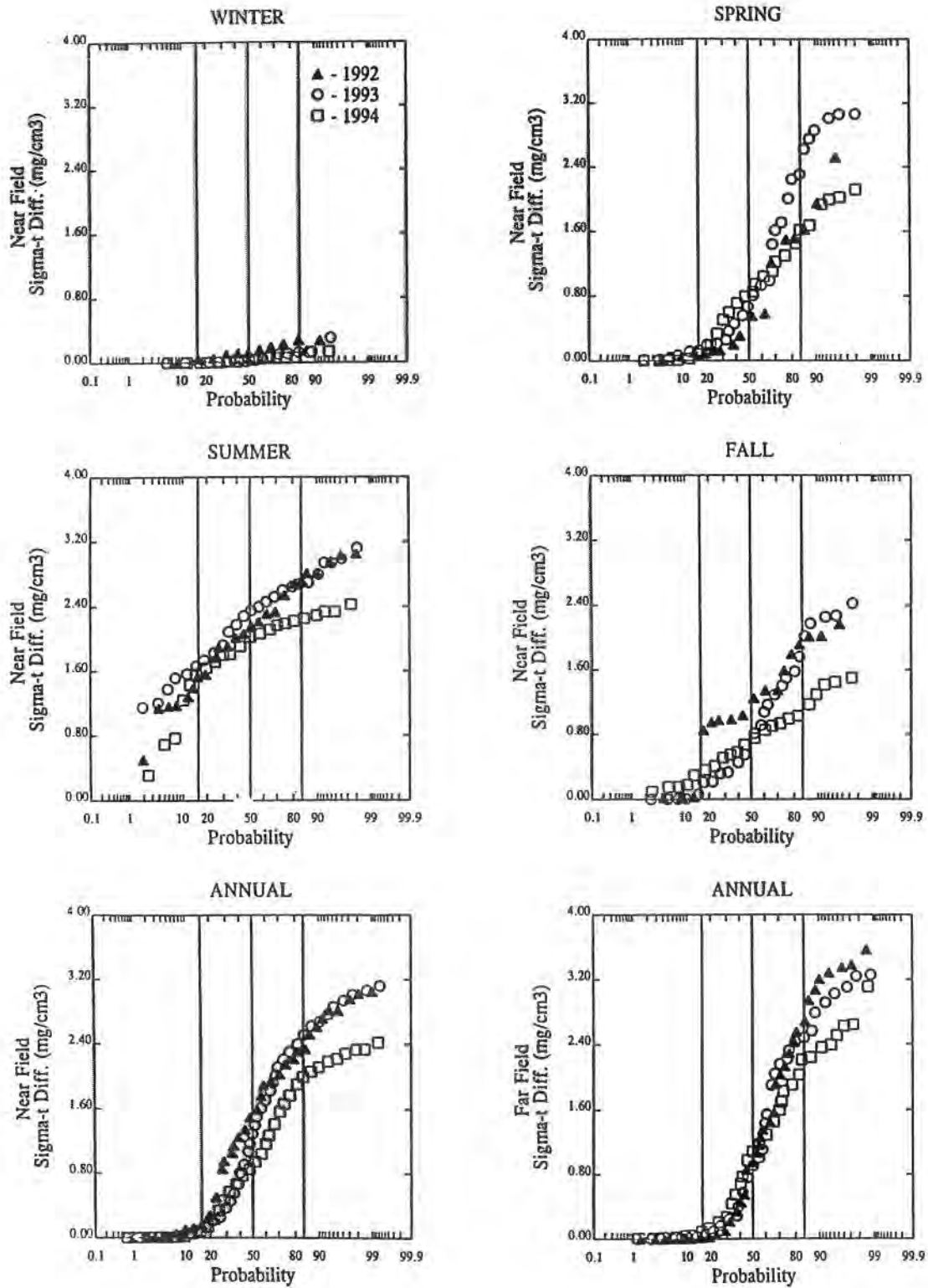


Figure 3-10. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Density Stratification

105

- Lower DO trapped in bottom waters  
for a longer period of time
- higher temp, at the same time as higher salinity
- less stratification 1994
- higher sal could be indicative of ocean  
water from boundary

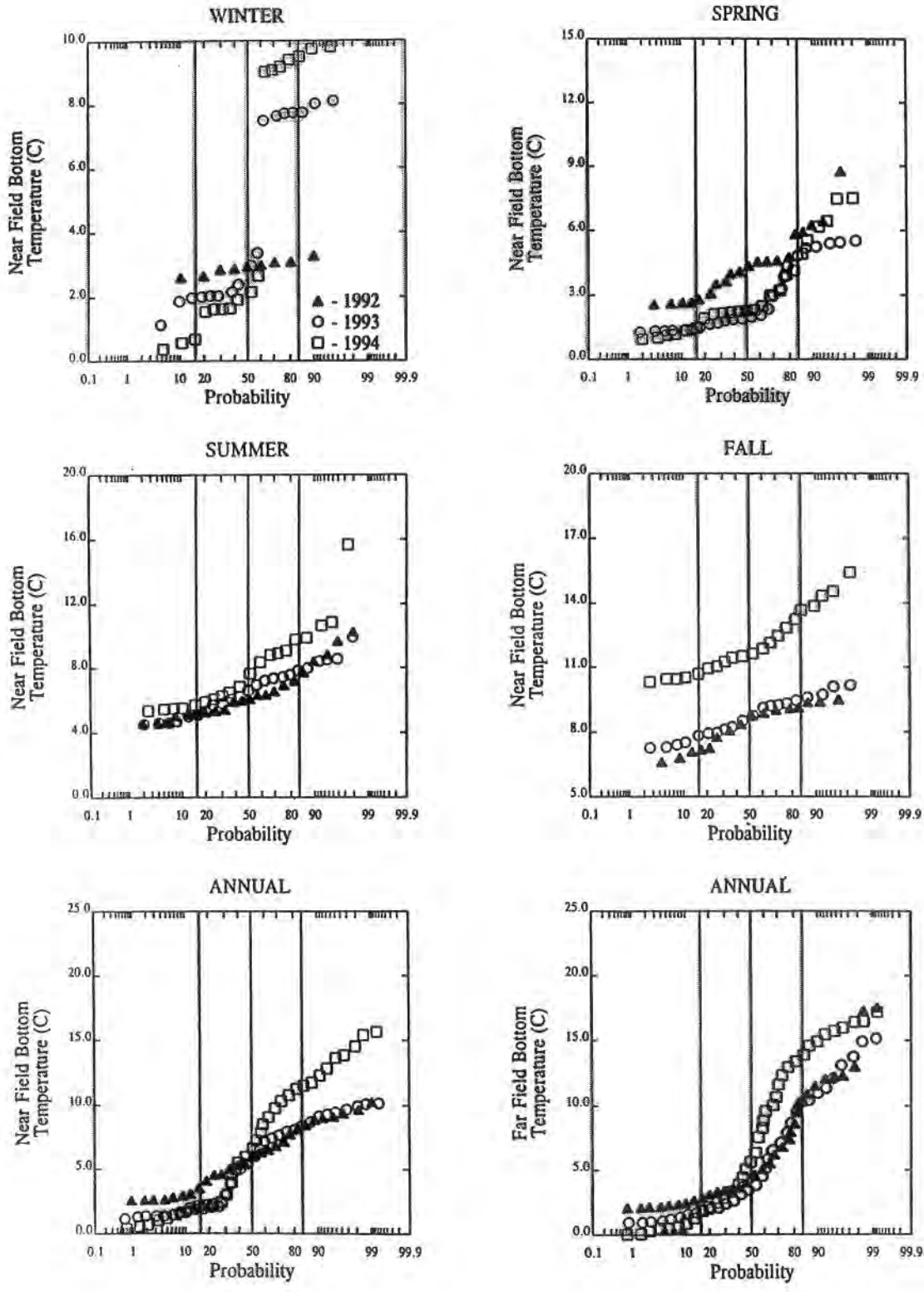


Figure 3-5. Seasonal and Annual Probability Distributions of Bottom Temperature

- Temperature ?
- Higher bottom Temp
- Surface Temps similar
- More mixing ? -
- warm temps from boundary?
- Could contribute to higher oxidation rates

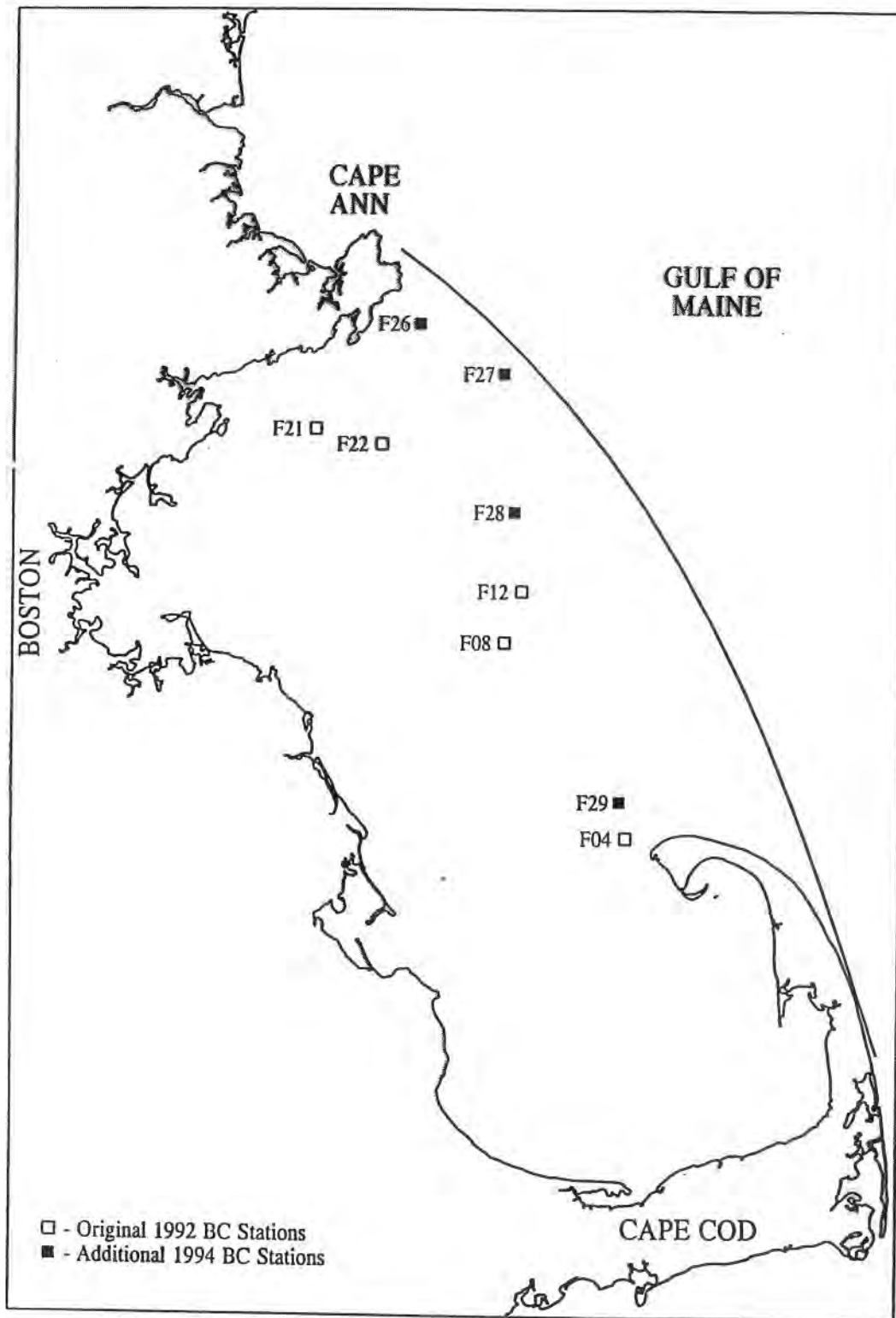
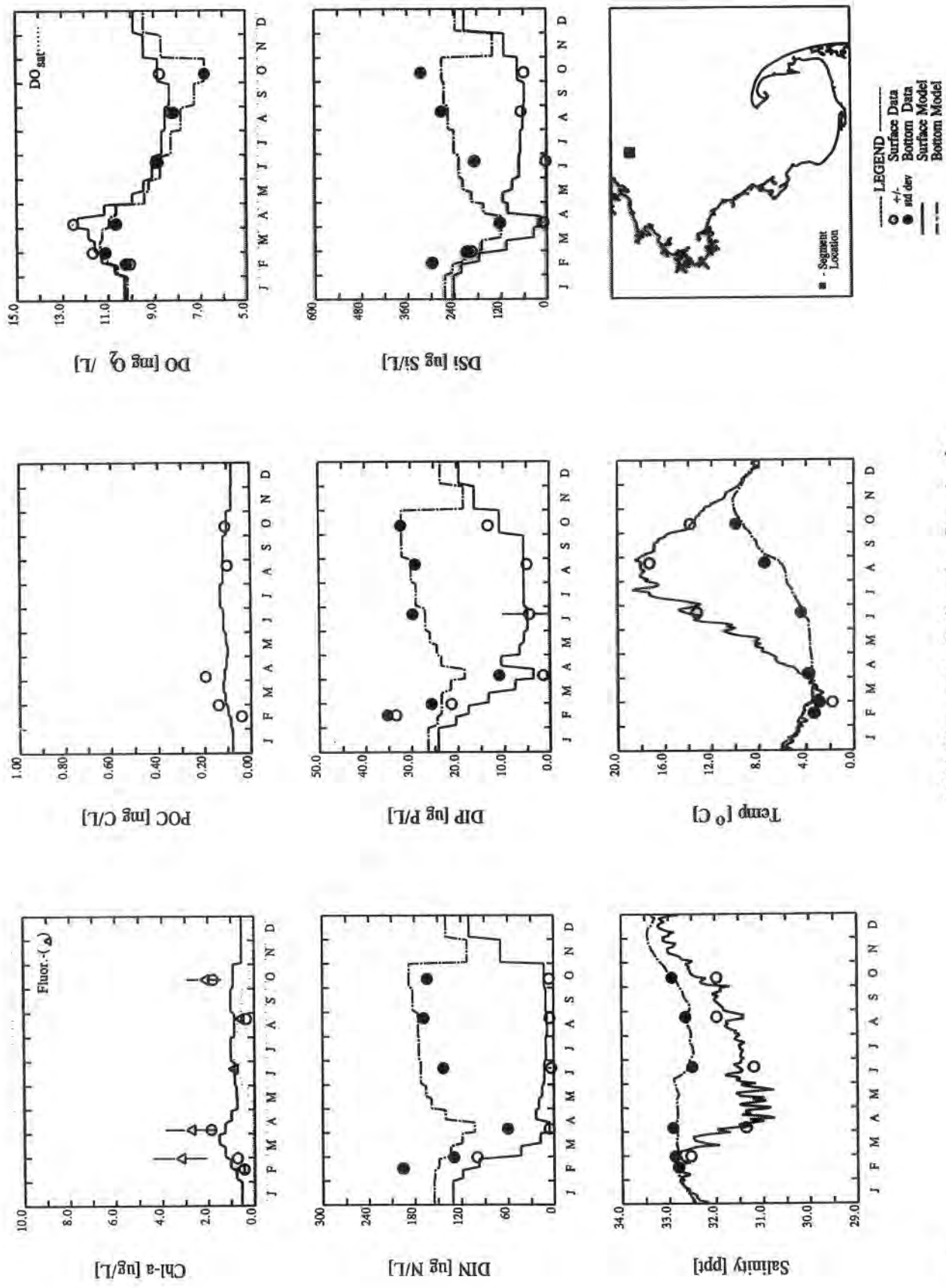


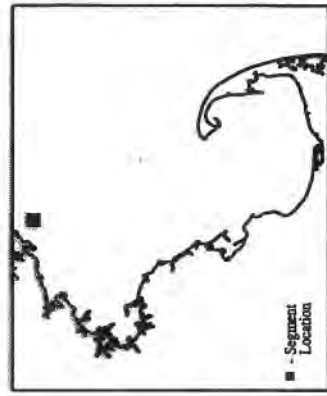
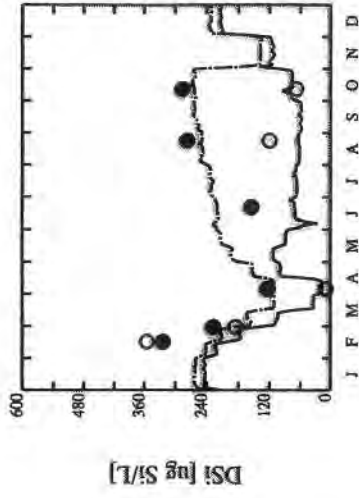
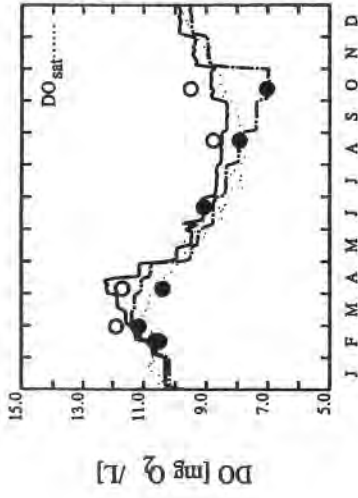
Figure 3-22. Stations Used for Boundary Condition Data



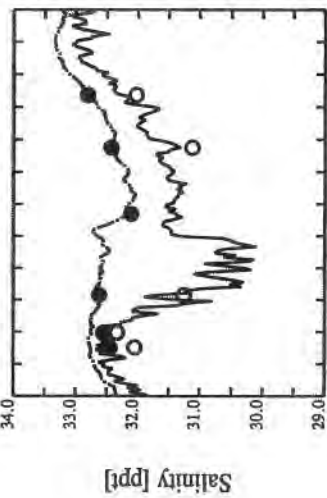
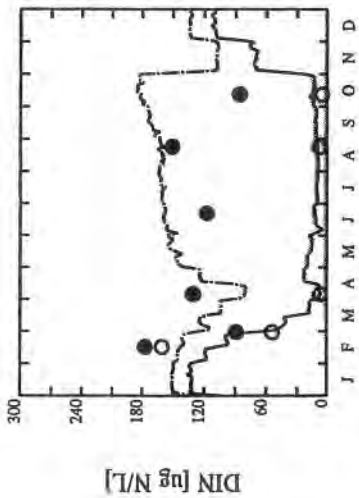
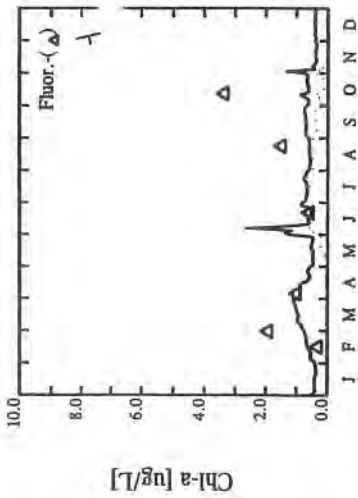
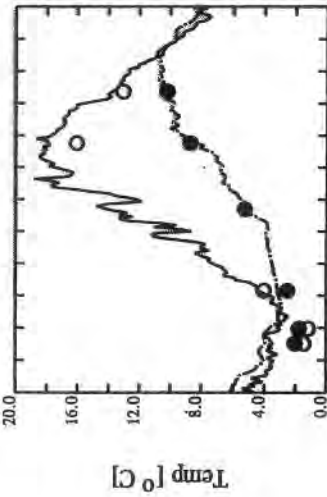
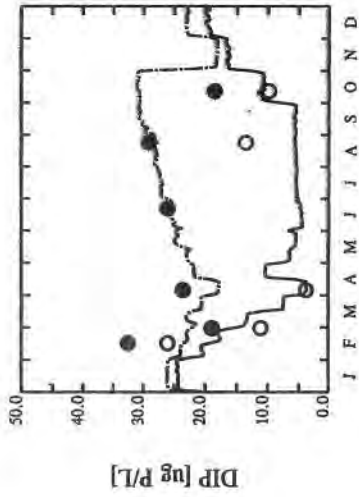
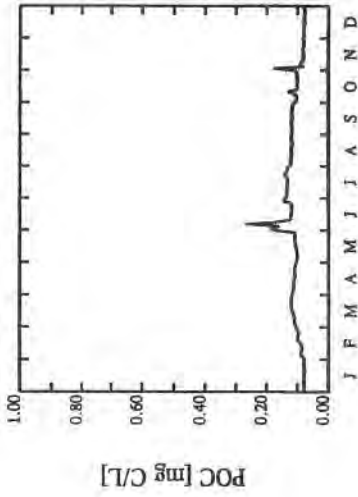
- How ~~can~~ will the model reproduce different conditions if the forcings are the same
- Boundary Conditions?
- Large Open Boundary
- Limited Data



1994 Temporal Calibration Results for Grid Cell (19,17) Vs Data Station F27



LEGEND  
 - - - Surface Data  
 O +/- Bottom Data  
 ● +/- Surface Model  
 - - - Bottom Model



1994 Temporal Calibration Results for Grid Cell (18,18) Vs Data Station F26

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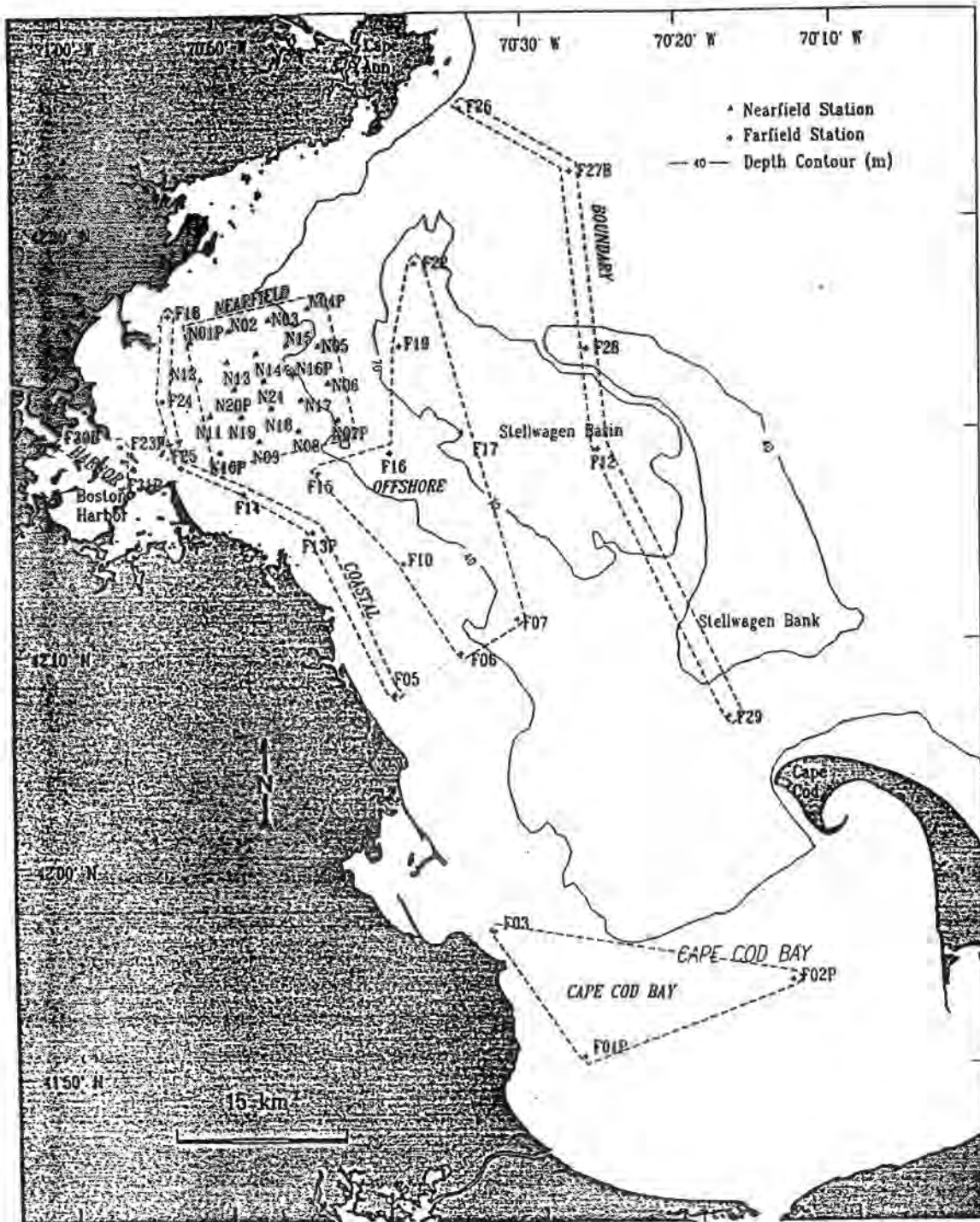
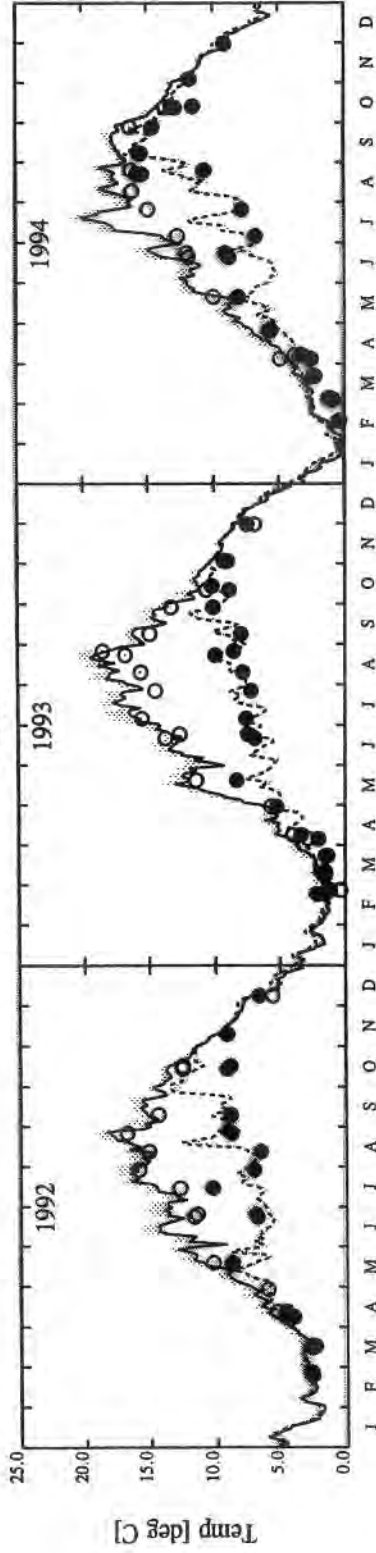


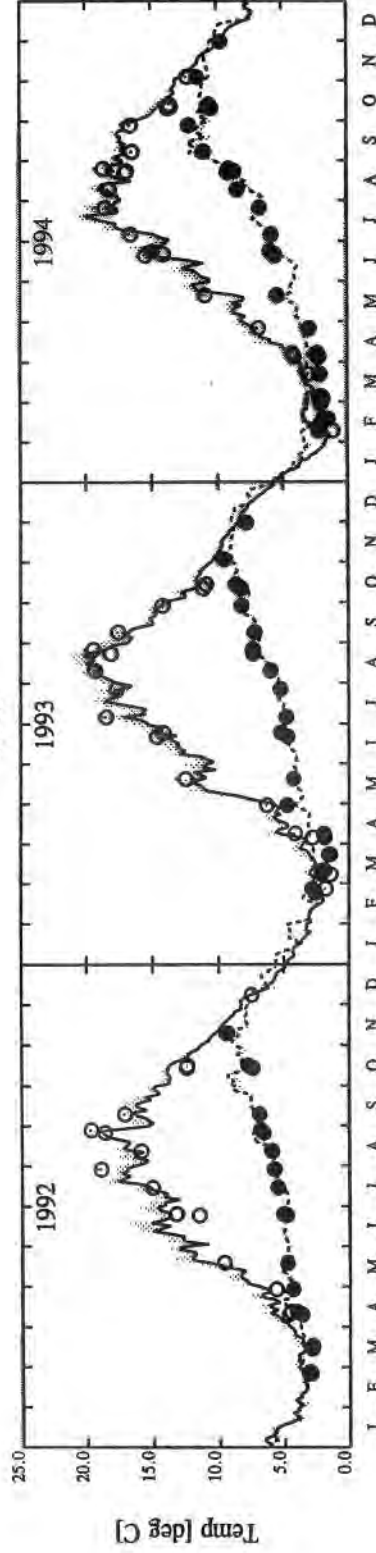
Figure 3-2. Water Quality Sampling Stations in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays 1994

- 1994 station locations modified to improve boundary conditions
- With improved BC and new Hydro we decided to rerun 1992 as we modeled 1993 and 1994

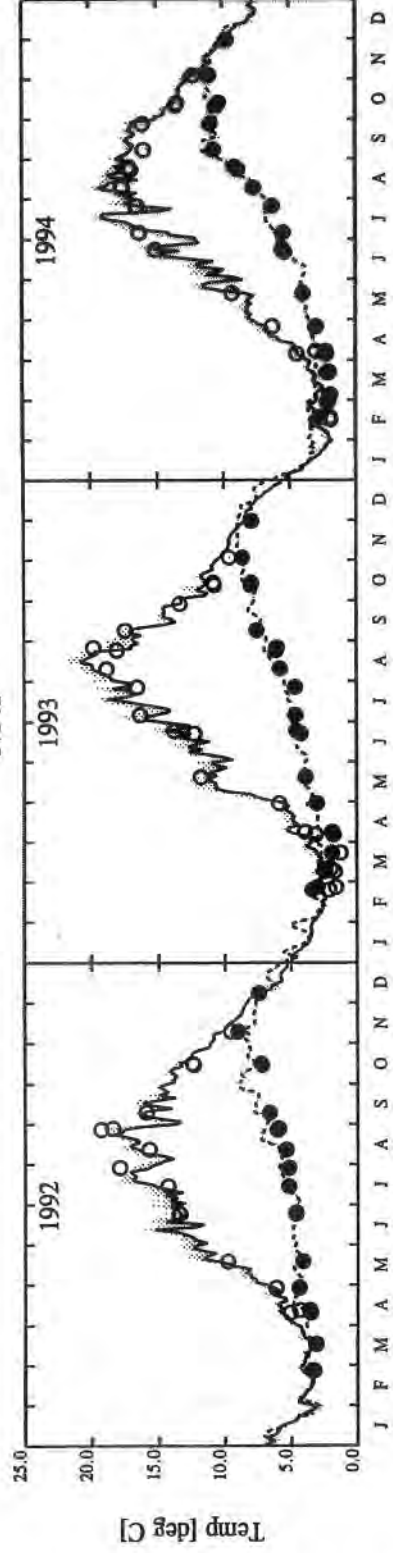
N10P



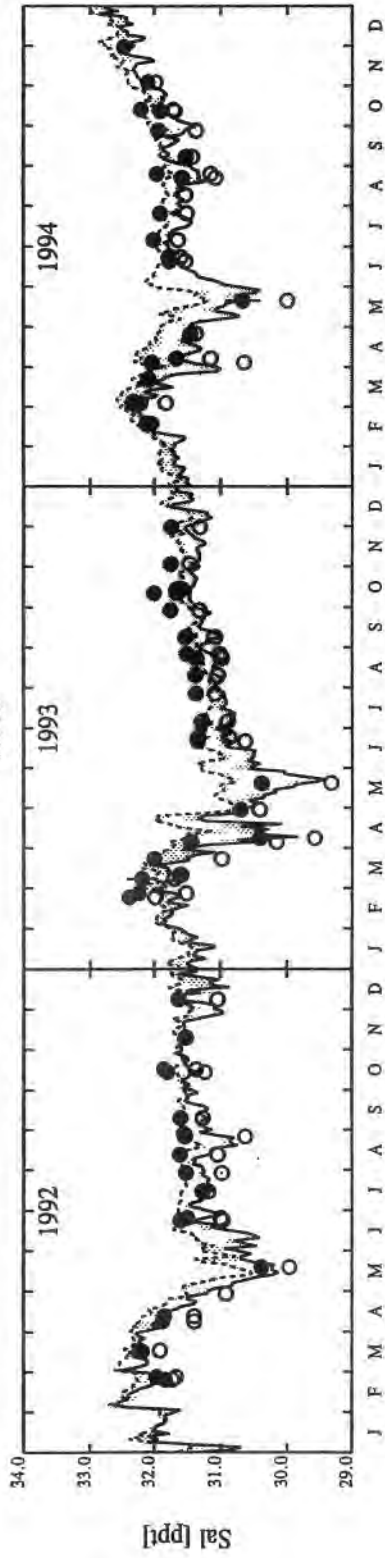
N16P



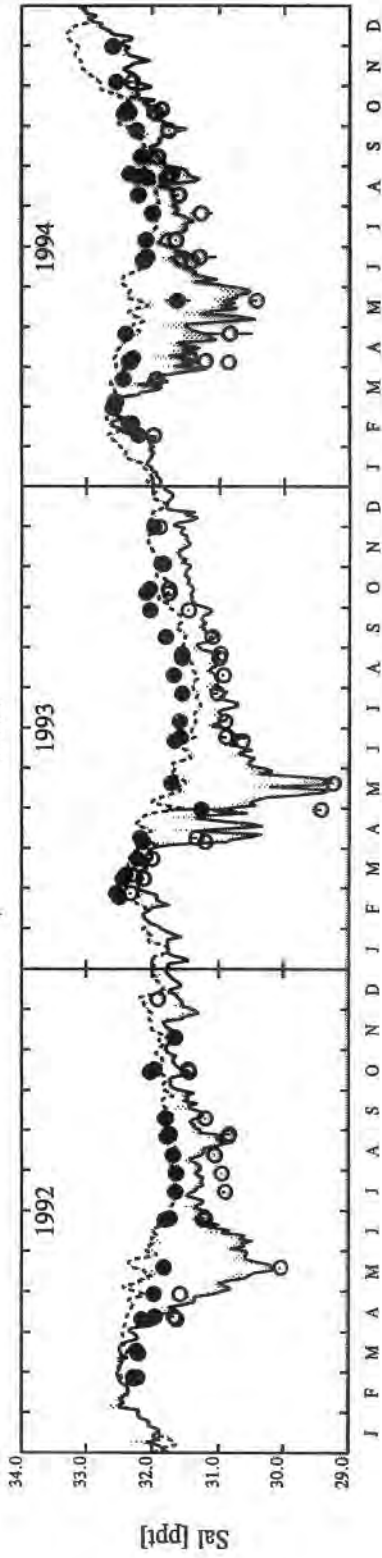
N04P



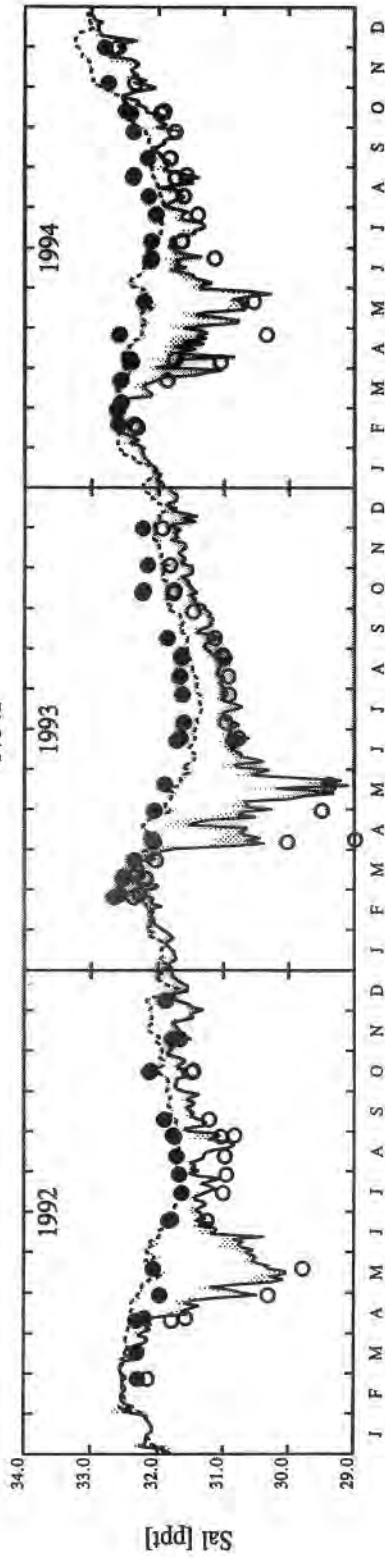
# N10P



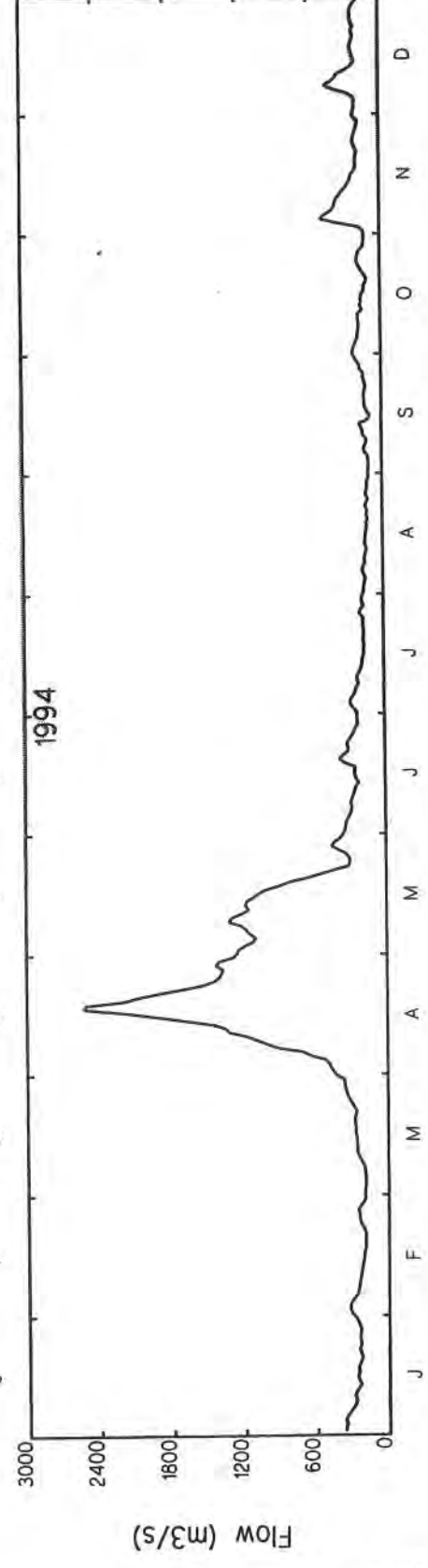
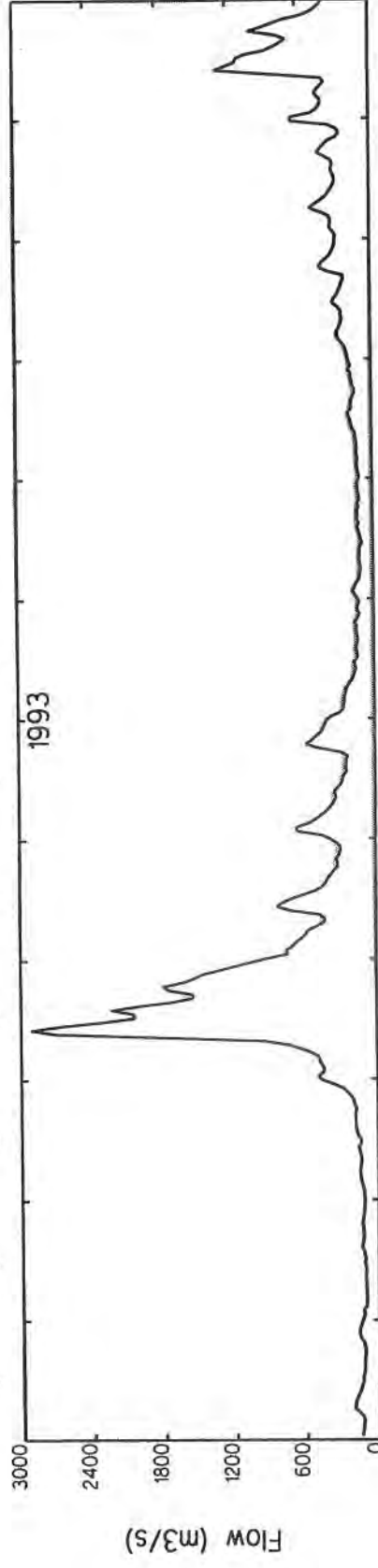
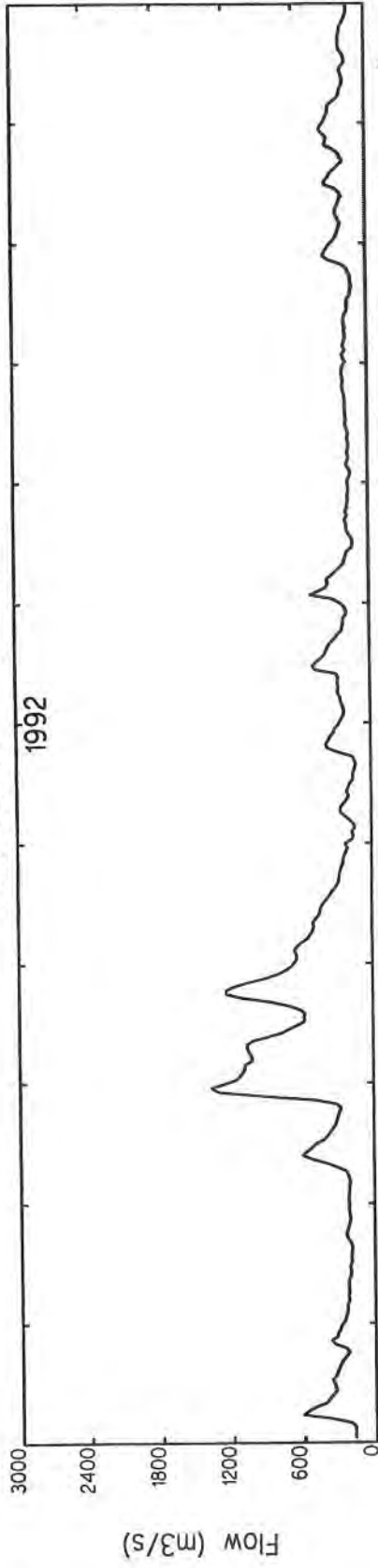
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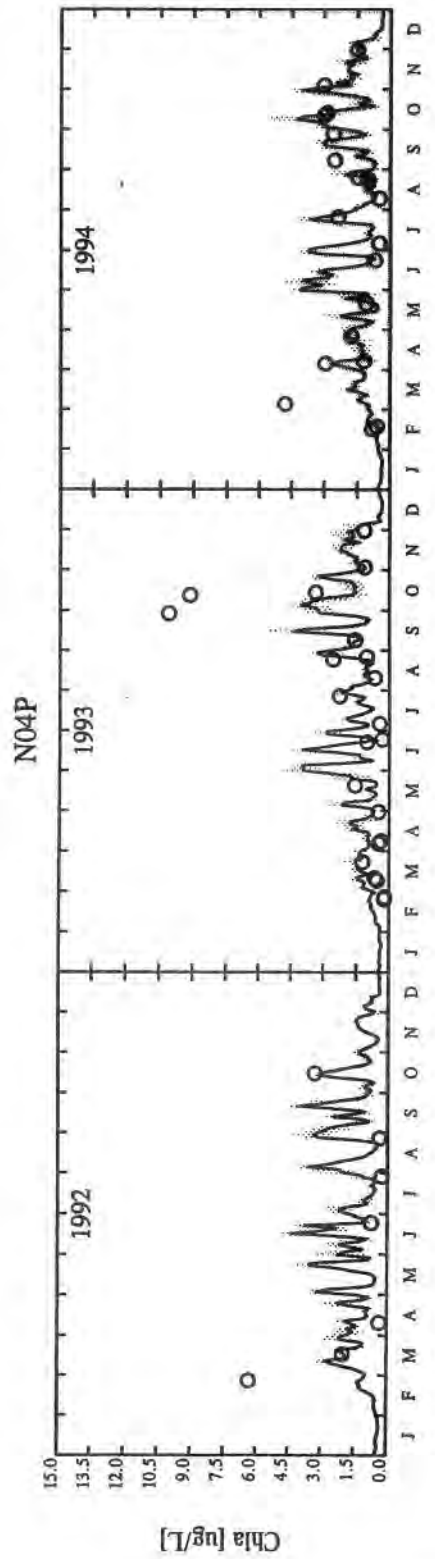
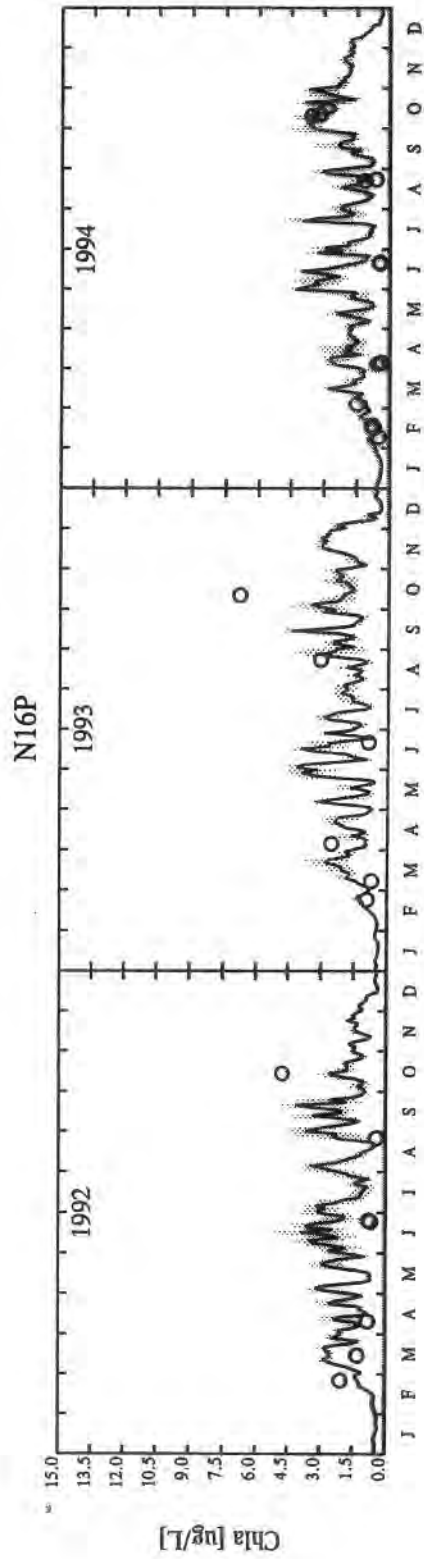
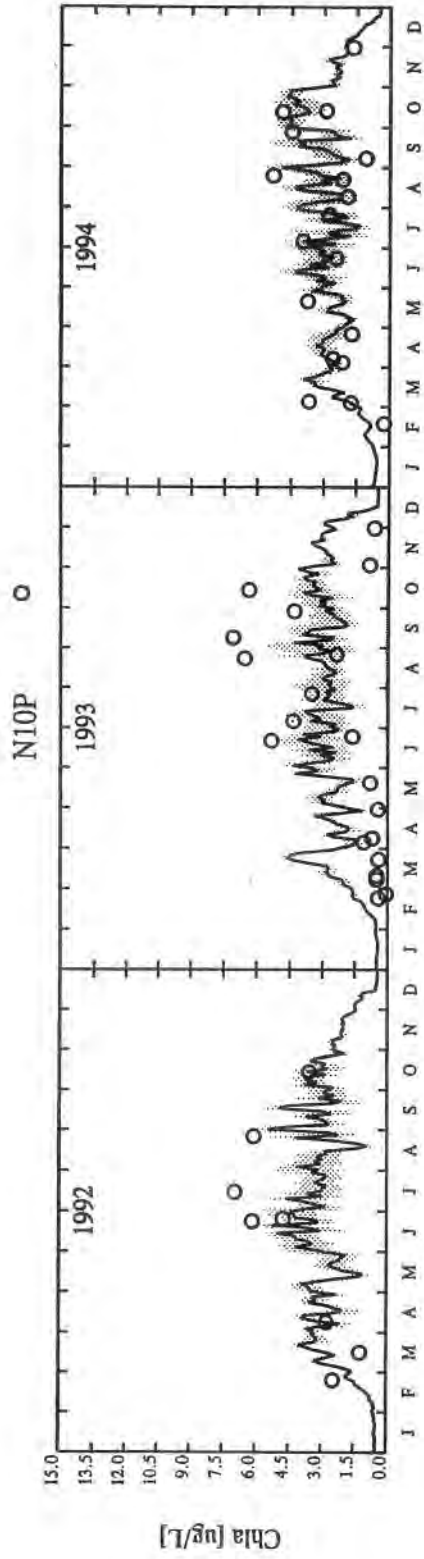
# N04P

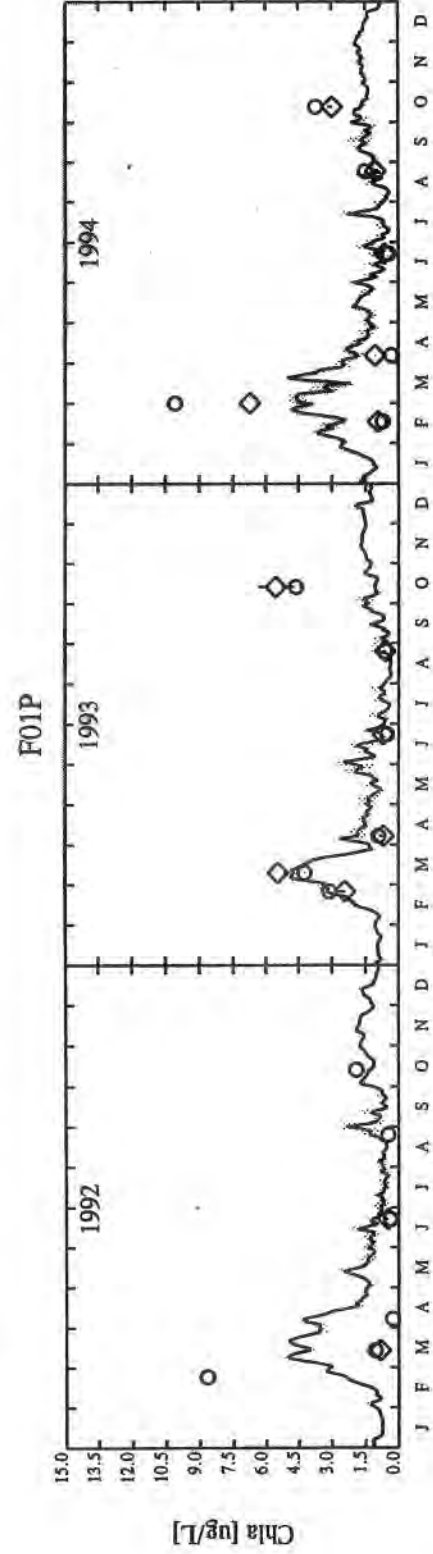
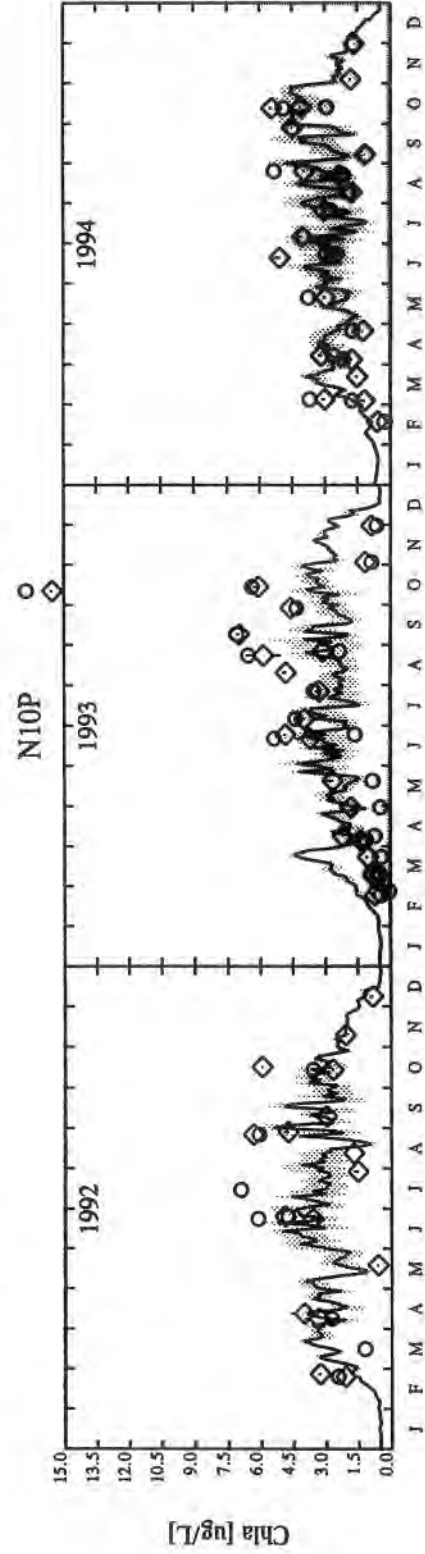
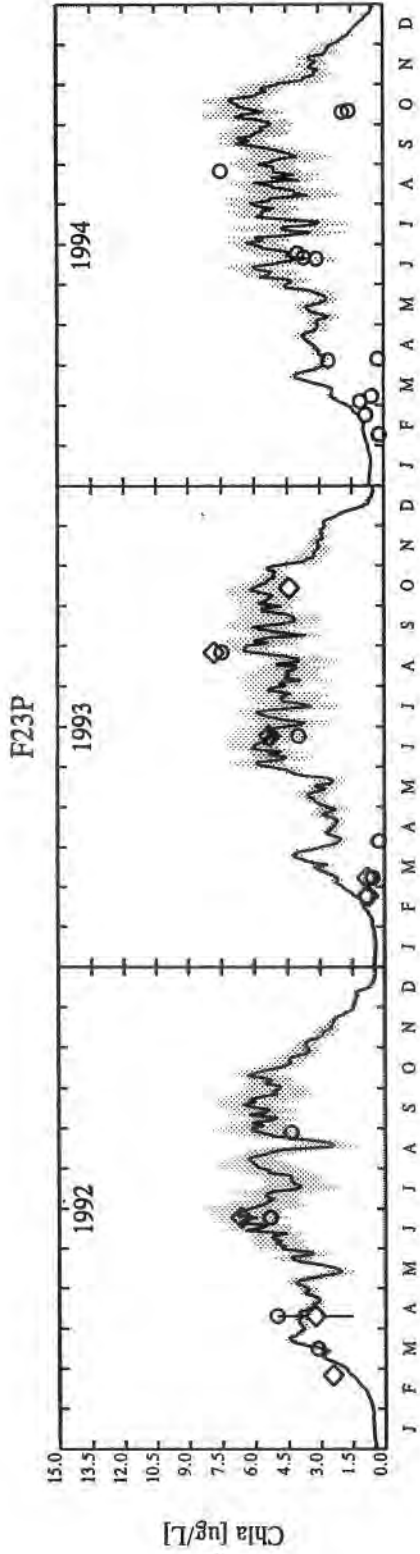


# Penobscot River Flow

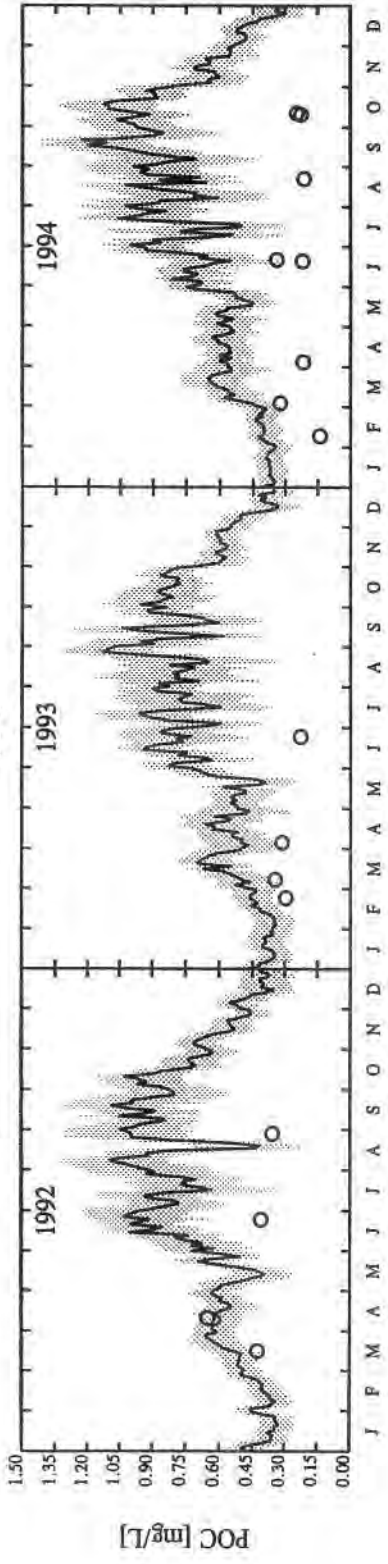




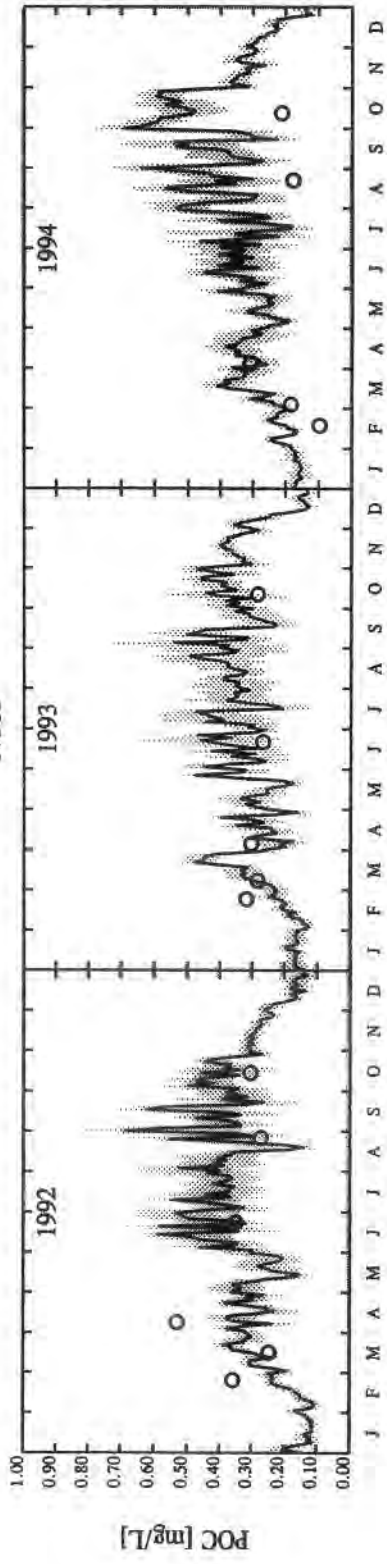




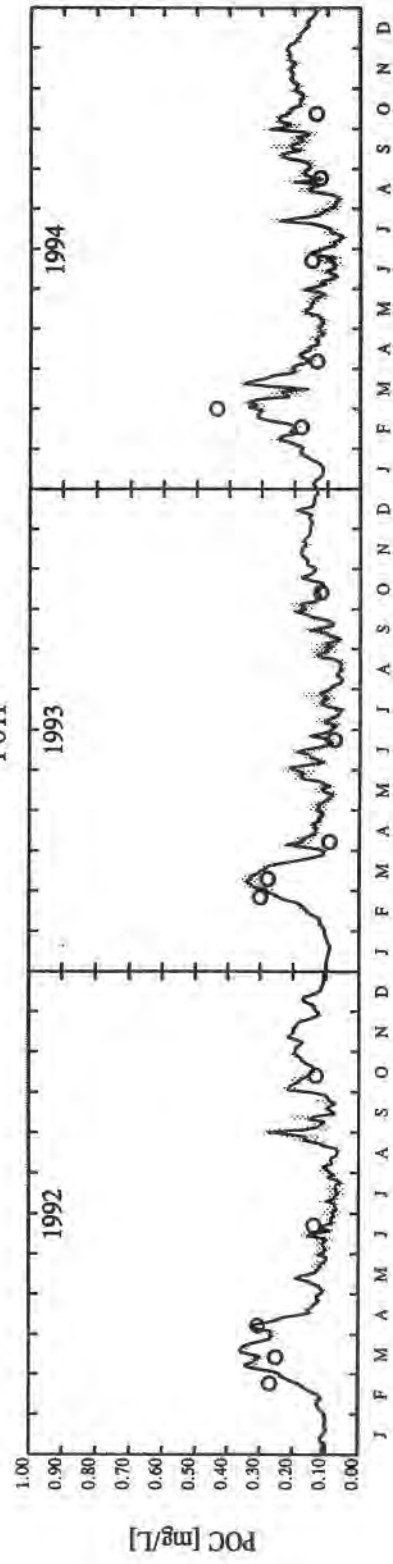
F23P



N10P



F01P



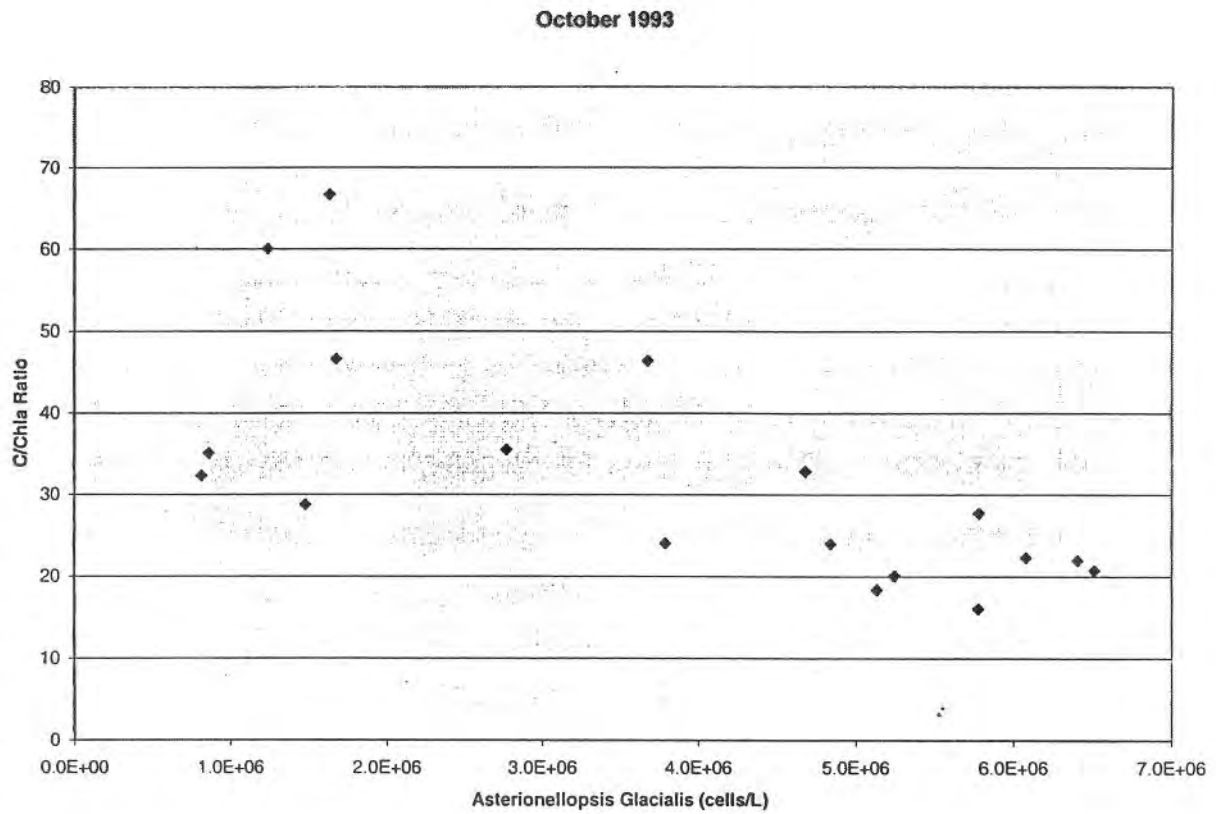


Figure A-3. C/Chlorophyll-a Ratio vs. *A. glacialis* concentration for October 1993

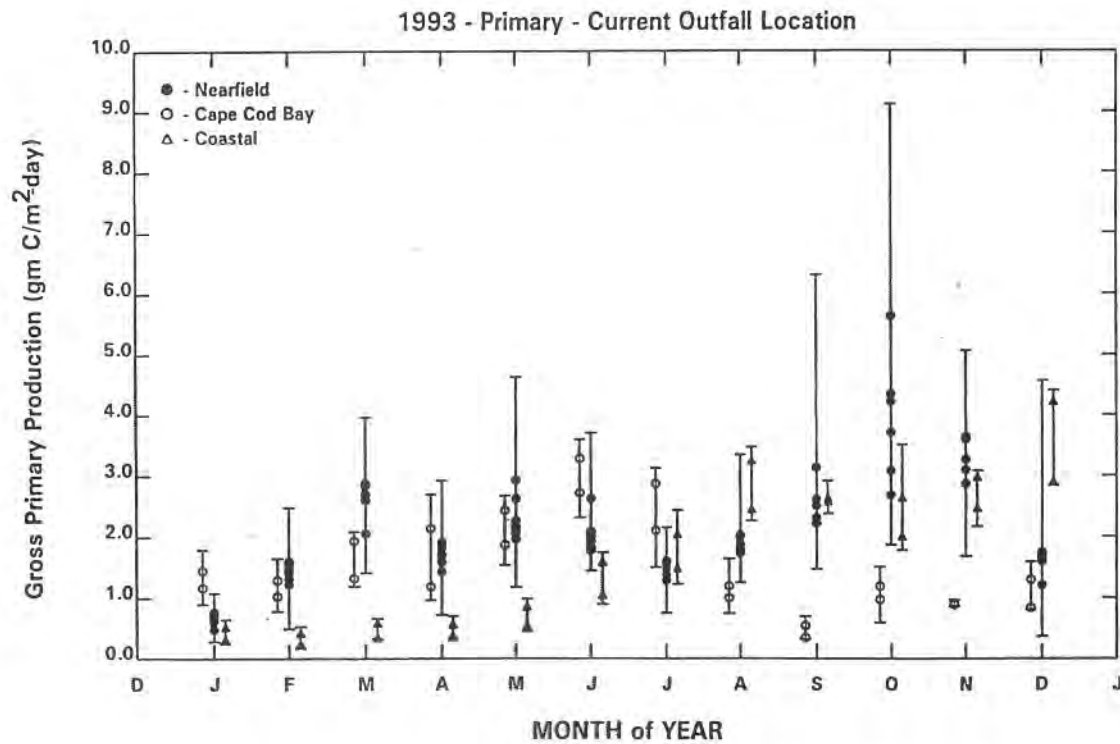
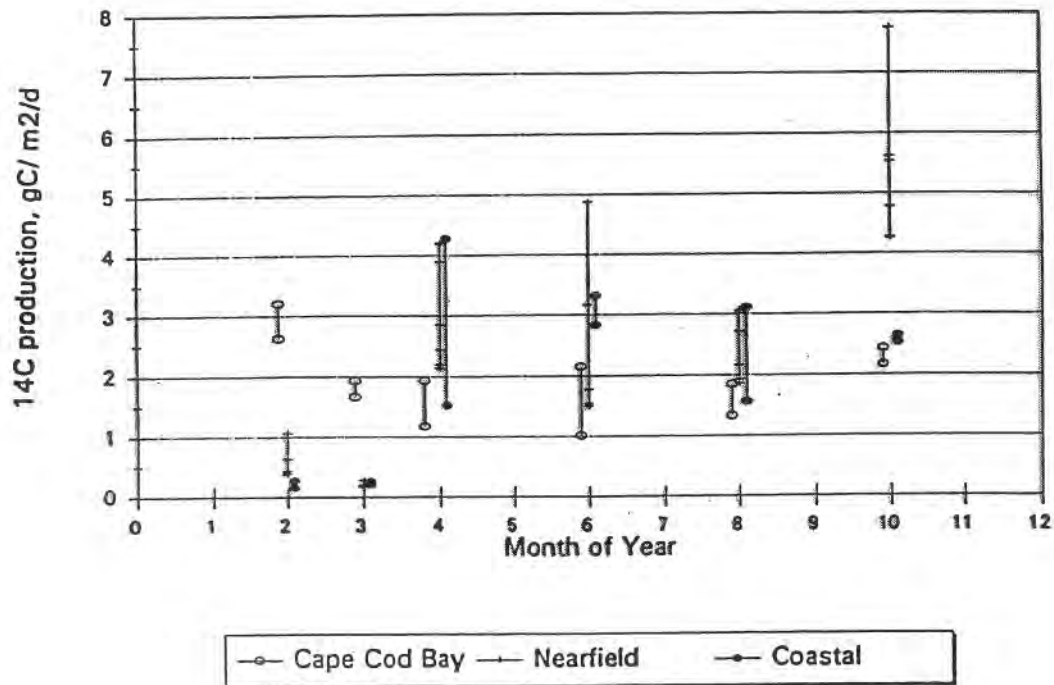


Figure 4-30. Gross Primary Productivity 1993

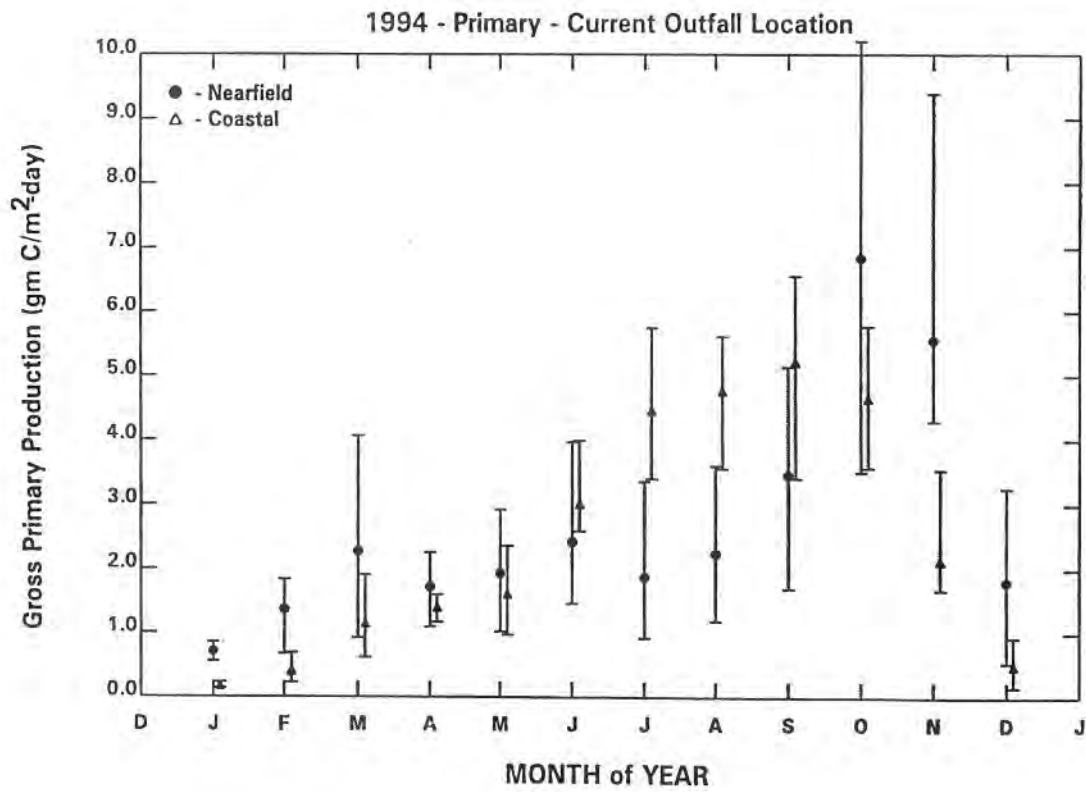
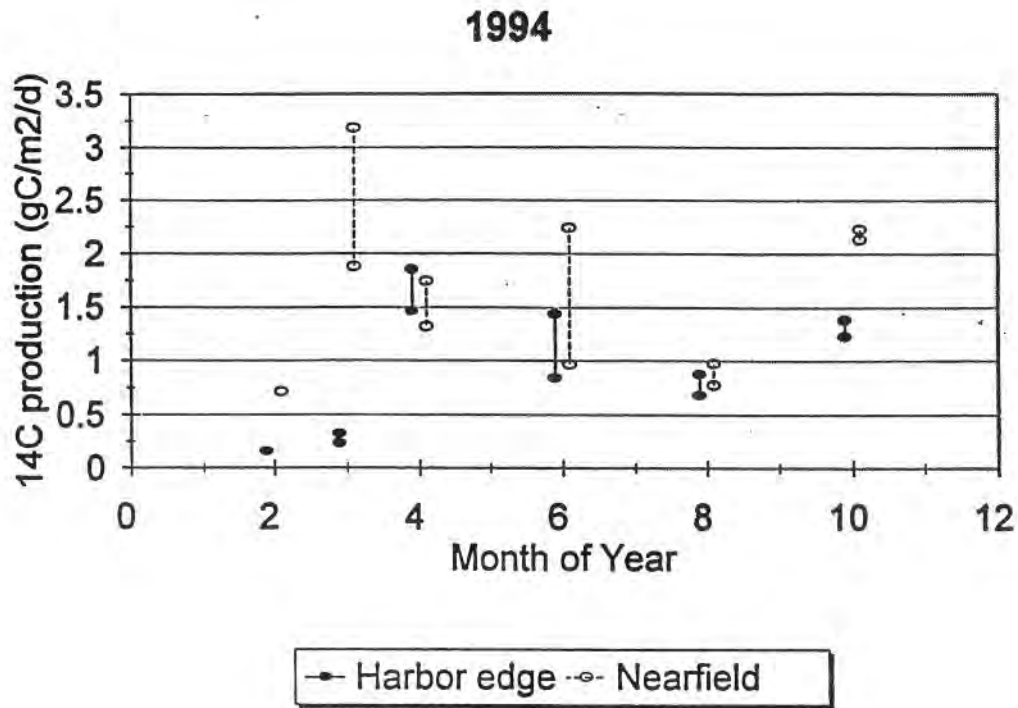
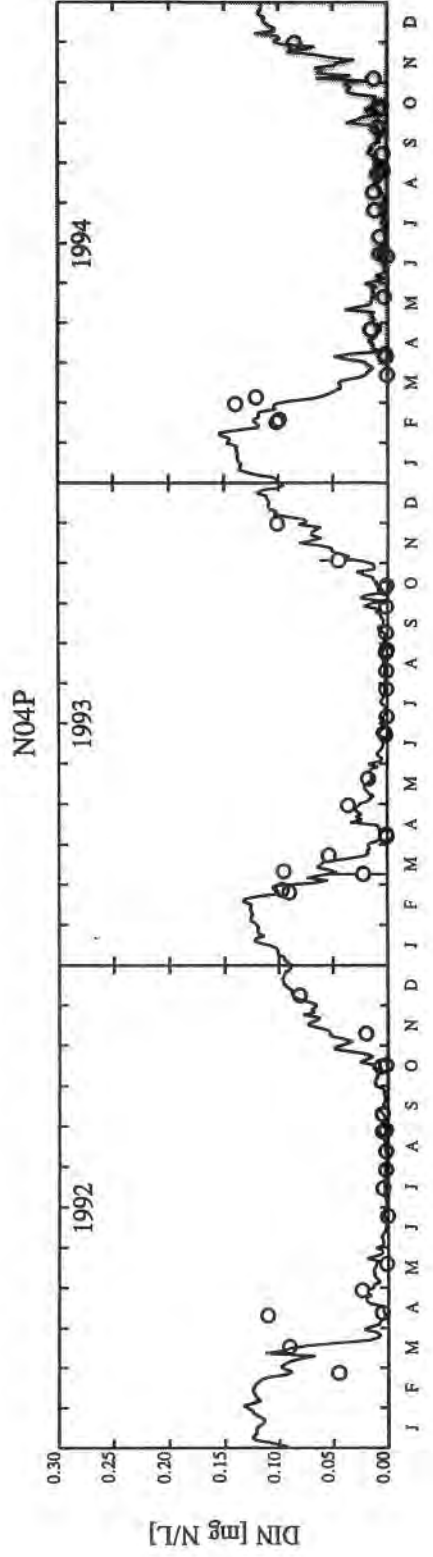
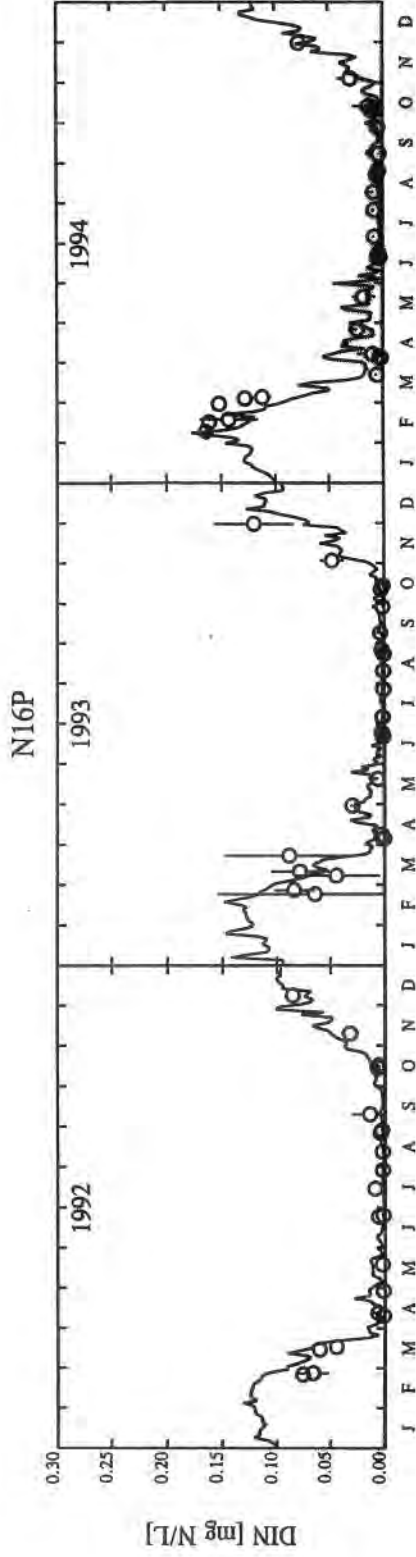
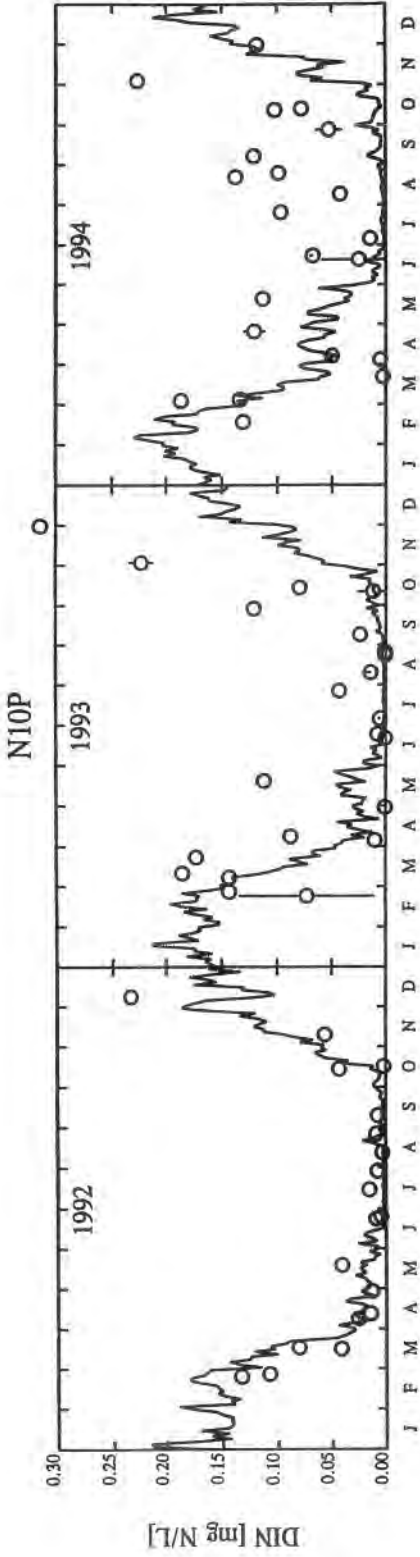
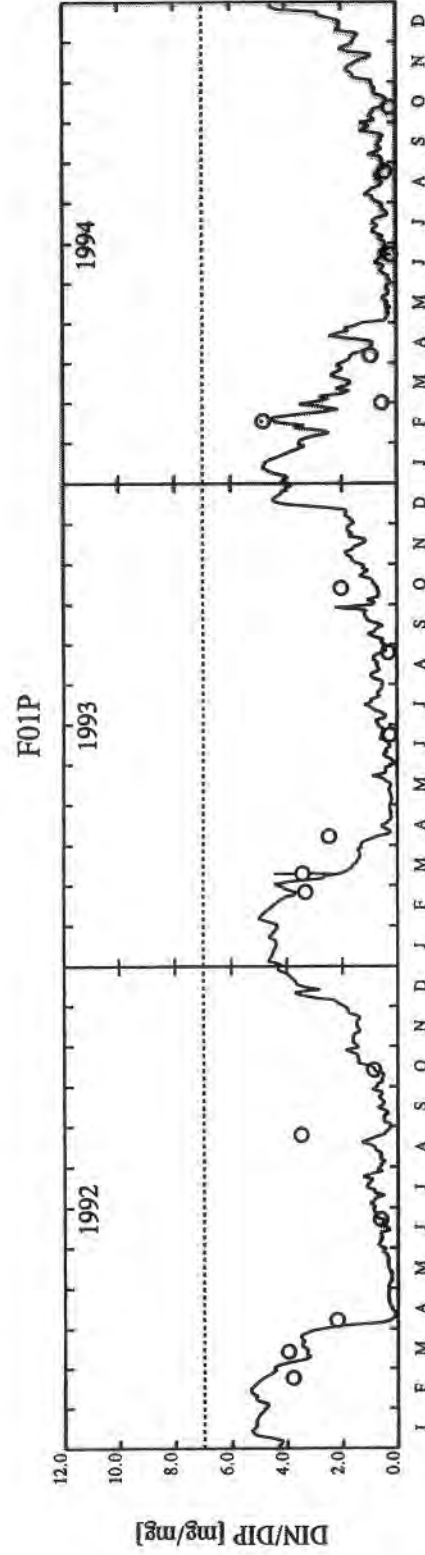
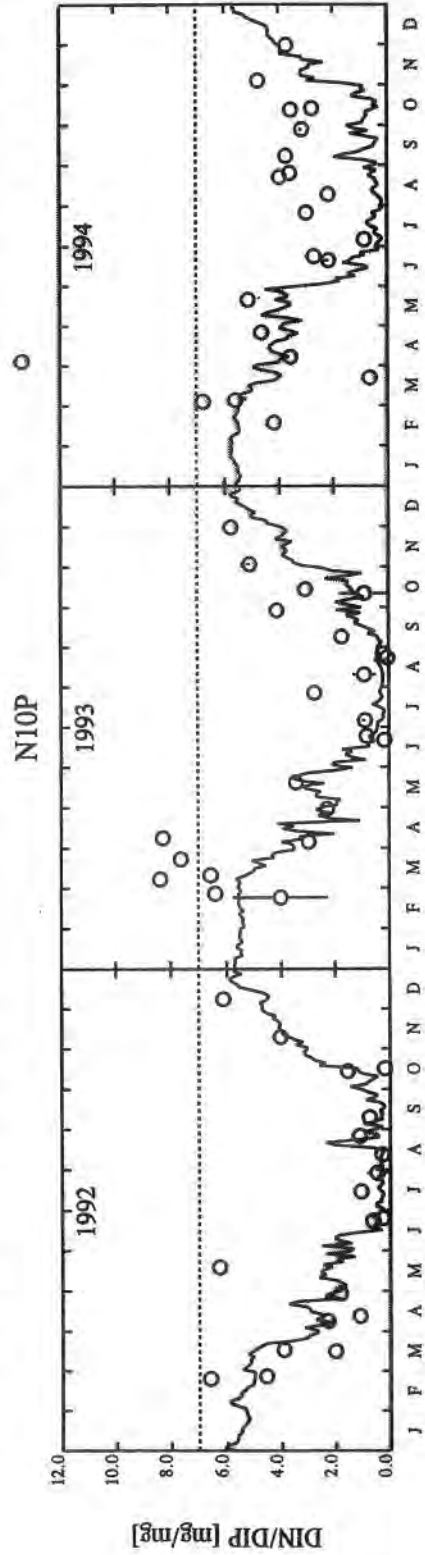
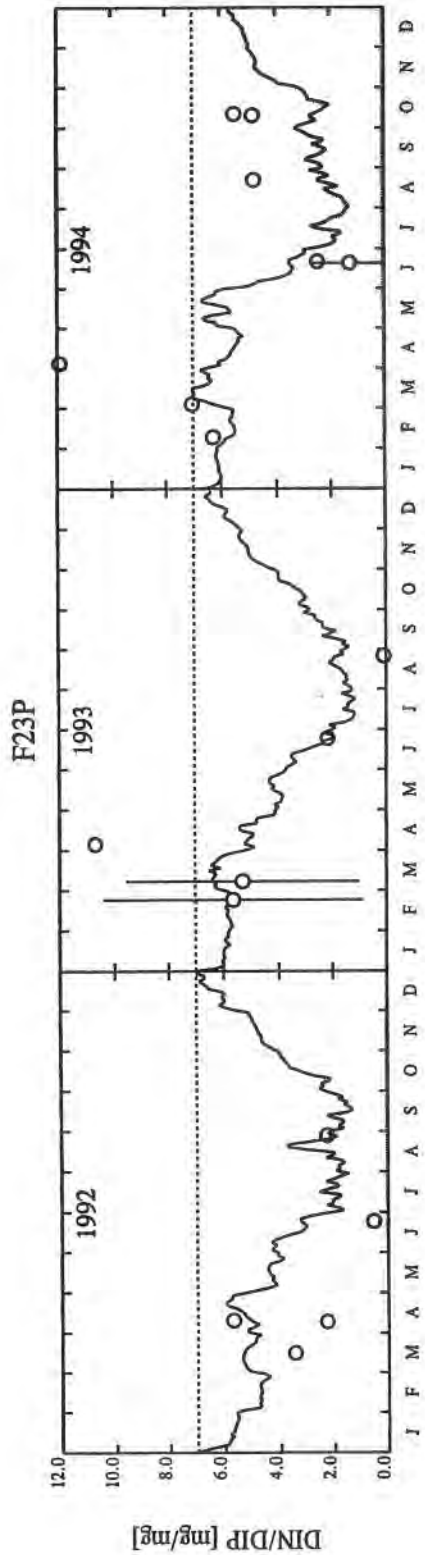
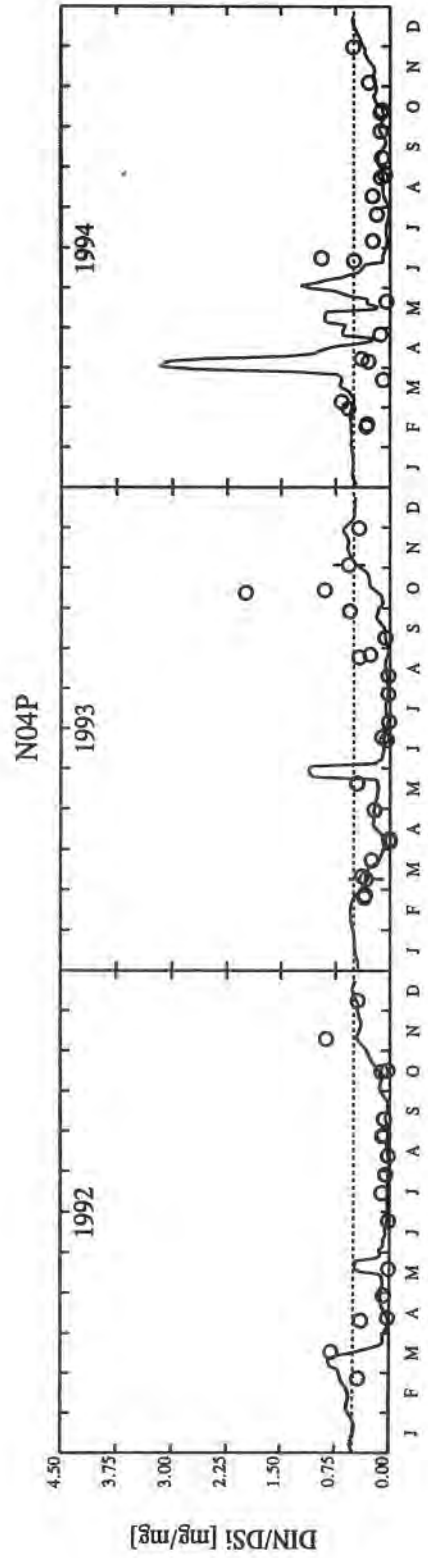
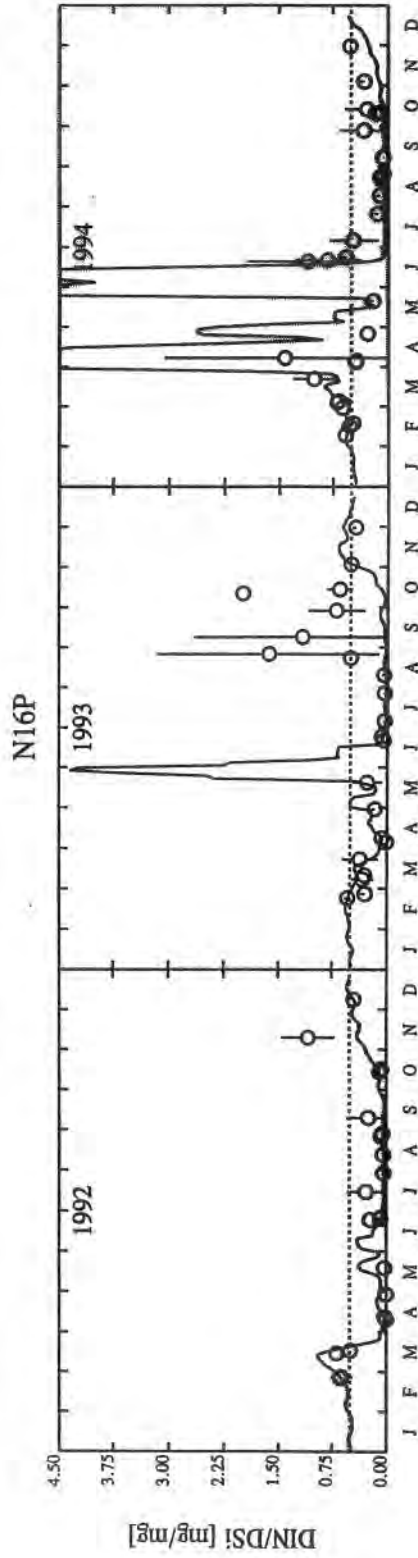
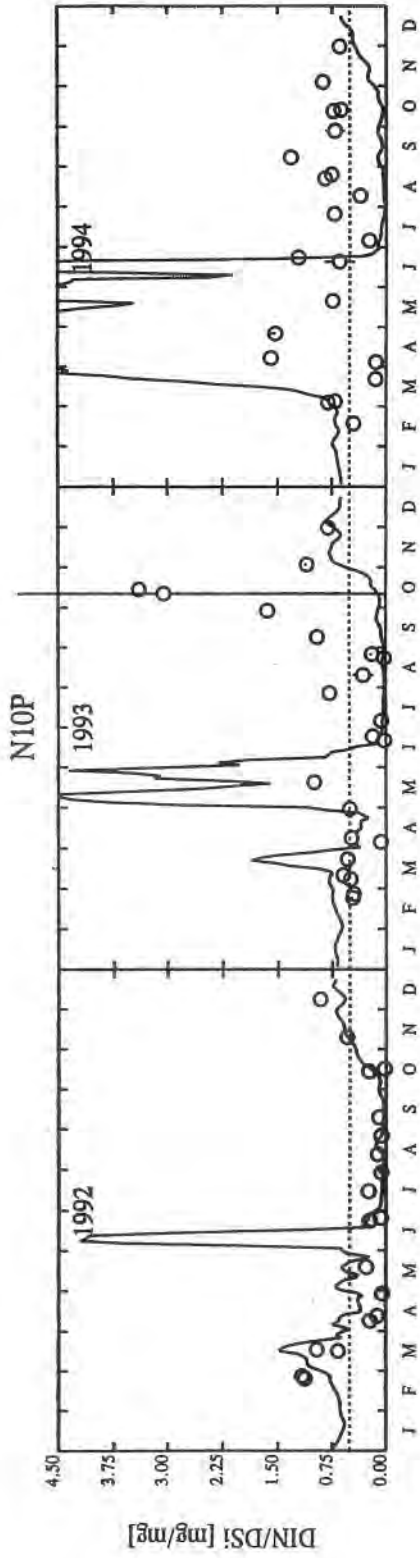


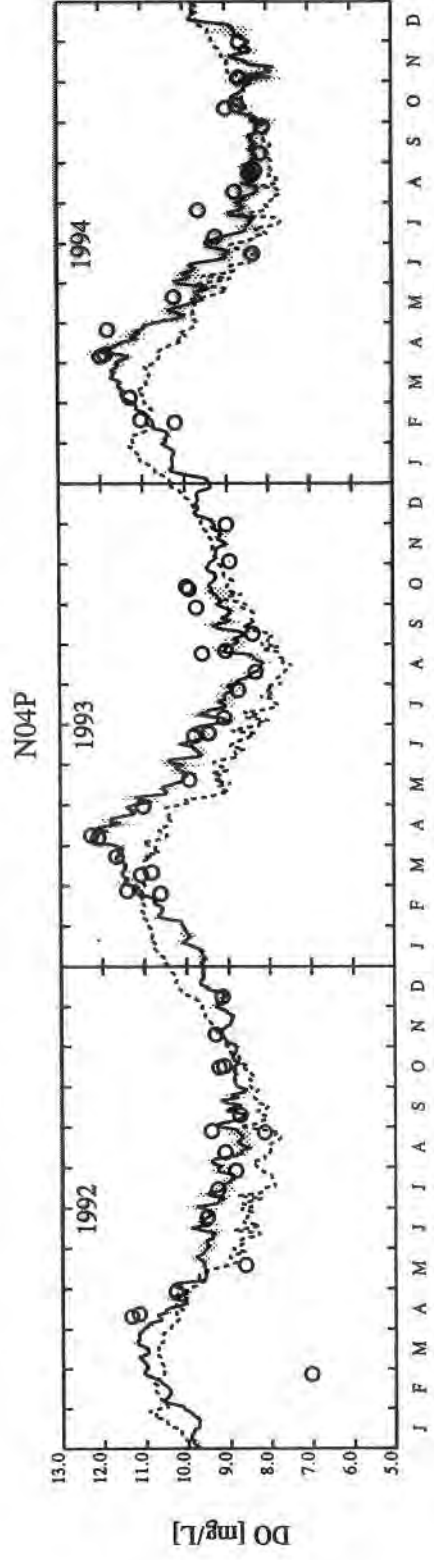
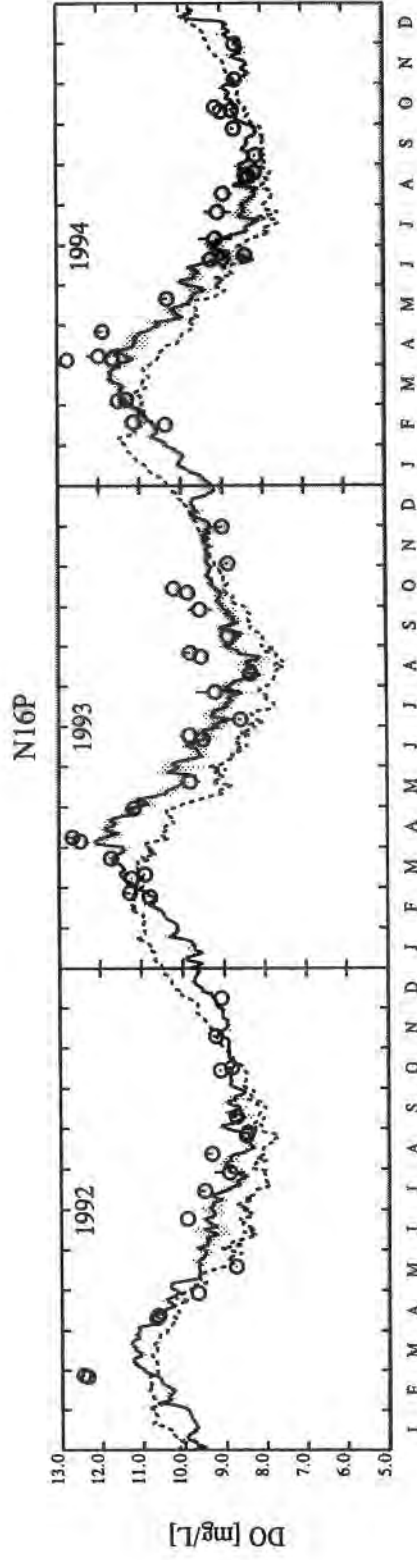
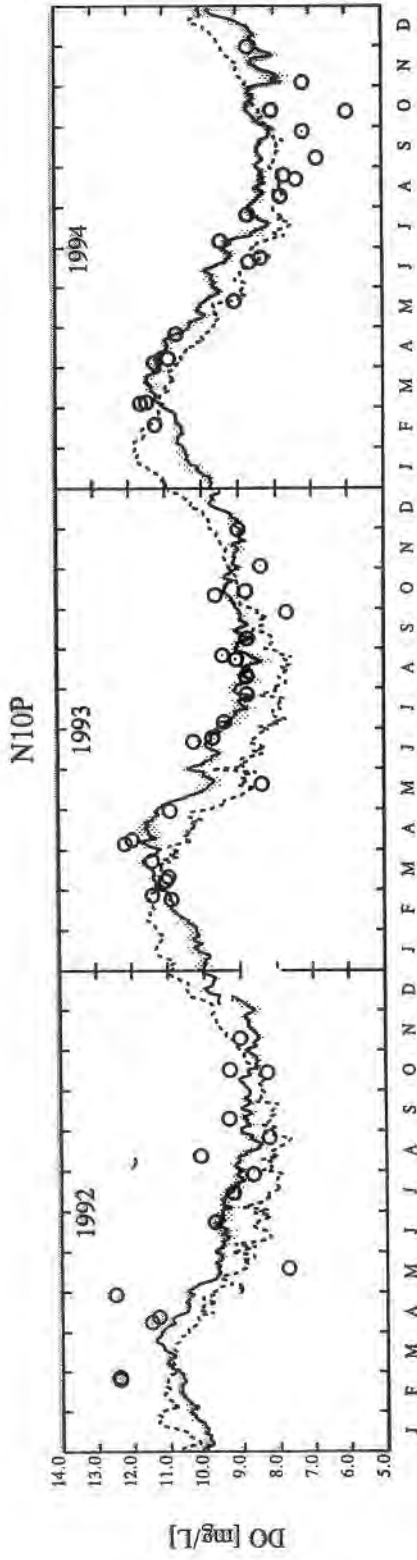
Figure 4-31. Gross Primary Productivity 1994



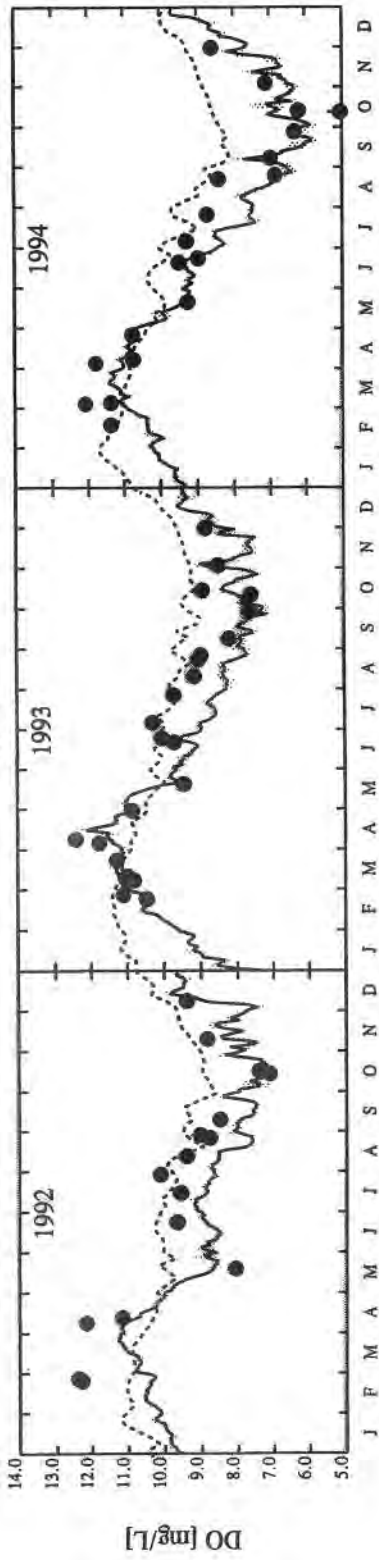




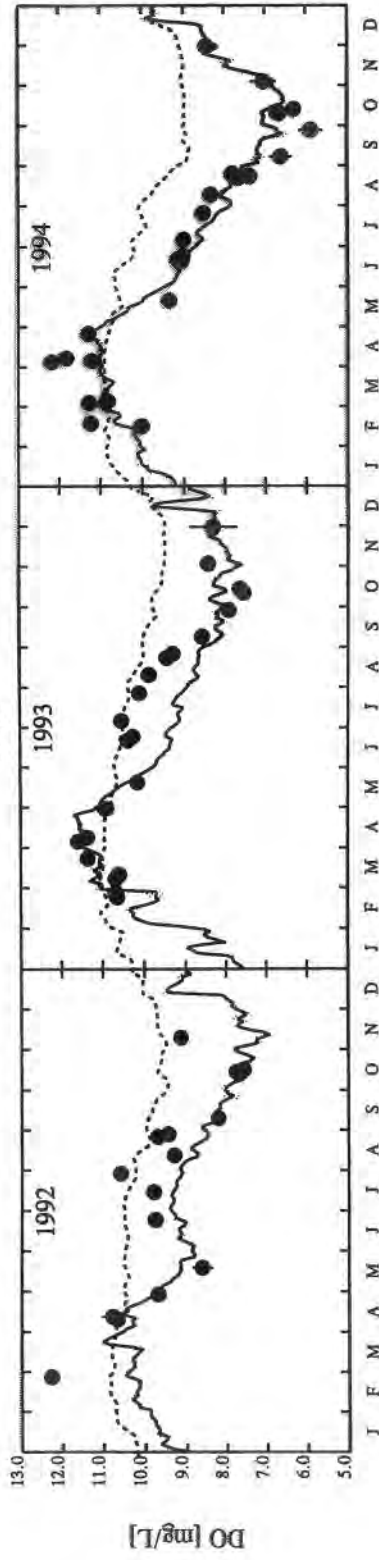




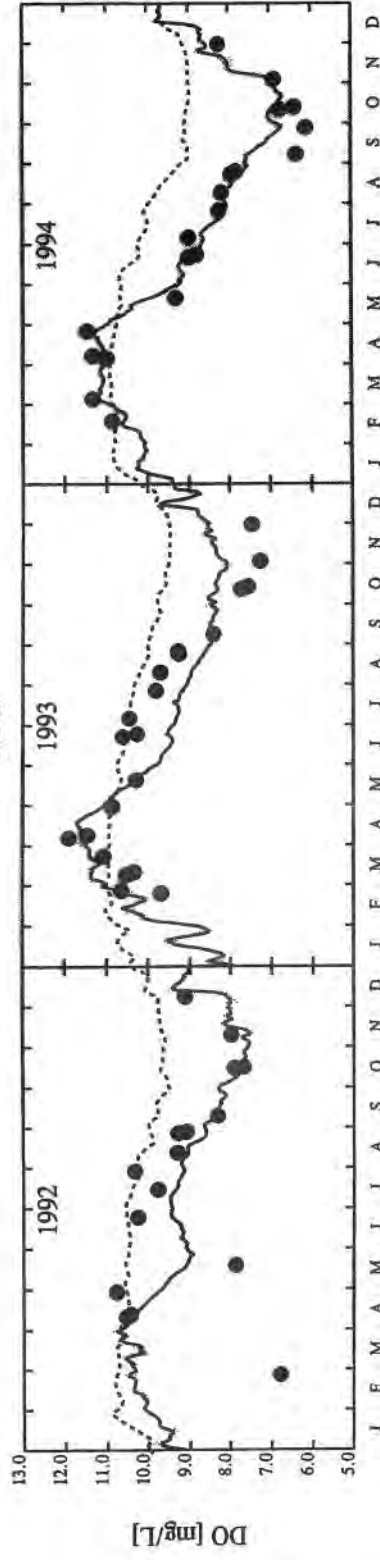
N10P



N16P



N04P



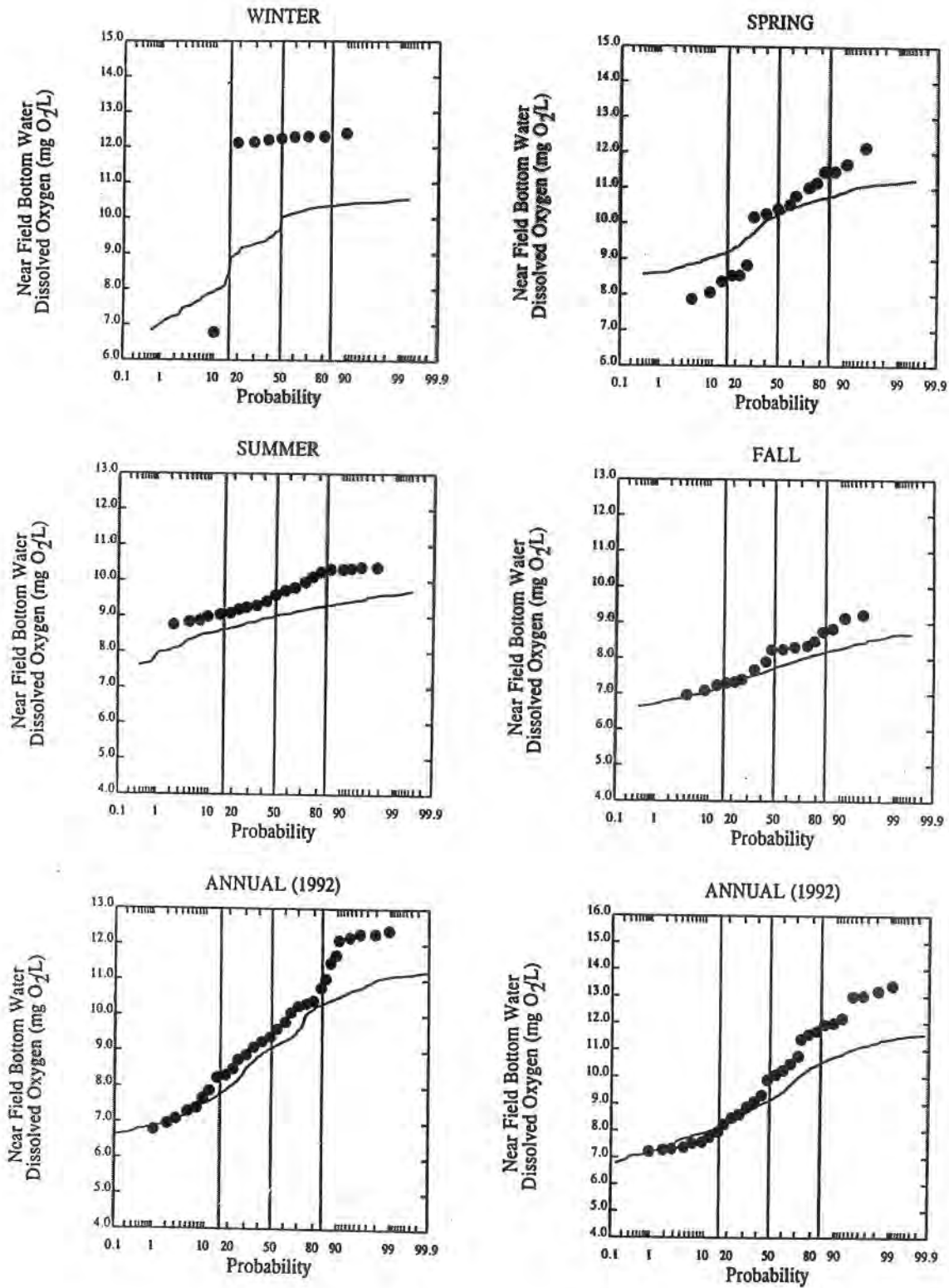


Figure 4-37. Model vs. Data Probability Comparisons for Bottom DO 1992

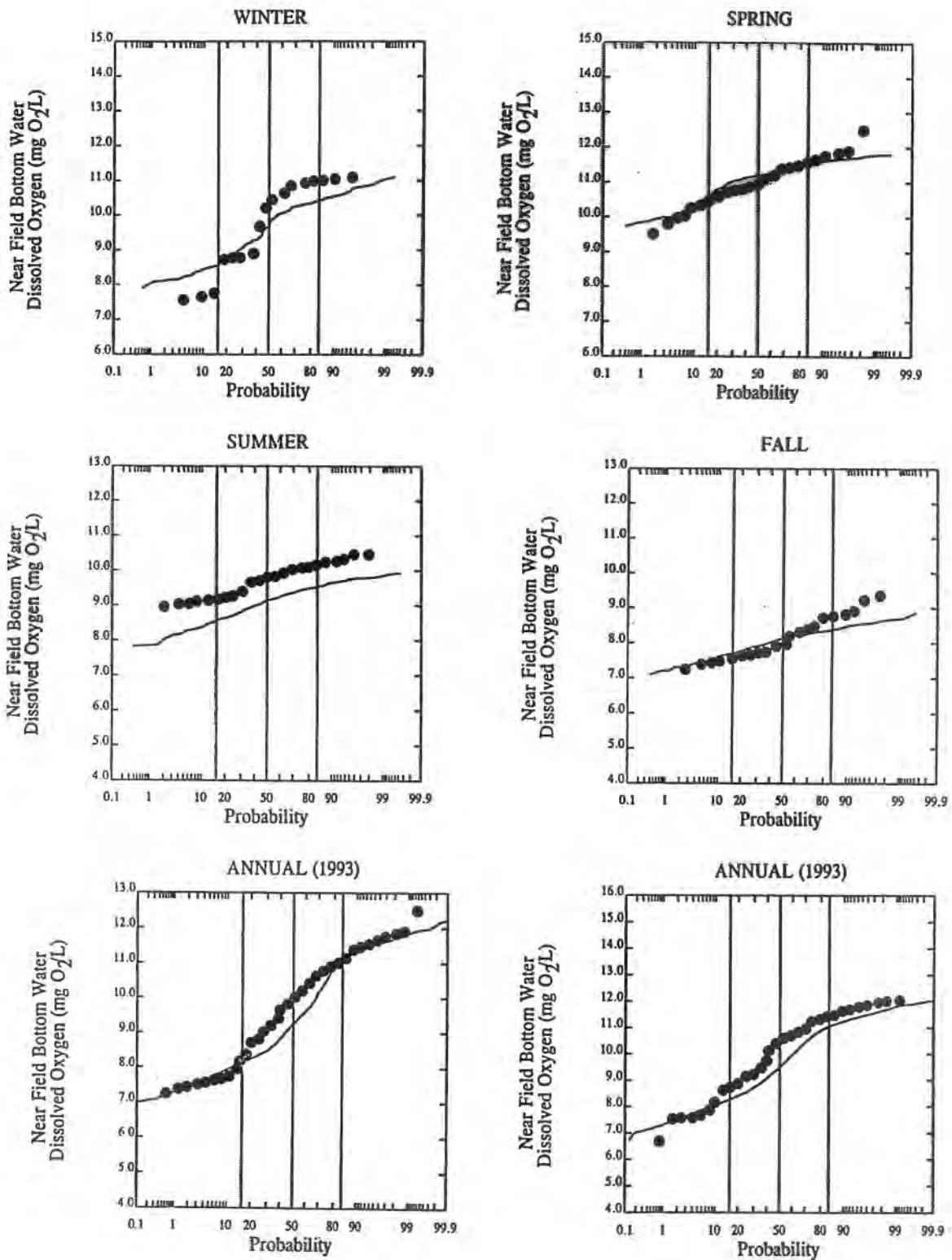


Figure 4-40. Model vs. Data Probability Comparisons for Bottom DO 1993

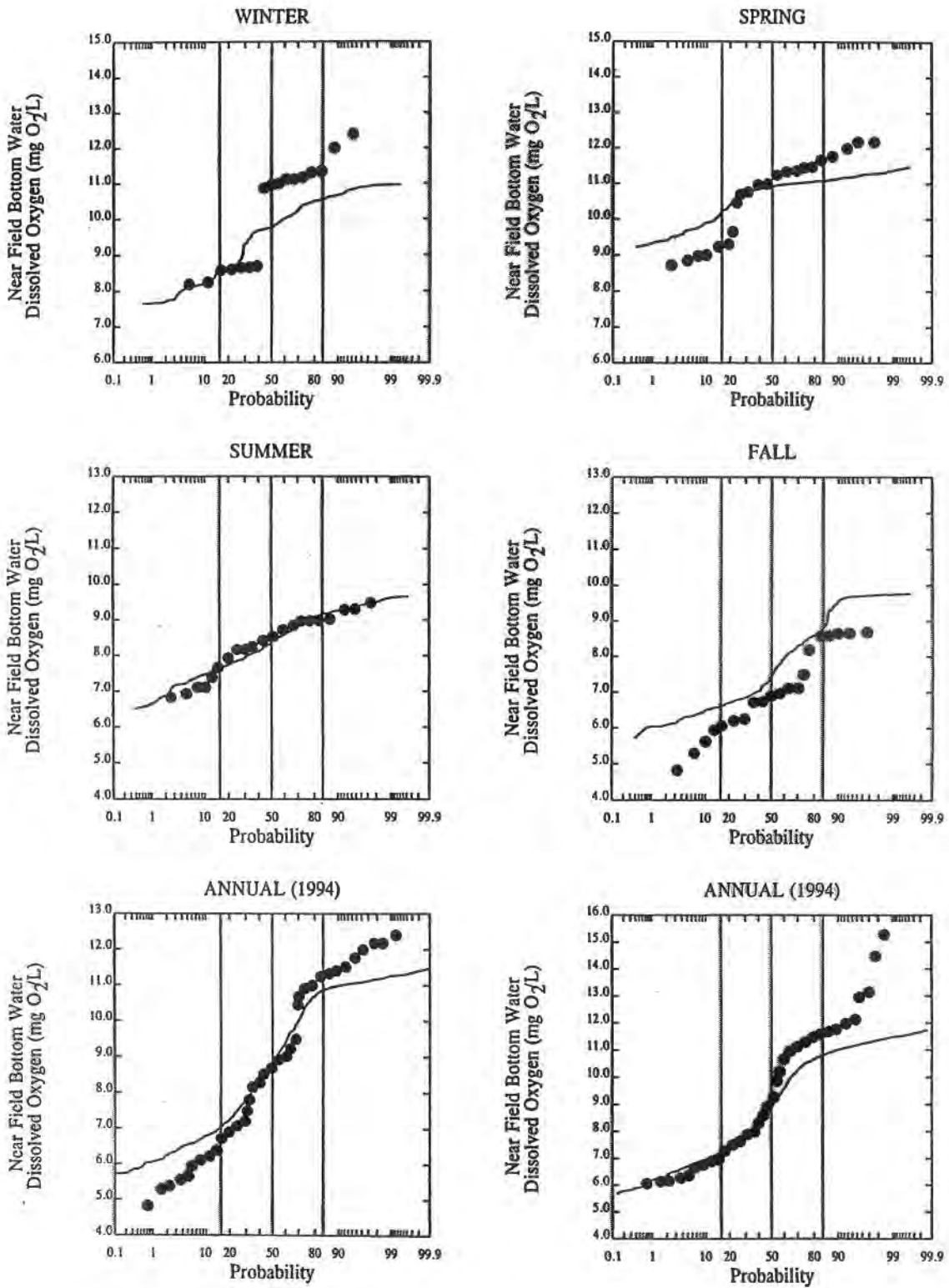


Figure 4-43. Model vs. Data Probability Comparisons for Bottom DO 1994

	obs	model	
Median	8.1	7.8	92
10%	7.0	7.0	
	8.0	8.0	93
	7.2	7.2	
	7.0	7.3	94
	5.7	6.1	

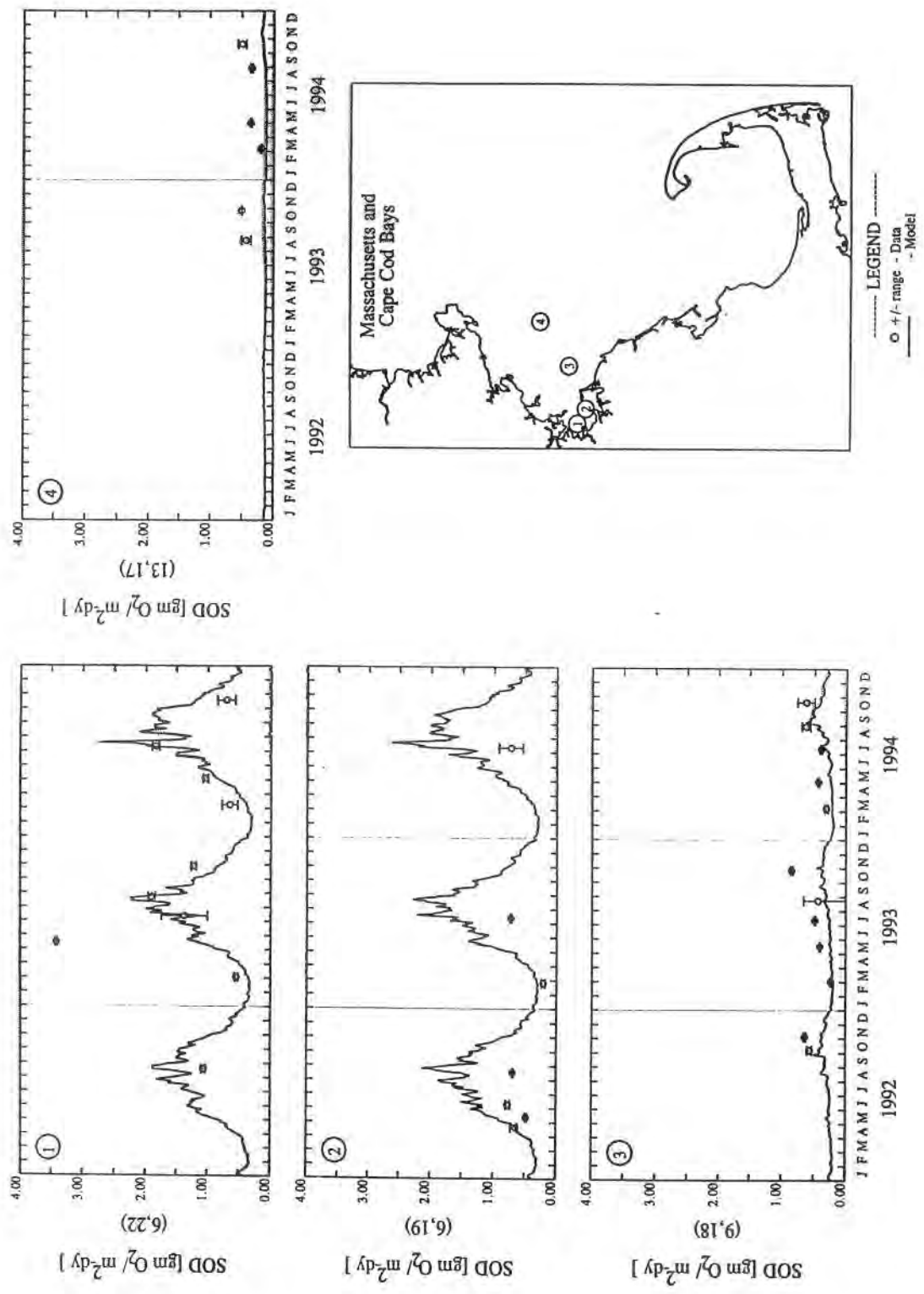


Figure 4-44. Model vs. Data Temporal Comparison for SOD 1992-1994



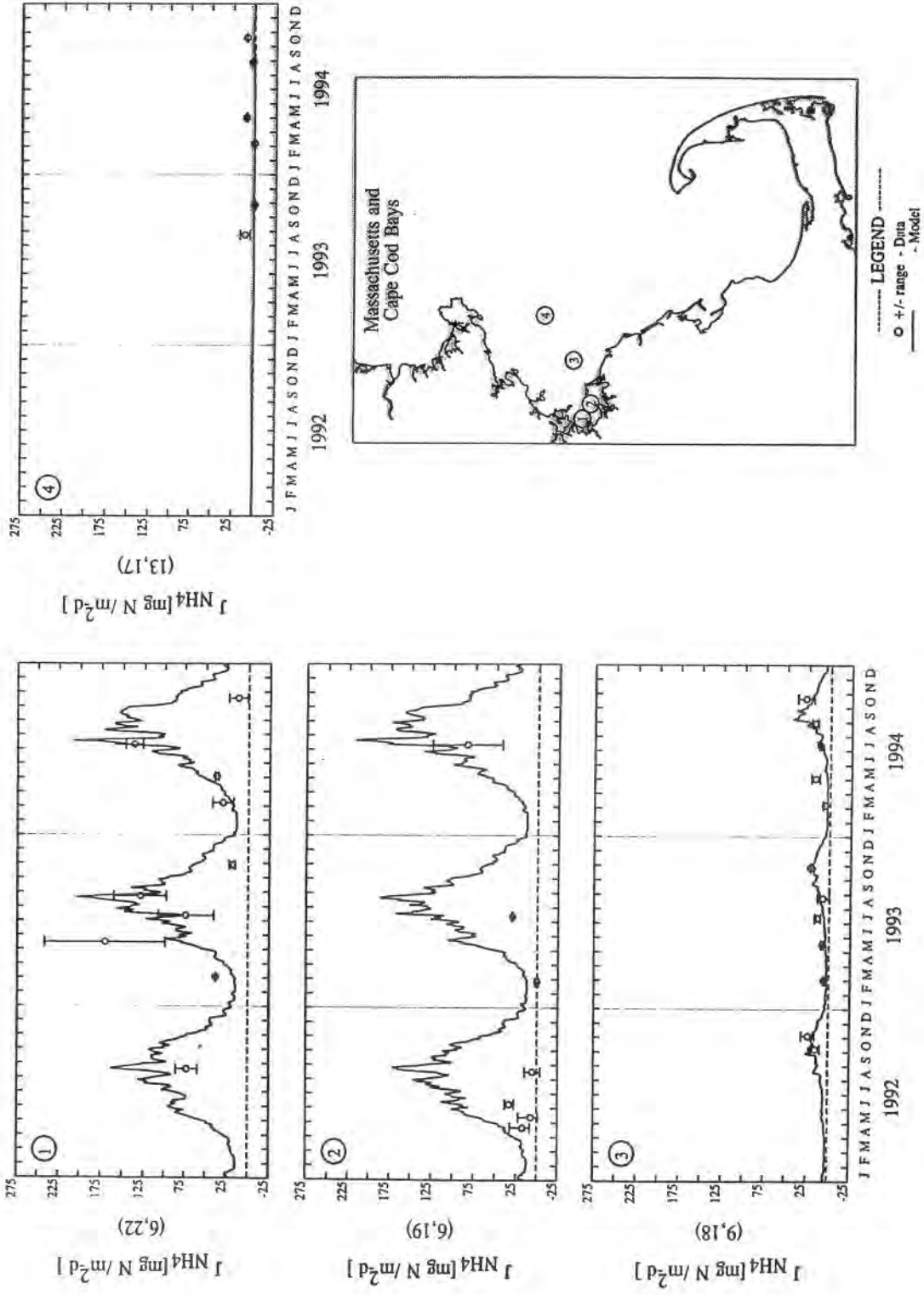


Figure 4-45. Model vs. Data Temporal Comparison for Ammonia Flux 1992-1994

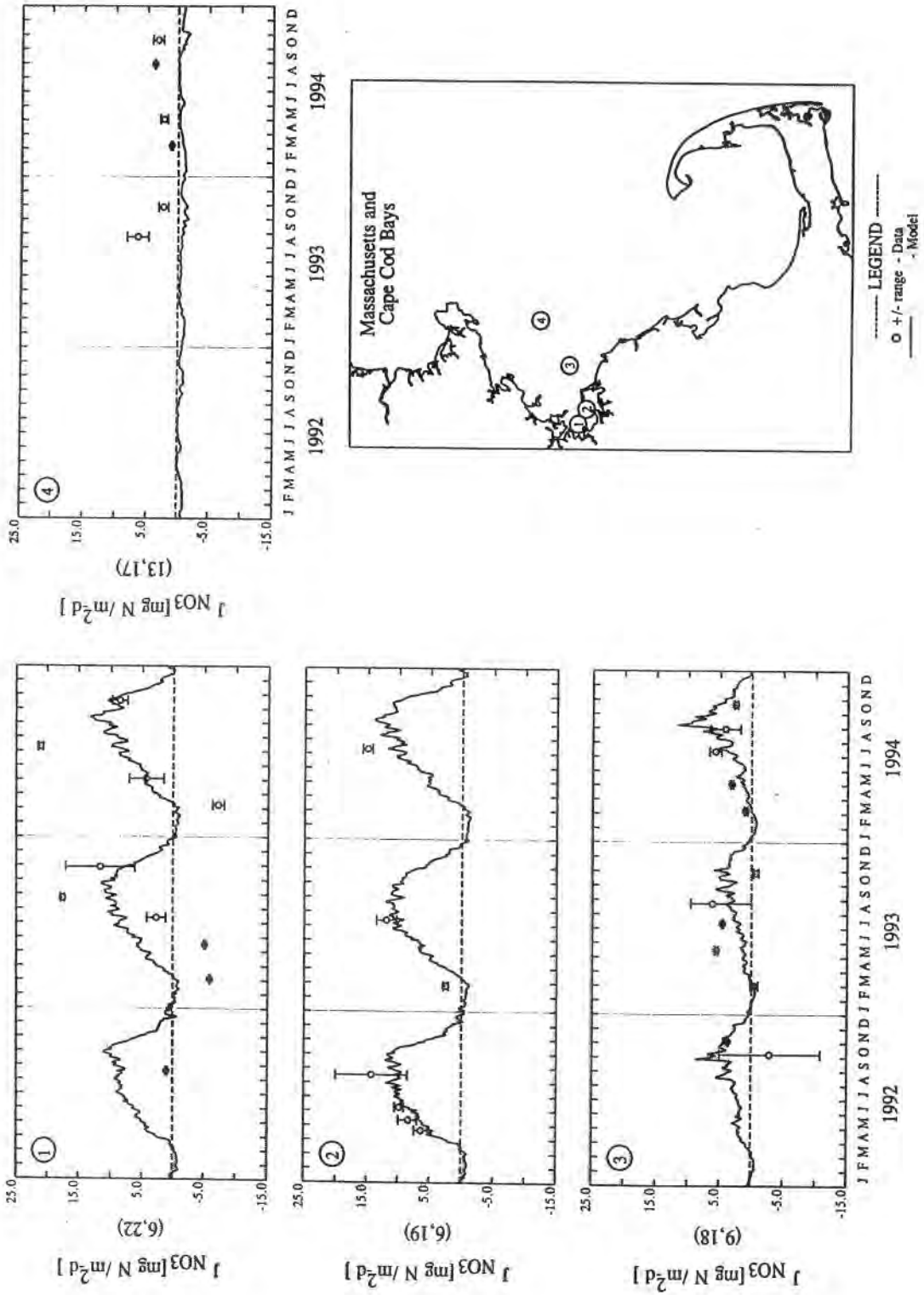


Figure 4-46. Model vs. Data Temporal Comparison for Nitrate Flux 1992-1994

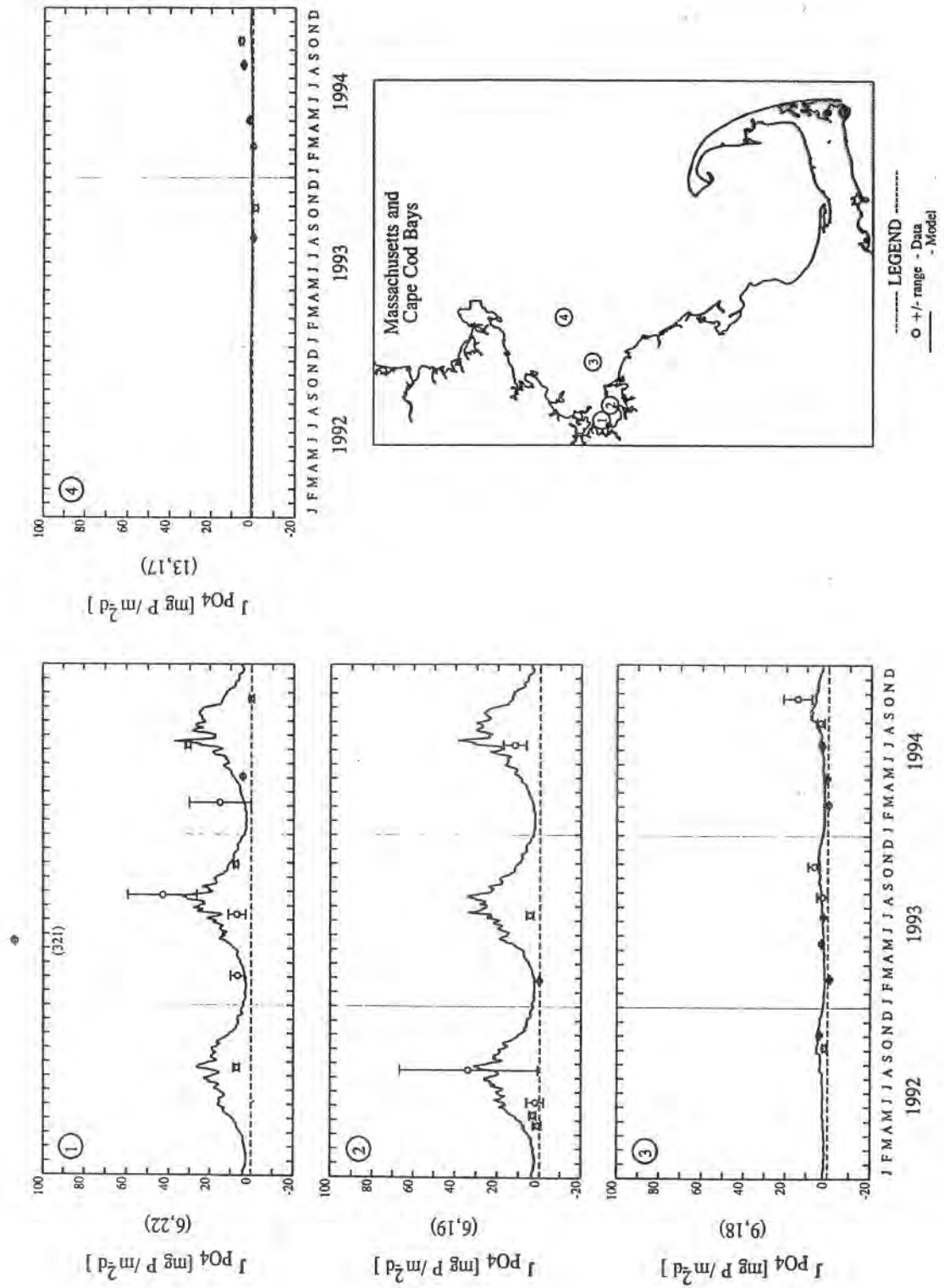


Figure 4-48. Model vs. Data Temporal Comparison for Phosphate Flux 1992-1994

# MASSACHUSETTS BAYS NITROGEN MASS BALANCE

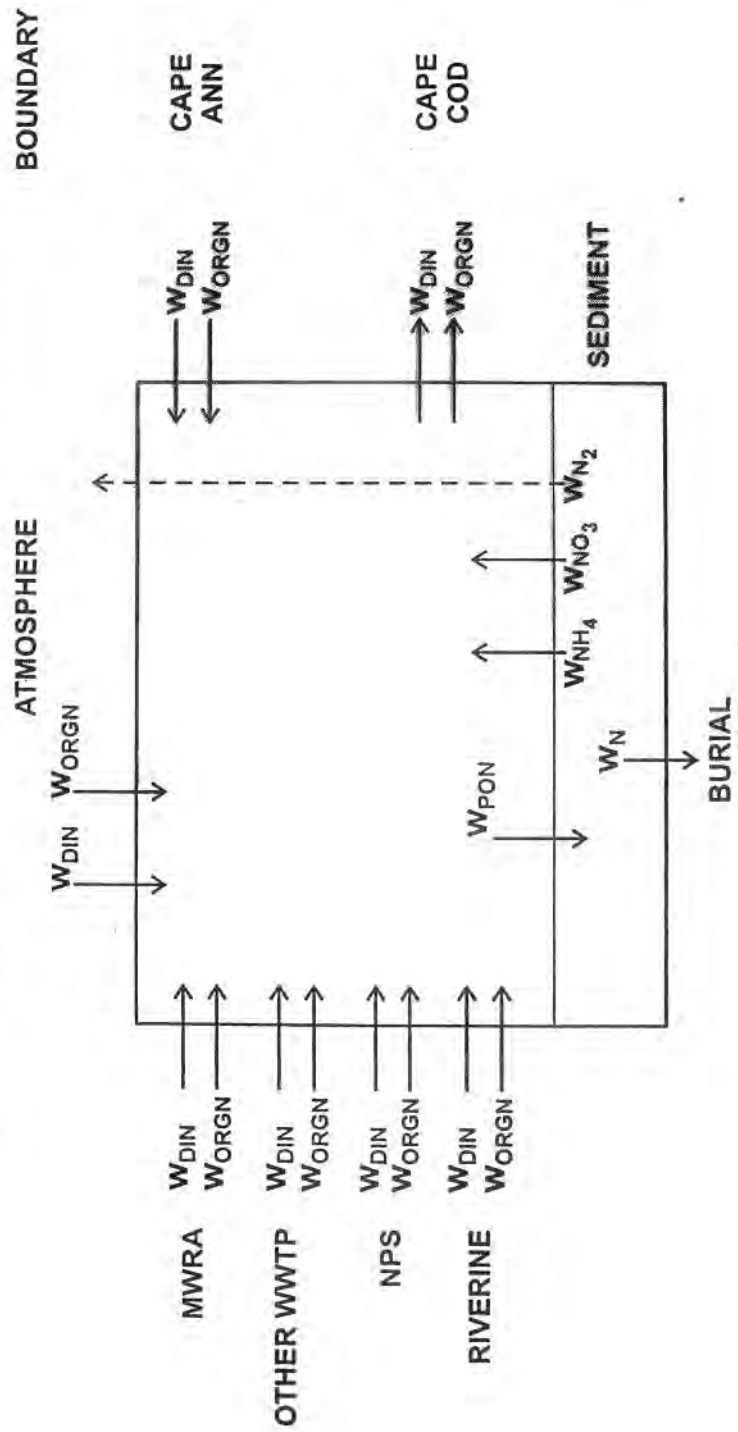


Figure 4-50. Massachusetts Bay Nitrogen Mass Balance

# MASSACHUSETTS BAYS NITROGEN MASS BALANCE FOR 1992

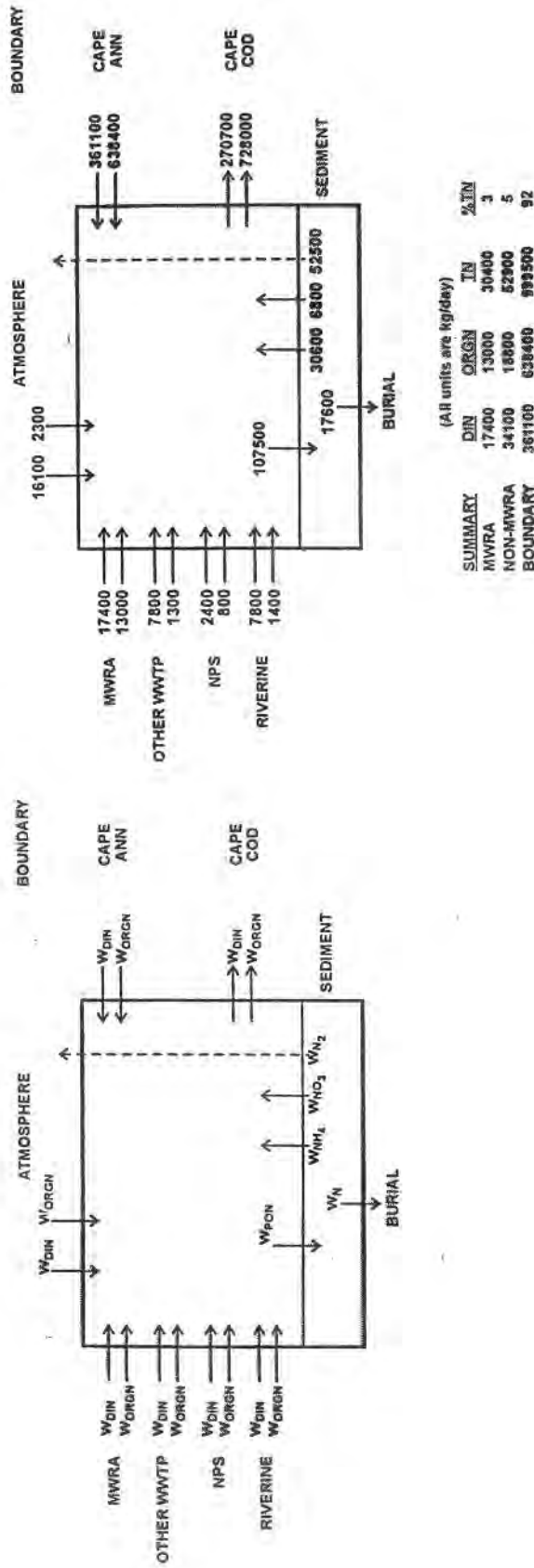


Figure 4-51. Massachusetts Bay Nitrogen Mass Balance for 1992

- Not asked for projections
- other tests of calibration. primary productivity
  - respiration by decline in DO

Nitrogen  
- Mass Balance

In Cape Ann  
out Cape Cod

Sources

Sink Sediment

MWRA 3% TN

~ 49% reaches sediment denitrified

---

Model put MWRA in perspective  
threshold evaluation

***Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling  
1998 Physical Regime (Dr. Rocky Geyer, WHOI)***

Summary of Physical Oceanography  
MWRA Outfall Site  
1998

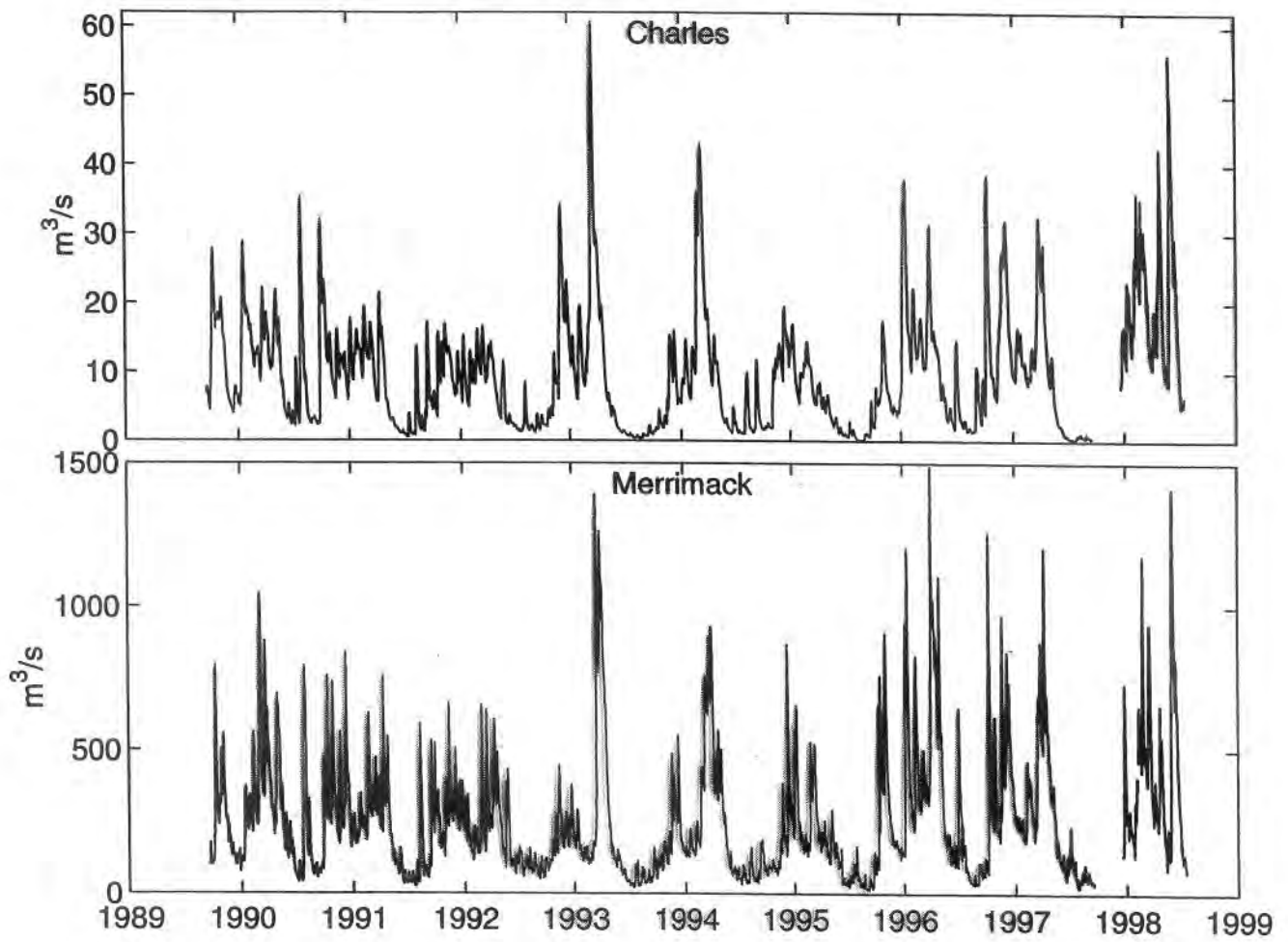
**1. Forcing Conditions**

- Warm winter
- Very wet spring (particularly June)
- Persistent southerly (upwelling) winds in summer

**2. Oceanographic Conditions**

- Warm bottom water (early)
- Very low salinity, surface and bottom
- High stratification
- Less warming of bottom water than normal





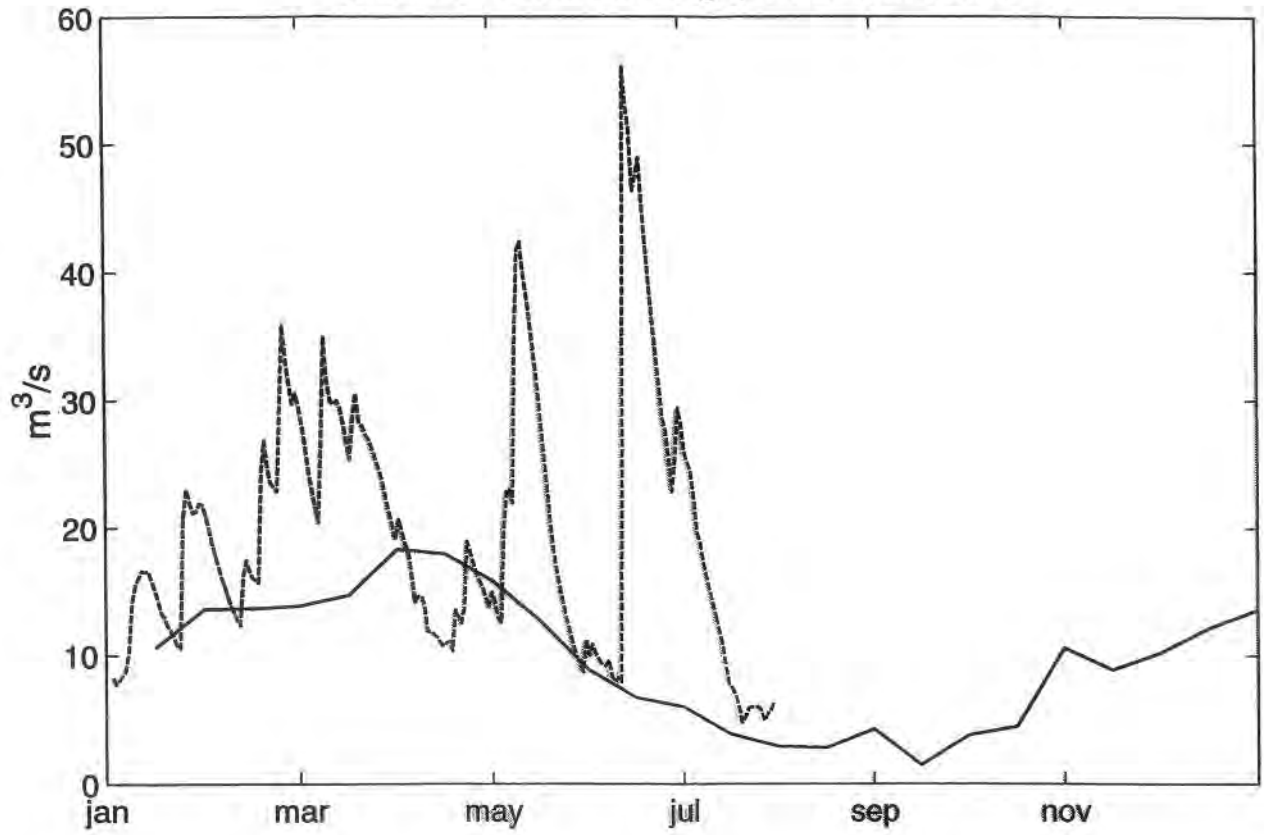
## Charles River Discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)

	jan-mar	apr-jun	jul-sep	oct-dec
1990	13	13	7	13
1991	13	7	3	10
1992	10	8	2	9
1993	15	15	1	5
1994	15	11	3	7
1995	11	5	1	7
1996	16	12	4	16
1997	12	13	1	*
<b>1998</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	*	*

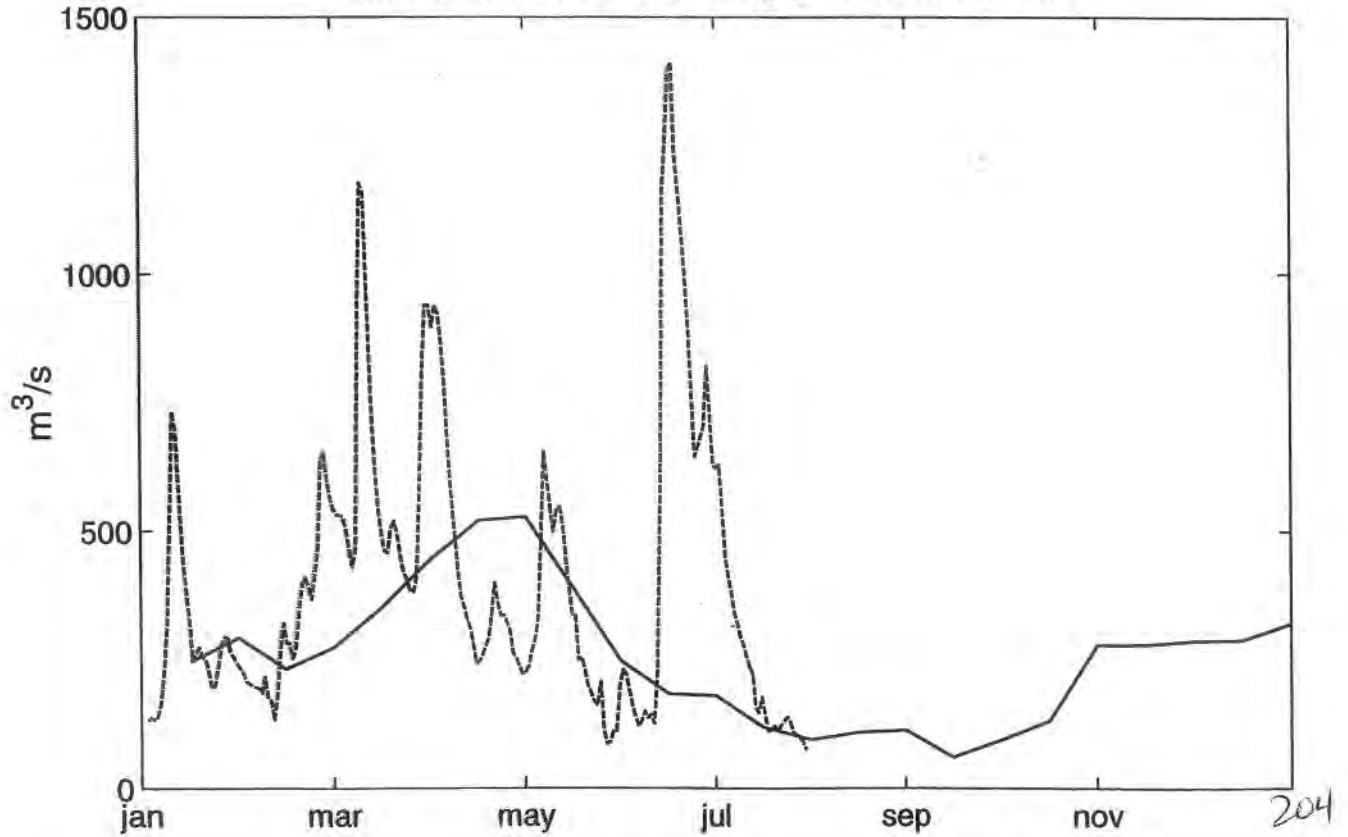
## Merrimack River Discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)

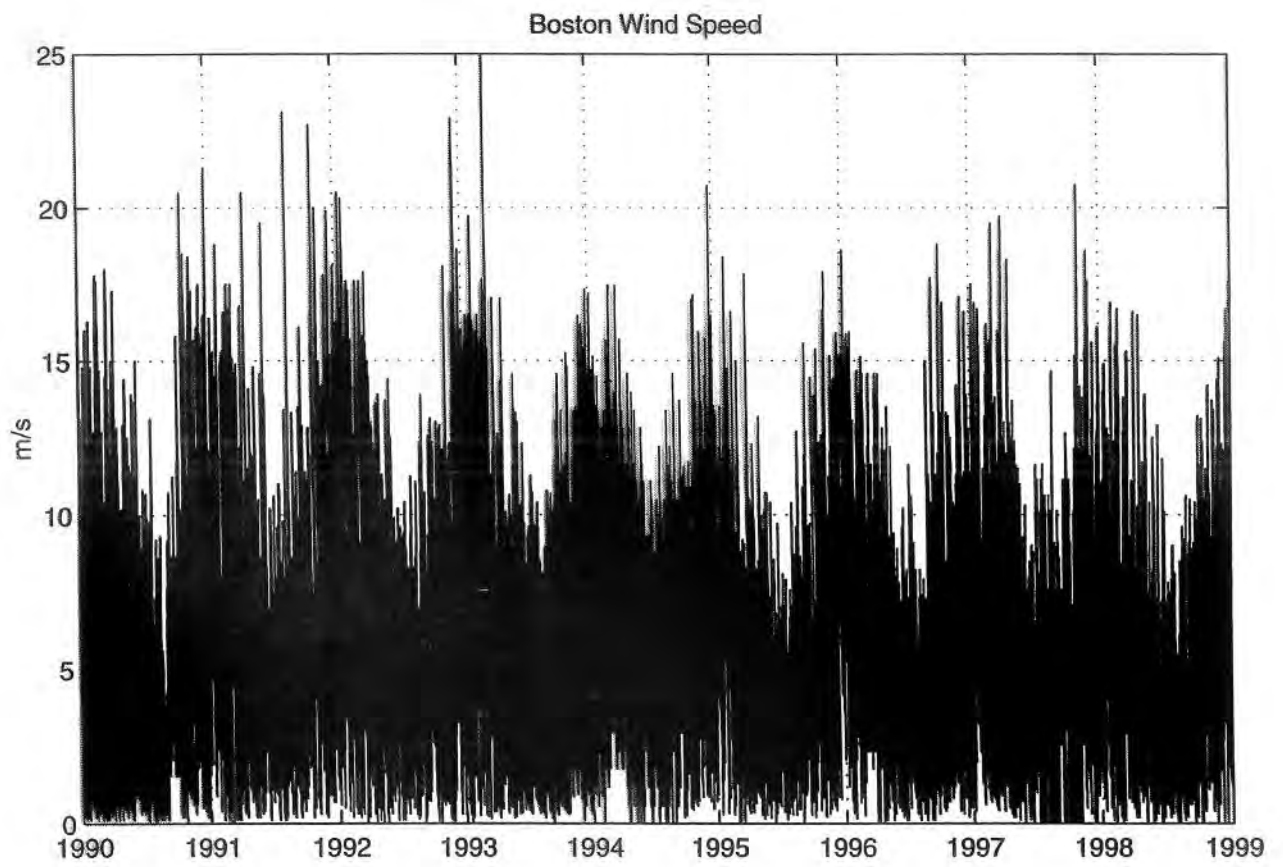
	jan-mar	apr-jun	jul-sep	oct-dec
1990	333	366	164	331
1991	289	237	117	295
1992	254	266	100	174
1993	200	393	51	198
1994	253	380	74	164
1995	295	154	45	292
1996	409	487	127	401
1997	296	404	70	*
<b>1998</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>451</b>	*	*

Charles River Discharge, 1998 and mean



Merrimack River Discharge, 1998 and mean





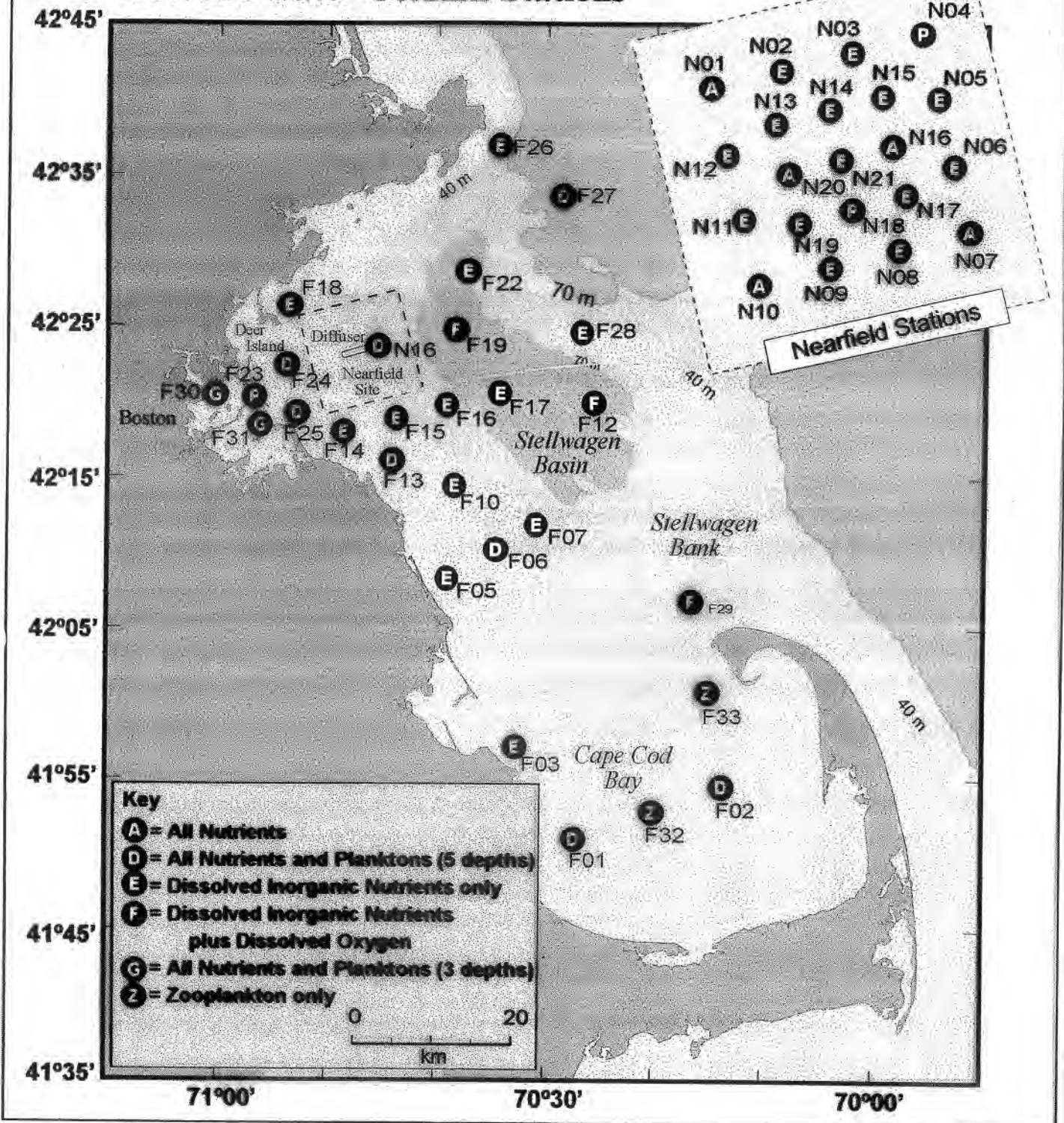
## Southerly (upwelling) Wind Stress (Pa\*10<sup>3</sup>)

	jan-mar	apr-jun	jul-sep	oct-dec
1990	-0.0	1.4	0.8	0.1
1991	-1.6	-0.2	1.0	-4.2
1992	-3.8	-0.4	1.0	-3.4
1993	-4.5	-0.0	1.3	-1.3
1994	-3.5	1.0	0.4	-1.7
1995	-0.1	0.0	-0.0	-0.9
1996	-2.8	0.5	-0.2	-1.3
1997	-0.1	-0.8	0.5	-2.2
<b>1998</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
mean	-2.3	0.1	0.6	-1.7

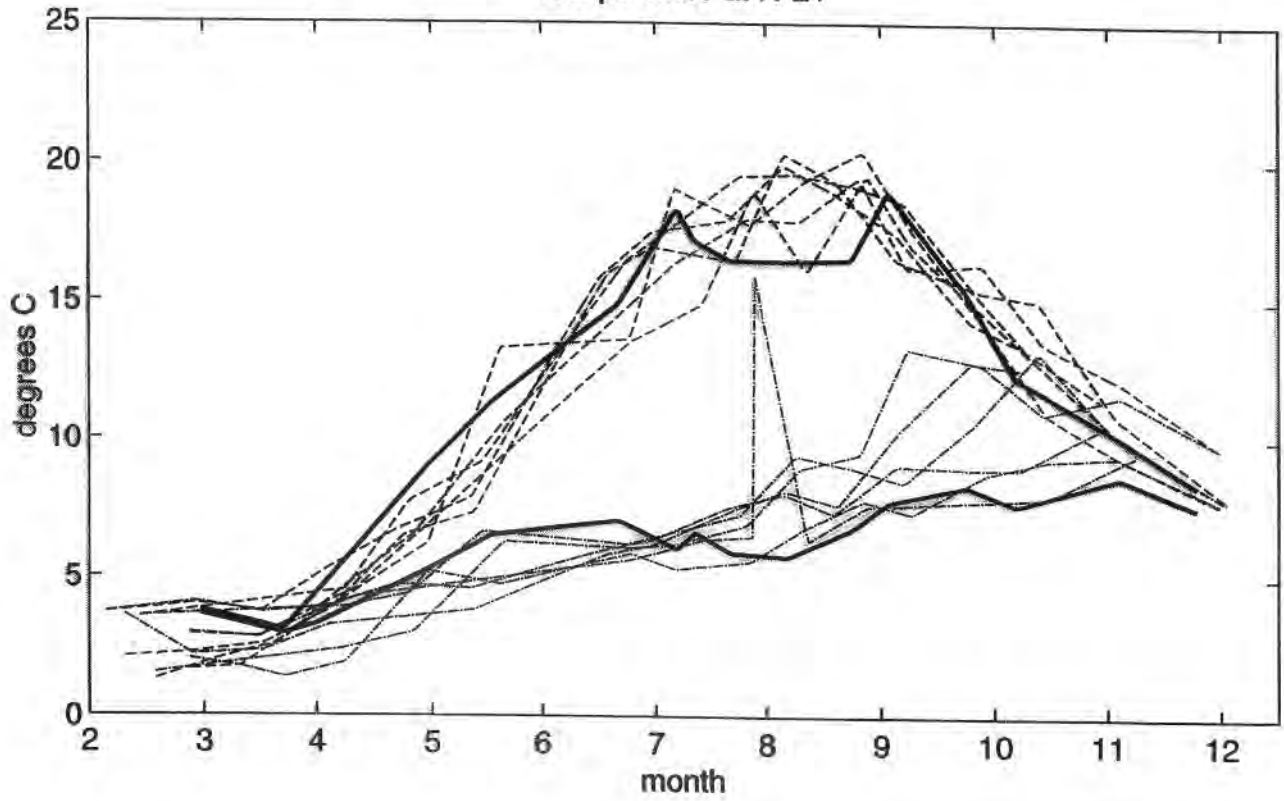
## Wind Speed (m/s)

	jan-mar	apr-jun	jul-sep	oct-dec
1990	7.0	5.8	4.4	7.9
1991	7.6	5.8	5.3	7.5
1992	7.9	5.8	5.1	7.0
1993	7.7	5.8	4.9	6.9
1994	7.4	5.9	5.6	6.8
1995	6.6	4.6	4.6	7.2
1996	7.3	5.1	4.5	6.6
1997	7.6	5.3	5.1	6.6
<b>1998</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>
mean	7.3	5.4	4.8	7.0

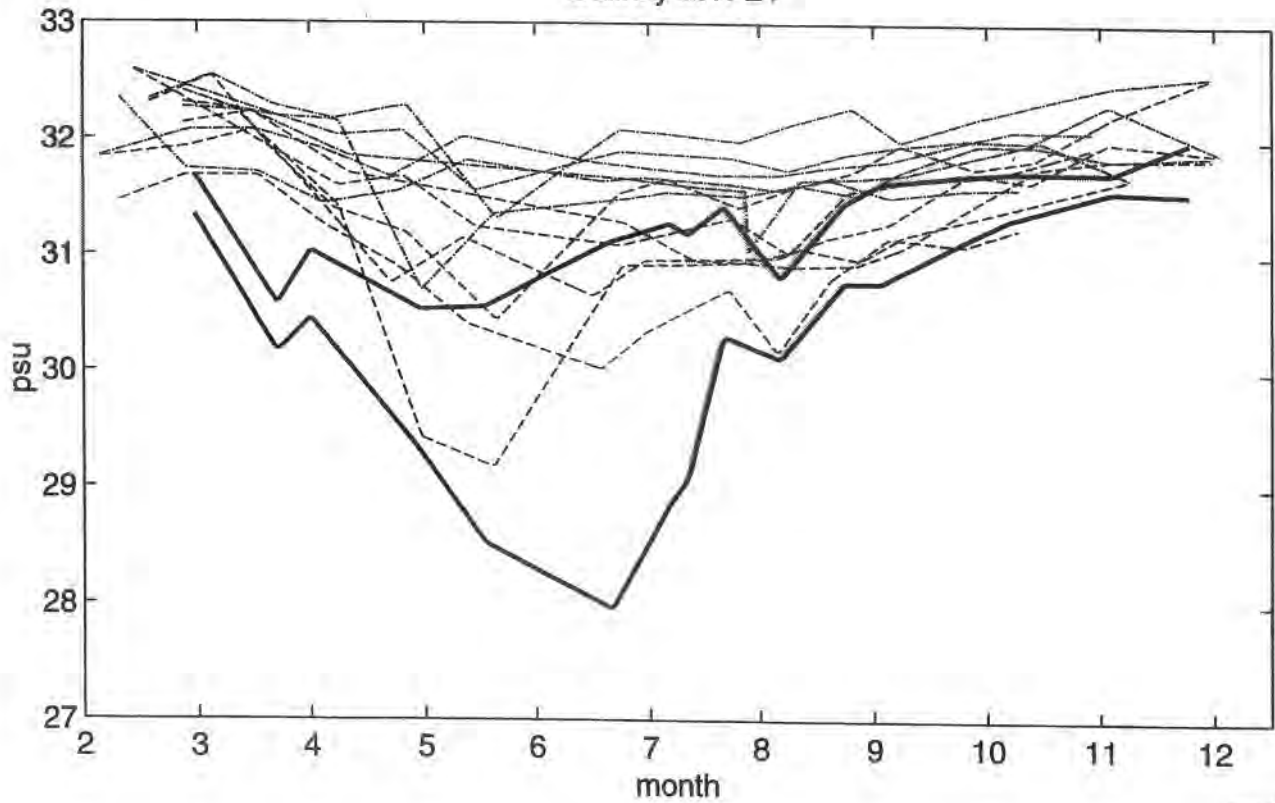
# MWRA Water Column Stations



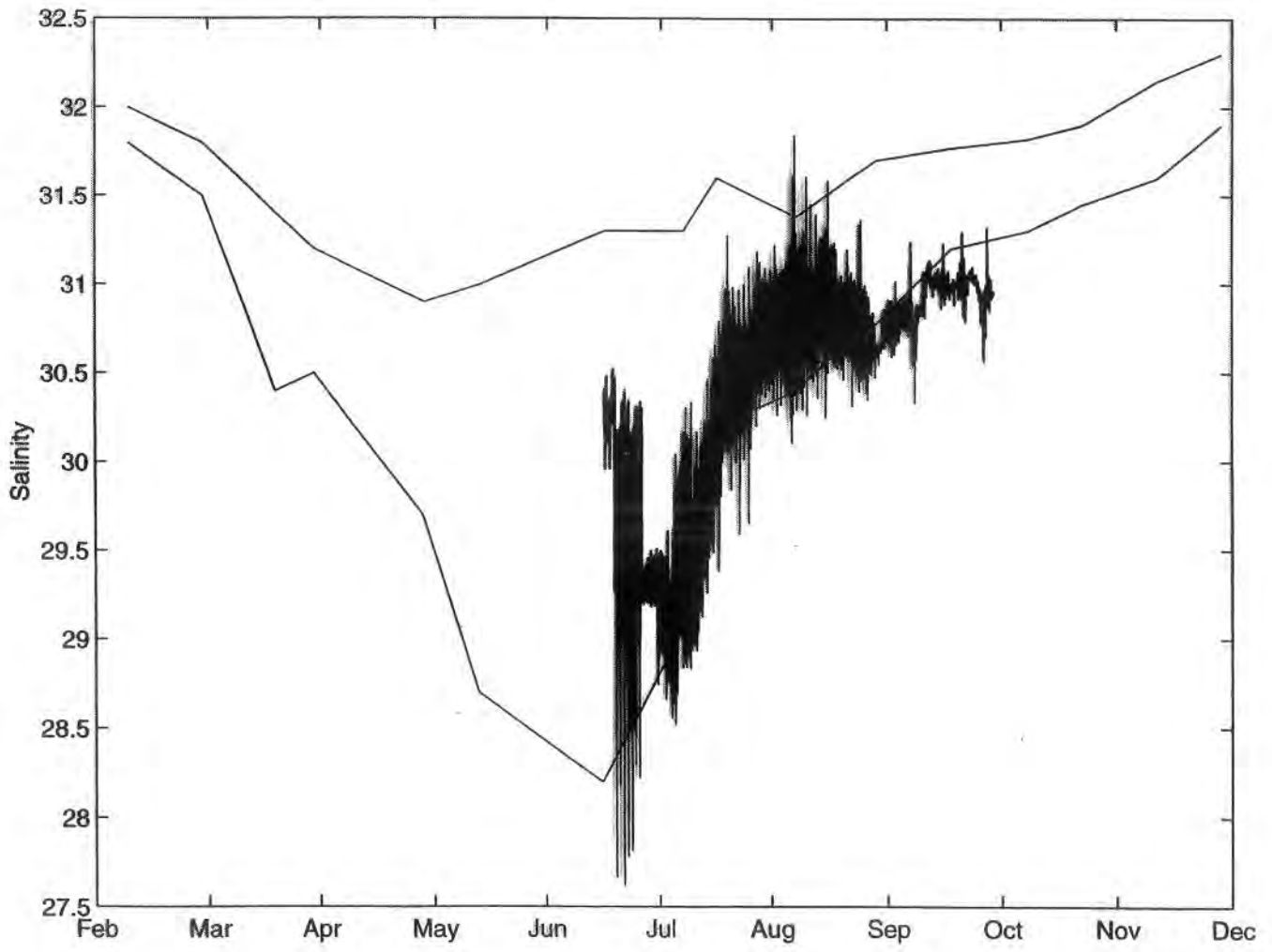
Temperature at N-21



Salinity at N-21

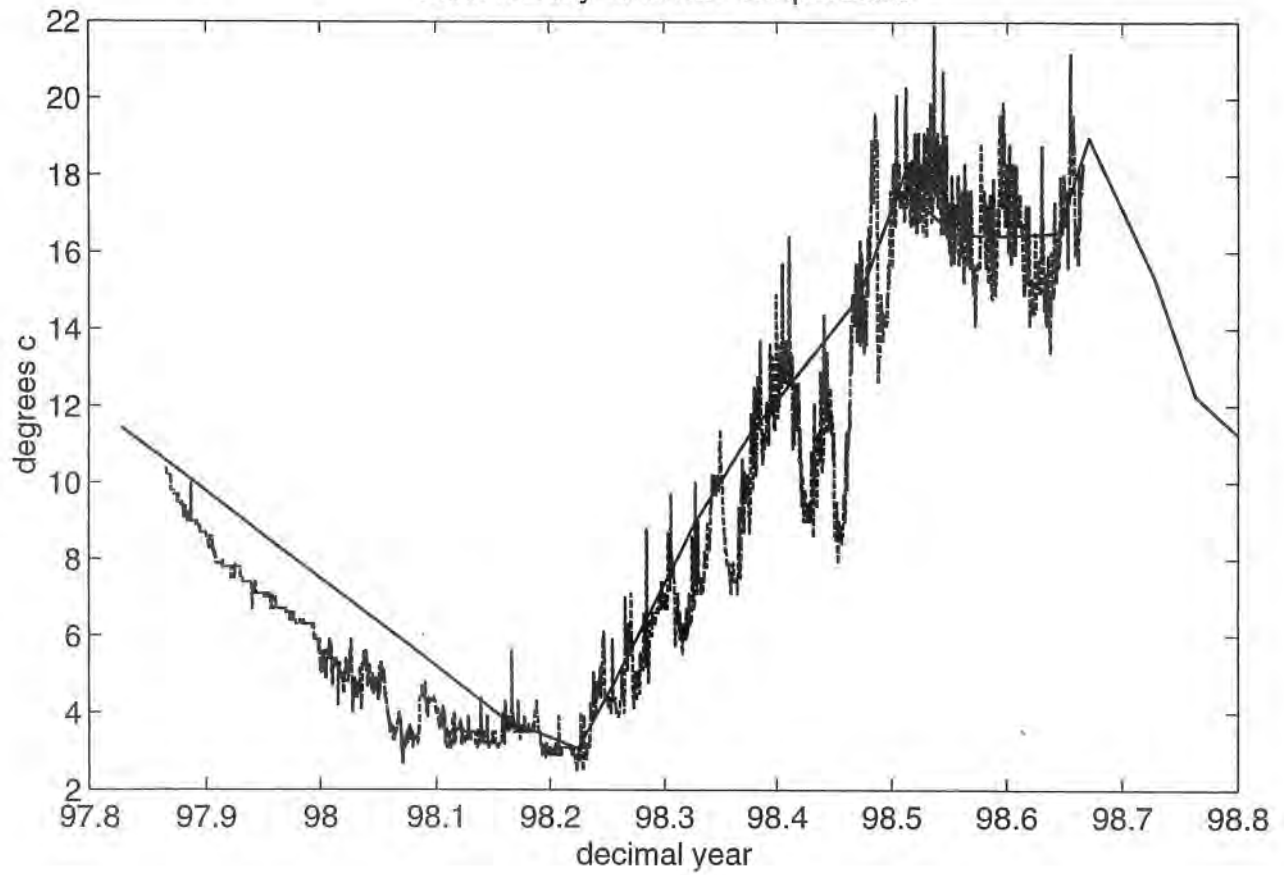


208

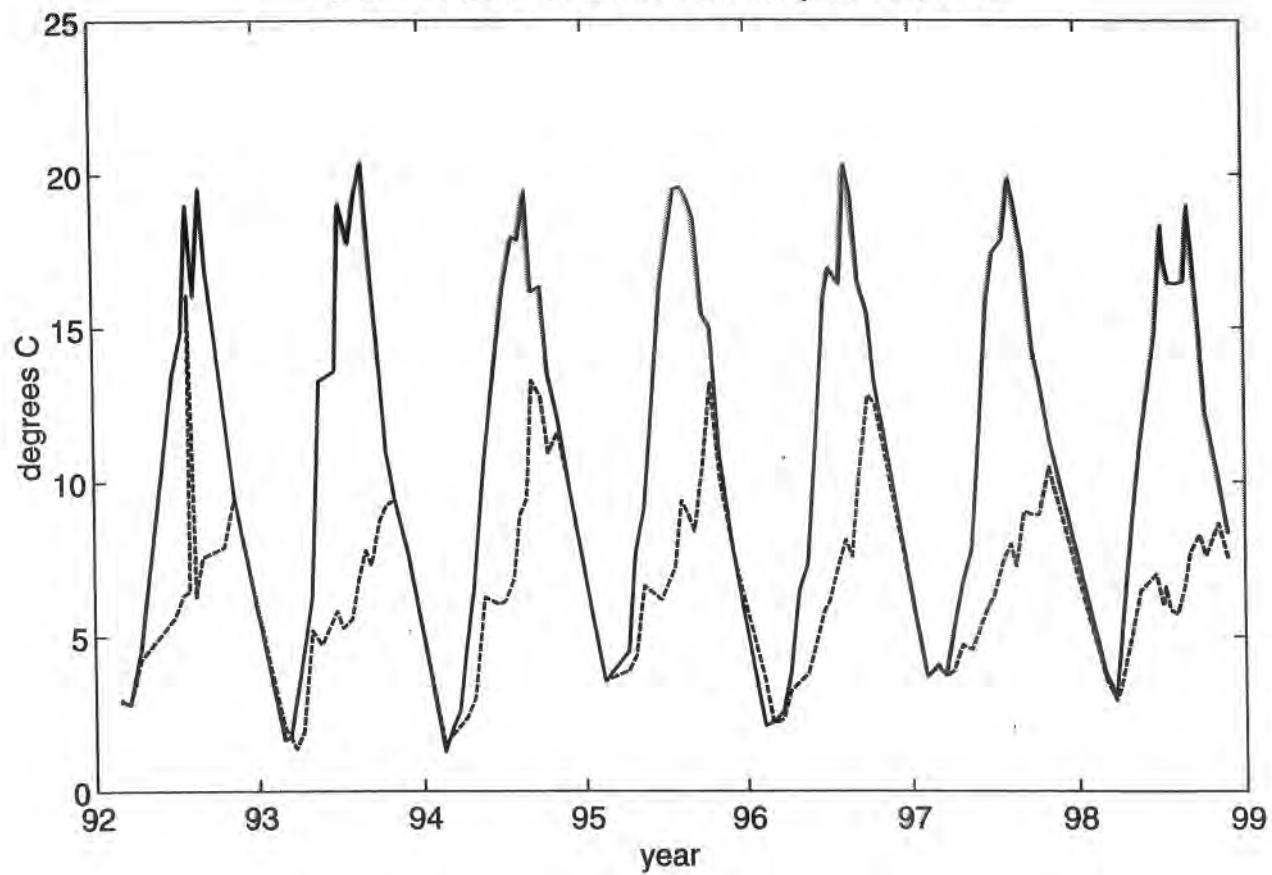




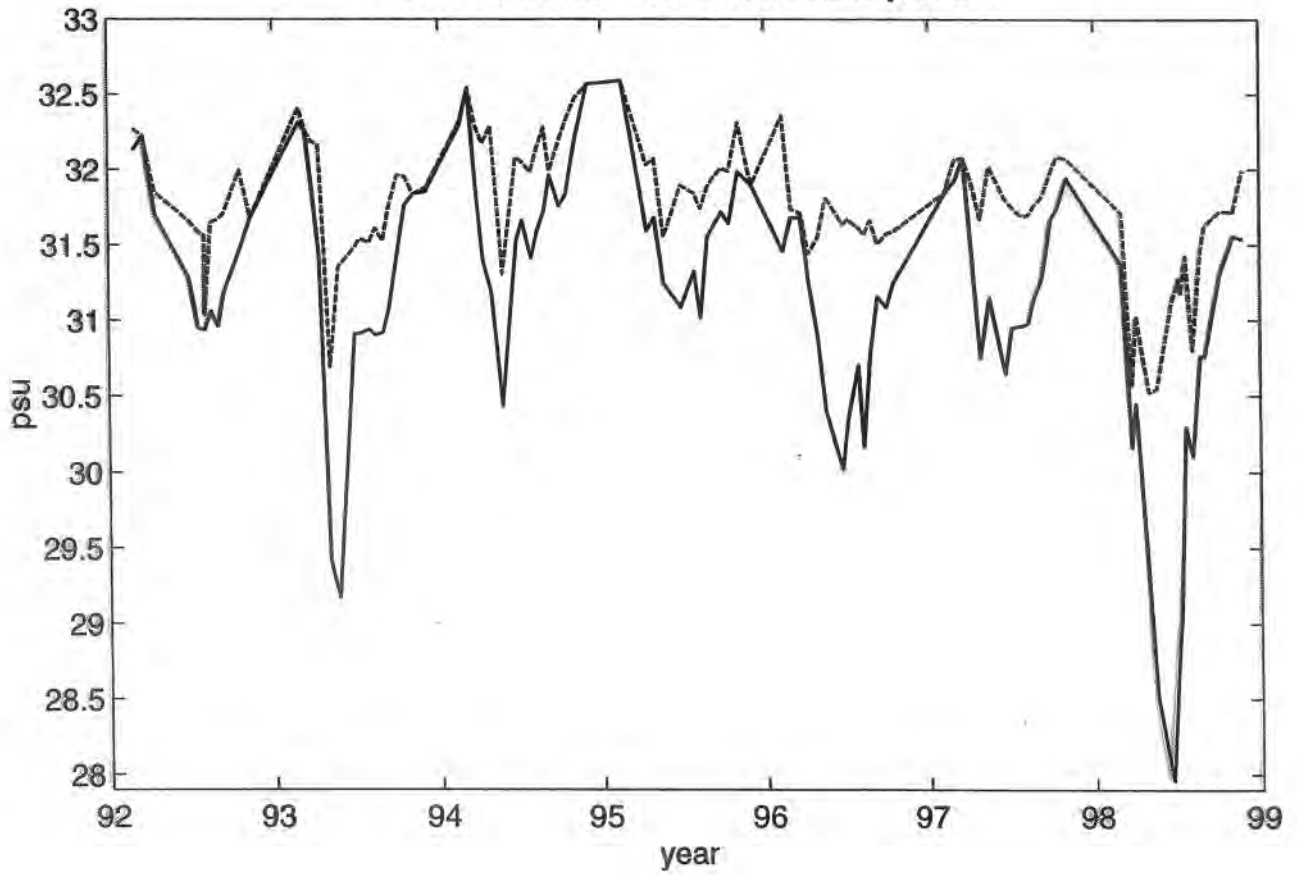
Boston Buoy and N21 temperature

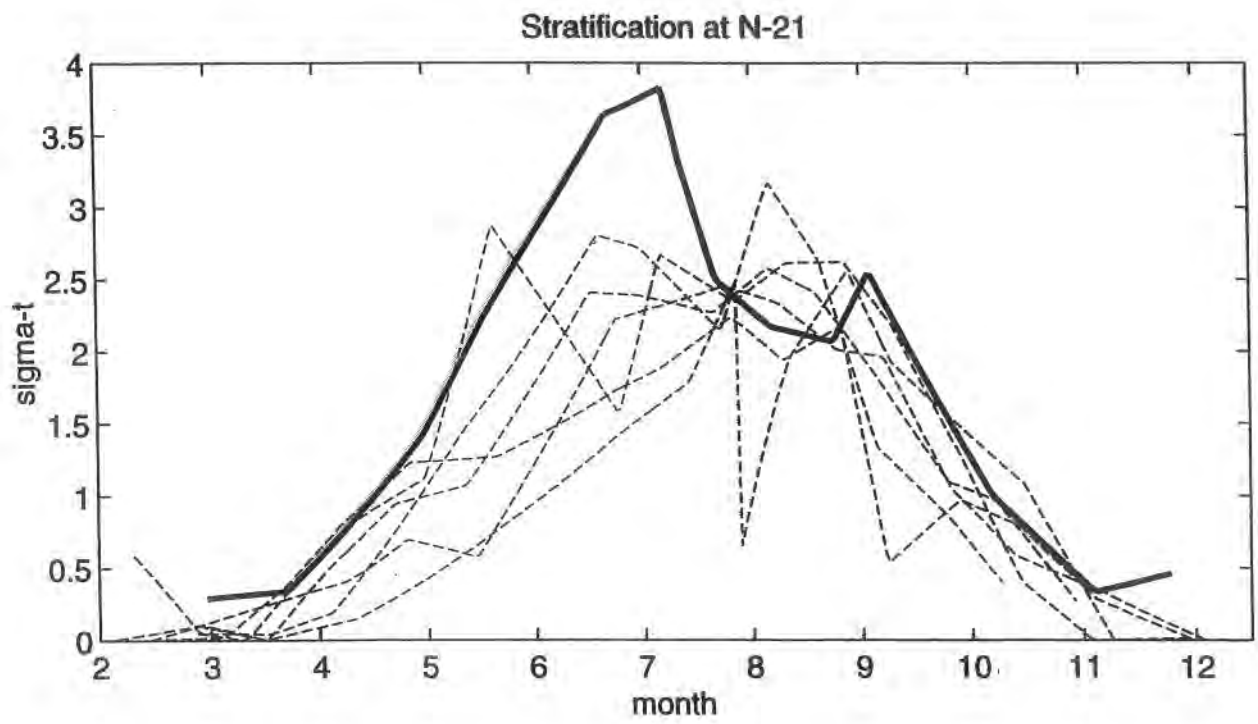


Near-surface and near-bottom temperature, N-21



Near-surface and near-bottom salinity, N-21



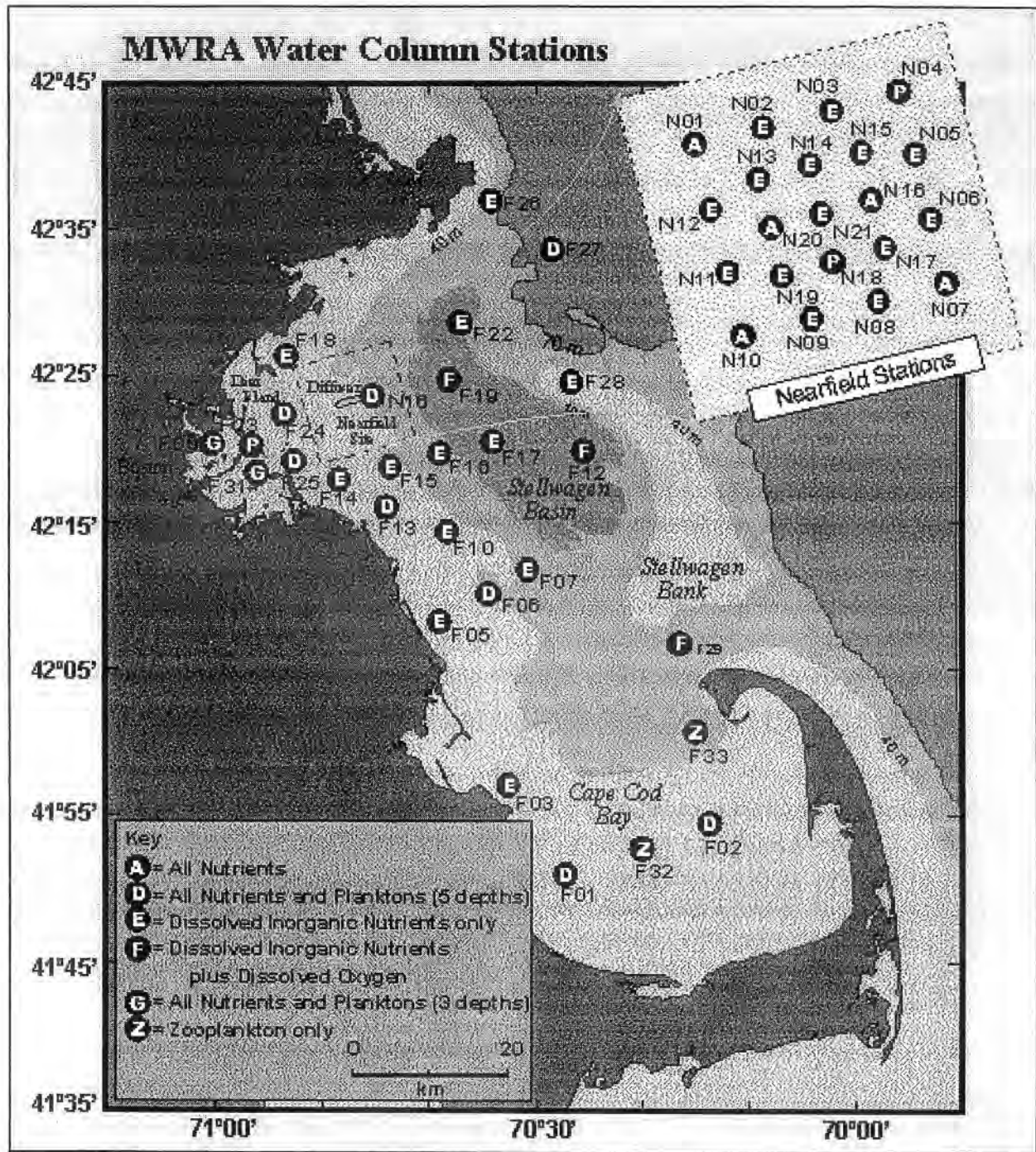


*Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling*  
**1998 Water Quality Overview** (Mr. Scott Libby, Battelle)

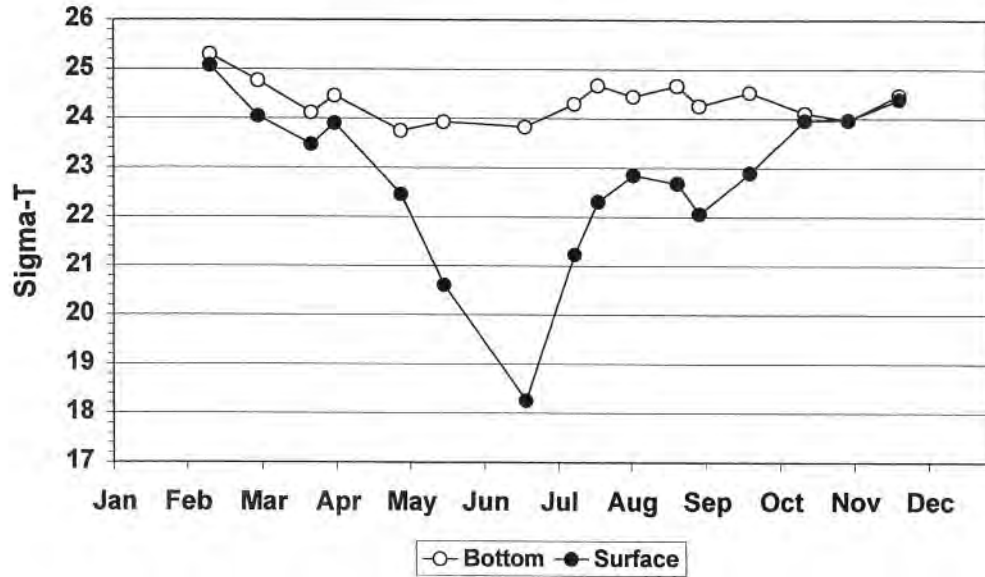
# 1998 Nutrient Overview

- General Trends - Nutrients, Chla and DO
- 1998 “Events”
- Interannual Comparisons

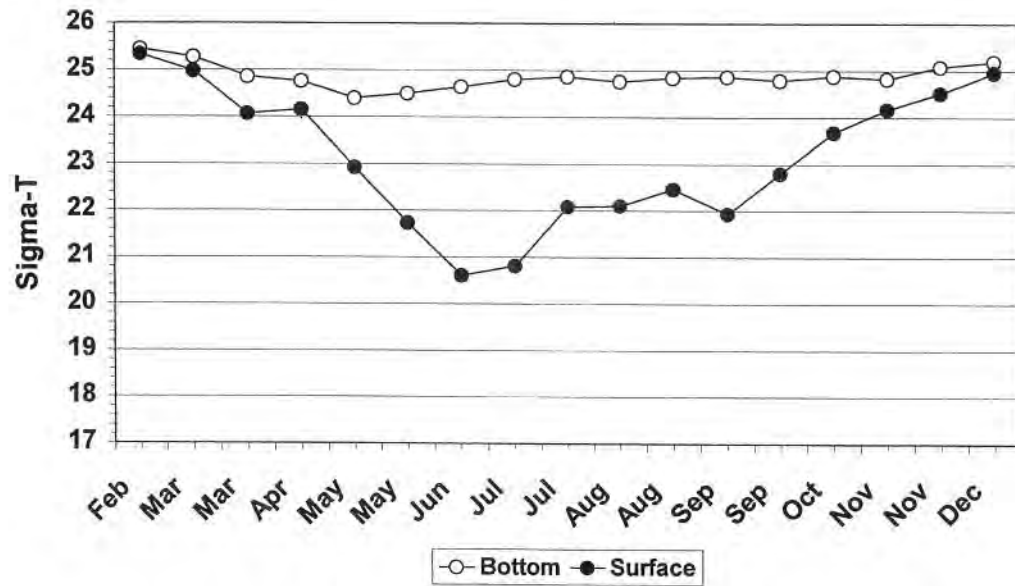
# MWRA Water Column Stations



Inner Nearfield: N10, N11

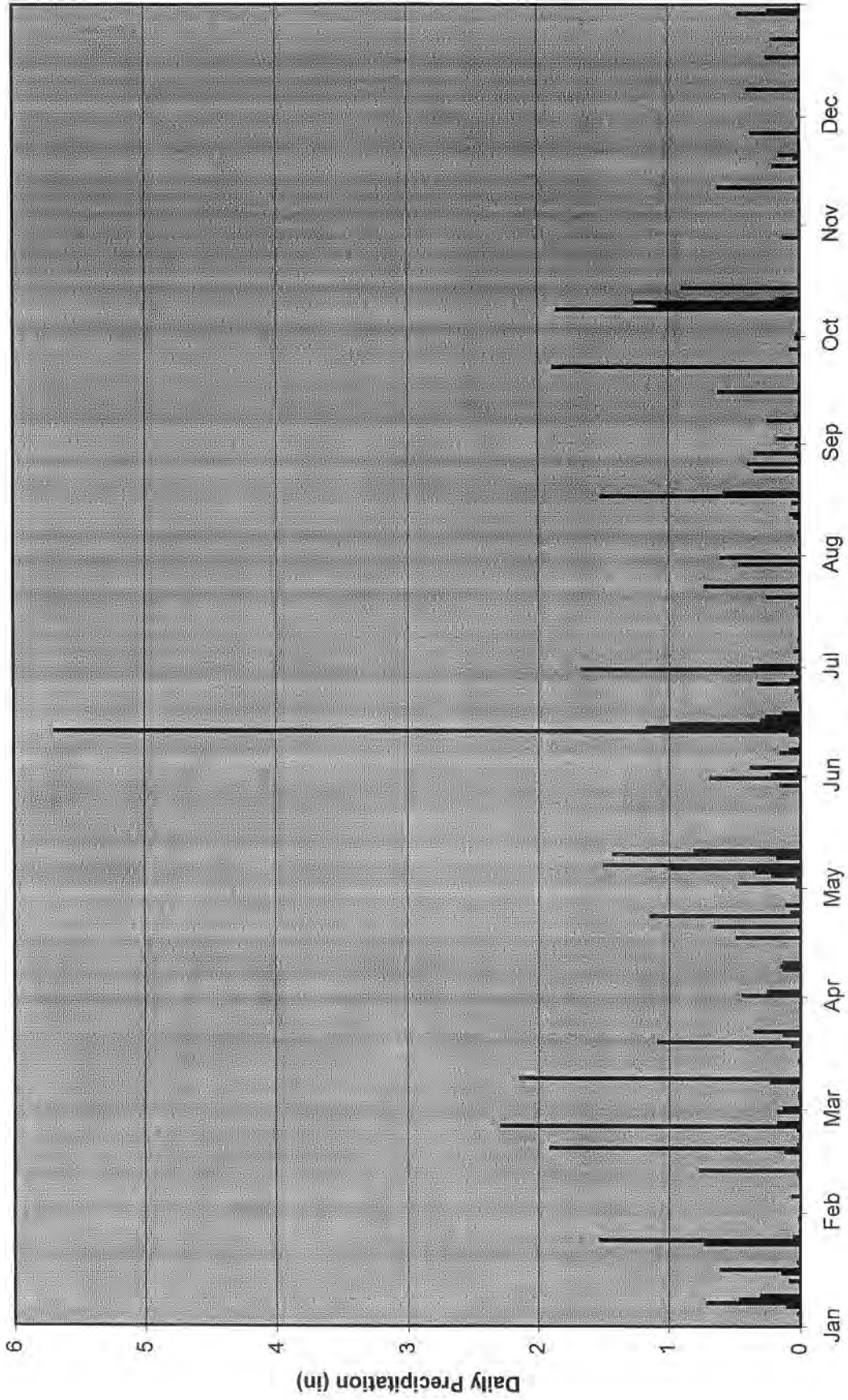


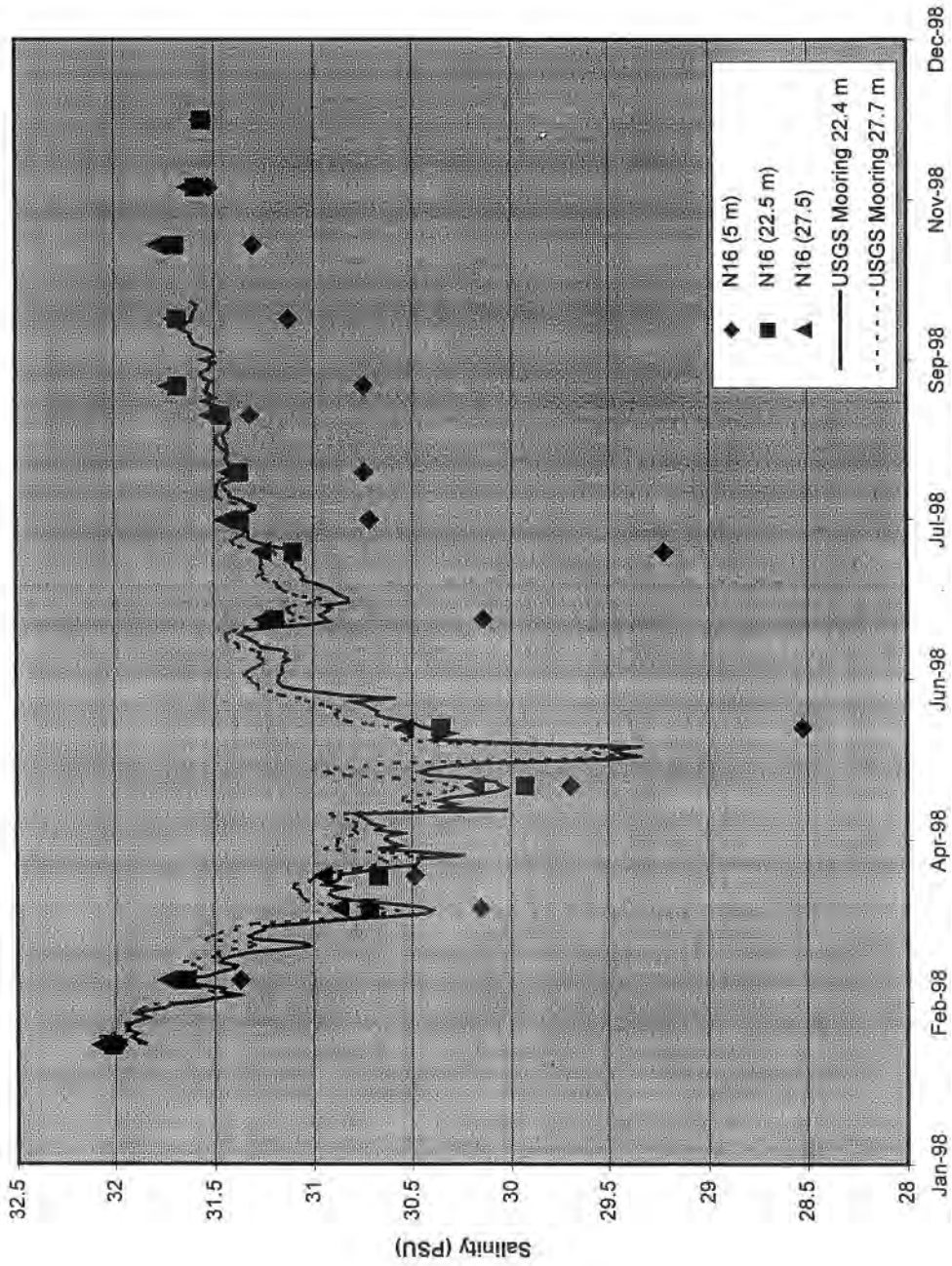
Outer Nearfield: N04, N07, N16, N20



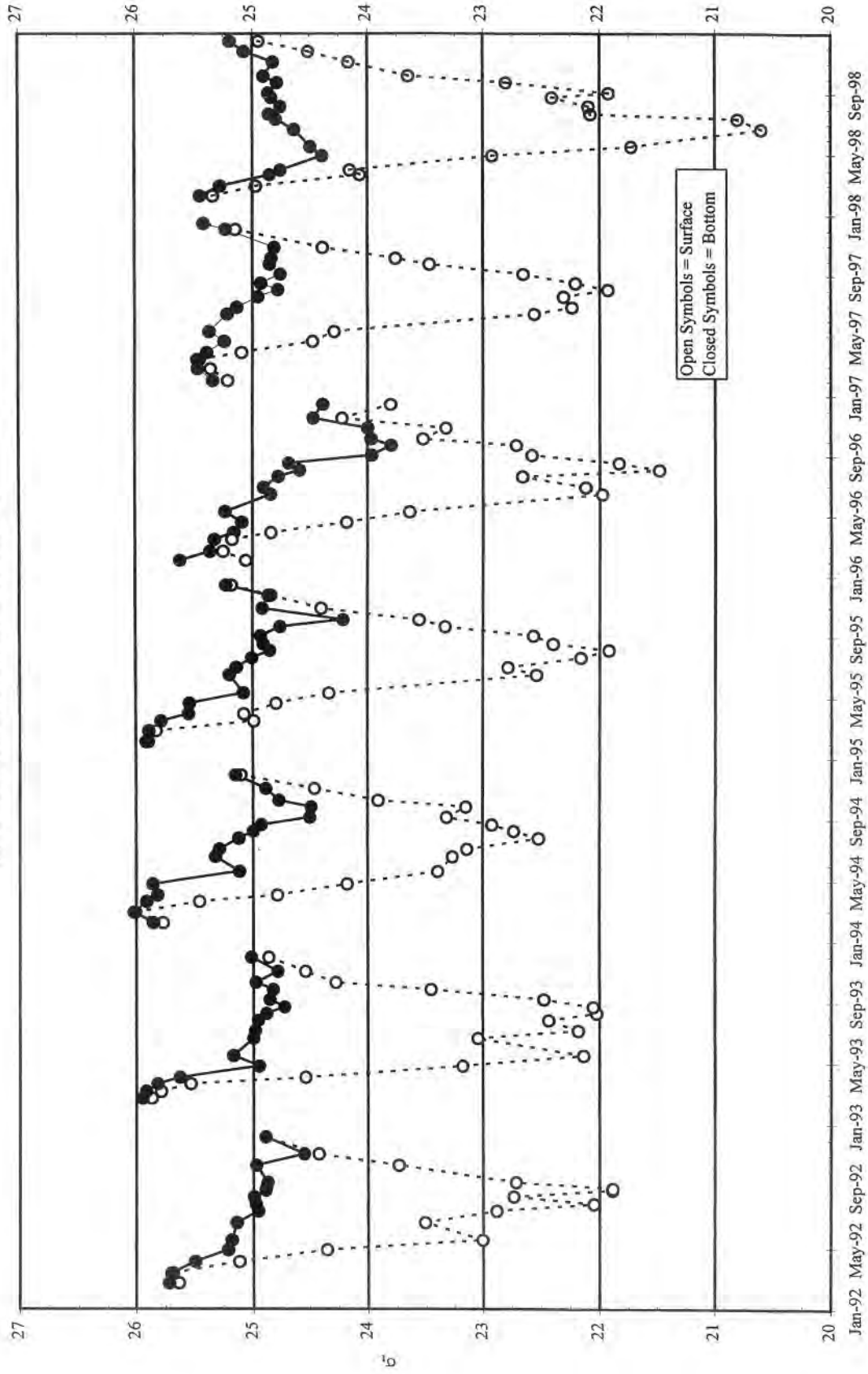


(c) Boston's Logan Airport Precipitation

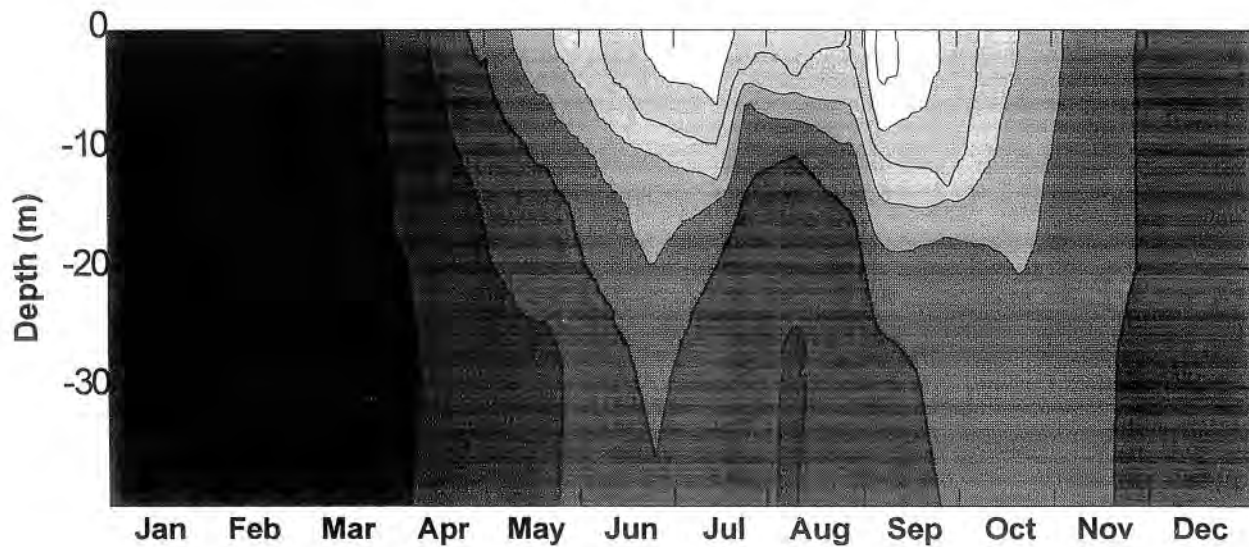




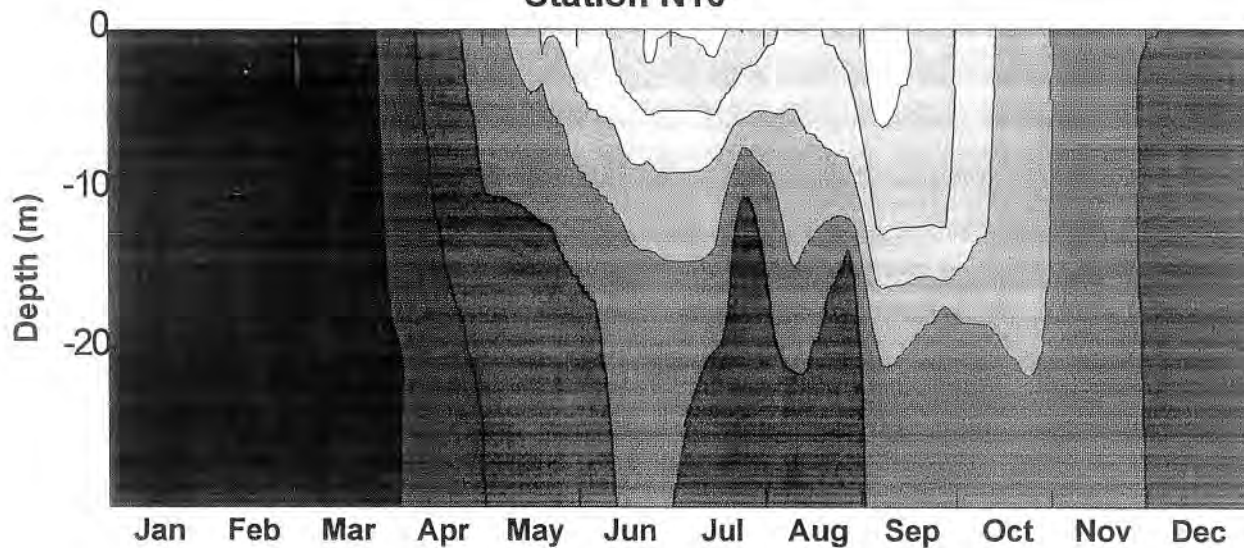
(a) Outer Nearfield: N04, N07, N16, N20



**Station N01**



**Station N10**

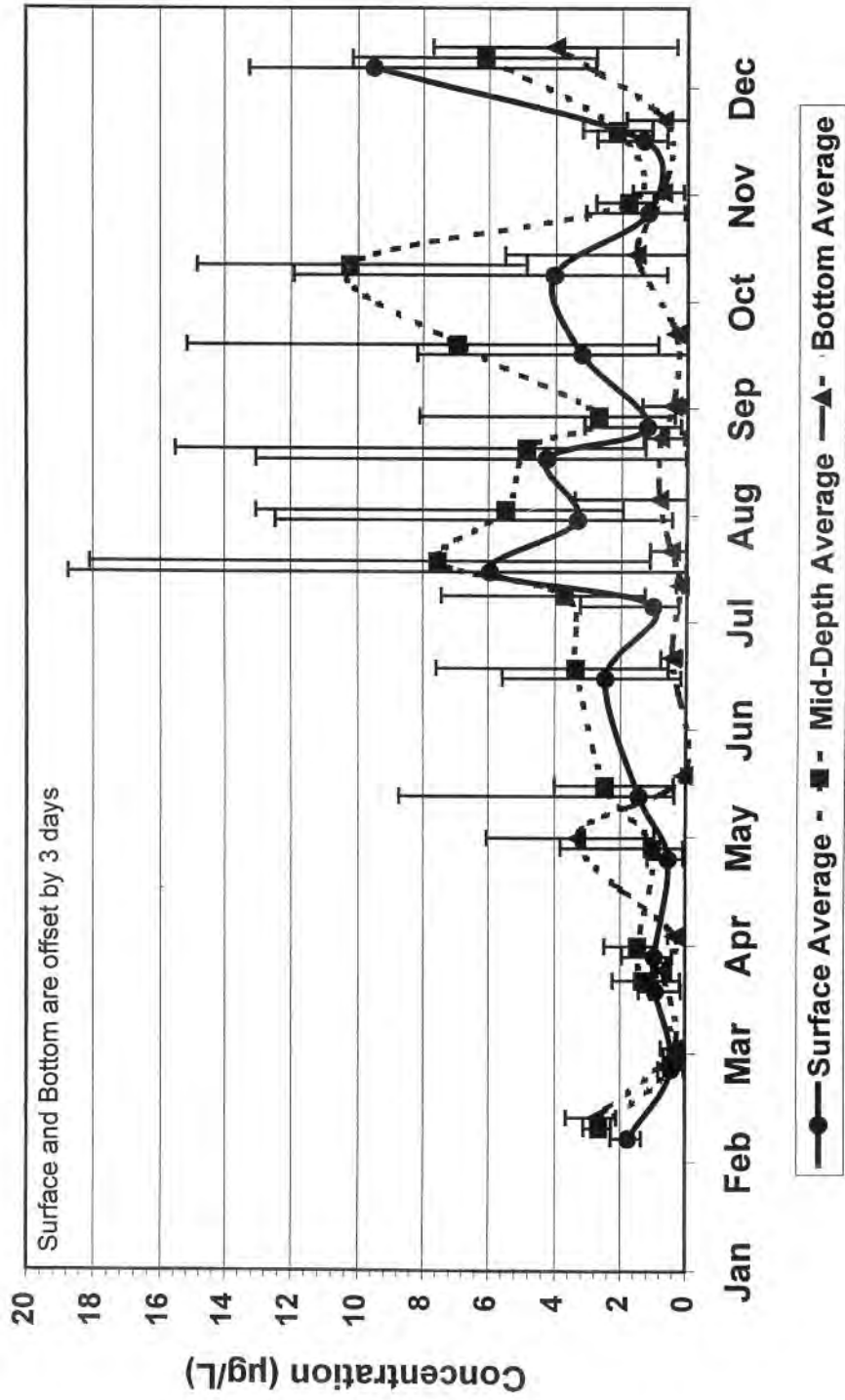


**Temperature (°C)**

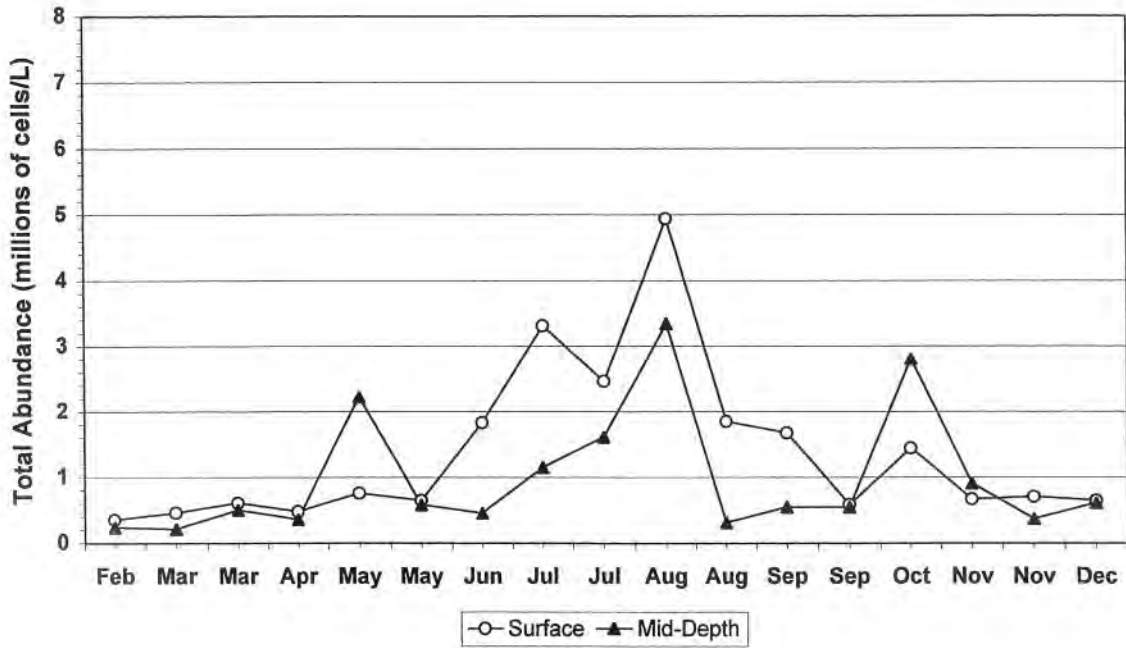


4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18

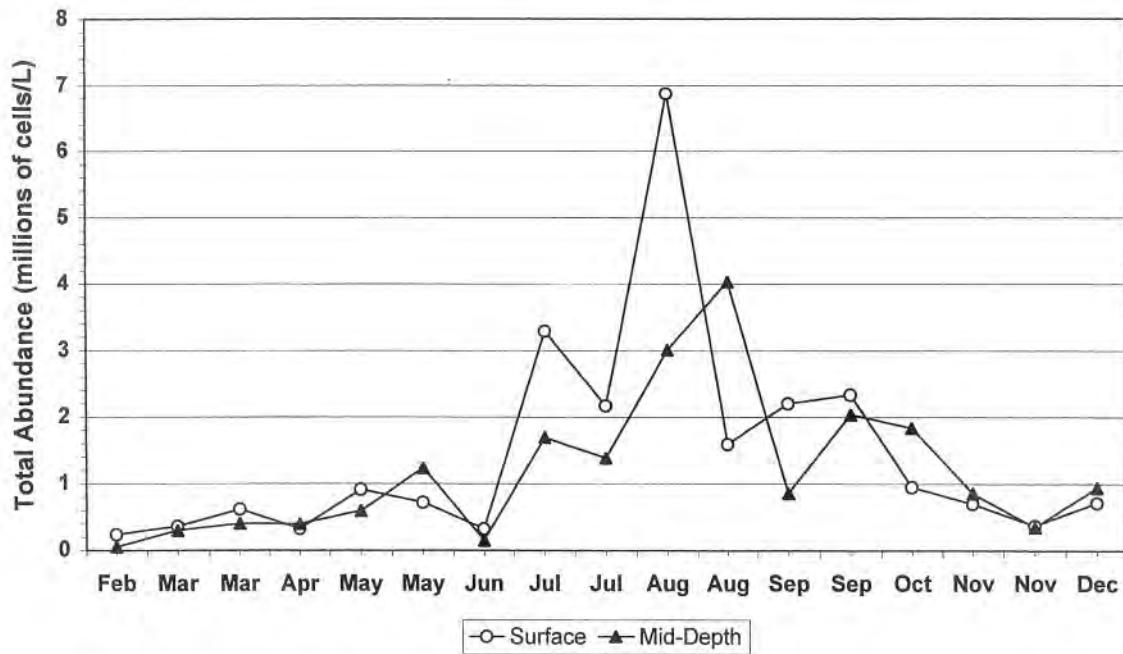
# Fluorescence (Nearfield Stations)

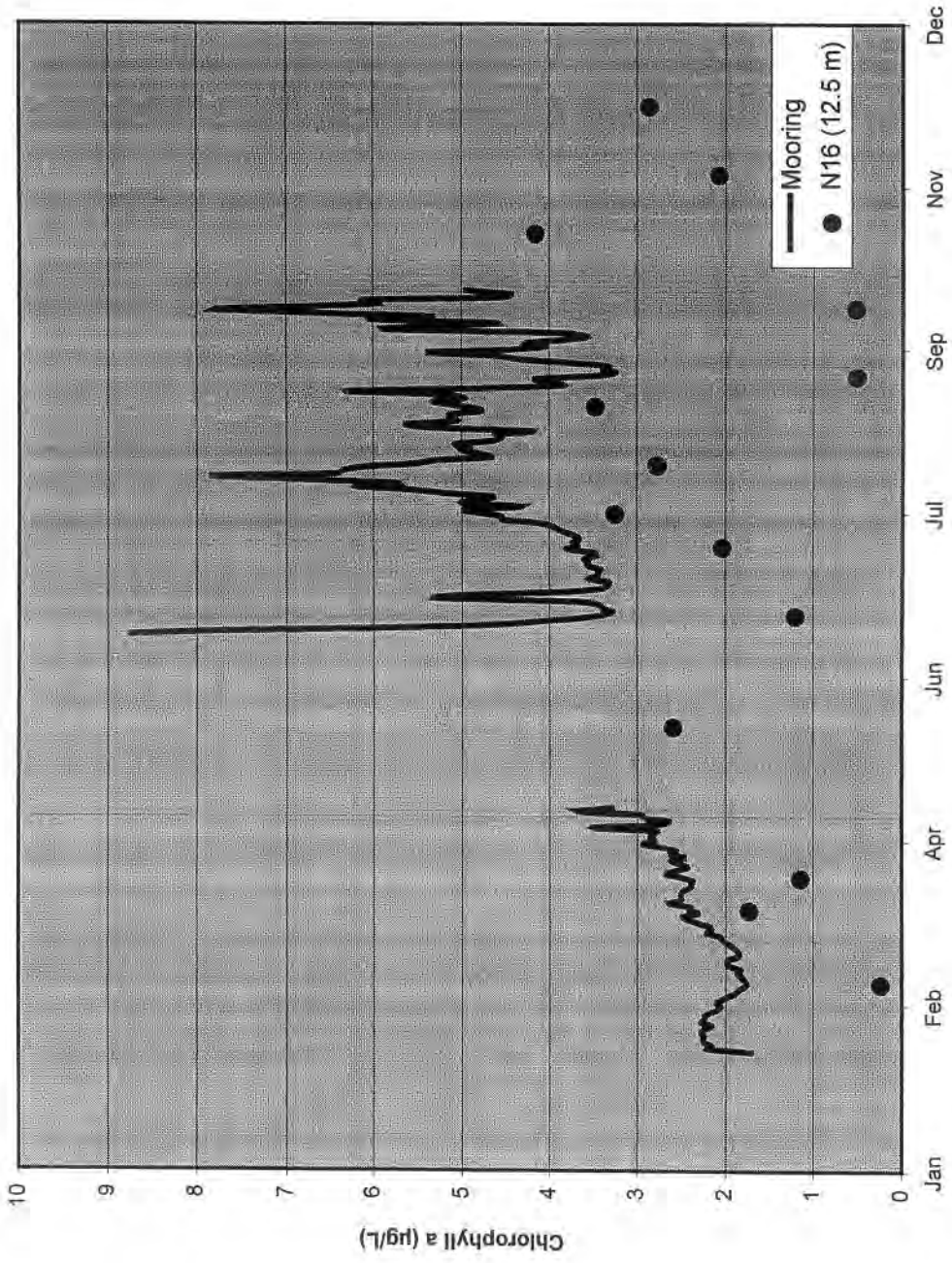


Station N04

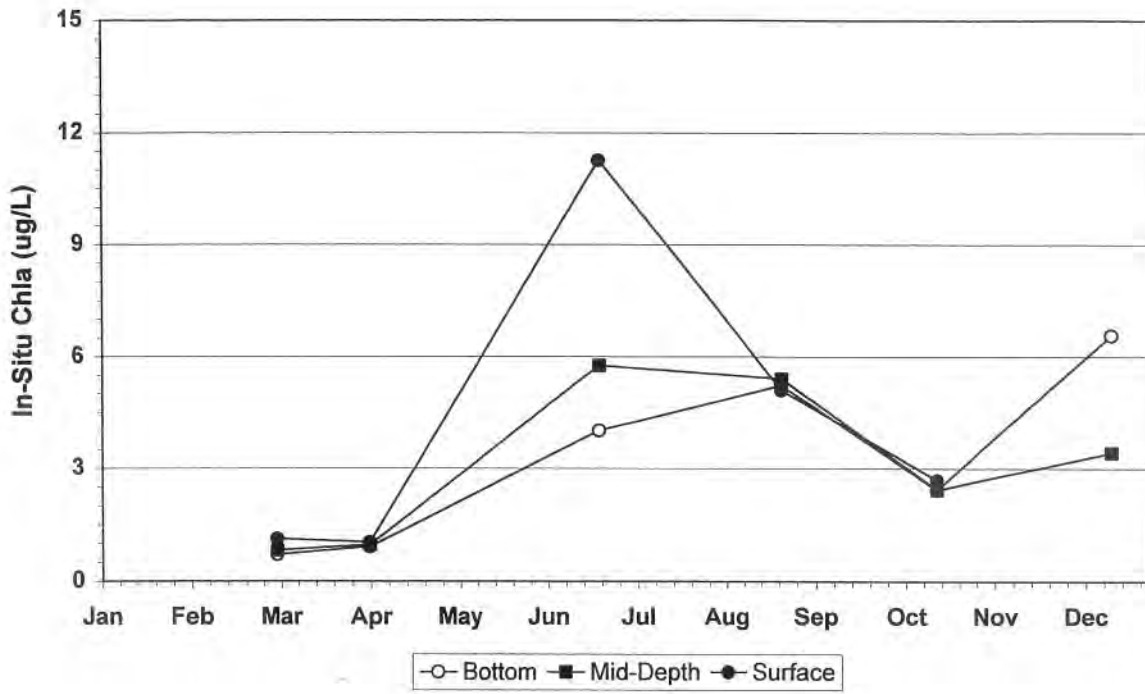


Station N18

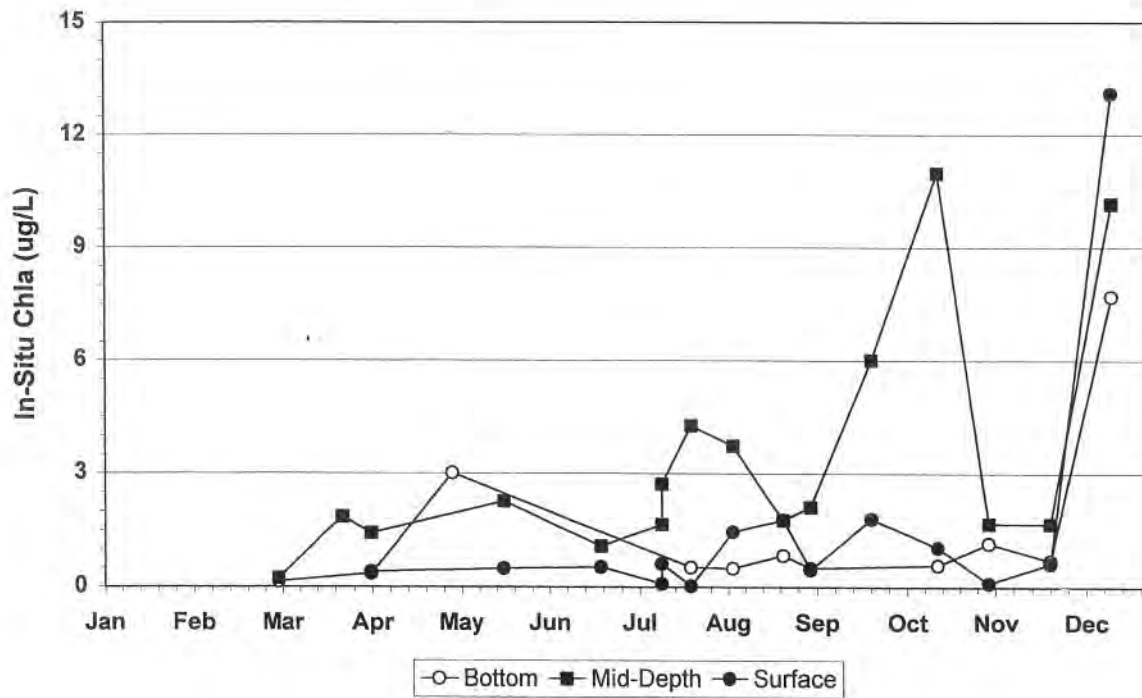




Station F23

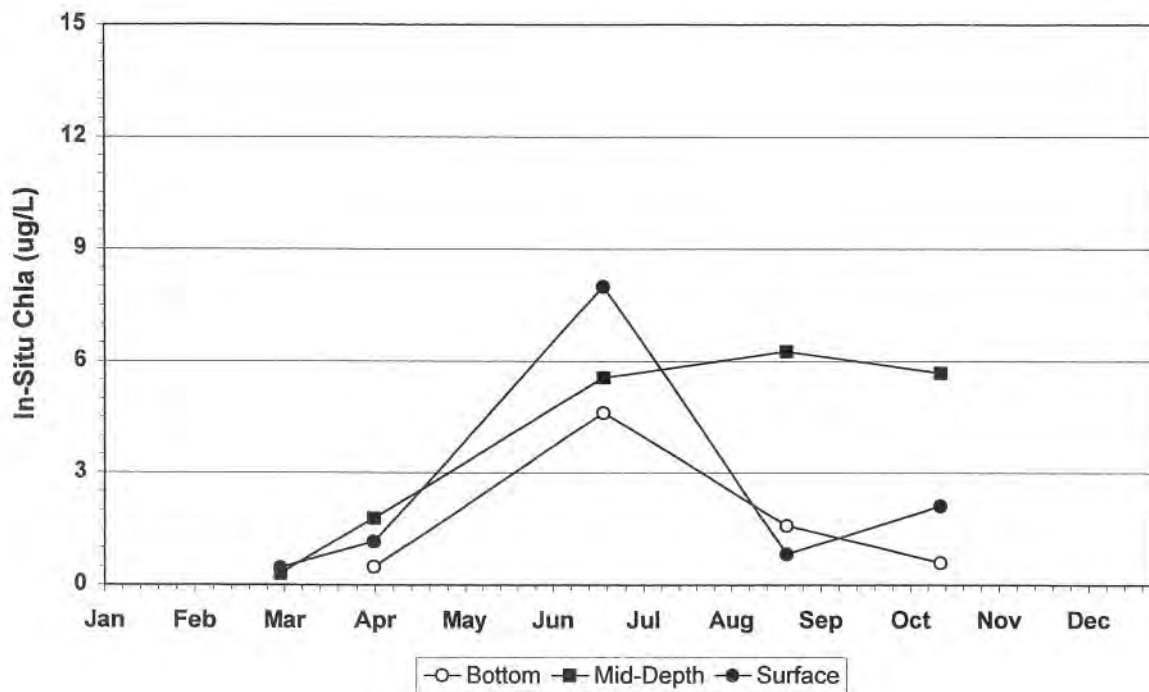


Station N18

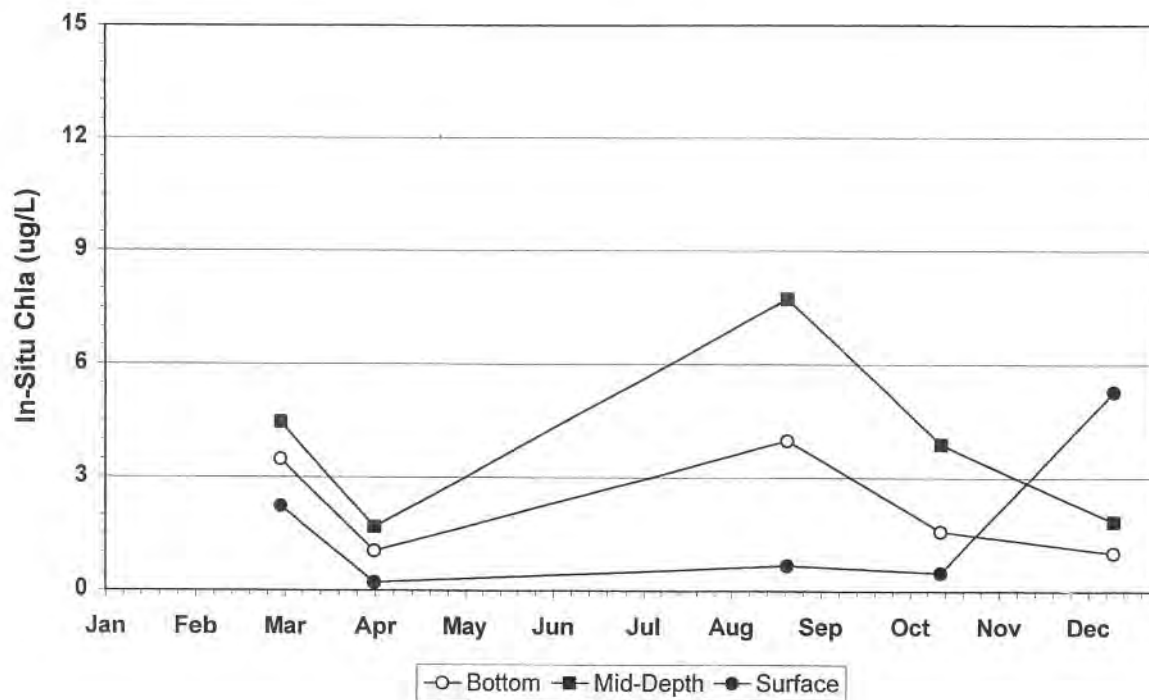


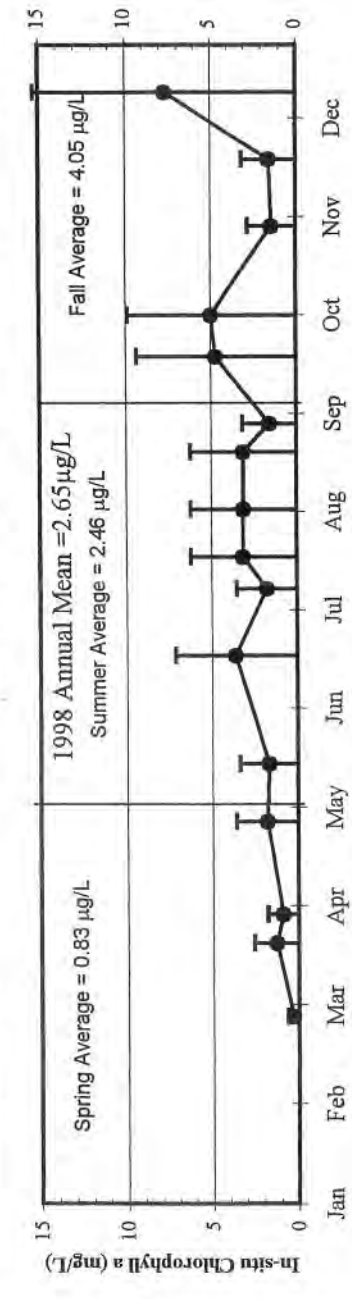
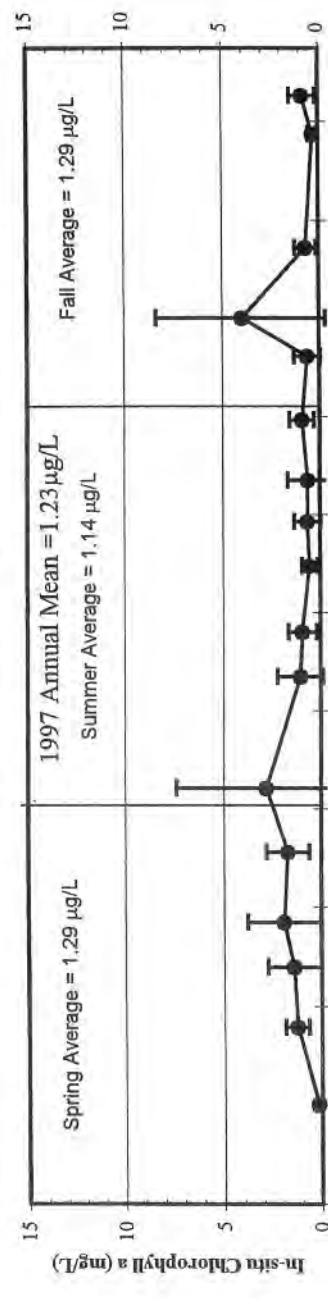
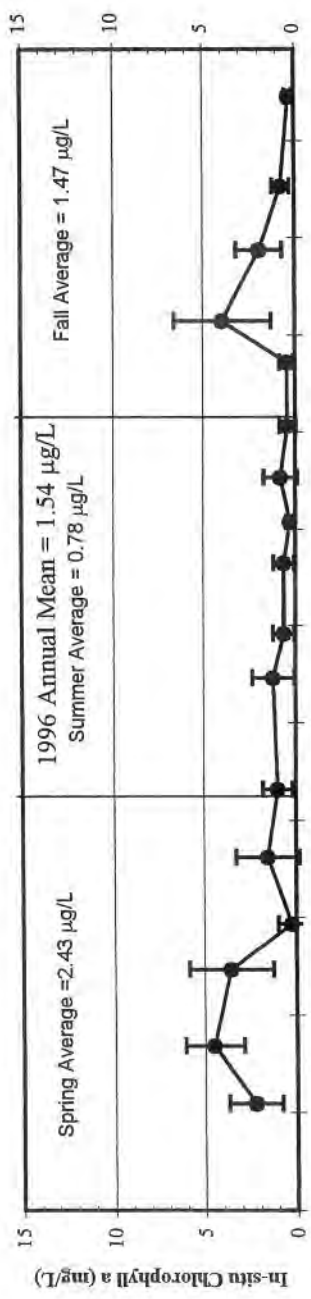


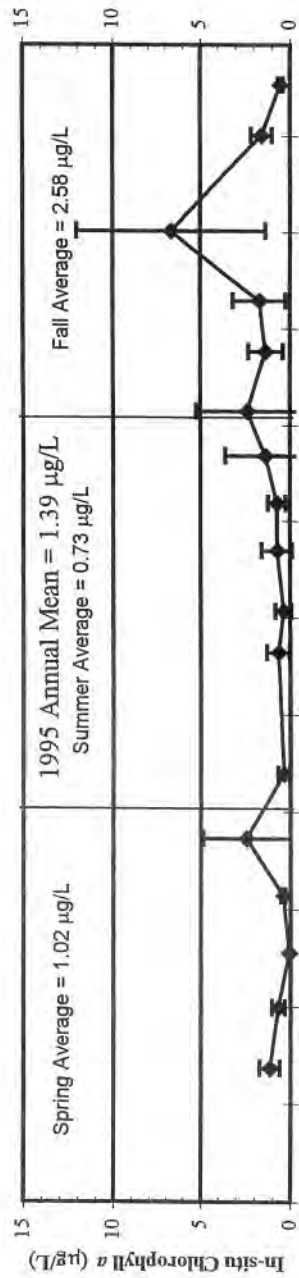
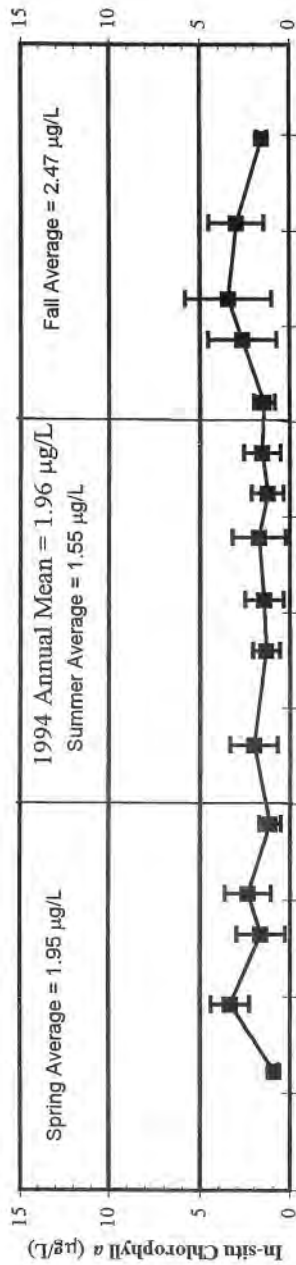
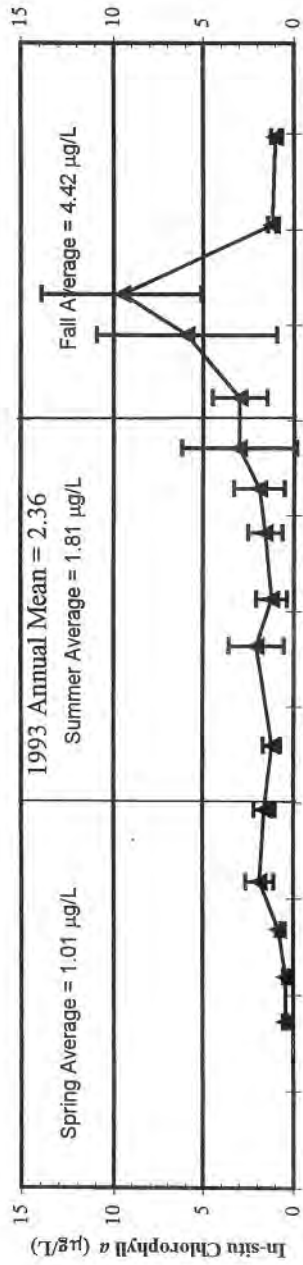
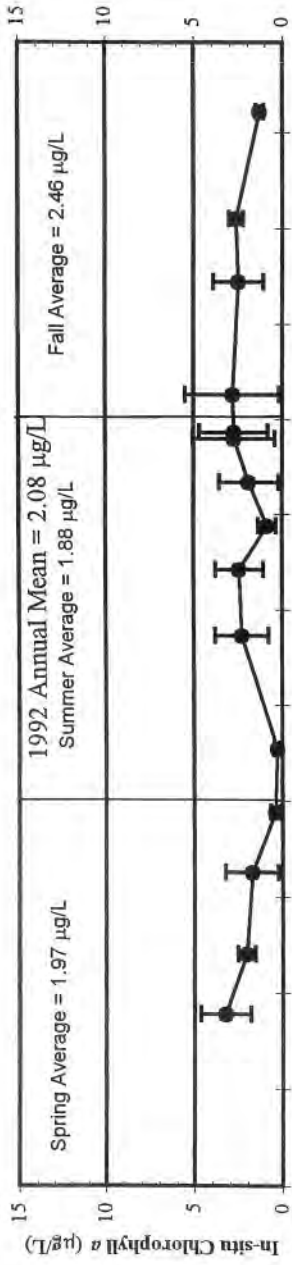
Station F13



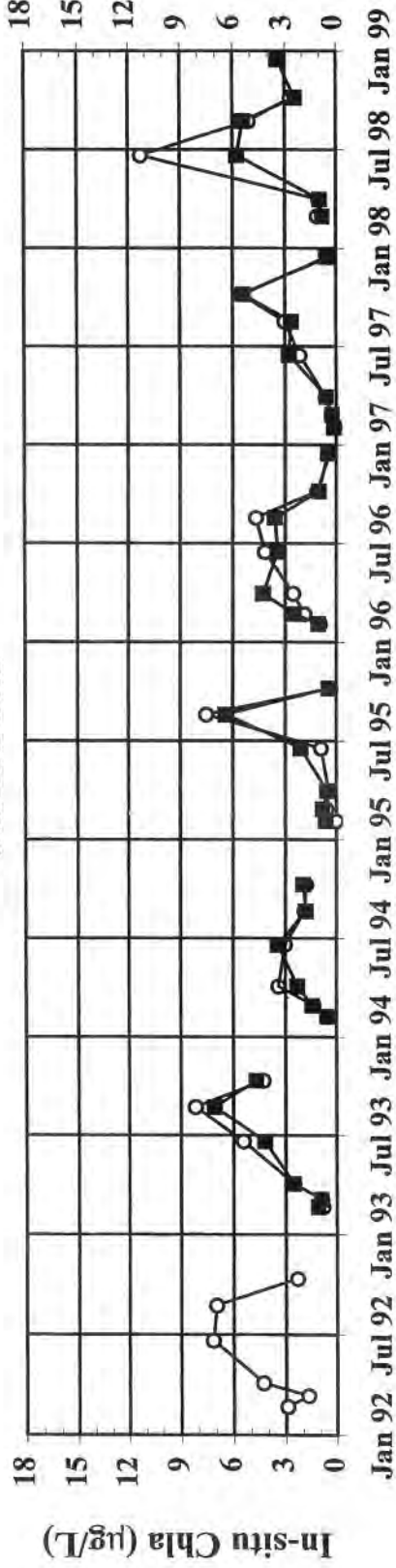
Station F02



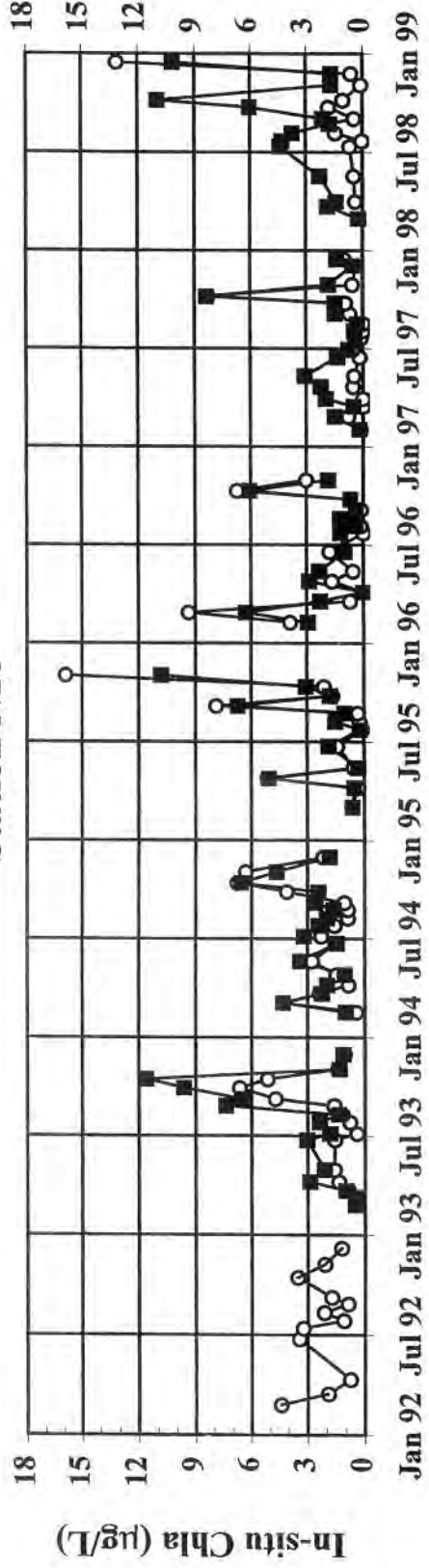




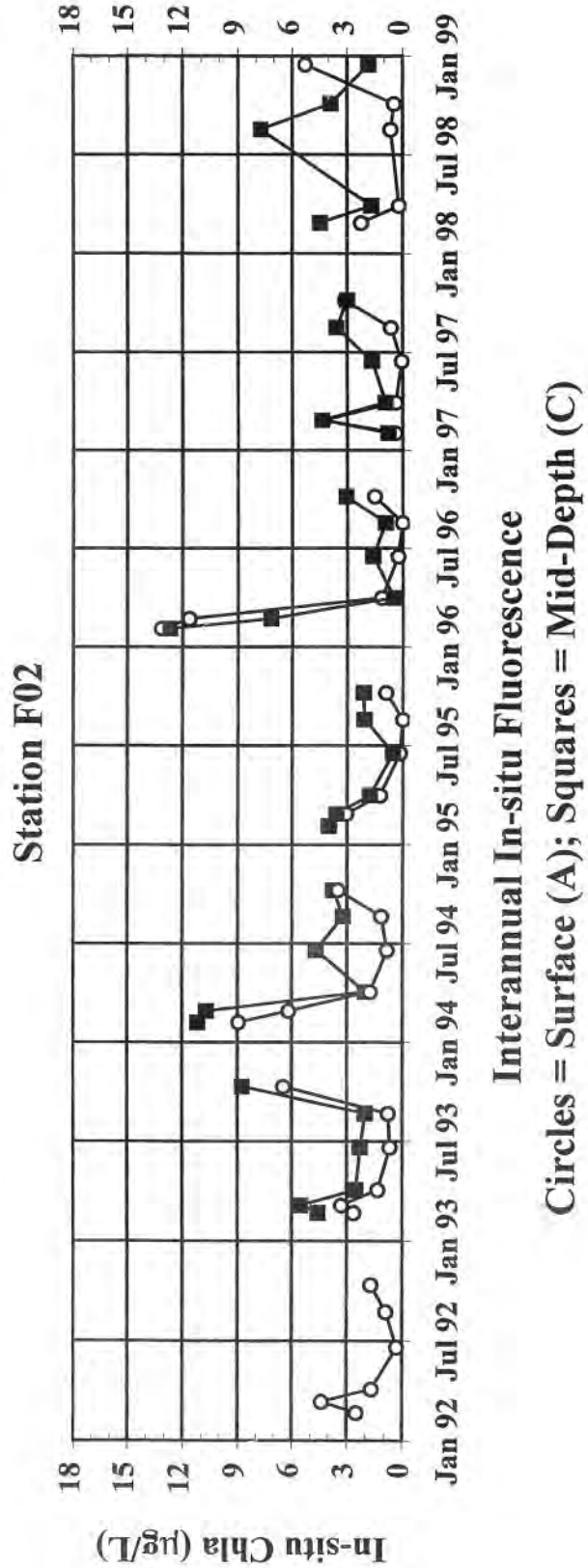
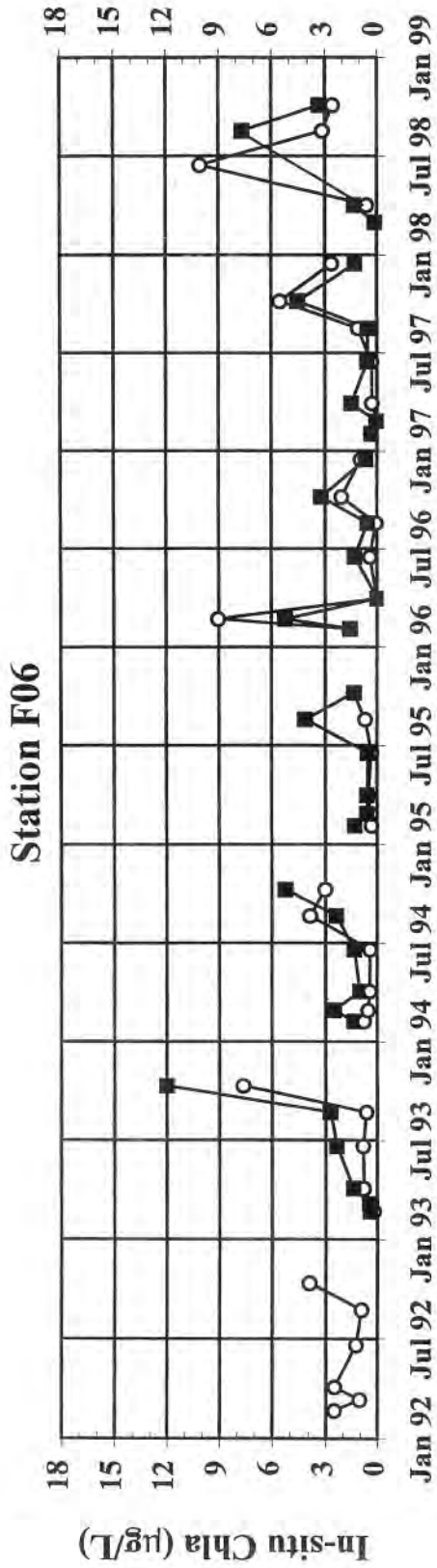
### Station F23



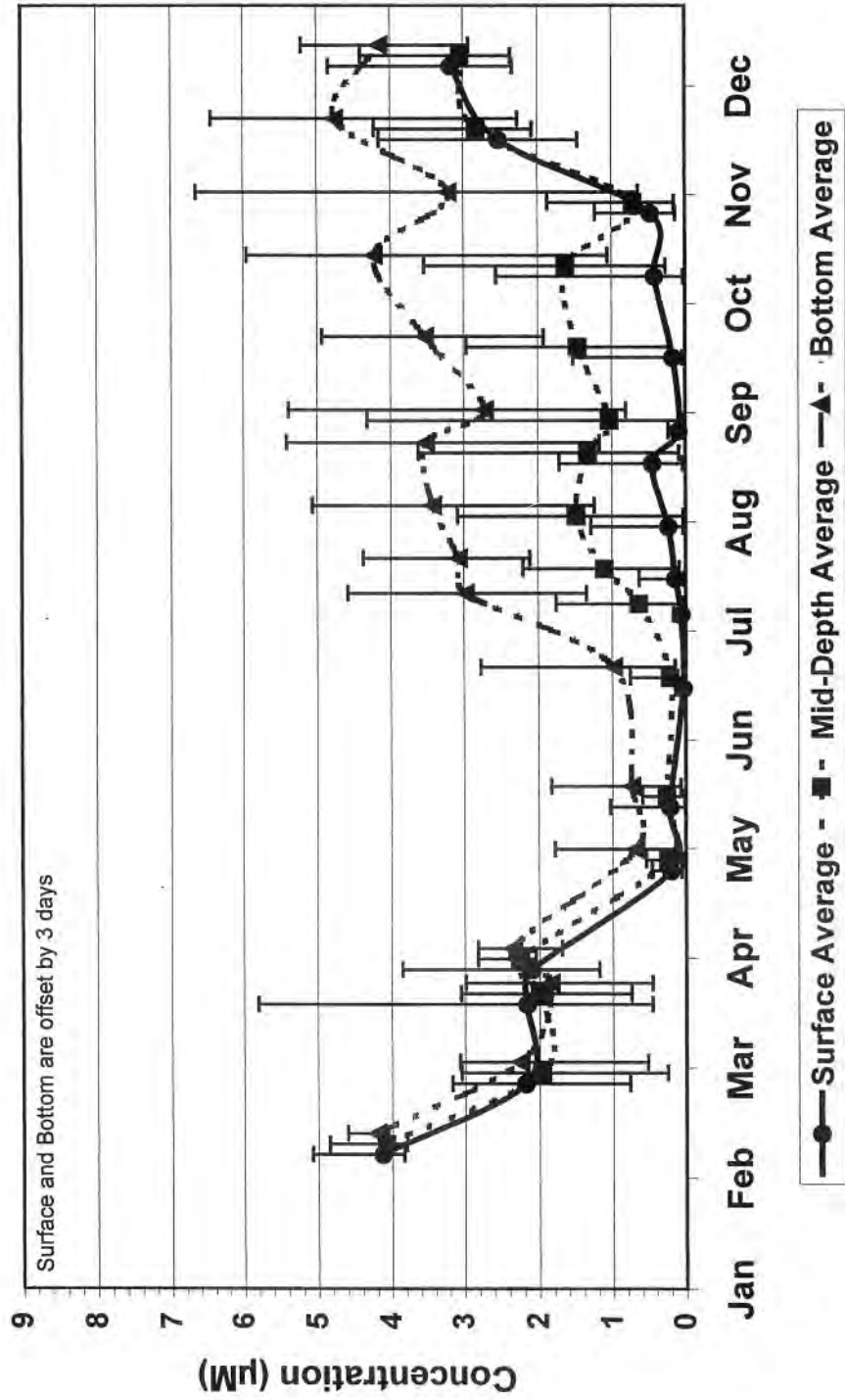
### Station N18

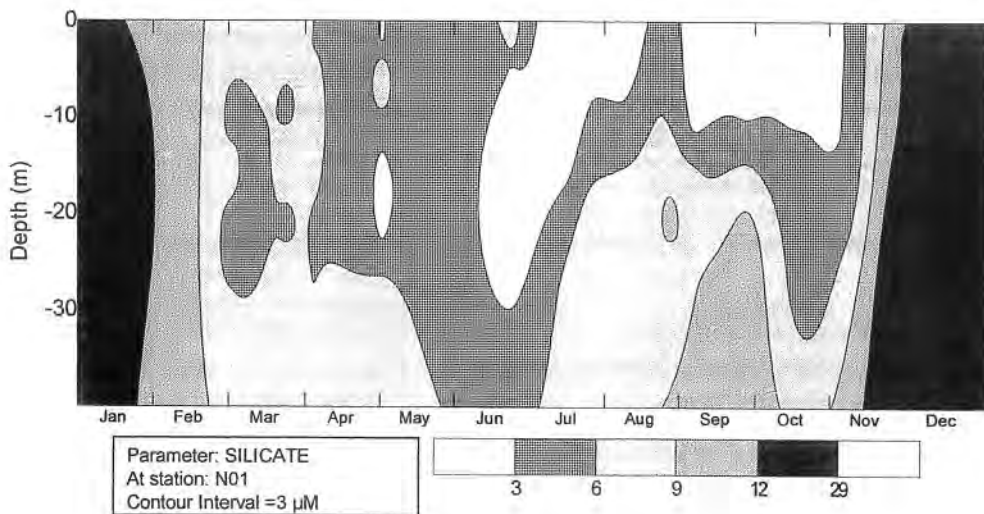
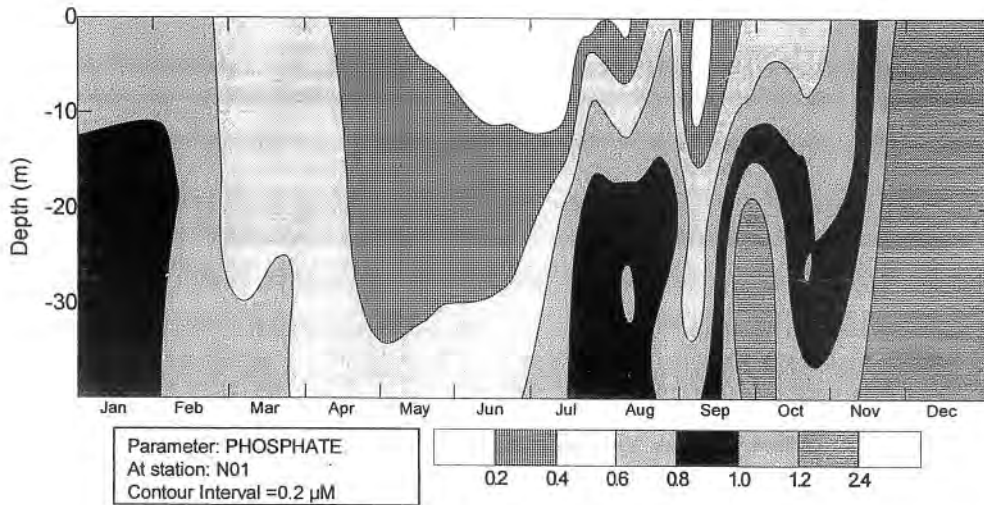
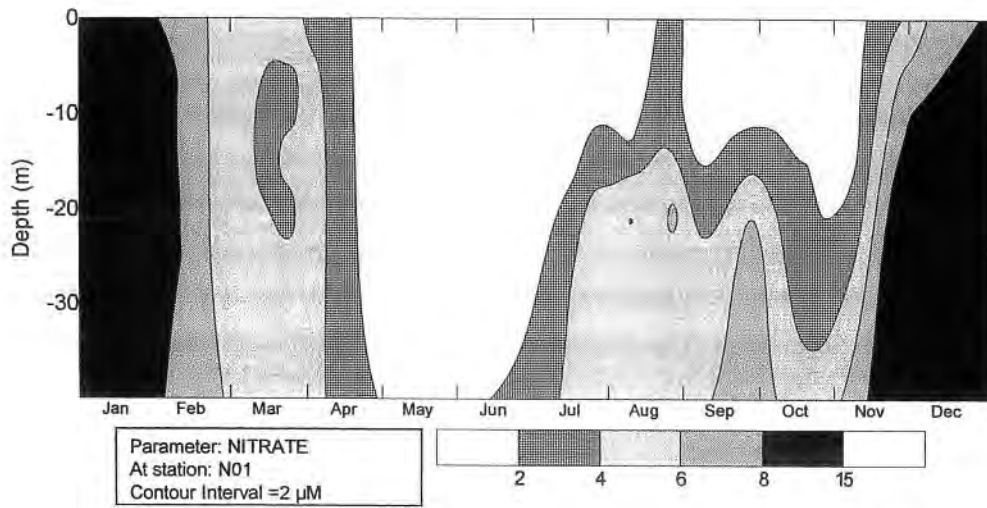


**Interannual In-situ Fluorescence**  
**Circles = Surface (A); Squares = Mid-Depth (C)**

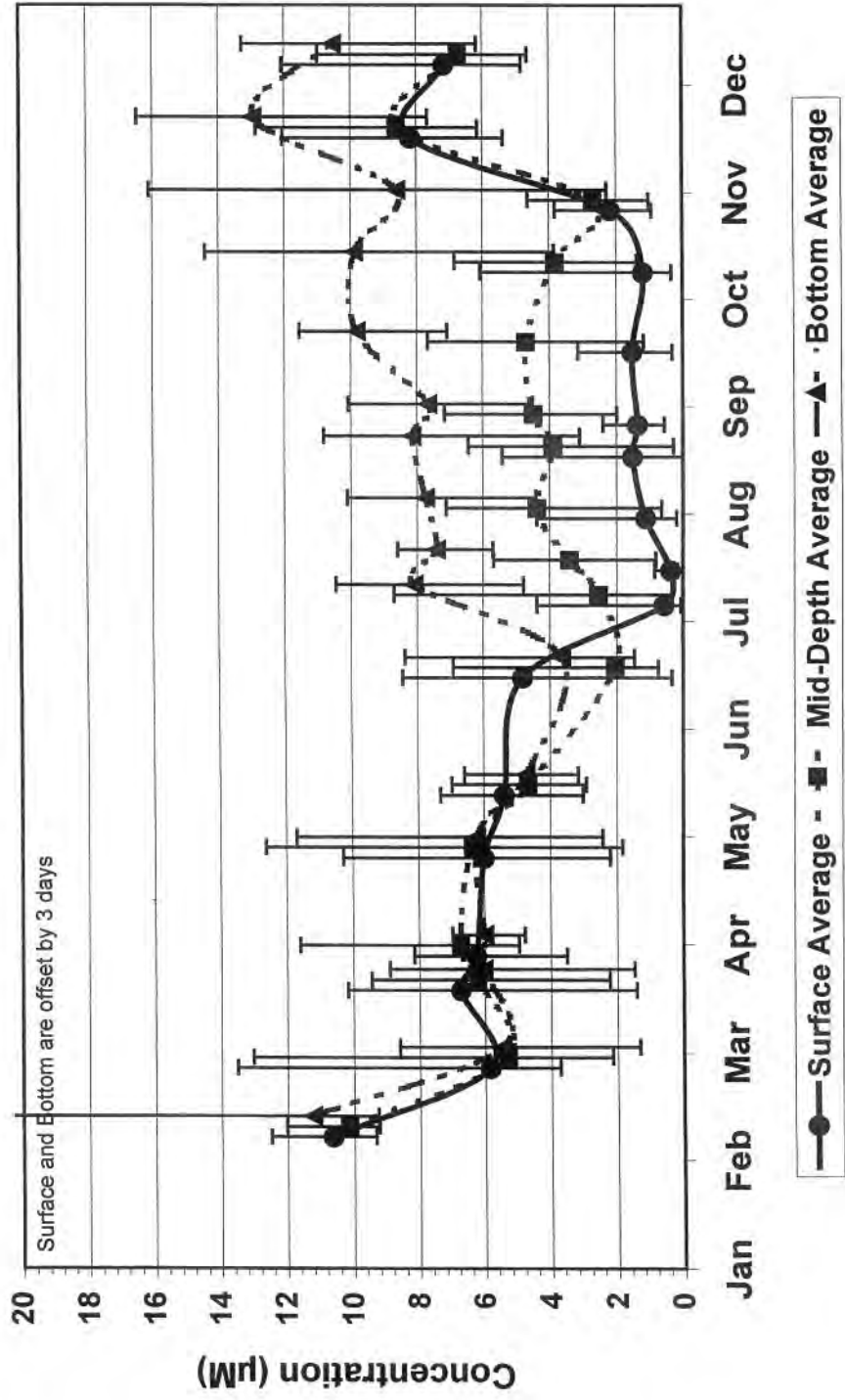


# Nitrate + Nitrite (Nearfield Stations)



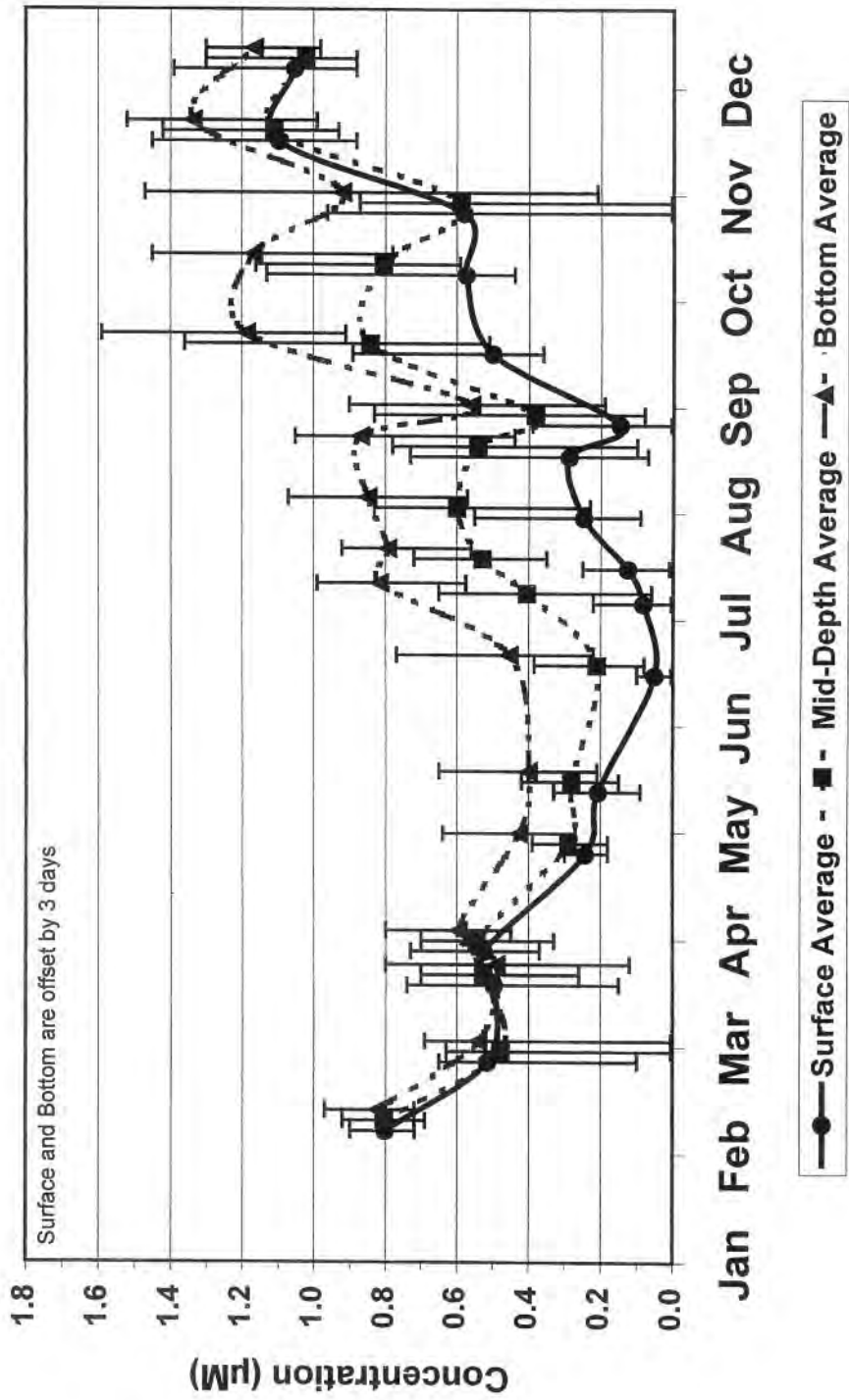


# Silicate (Nearfield Stations)

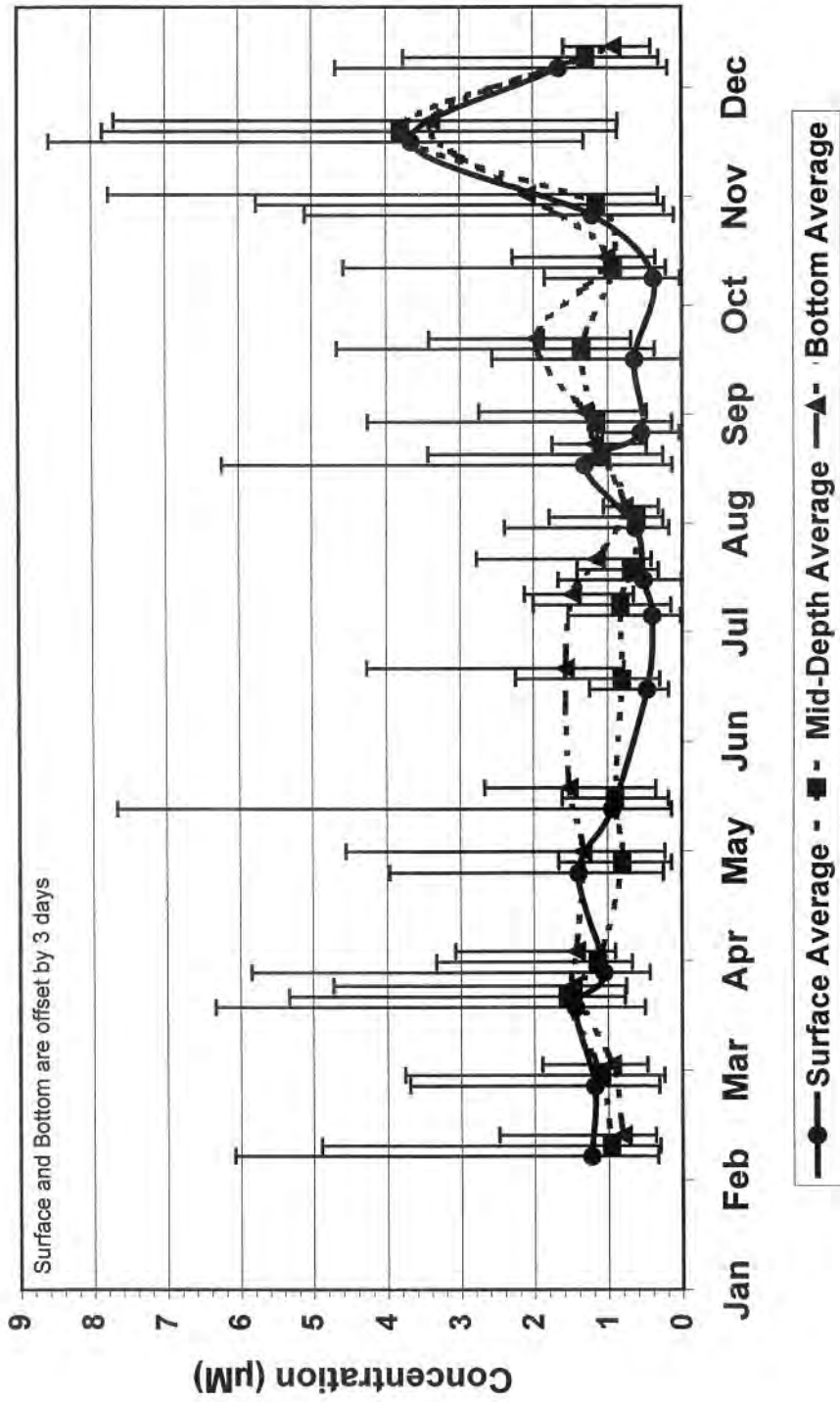


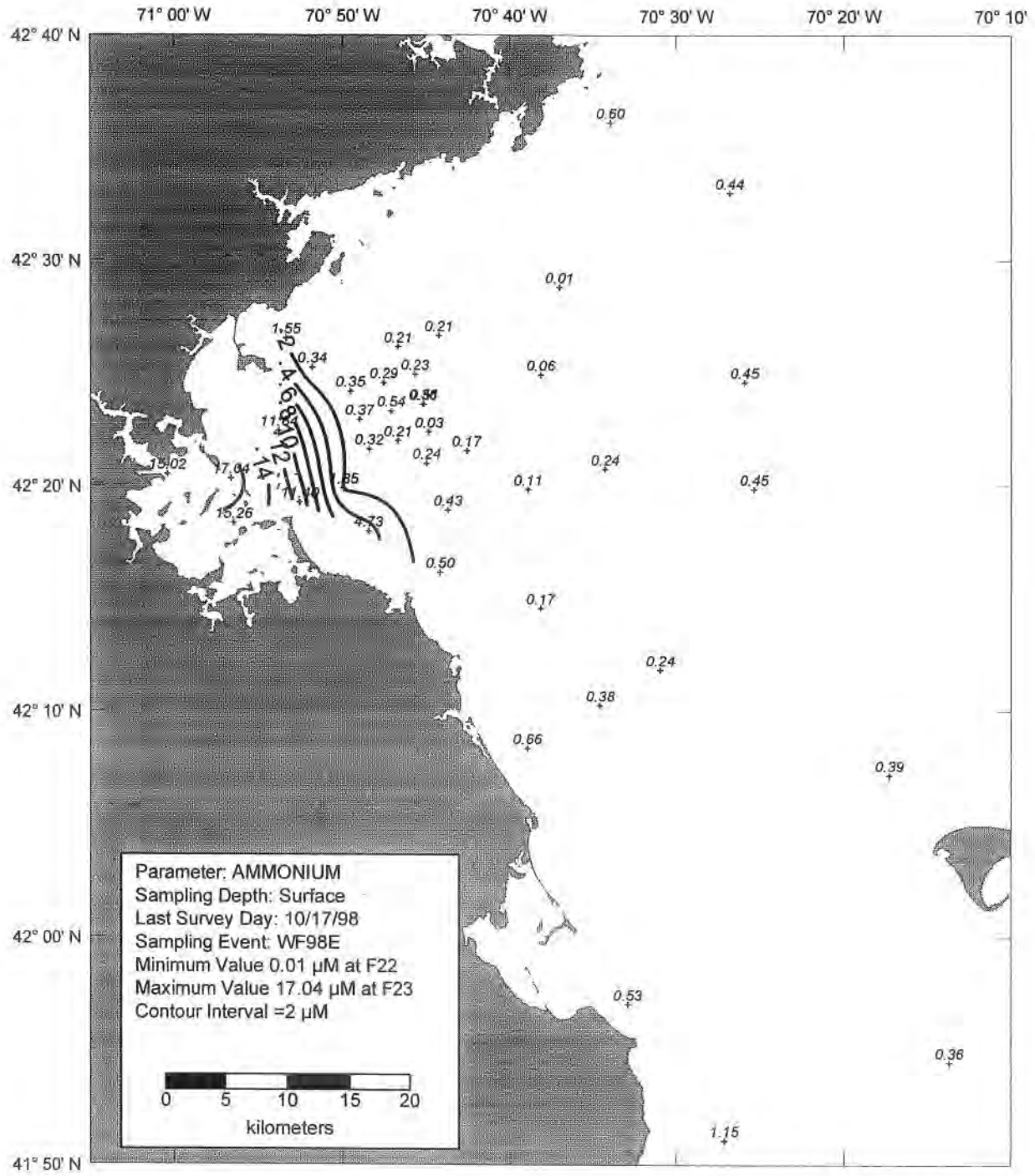


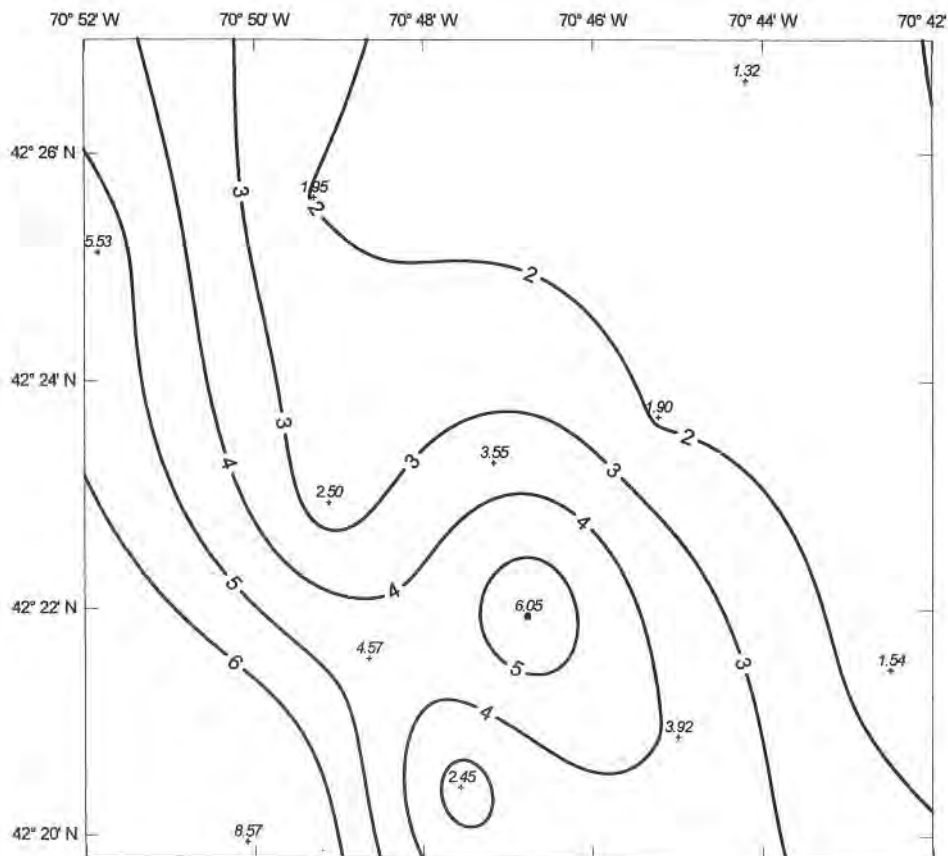
# Phosphate (Nearfield Stations)



# Ammonium (Nearfield Stations)



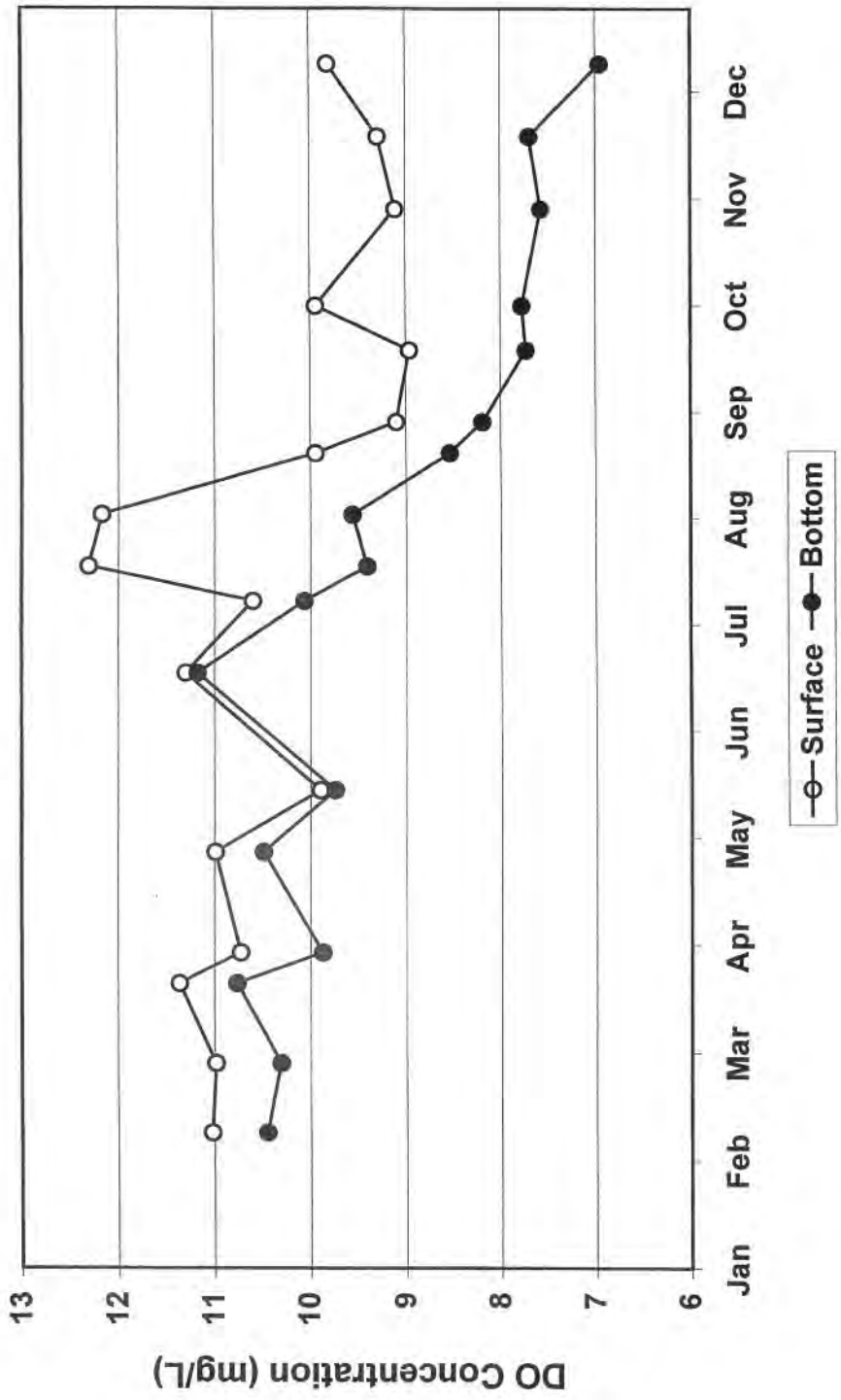




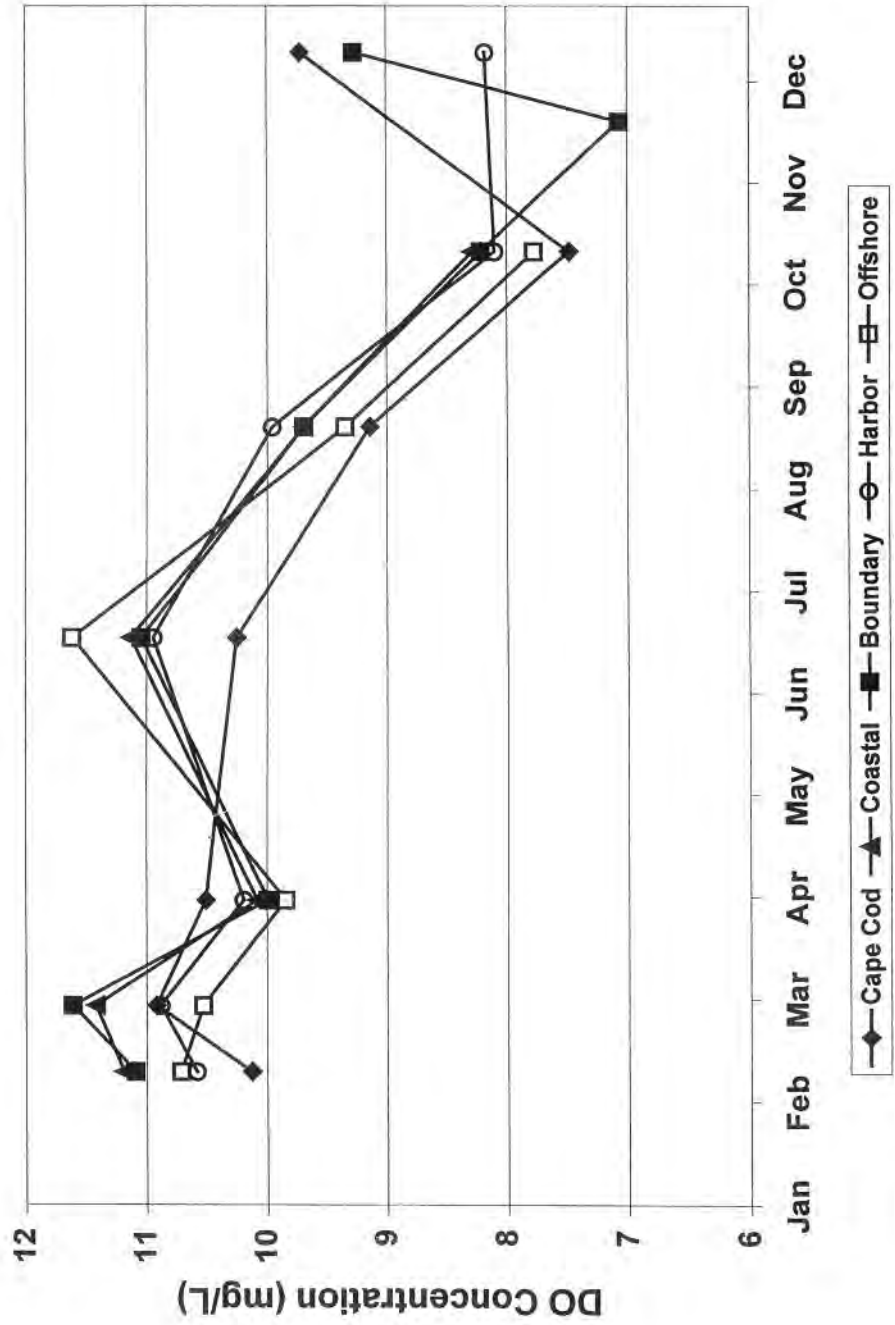
Parameter: AMMONIUM  
 Sampling Depth: Surface  
 Last Survey Day: 11/25/98  
 Sampling Event: WNS8G  
 Minimum Value 1.32  $\mu\text{M}$  at N04  
 Maximum Value 8.57  $\mu\text{M}$  at N10  
 Contour Interval = 1  $\mu\text{M}$

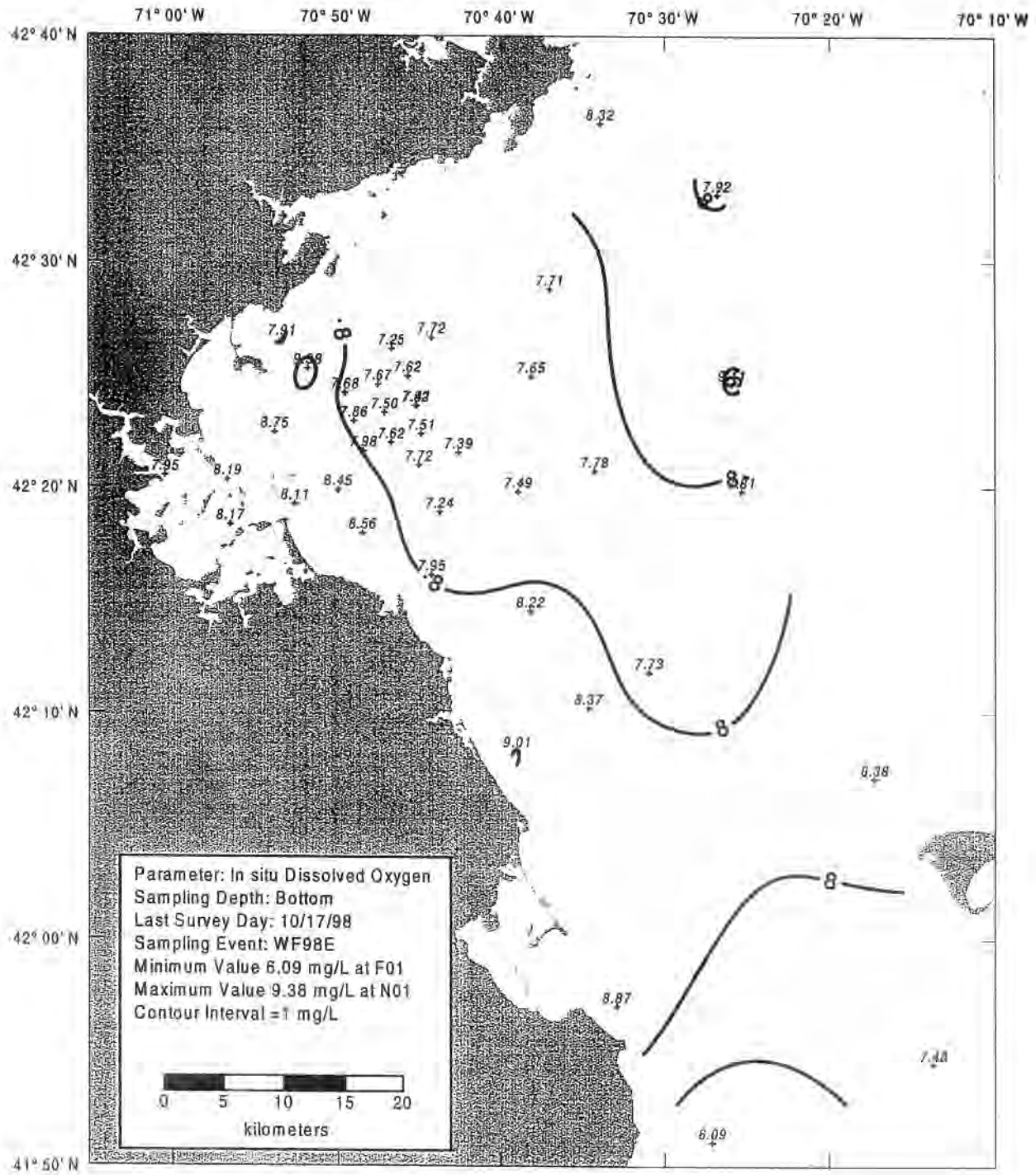
kilometers

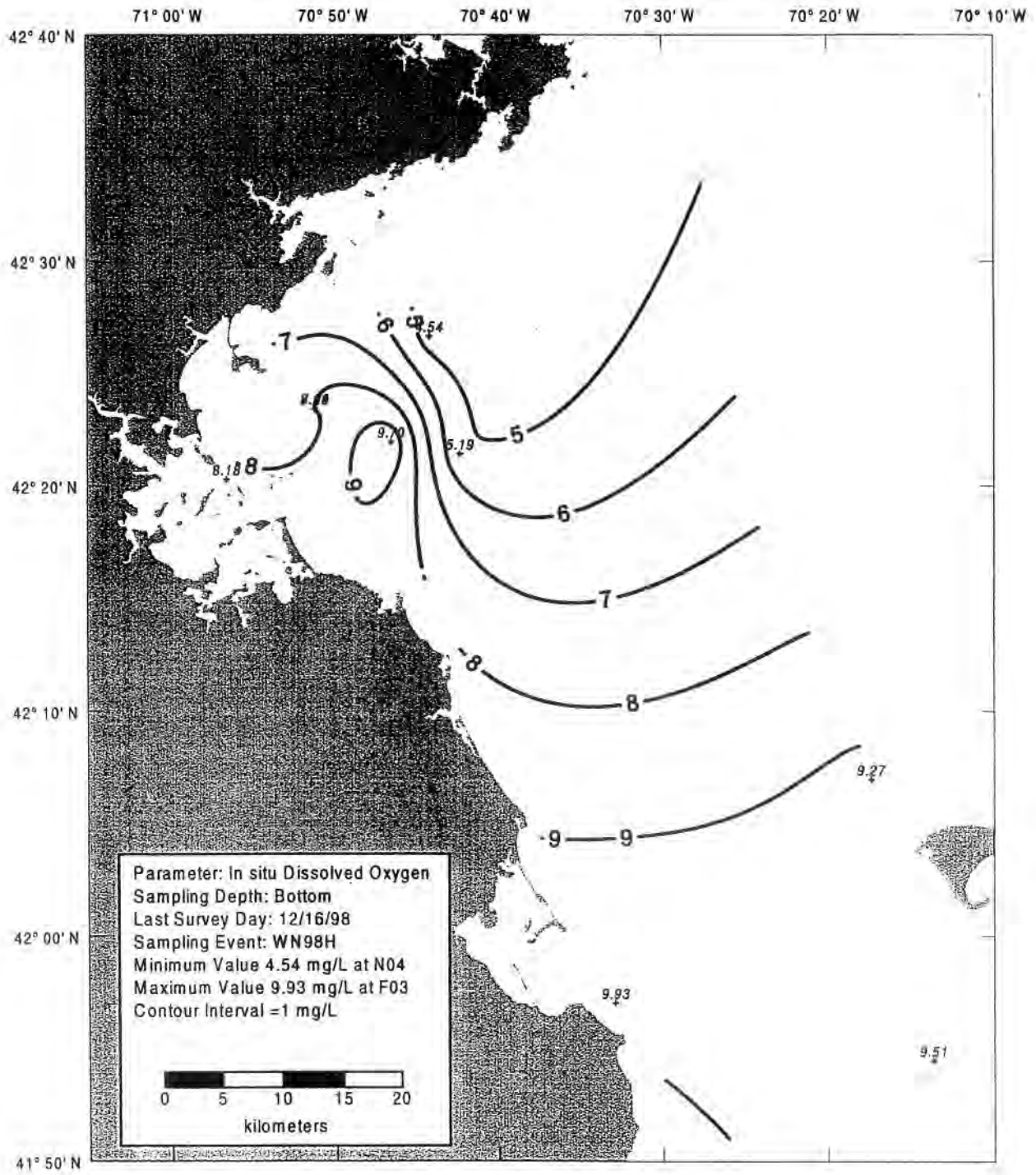
# Nearfield Dissolved Oxygen



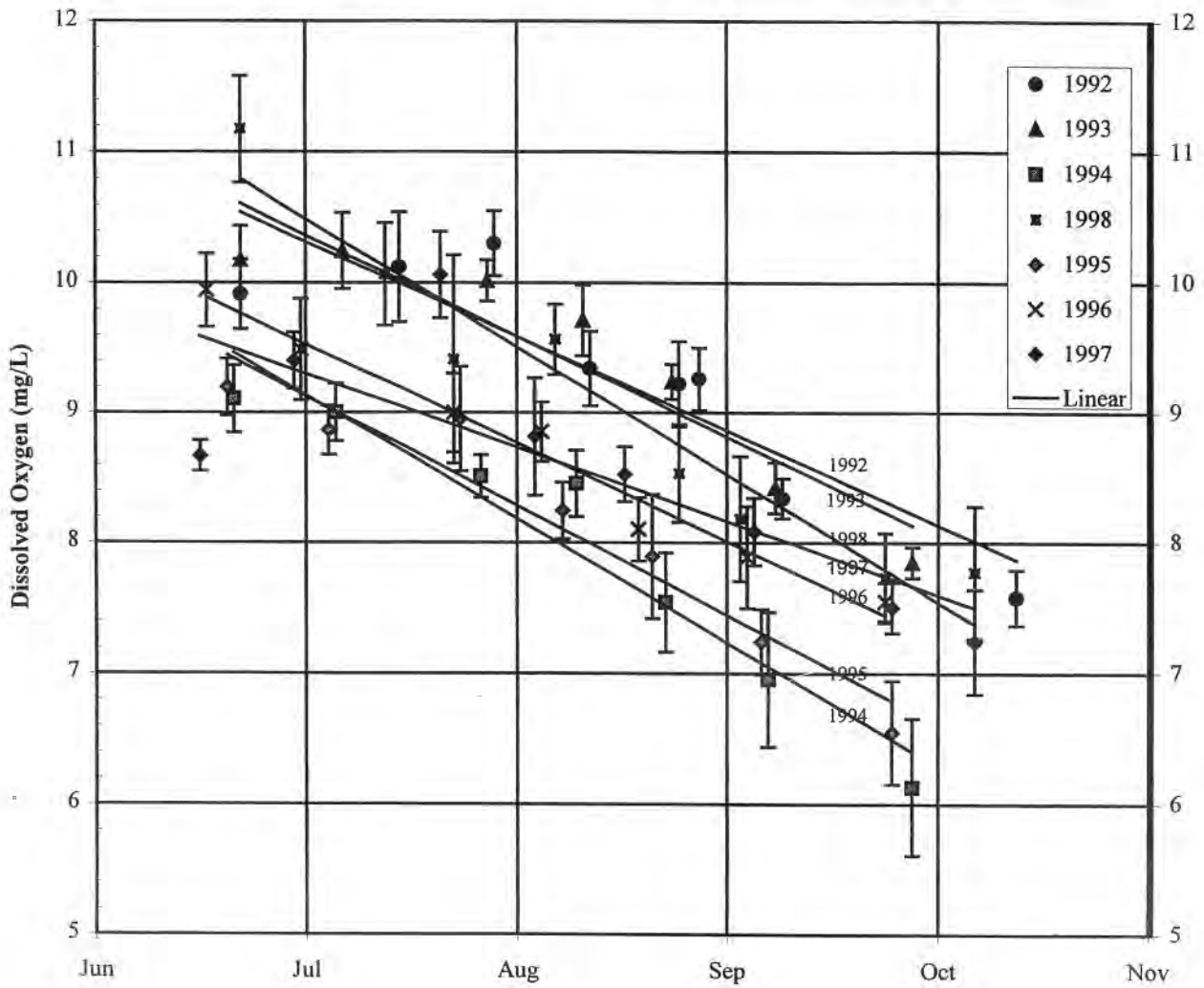
# Bottom Water Dissolved Oxygen





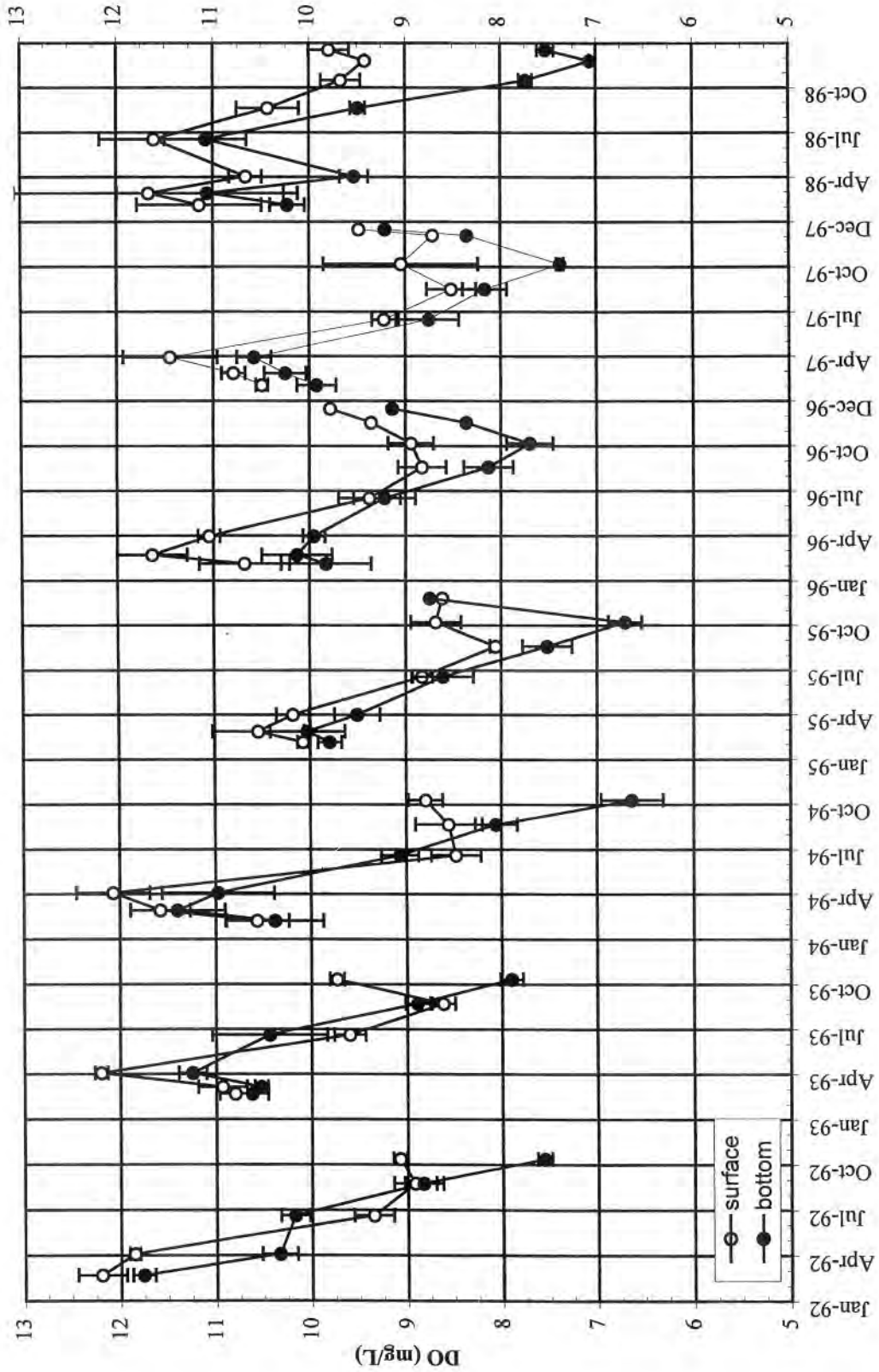




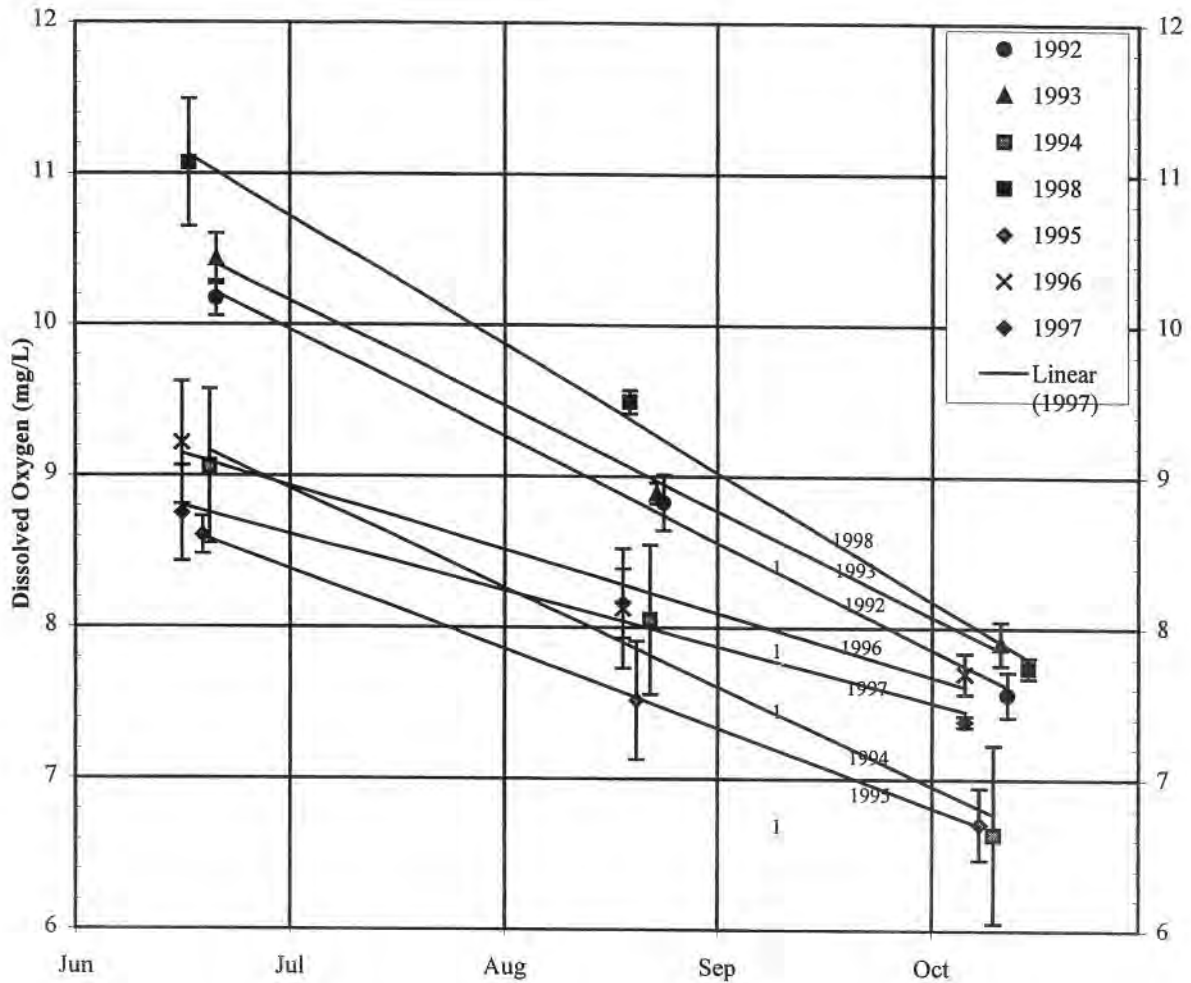


Year	Slope (mg/L/day)	Intercept <sup>a</sup> (mg/L)	R <sup>2</sup>
1992	-0.024	11.0	0.808
1993	-0.025	11.1	0.885
1994	-0.031	10.1	0.929
1995	-0.027	9.9	0.932
1996	-0.025	10.3	0.978
1997	-0.020	9.8	0.632
1998	-0.032	11.5	0.938

**Nearfield Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations in Bottom Waters**  
**Mean of all nearfield stations.**



**Interannual Stellwagen Basin Dissolved Oxygen Cycle  
Surface and Bottom Waters**

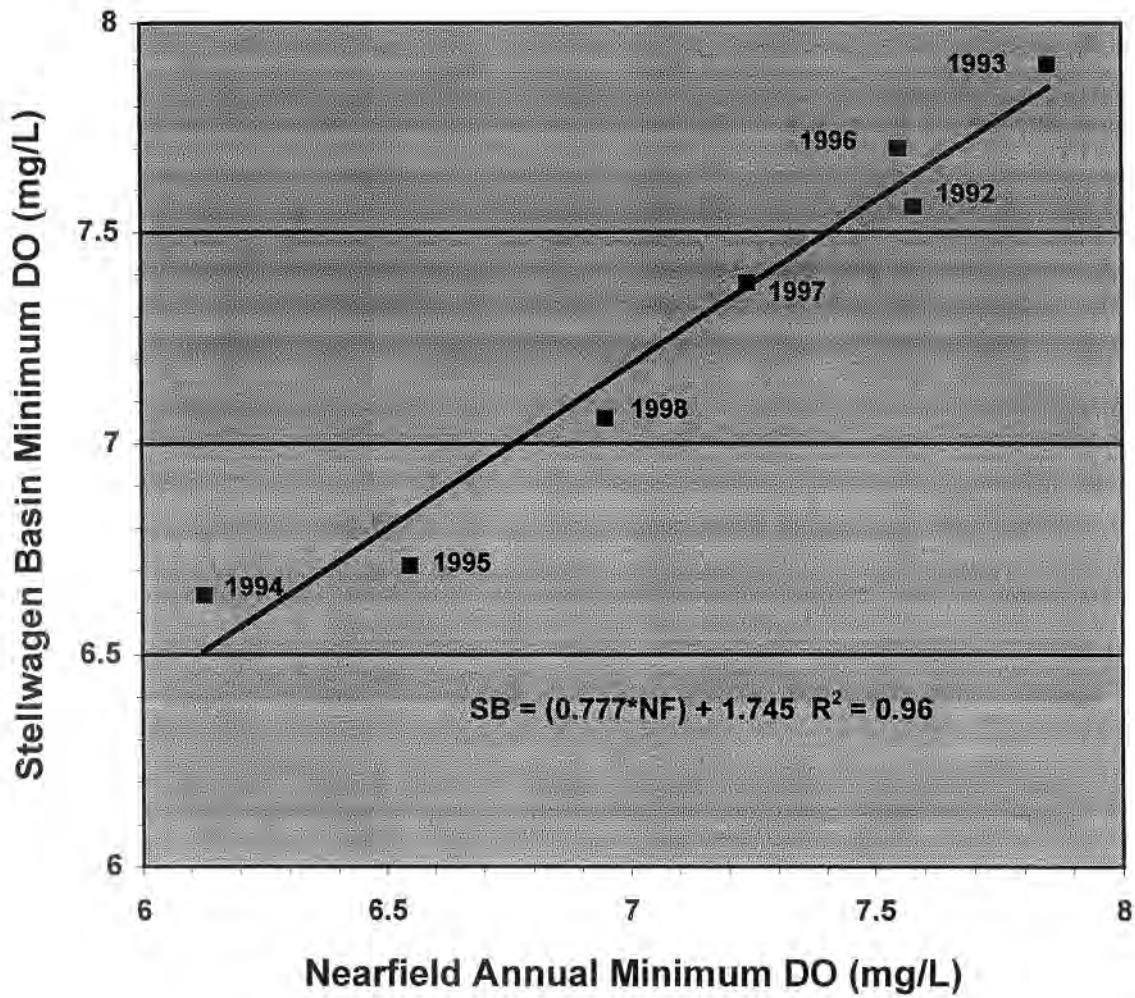


Year	Slope (mg/L/day)	Intercept* (mg/L)
1992	-0.023	10.7
1993	-0.023	10.9
1994	-0.021	9.6
1995	-0.017	8.9
1996	-0.014	9.4
1997	-0.012	9.0
1998	-0.028	11.6

\* Predicted DO on June 1st based on:  
 $DO = \text{Slope} * \text{Date} + \text{Intercept}$

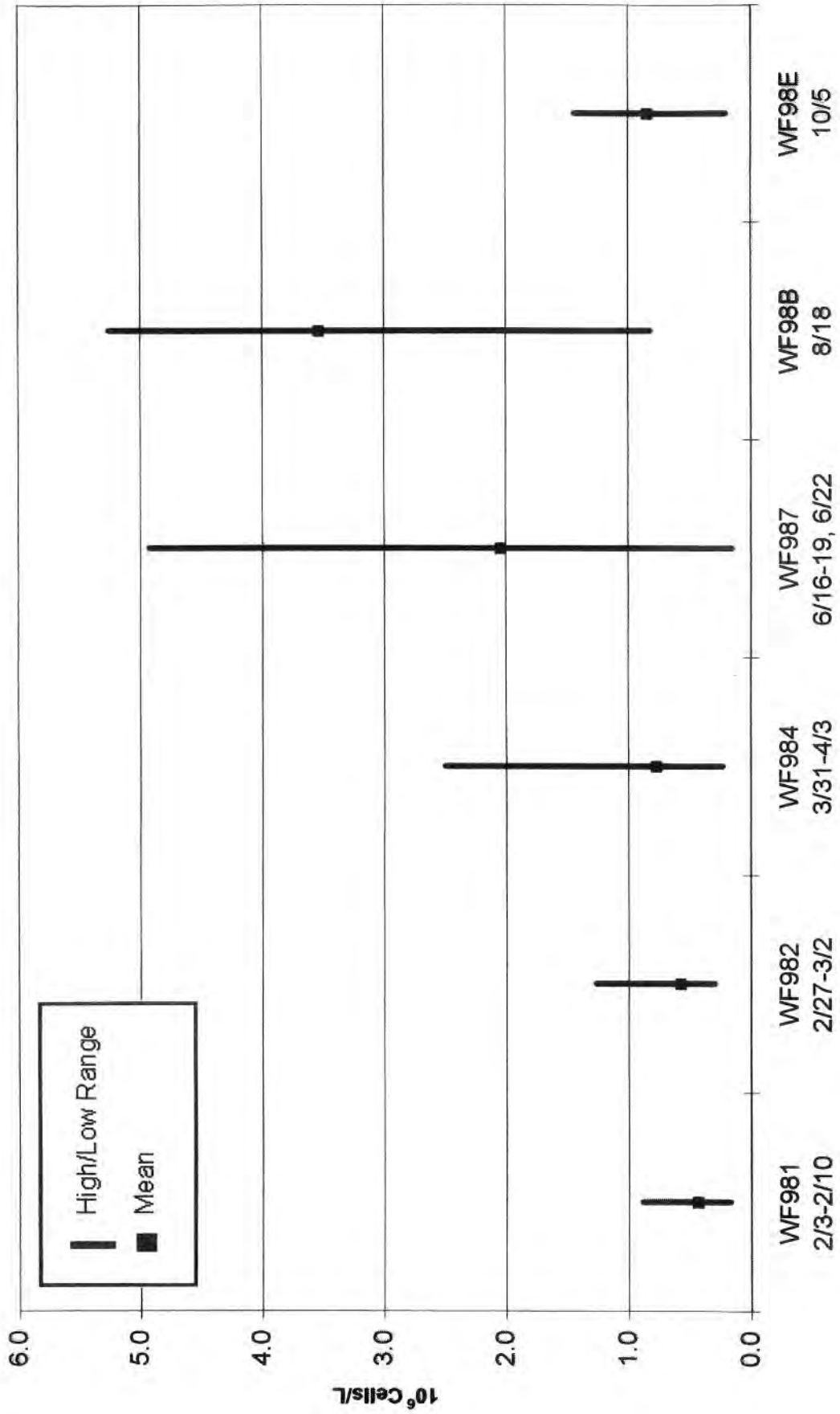
**Stellwagen Basin Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations in Bottom Waters**  
 Symbols indicate the mean of 4 Stellwagen stations (F12, F17, F19, F22)

### Annual Oxygen Minimum: Nearfield & Stellwagen, 1992-98

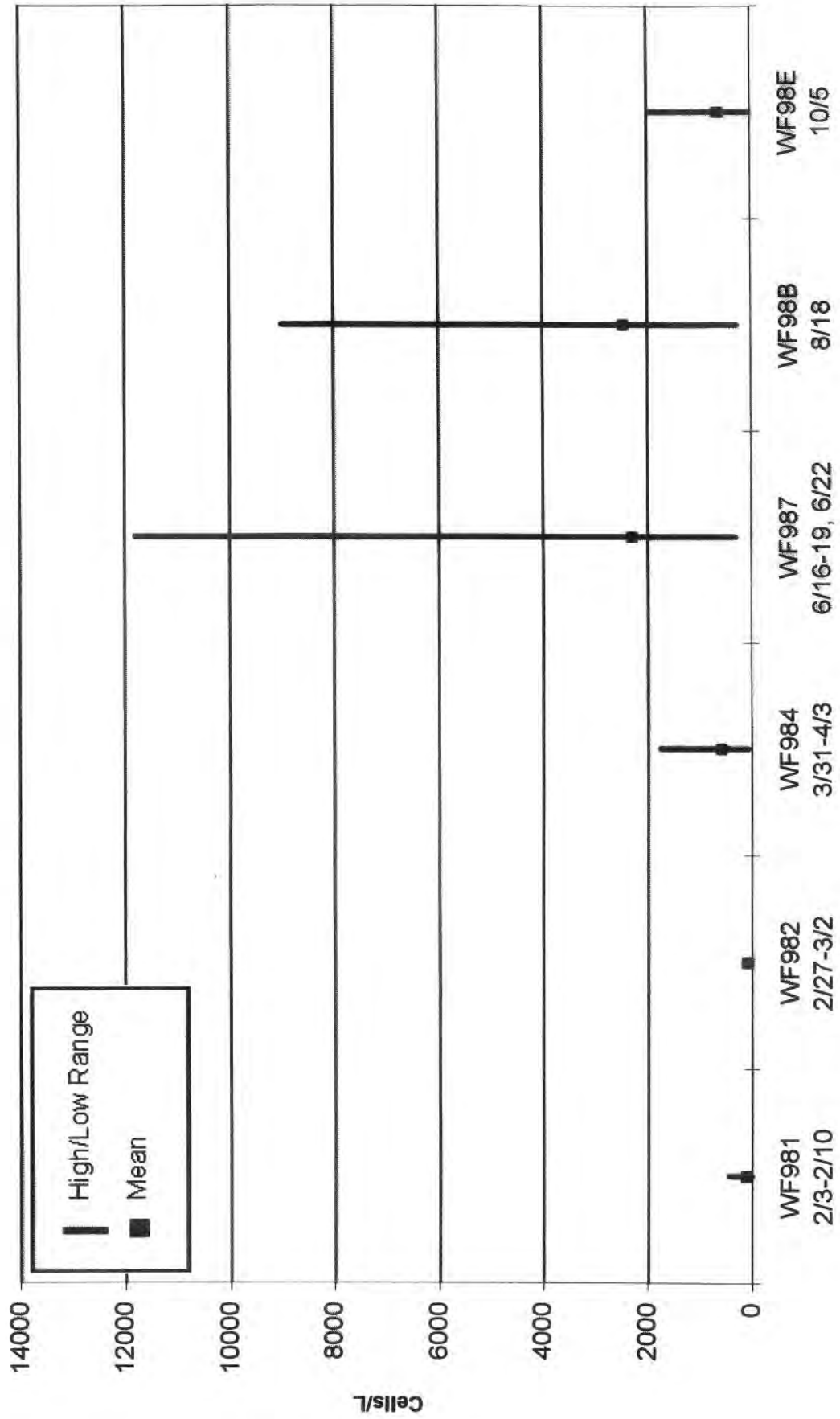


*Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling*  
**1998 Plankton Overview** (Dr. Jefferson Turner, UMass – Dartmouth)

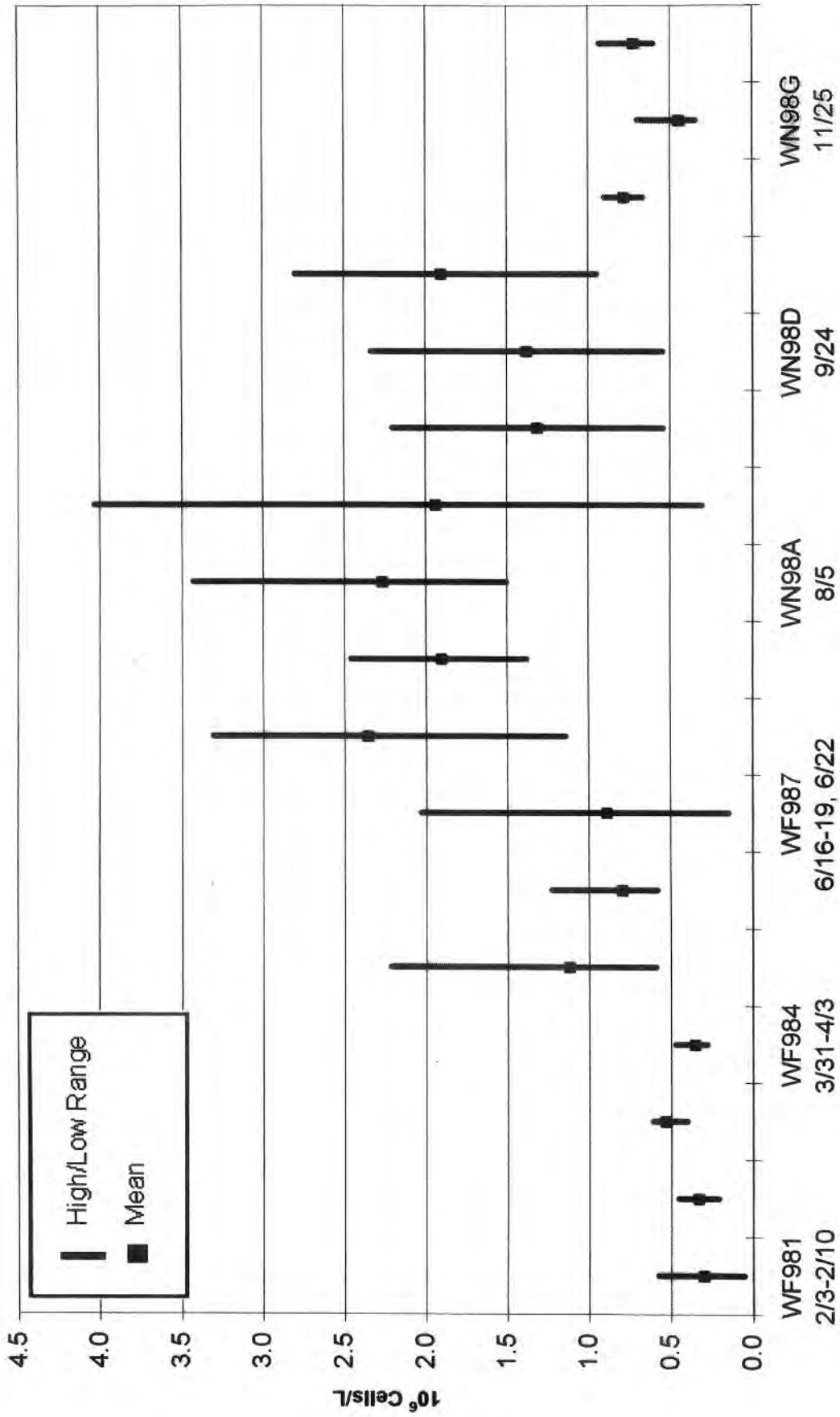
# Farfield Whole Water Phytoplankton



# Farfield Screened Phytoplankton

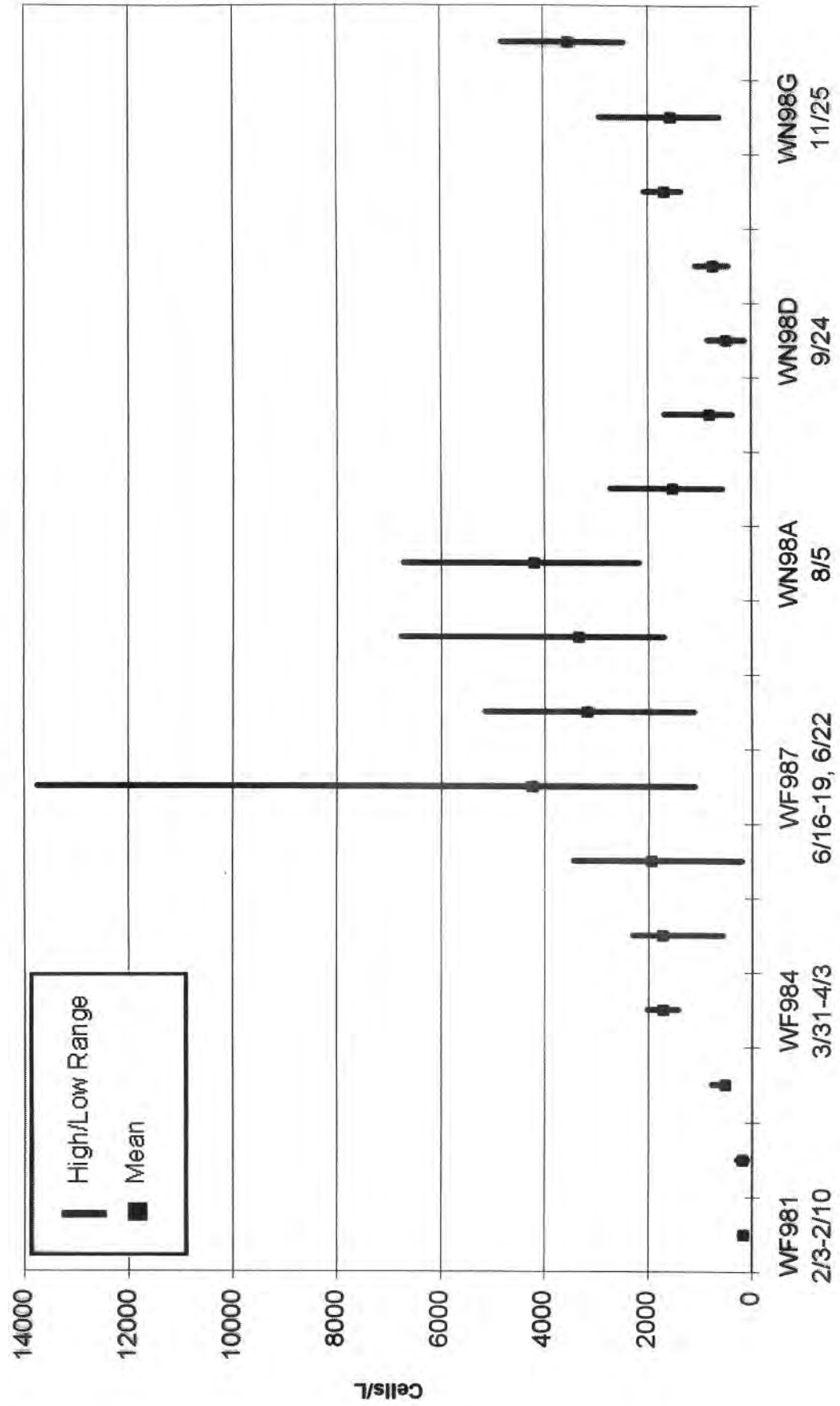


# Nearfield Whole Water Phytoplankton





### Nearfield Screened Phytoplankton



## **Seasonal Whole-water Phytoplankton Assemblages**

**Microflagellates are usual numerical-dominants throughout the year, and their abundance generally tracks water temperature, being most abundant in summer and least abundant in winter.**

**In addition to microflagellates, the following are dominant in different periods:**

**Winter (primarily February) – diatoms abundant**

***Chaetoceros debilis*, *C. socialis*, *Thalassiosira nordenskioldii*, *T. rotula***

**Spring (March, April, May) – usually diatoms, except during *Phaeocystis* years**

**assorted species of *Thalassiosira*, *Chaetoceros*, *Heterocapsa rotundatum*, and (especially nearshore) cryptomonads**

**Summer (June, July, August) – microflagellates at peak abundance, with cryptomonads, *Skeletonema costatum* (especially nearshore), *Leptocylindrus danicus*, *Rhizosolenia delicatula*, *Ceratulina pelagica*, and various small-sized species of *Chaetoceros*.**

**Fall (September through December) – diatoms abundant**

***Asterionellopsis glacialis*, *Rhizosolenia delicatula*, *Skeletonema costatum*, *Leptocylindrus minimus*, *L. danicus*, cryptomonads, and assorted gymnodinoid dinoflagellates**

## Plankton Summary - 1998

### Whole-Water Phytoplankton:

There was a sustained increase in total phytoplankton abundance from low levels in February through April (means of  $0.3-0.8 \times 10^6$  cells/liter) to high levels in May through October (means of  $0.7-3.5 \times 10^6$  cells/liter), followed by declines in November and December (Nearfield means of  $0.4-0.7 \times 10^6$  cells/liter).

Unlike other years, there was not a major winter/spring bloom or fall bloom.

Phytoplankton assemblages were numerically dominated by microflagellates and cryptomonads ( $< 10 \mu\text{m}$ ), with subdominant contributions by various chain-forming diatoms such as *Chaetoceros socialis* and *Skeletonema costatum* (winter and spring), *Leptocylindrus minimus*, *L. danicus*, *Rhizosolenia fragilissima*, *Proboscia alata*, and *S. costatum* (summer), and *Chaetoceros* spp., *Leptocylindrus* spp., *S. costatum*, and *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp. in the fall.

There were no confirmed blooms of nuisance algae in 1998, although the fall *Pseudo-nitzschia* records for *P. "pungens"* could have included some of the domoic-acid-producing species *P. multiseriata*. However, total abundances of *Pseudo-nitzschia "pungens"* did not exceed  $82 \times 10^3$  cells/liter.

### Screened Water Phytoplankton ( $> 20 \mu\text{m}$ ):

The silicoflagellate *Distephanus speculum* was dominant in February, with subdominant contributions by the dinoflagellates *Ceratium longipes* and *C. tripos*.

From March onward, *C. longipes* and *C. tripos* were dominant, with subdominant contributions by other dinoflagellates such as *C. furca*, *C. fusus*, *C. lineatum*, *Dinophysis norvegica* and *Protooperidium trochoidium*.

The sustained bloom of *Ceratium longipes* and *C. tripos* was the major event for screened-water taxa.

## Plankton Summary – 1998

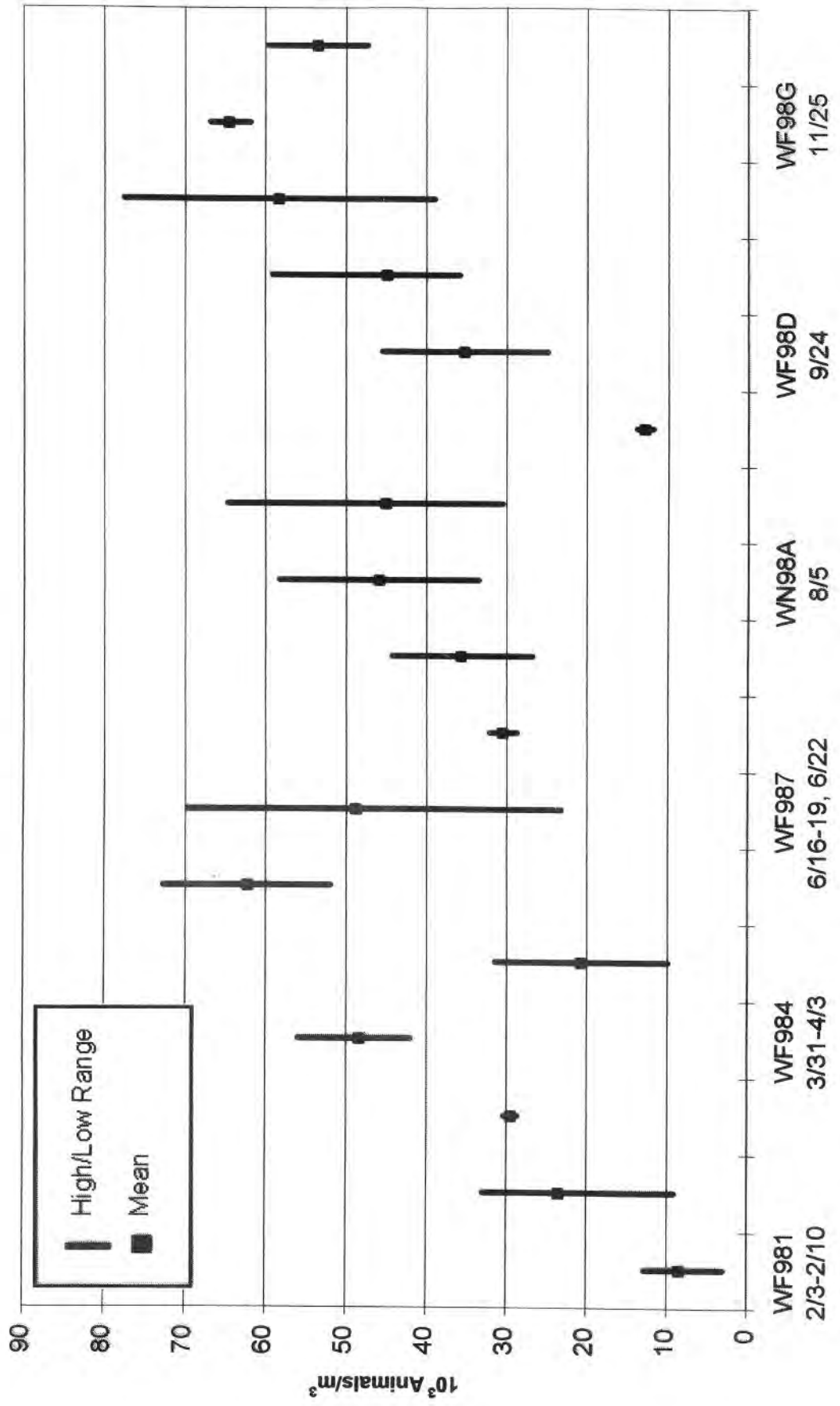
### Zooplankton:

The zooplankton were dominated, as usual, by copepod nauplii, adults and copepodites of the small copepods *Oithona similis* and *Pseudocalanus* spp., with seasonal subdominant contributions from gastropod and bivalve veligers, and a mixture of other normally-occurring taxa.

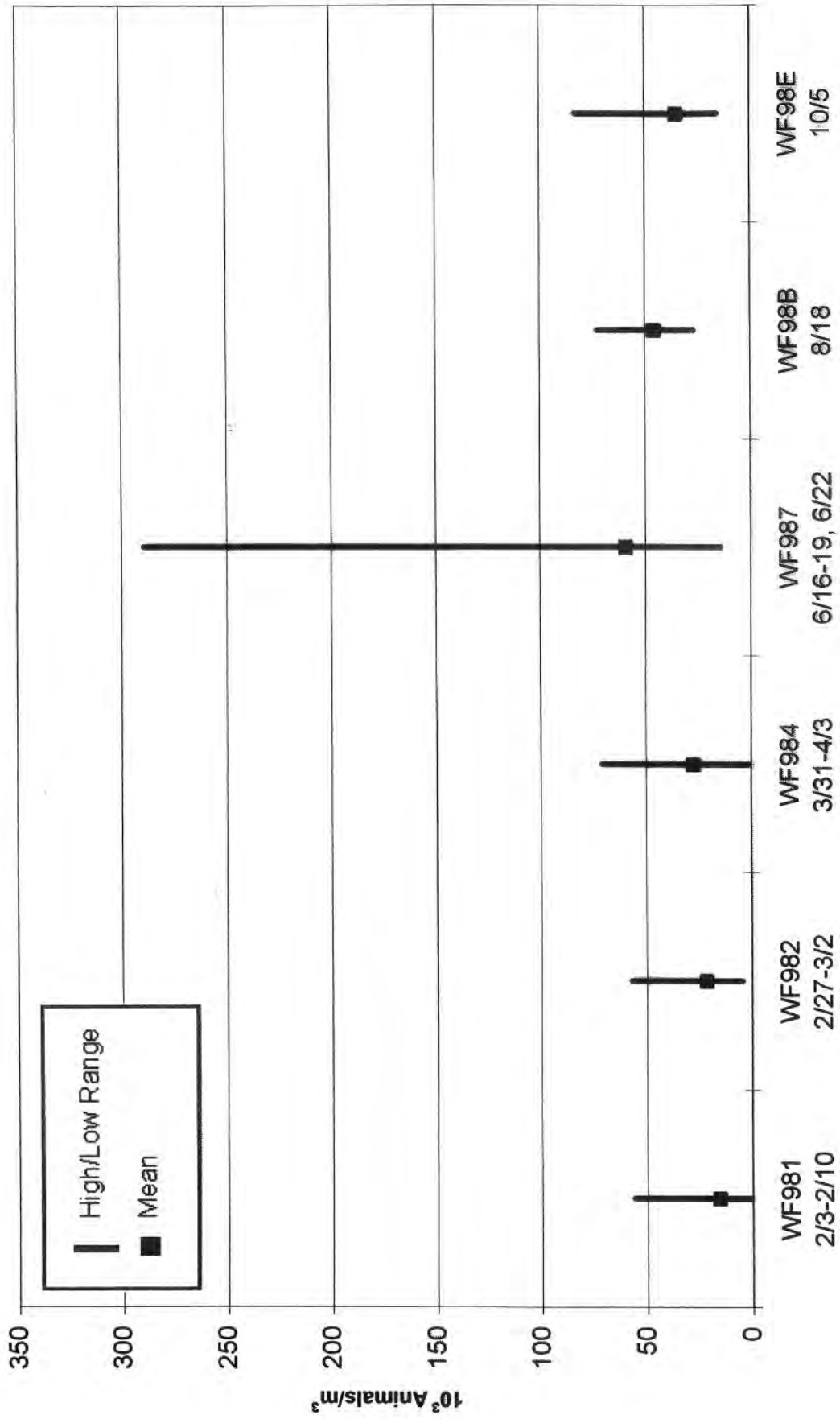
Addition of stations F32 and F33 in Cape Cod Bay during WF981, WF982, and WF984 extended the range of total abundance recorded for F01 and F02 from 12-24 to 28-56 x 10<sup>3</sup> animals m<sup>-3</sup> during WF981, from 15-24 to 27-29 x 10<sup>3</sup> animals m<sup>-3</sup> during WF982, and from 13 to 19-28 x 10<sup>3</sup> animals m<sup>-3</sup> during WF984.

During WF984, abundance of *Calanus finmarchicus* copepodites comprised only 3-4% of the catch at F01 and F02, but 7-11% at F32 and F33. Thus, for this important forage item of right whales that feed in Cape Cod Bay at this time of the year, addition of the two new stations captured a three-fold increase in patchiness of this copepod that would have been missed by sampling only Stations F01 and F02.

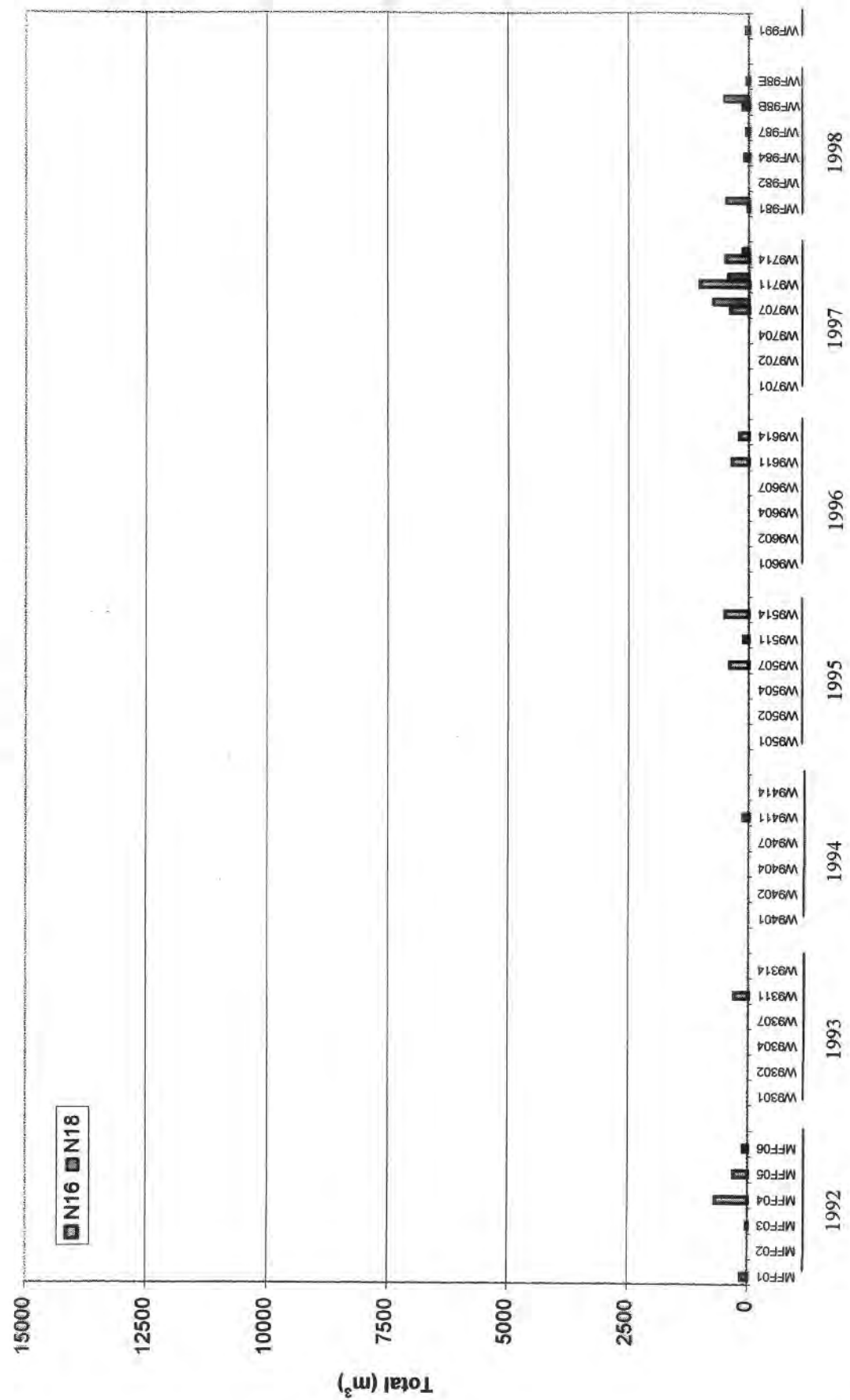
# Nearfield Zooplankton



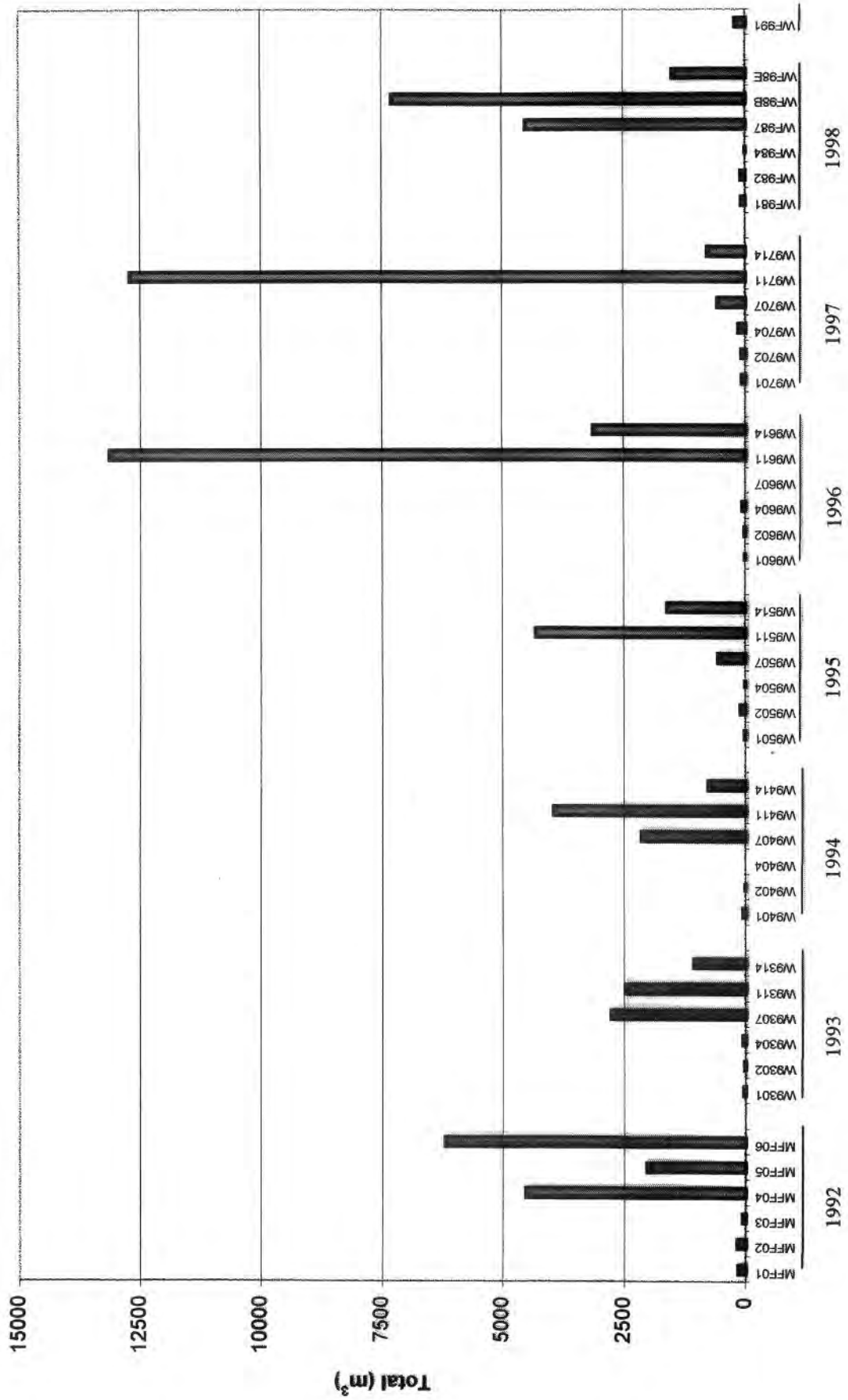
# Farfield Zooplankton



### Station N16 and N18

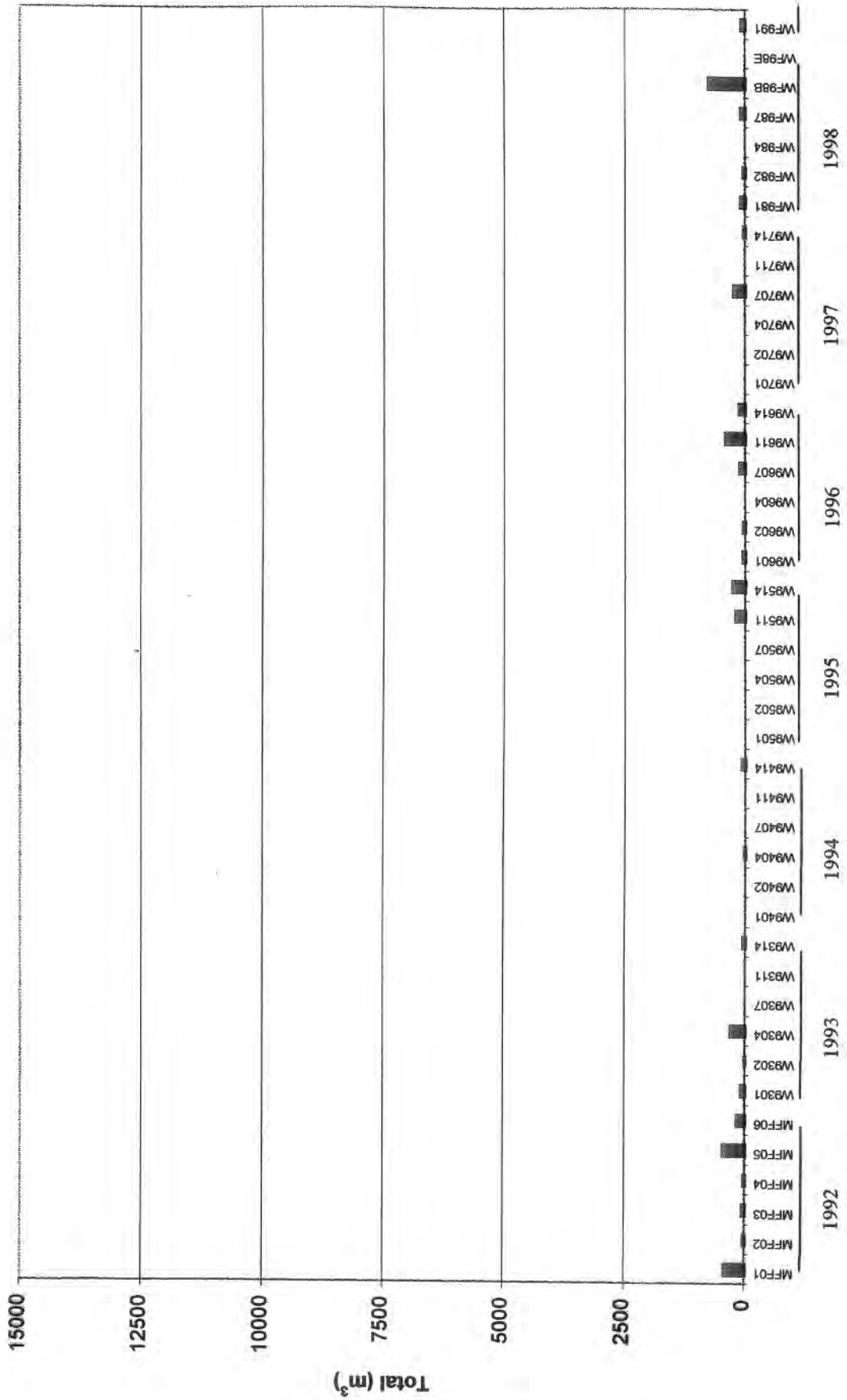


Station F23





# Station F02



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# Why is *Acartia tonsa* (Copepoda: Calanoida) restricted to nearshore environments?

Gustav-Adolf Paffenhöfer<sup>1</sup>, Donald E. Stearns<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, PO Box 13687, Savannah, Georgia 31416, USA

<sup>2</sup>Dauphin Island Sea Lab., PO Box 369–370, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528, USA

**ABSTRACT:** The copepod *Acartia tonsa* is adapted to high food concentrations which it encounters in estuaries and upwelled waters. It cannot obtain sufficient food for reproduction on the middle and outer shelf, where food concentrations are usually low, because it decreases clearance rates when concentrations of *Thalassiosira weissflogii* fall below  $0.25 \text{ mm}^3 \text{ l}^{-1}$ . In comparison, the offshore copepod *Paracalanus* sp. continues to increase its clearance rate when food levels are below the above-mentioned concentration. Several factors are thought to be responsible for this reduction of clearance rates of *A. tonsa* feeding on *T. weissflogii*: (1) The proportion of time during which water is transported towards the copepod decreases with decreasing food concentration. (2) The efficiency of capturing food particles decreases below  $22 \mu\text{g C l}^{-1}$  ( $= 0.28 \text{ mm}^3 \text{ l}^{-1}$  of *T. weissflogii*). (3) *A. tonsa* does not seem to re-route phytoplankton cells individually towards its median, and therefore cannot use a, hypothesized, increased sensitivity of its chemoreceptors at low chlorophyll concentrations to increase clearance rate.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Acartia* (Copepoda: Calanoida) occurs mostly in estuaries and nearshore environments although several representatives of the genus are found offshore (i.e. *A. danae*, *A. negligens*; Bowman 1971). *A. tonsa* is found throughout the year in the estuaries of Georgia and South Carolina, USA, when water temperatures range from 9 to 30 °C (Lonsdale & Coull 1977, Paffenhöfer unpubl.). In terms of biomass it is the most abundant zooplankton species in the estuaries of North and South Carolina (Lonsdale & Coull 1977, Fulton 1984). It is the most frequently occurring zooplankton species in Georgia estuaries (Jacobs 1968, Stickney & Knowles 1975). However, *A. tonsa* is rarely abundant ( $> 100 \text{ ind m}^{-3}$ ) on the middle and outer shelf (Paffenhöfer unpubl.). There, throughout most of the year, representatives of the genus *Paracalanus* are among the most abundant copepods. In estuaries, their close relative *Parvocalanus crassirostris* is often as abundant as *A. tonsa* (Lonsdale & Coull 1977).

Why is *Acartia tonsa* abundant in estuaries but not on the shelf? In order to answer this question, we considered 4 variables: temperature, salinity, predation and food. Temperature is not considered a limiting factor

since it is higher during winter and slightly lower during summer on the shelf than in the estuaries. Thus, *A. tonsa* would experience less temperature stress offshore than in the estuary. Also, *A. tonsa* is able to adapt to temperatures ranging from  $-1$  to  $32$  °C (Gonzalez 1974). Neither is salinity limiting: at  $17$  °C, *A. tonsa* females survived about equally well at salinities ranging from 11 to 36 ‰ (Lance 1964). Predation does not appear to be the decisive variable in restricting *A. tonsa* offshore distribution, since the species maintains its high abundance near- and inshore, partly because of its superior ability (as compared to *Paracalanus* and others) to avoid predation by planktivorous fish (Kimmerer 1986, for *A. tranteri*). This leaves only food with all the components of animal-algae interactions as a possible controlling variable.

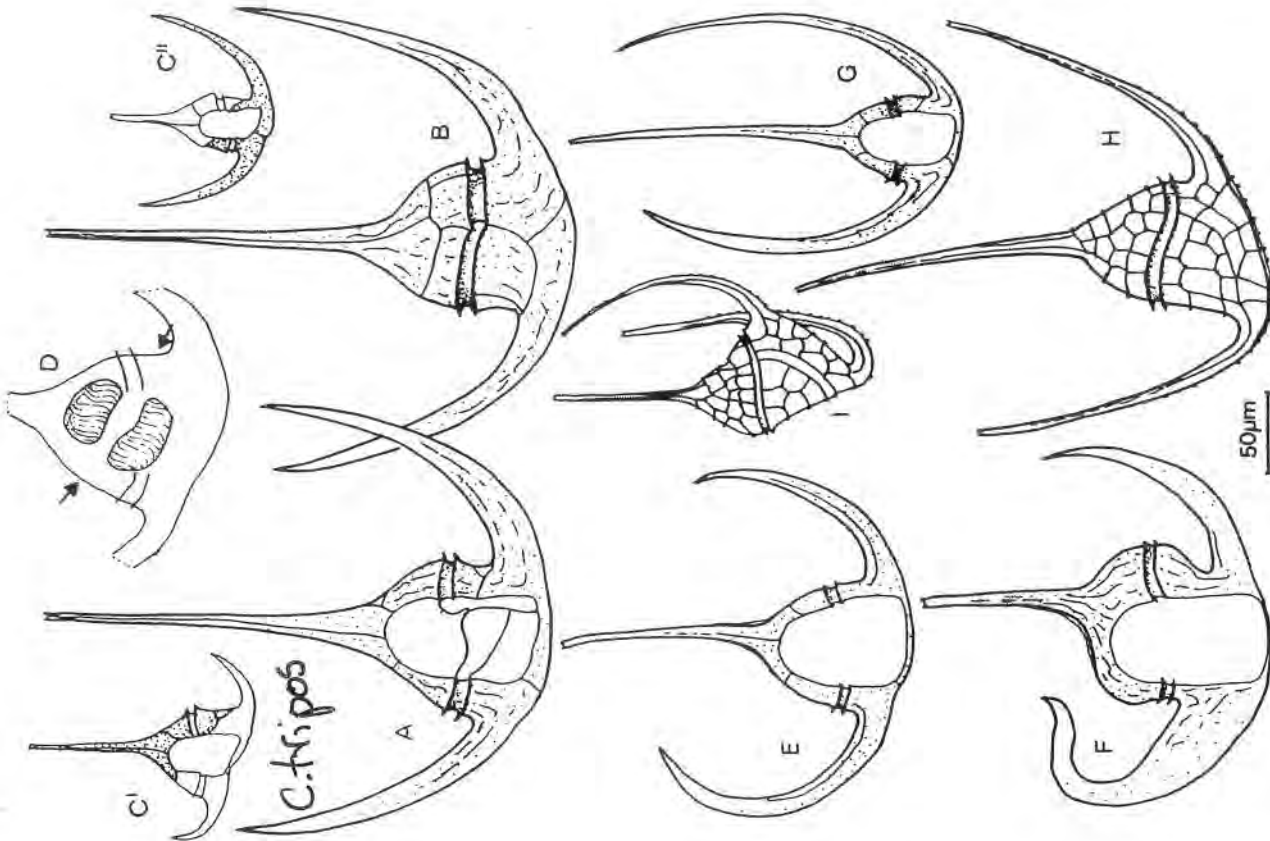


Fig. 30 CERATIUM  
 A. *C. tripos* ventral view to show the plates (after Wall & Evitt 1975)  
 B. *C. tripos* dorsal view to show the plates (after Wall & Evitt 1975)  
 C. I and II recently divided *C. tripos* to show development of new parts  
 D. *C. tripos* telophase to show plane of cell division E. *C. arierinum*  
 F. *C. gibb* G. *C. symmetricum* H. *C. hexacanthum* dorsal view  
 I. *C. hexacanthum* side view to show twisting

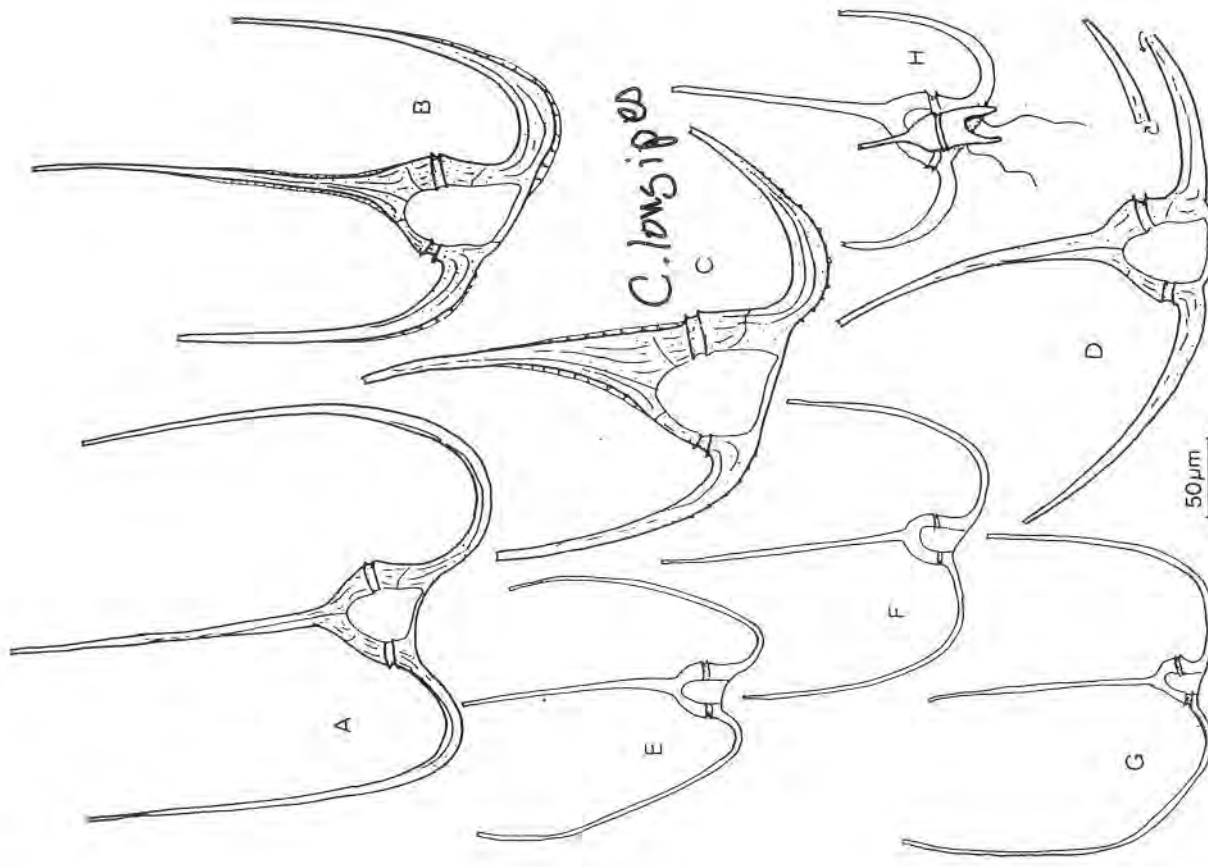
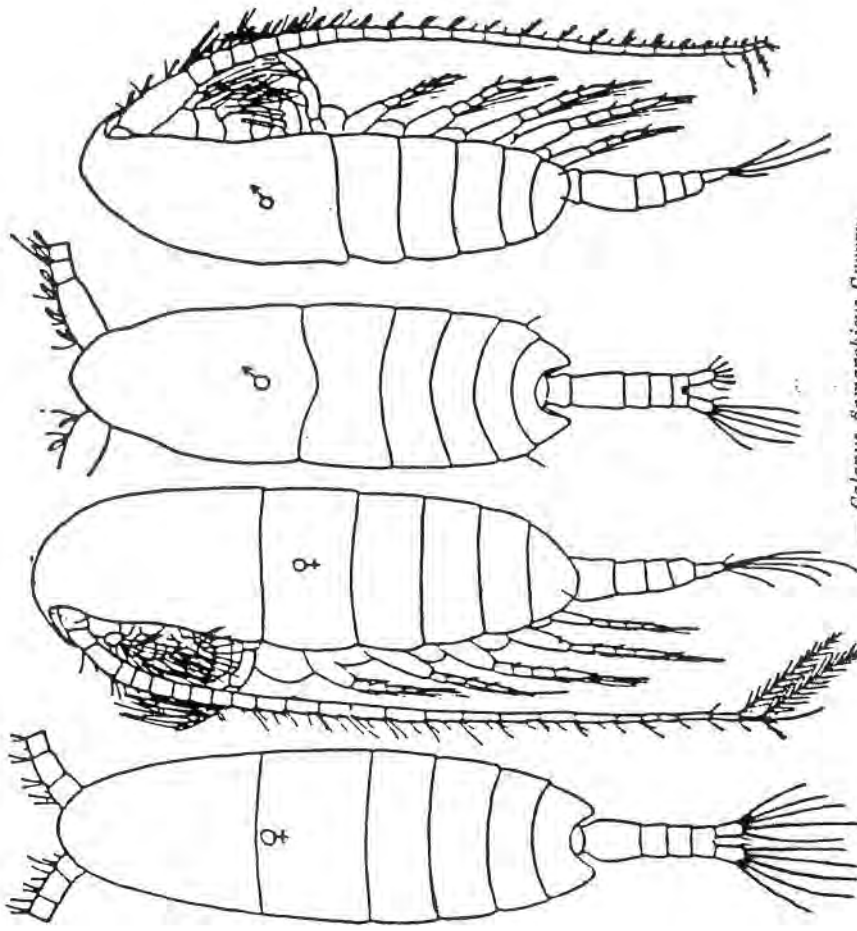


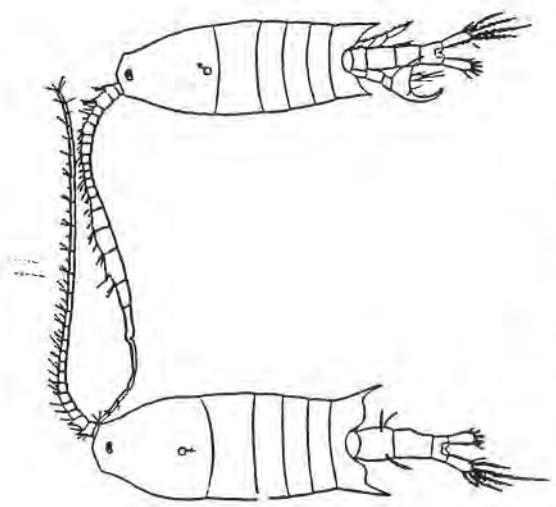
Fig. 31 CERATIUM  
 A. *C. macroceros* B. *C. horridum* C. *C. longipes* D. *C. longipes farcticum*  
 E. *C. massiliense* F. *C. trichoceros* G. *C. carriense* H. *C. horridum* copulation  
 between a macroswarmer and microswarmer (after Von Stosch, 1964)



— *Calanus finmarchicus* GUNNER,

— L. ♀ 2,7-5,4 mm.;

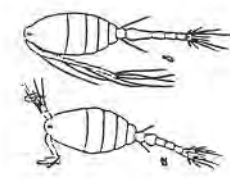
♂ 2,35-3,6 mm.



— *Centropages typicus* KNÖYER,

— L. ♀ 4,0-2 mm.;

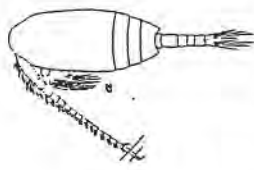
♂ 4,4-1,9 mm.



— *Oithona similis*: ♀, Male, dorsal;

♂, female, dorsal;

Total length, 0,7-0,95 mm.



— *Paracalanus parvus*: ♂,

Male, dorsal;

Total length, 0,75-1 mm.

## Why Is *Acartia tonsa* Restricted to Estuarine Habitats?<sup>1)</sup>

Patricia A. Tester<sup>2)</sup> and Jefferson T. Turner<sup>3)</sup>

<sup>2)</sup> *National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA  
Southeast Fisheries Research Center, Beaufort Laboratory  
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516, USA*

<sup>3)</sup> *Southeastern Massachusetts Univesity  
North Dartmouth, Massachusetts 02747, USA*

### Abstract

The salinity tolerance of naupliar stages is a major factor in restricting the abundant calanoid copepod *Acartia tonsa* to estuarine and nearshore waters. There is significantly greater naupliar survival at salinities less than full strength seawater, and salinity-temperature interaction experiments indicate optimal conditions for *A. tonsa* nauplii are <25 ppt and >15°C. The early naupliar stages do exhibit some osmoregulatory ability, however. Demonstrations using fluorescein dye show that even the non-feeding, N1 stage can drink. While adult *A. tonsa* are good osmoregulators and, consequently tolerate a wide range of salinities, the restriction of this species to estuarine and coastal habitats may be a function of the physiology of the nauplii rather than the adult.

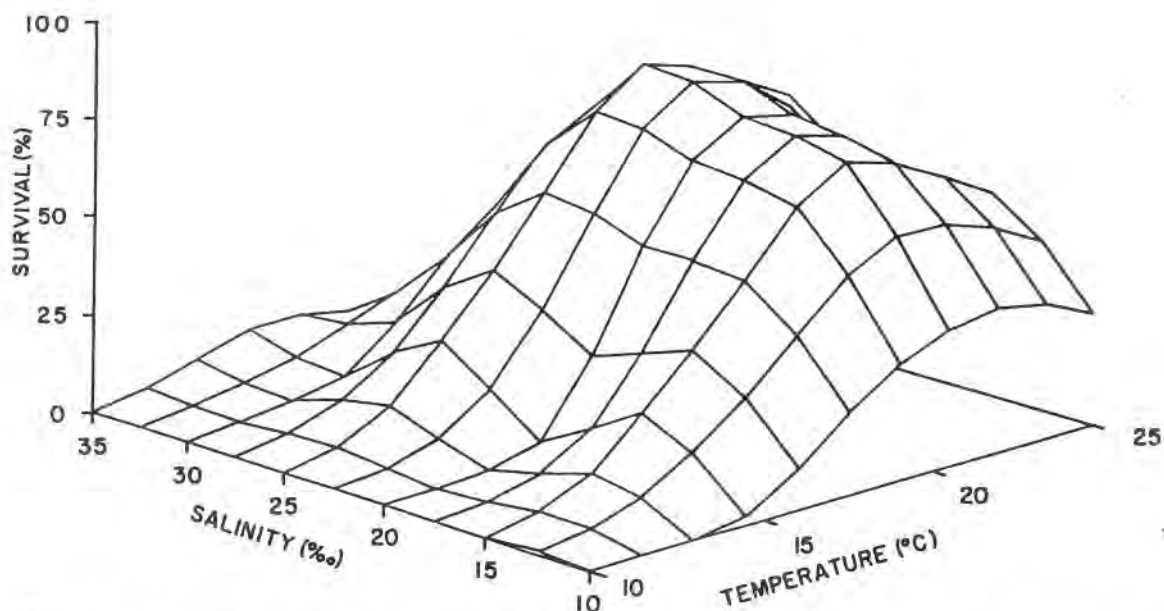


Fig. 1. Percent survival of *Acartia tonsa* nauplii as a function of salinity and temperature. Observed % naupliar survival included in Table 1.

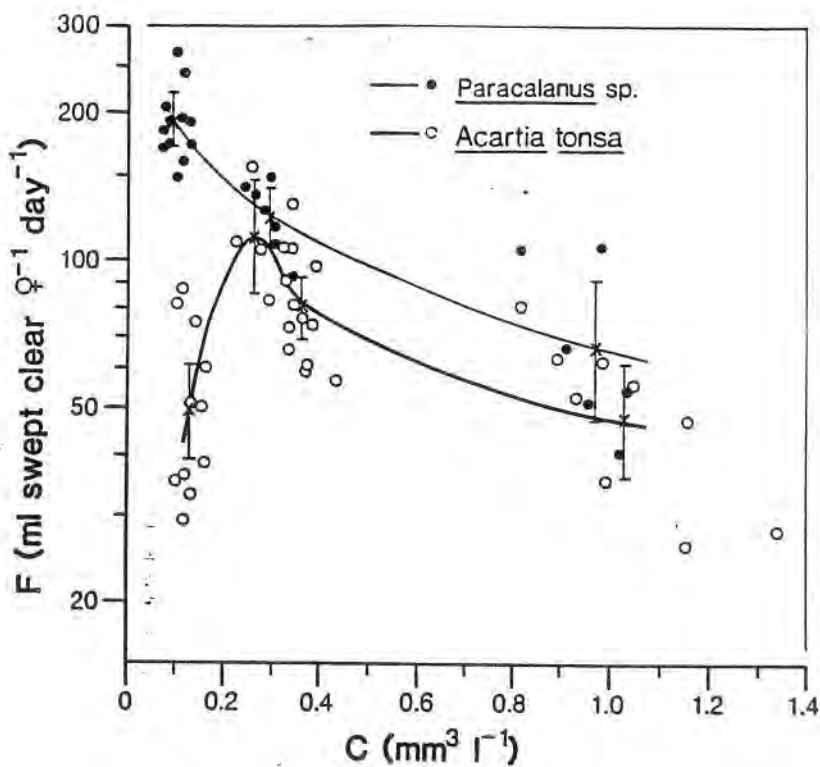


Fig. 1. *Paracalanus* sp. and *Acartia tonsa*. Clearance rate (F) of adult females feeding on the diatom *Thalassiosira weissflogii*. Clearance rates of *Paracalanus* sp. are the geometric means of the following ranges of food concentration: 0.05 to 0.20, 0.20 to 0.35, 0.80 to 1.10  $\text{mm}^3 \text{l}^{-1}$ . For *A. tonsa* geometric means were calculated for the following ranges: 0.05 to 0.20, 0.20 to 0.30, 0.30 to 0.45, 0.80 to 1.40  $\text{mm}^3 \text{l}^{-1}$ . Bars: 95 % confidence limits.

Lines drawn by hand

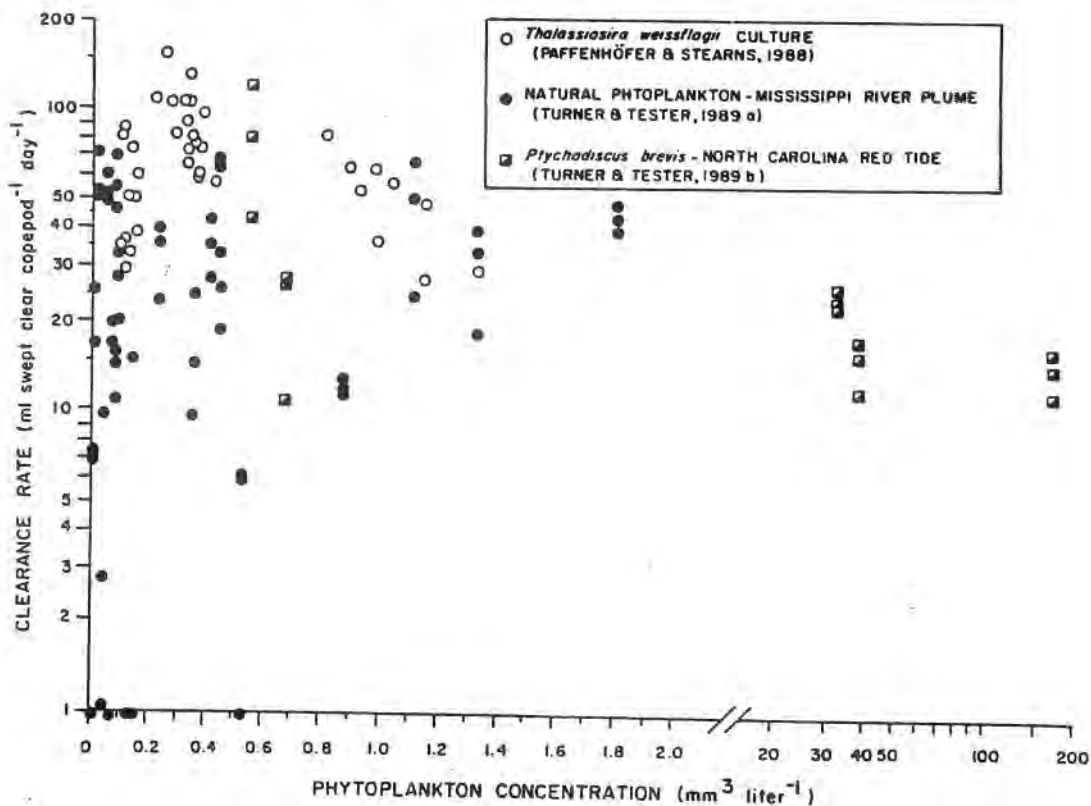
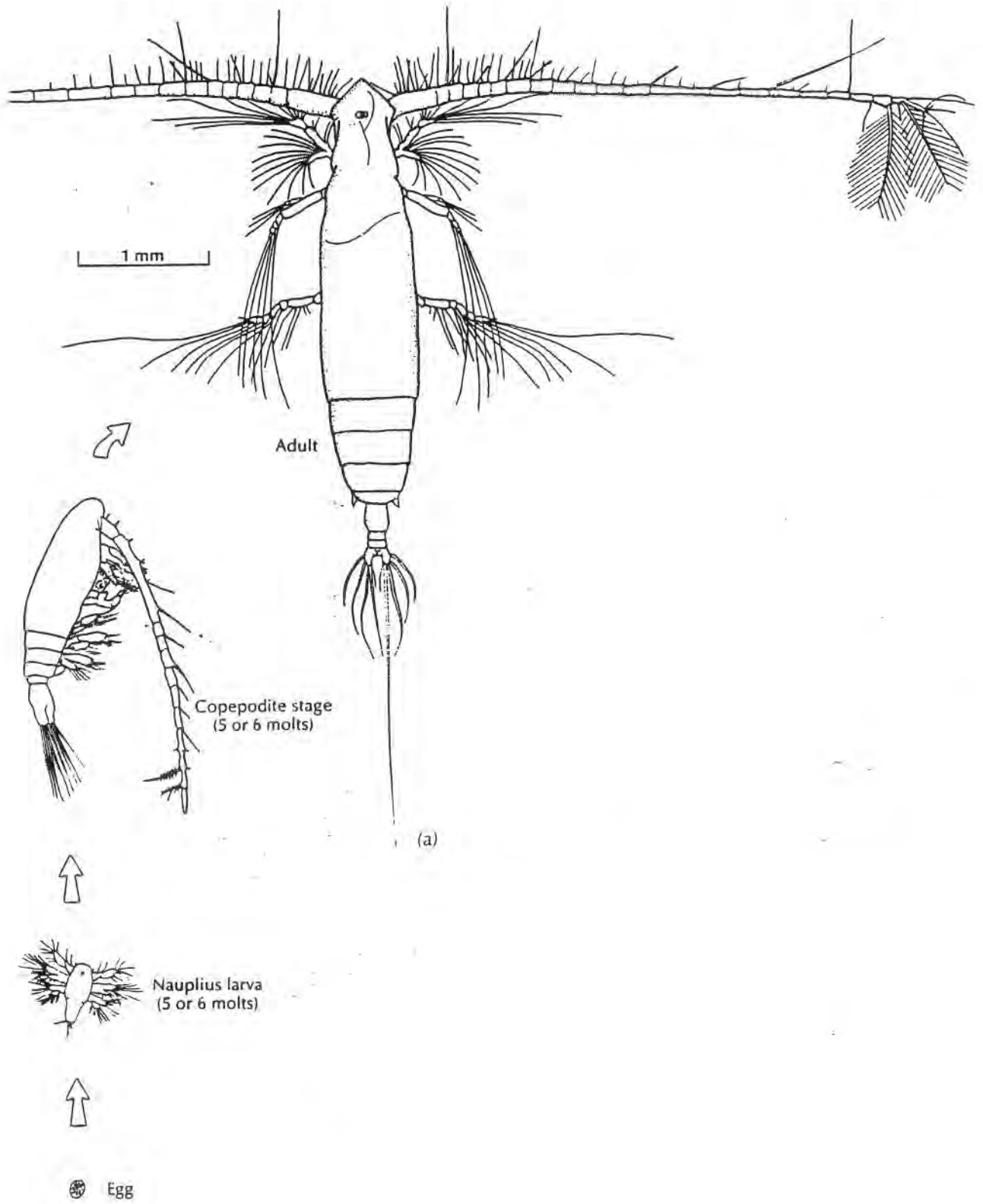


Fig. 3. Comparison of the clearance rates for *Acartia tonsa* fed on *Thalassiosira weissflogii* cultures (Paffenhöfer & Stearns 1988) and natural phytoplankton in the Mississippi River plume (Turner & Tester 1989a), and on *Gymnodinium breve* during a red tide (Turner & Tester 1989b)

WB



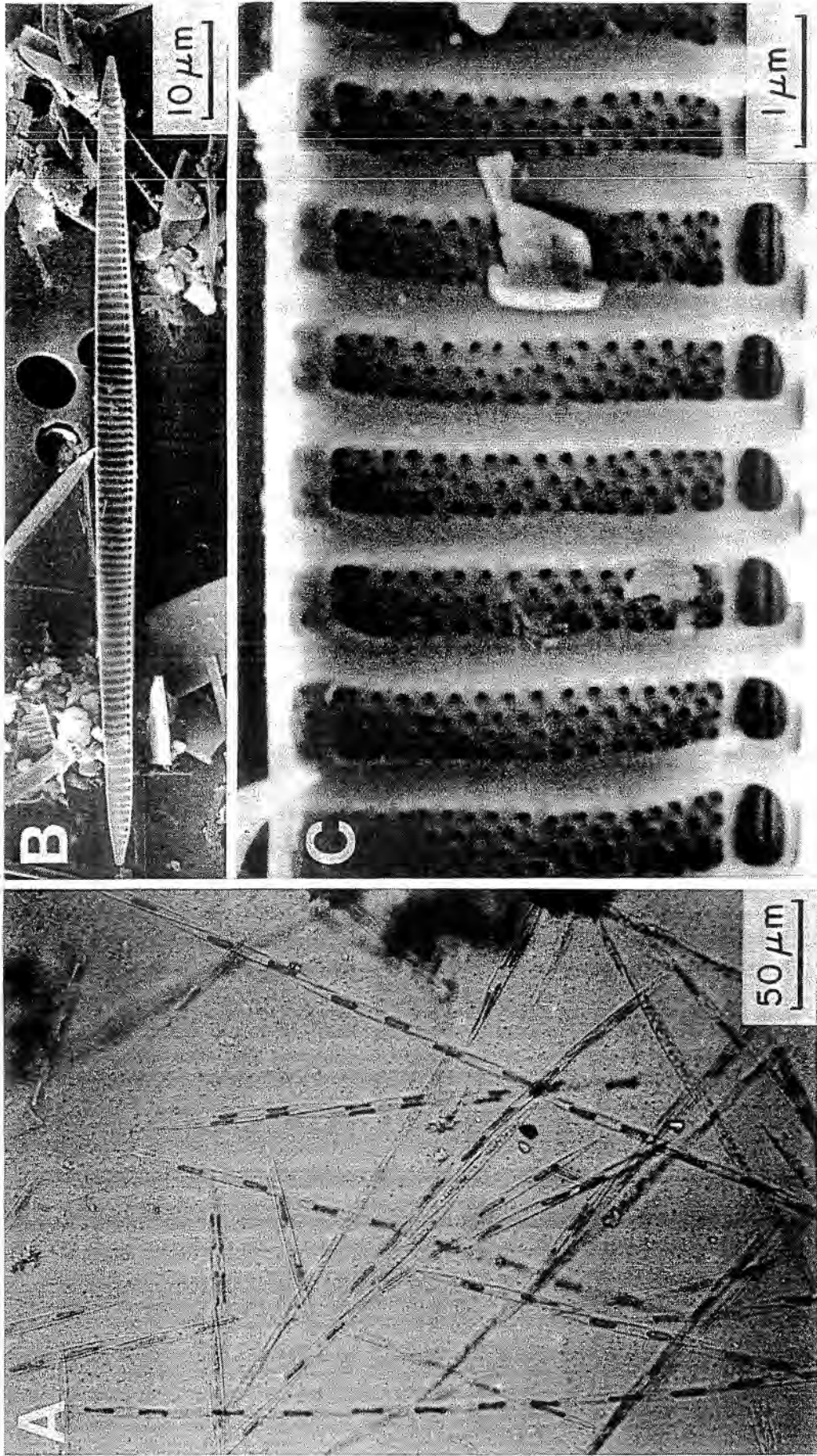


FIG. 4. *Nitzschia pungens* f. *multiseriata* from Cardigan Bay: (A) light photomicrograph showing chains of *N. pungens*; (B) scanning electron micrograph of a single valve showing the costae; and (C) same valve at higher magnification, showing the rows of poroids between the costae.

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### **Suggested Zooplankton Threshold:**

**If the *Acartia tonsa*/*A. hudsonica* abundance at the nearfield stations in any given sample ever exceeded 50% of total non-naupliar copepods (ie. adults plus copepodites), then we would know there had been a big change. Whether such a change was due to eutrophication or salinity would not be known based on that, but if *Acartia*'s ever exceed 50% of the copepod abundance, then we would know that something had happened.**

**The reason that I suggest >50% *Acartia* abundance in the nearfield, is that I suspect that it will never happen, and that anything else would be within the very broad quantitative envelope of variability for abundances of a few repeatedly and perennially dominant taxa.**

**Presently, and I fully expect after the outfall goes on line, the copepod abundance in the nearfield, and farfield outside Boston Harbor will be dominated by *Oithona similis*, *Pseudocalanus* spp., and to a much lesser extent *Paracalanus parvus*, *Centropages typicus* and *C. hamatus*, *Calanus finmarchicus* and other typically "offshore" copepods. Since these "non-*Acartia*'s" often co-occur at varying, and for all but *Oithona* and *Pseudocalanus* copepodites, low numbers throughout the nearfield and farfield, any thresholds based upon their numbers would not be clear-cut. However, if we see *Acartia* spp. ever comprising over half the copepods anywhere but inside the harbor, then we know that, for whatever reason, there had been a big change (for example a runoff pulse due to a hurricane).**

**In terms of meroplankton (planktonic larvae of benthic invertebrates), while they often dominate the numbers in many zooplankton samples, their periods of abundance are "spikey," and likely more related to reproductive cycles of the macrobenthic parents, than to processes in the plankton.**

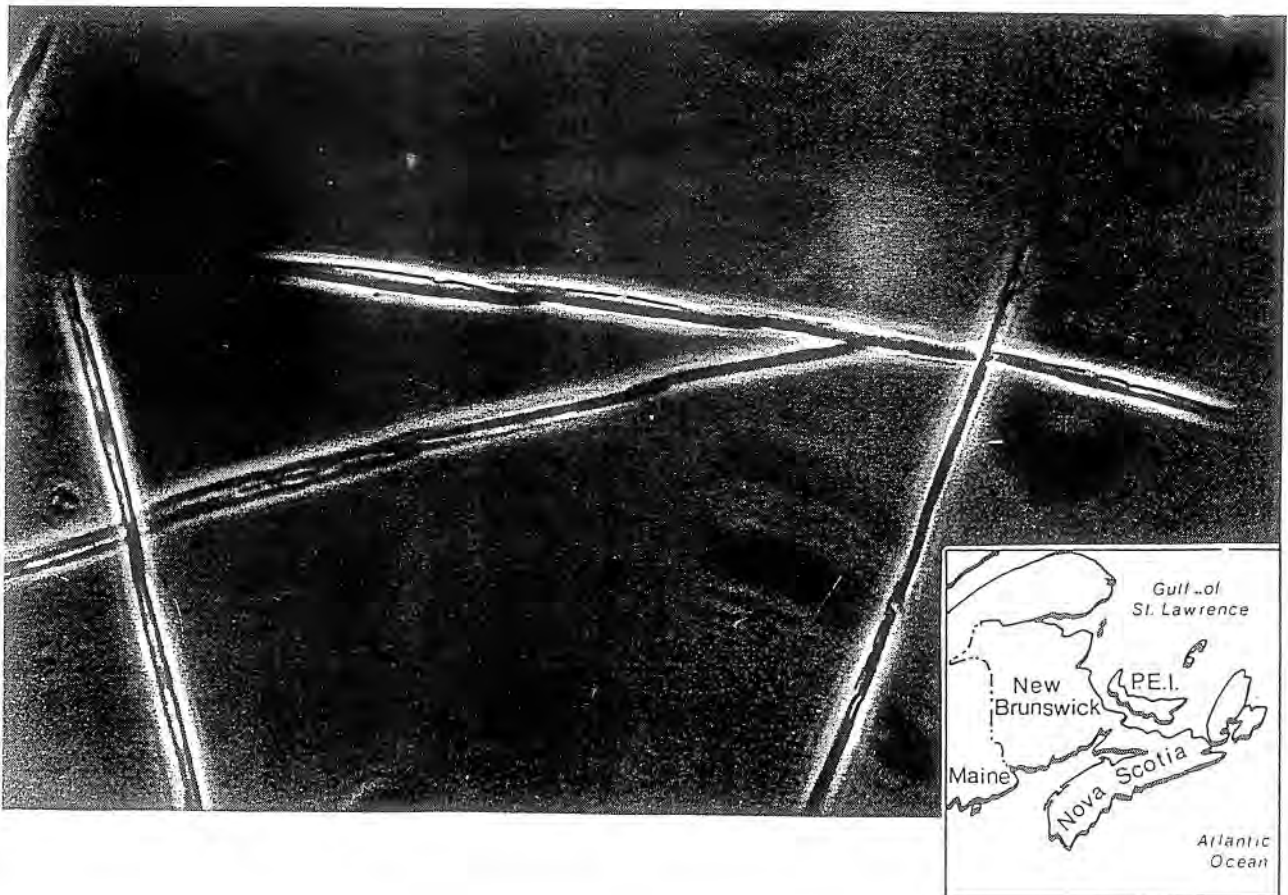
# Pennate Diatom *Nitzschia pungens* as the Primary Source of Domoic Acid, a Toxin in Shellfish from Eastern Prince Edward Island, Canada<sup>1</sup>

S. S. Bates<sup>2</sup>, C. J. Bird, A. S. W. de Freitas<sup>3</sup>, R. Foxall, M. Gilgan<sup>4</sup>, L. A. Hanic<sup>5</sup>, G. R. Johnson<sup>6</sup>, A. W. McCulloch, P. Odense, R. Pocklington<sup>7</sup>, M. A. Quilliam, P. G. Sim, J. C. Smith<sup>8</sup>, D. V. Subba Rao<sup>7</sup>, E. C. D. Todd<sup>9</sup>, J. A. Walter, and J. L. C. Wright.

Atlantic Research Laboratory, National Research Council of Canada, 1411 Oxford St., Halifax, N.S. B3H 3Z1

Bates, S. S., C. J. Bird, A. S. W. de Freitas, R. Foxall, M. Gilgan, L. A. Hanic, G. R. Johnson, A. W. McCulloch, P. Odense, R. Pocklington, M. A. Quilliam, P. G. Sim, J. C. Smith, D. V. Subba Rao, E. C. D. Todd, J. A. Walter, and J. L. C. Wright. 1989. Pennate diatom *Nitzschia pungens* as the primary source of domoic acid, a toxin in shellfish from eastern Prince Edward Island, Canada. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 46: 1203–1215.

An outbreak of food poisoning in Canada during autumn 1987 was traced to cultured blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) from the Cardigan Bay region of eastern Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.). The toxin, identified as domoic acid, had not previously been found in any shellfish and this outbreak represents the first known occurrence of human poisoning by this neurotoxin. A plankton bloom at the time of the outbreak consisted almost entirely of the pennate diatom, *Nitzschia pungens* f. *multiseriis*, and a positive correlation was found between the number of *N. pungens* cells and the concentration of domoic acid in the plankton. *Nitzschia pungens* f. *multiseriis* isolated from Cardigan Bay produced domoic acid in culture at levels (1 to 20 pg·cell<sup>-1</sup>) comparable with values estimated for *N. pungens* in the plankton samples. Isolates of several Cardigan Bay phytoplankton, including the closely related species *Nitzschia seriata*, failed to produce domoic acid. Other *Nitzschia* spp. and two *Amphora coffeaeformis* isolates also failed to produce domoic acid. We conclude that *N. pungens* was the major source of the domoic acid in toxic mussels in eastern P.E.I. The recurrence, in November 1988, of a monospecific bloom of *N. pungens* and the presence of domoic acid in plankton and mussels reinforced this conclusion.



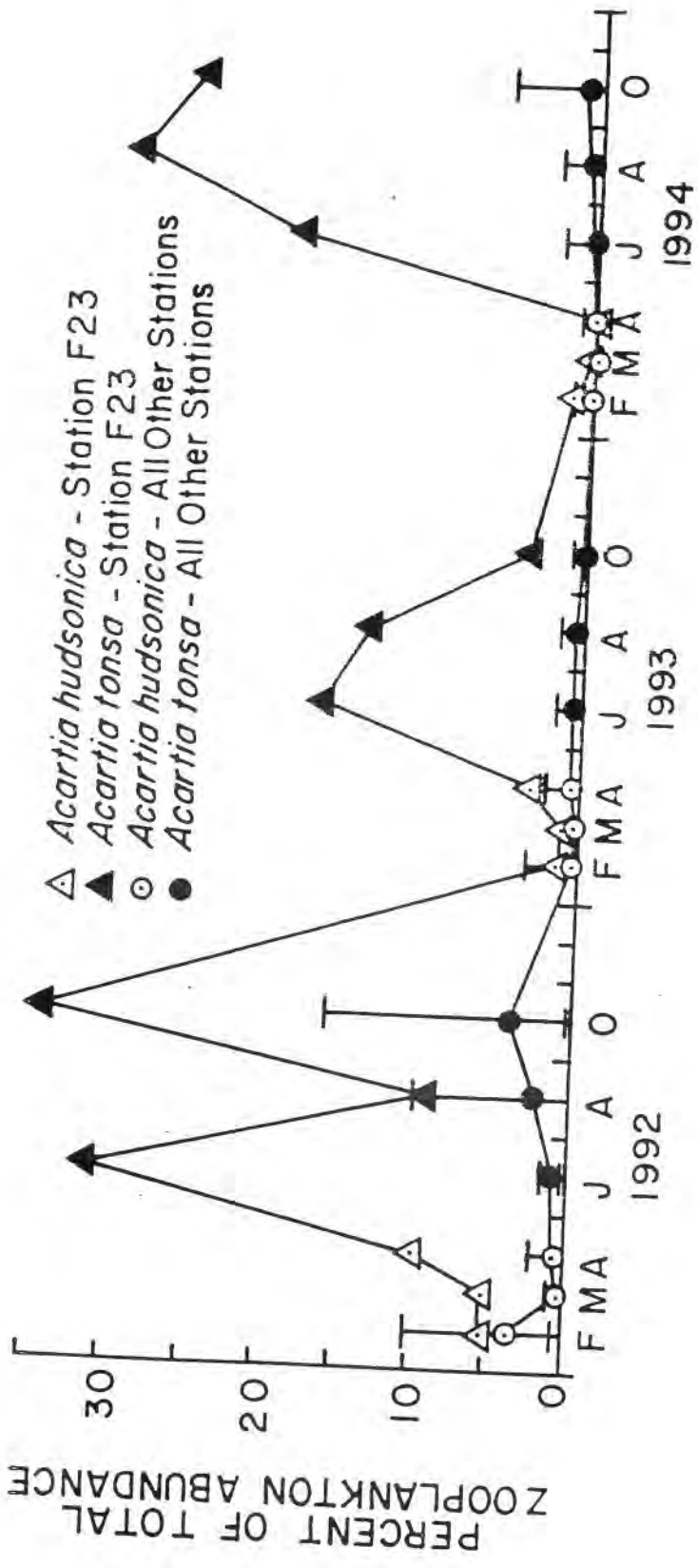


Fig. 5

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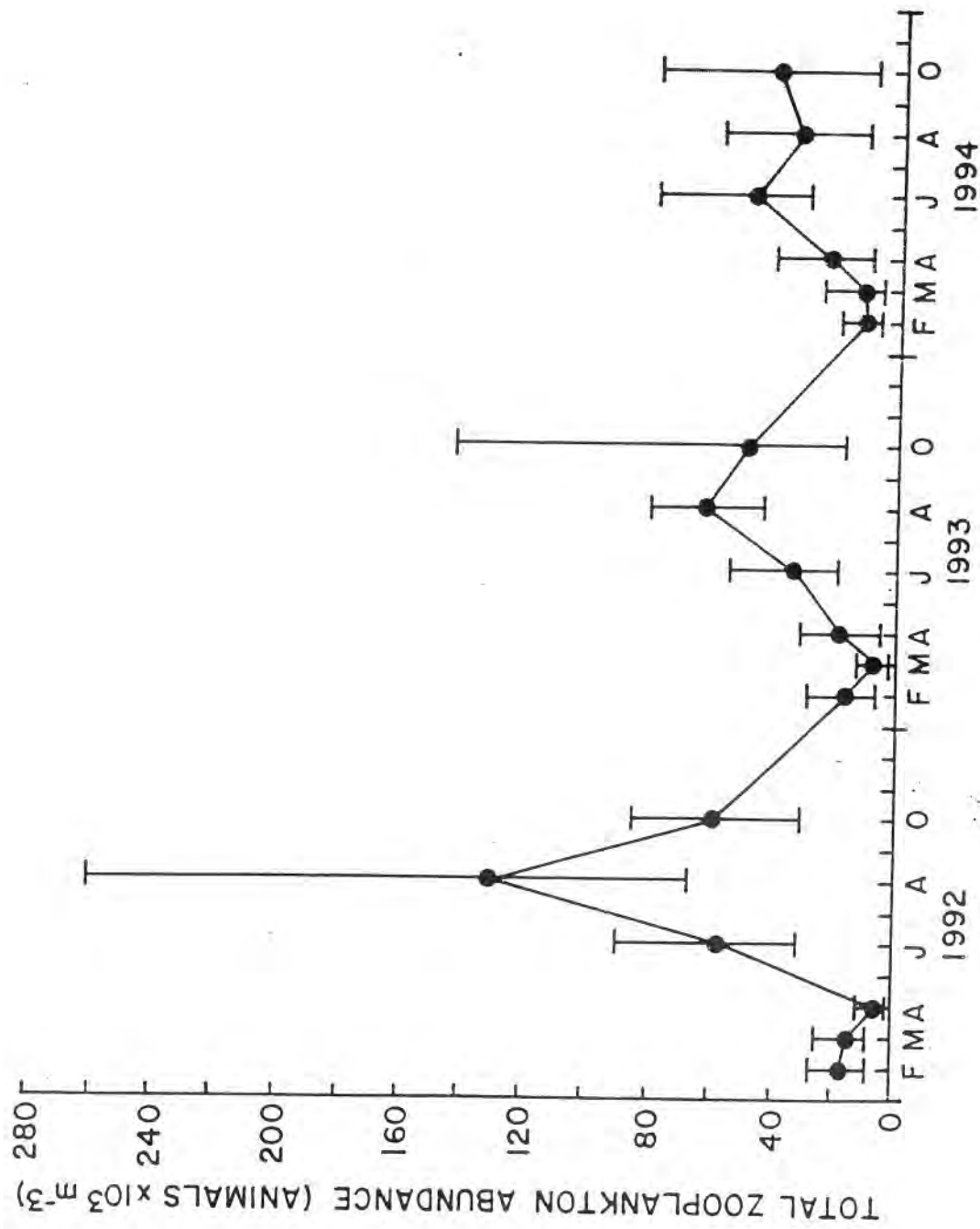


FIG. 2

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***Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling  
1998 Productivity Overview (Dr. Aimee Keller, URI)***

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Laura Reed  
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Scott Sauchuk  
Andy Parrella  
Liz Bruce

Funding: MWRA

# Introduction

## C-14 Production

Changes in Methodology

Results

Model Parameters

Daily Production

Annual Production

Bloom Failure

Modeling

## CHANGES IN C-14 METHODOLOGY 1998 vs 1995-97

Volume incubated reduced to 5 ml

Samples not filtered

Incubated at 16 light levels (2 dark)

Range of light: 0 to 2000  $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

Incubation period: 1-2 h



## Sampling Primary Productivity

Stations: N04, N18 - Nearfield  
F23 - Harbor

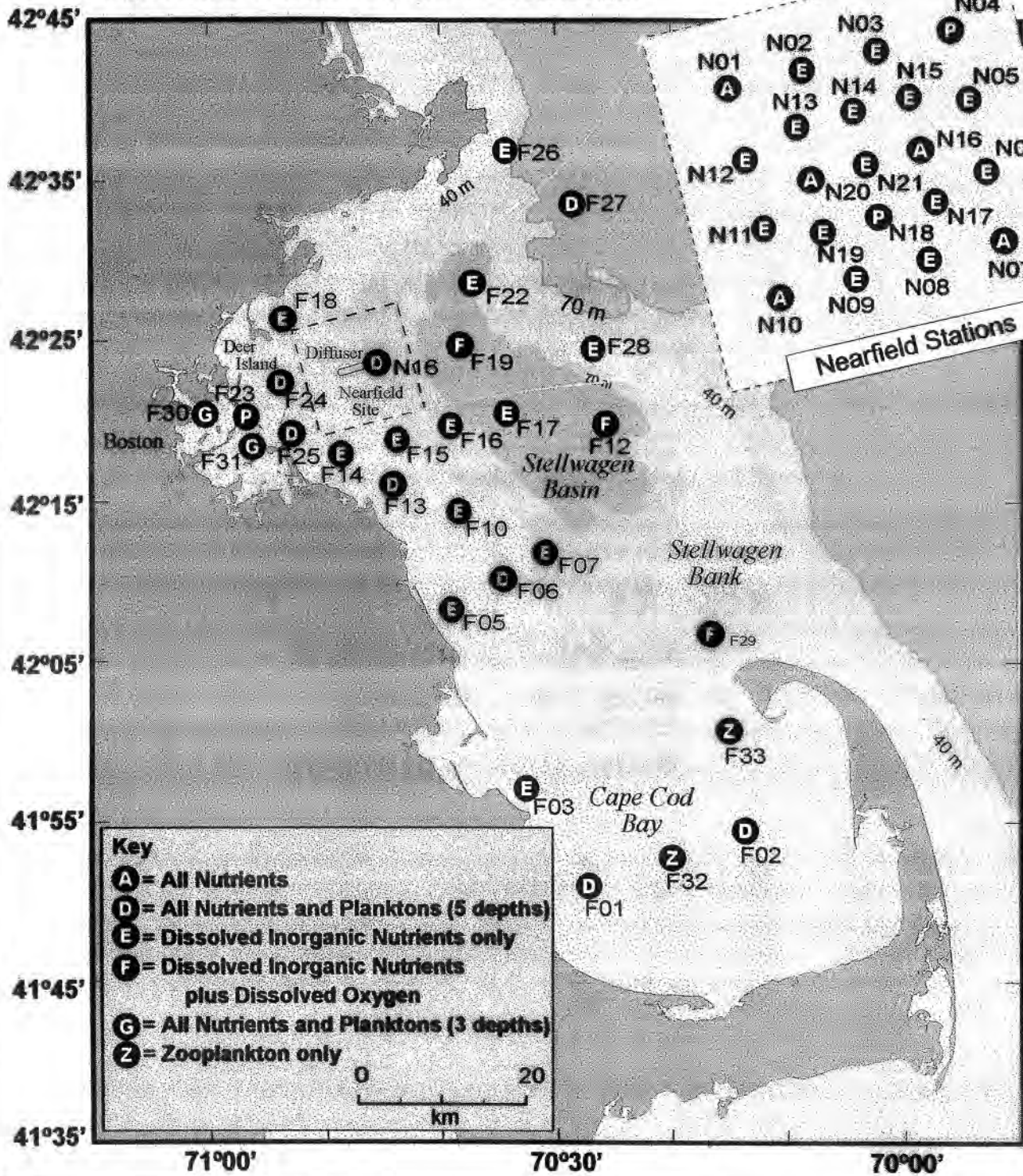
Depths: S, MS, M, MB, B

Surveys:

N04-N18 (17 total, Feb.-Dec. 1998)

F23 (6 total, Feb.-Oct. 1998)

# MWRA Water Column Stations



# **Introduction**

## **C-14 Production**

**Changes in Methodology**

**Results**

**Model Parameters**

**Daily Production**

**Annual Production**

**Bloom Failure**

**Modeling**

## P-I Curves

### 1. Webb et al. 1974 - No Photoinhibition

$$P(I) = P_{\max} (1 - e^{-\alpha I / P_{\max}})$$

with:  $P(I)$  = primary production at irradiance  $I$   
 $P_{\max}$  = light saturated maximum production  
 $\alpha$  = initial slope of P-I curve

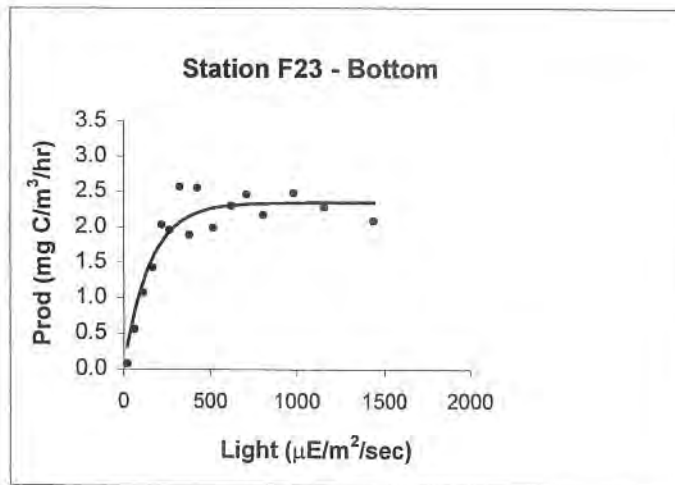
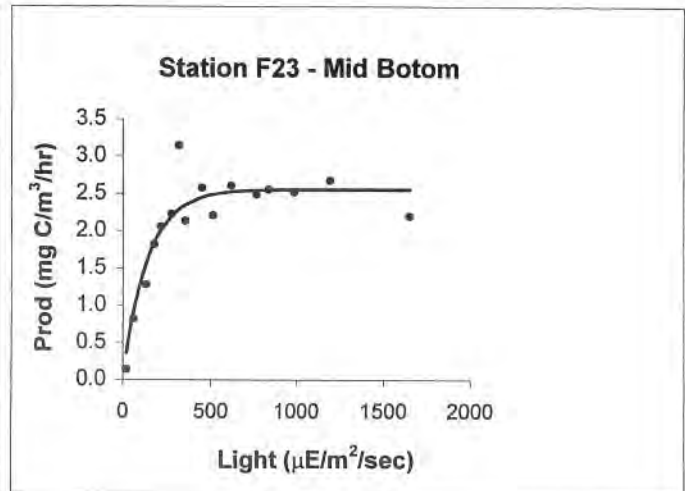
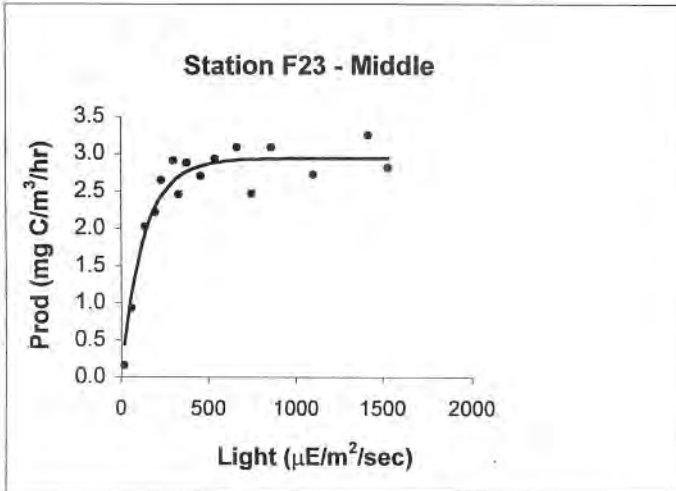
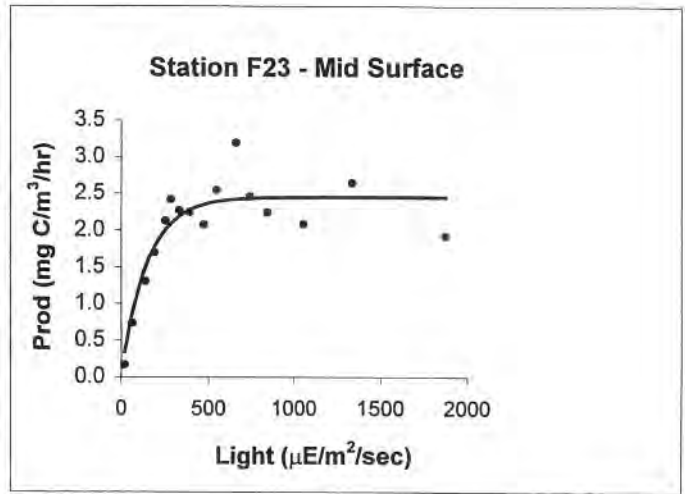
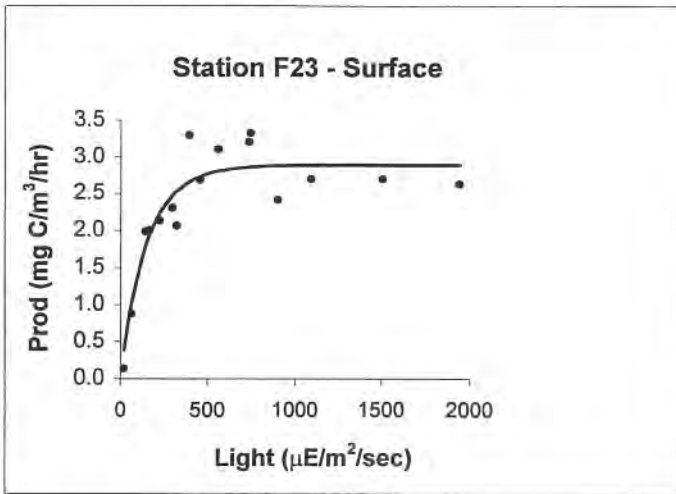
### 2. Platt et al. 1980 - Photoinhibition

$$P(I) = P_{sb} (1 - e^{-\alpha I / P_{sb}}) e^{-\beta I / P_{sb}}$$

with:  $P(I)$  = primary production at irradiance  $I$   
 $P_{sb}$  = theoretical maximum production  
without photoinhibition  
 $\alpha$  = initial slope of P-I curve  
 $\beta$  = term indicating degree of inhibition

note:  $P_{\max} = P_{sb} [\alpha / (\alpha + \beta)] [\beta / (\alpha + \beta)]^{\beta / \alpha}$

# WF984



WN98A

Station N04

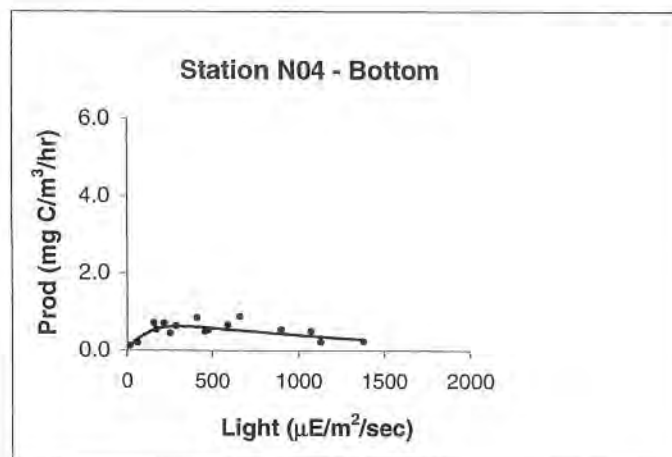
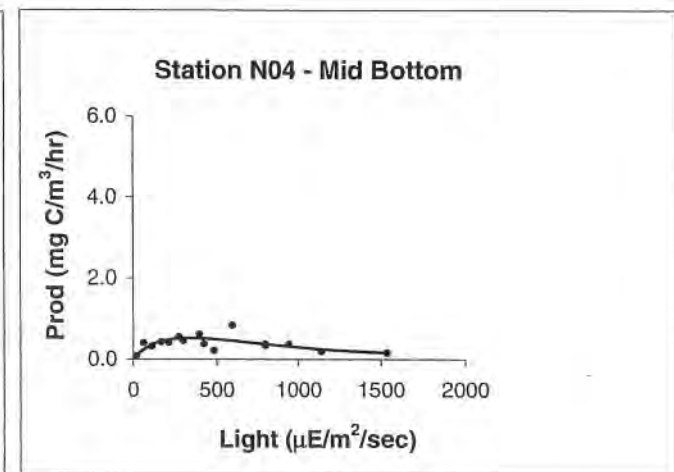
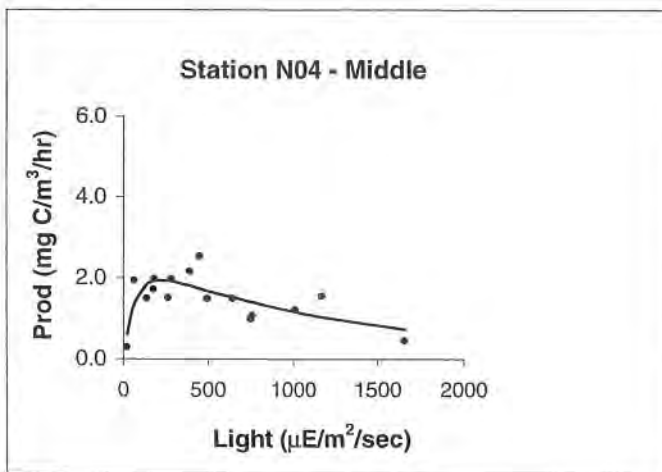
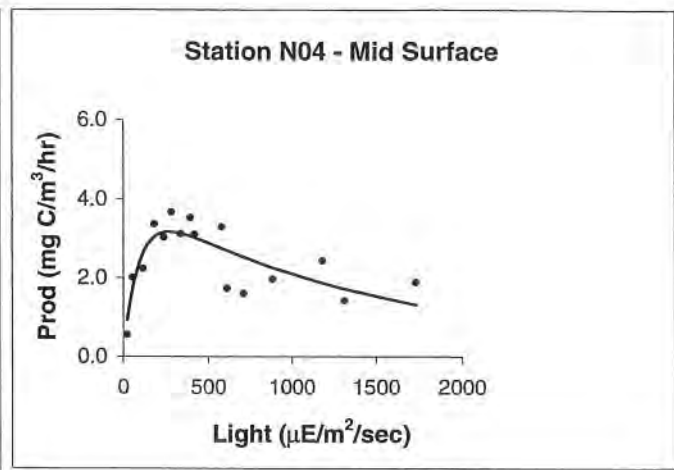
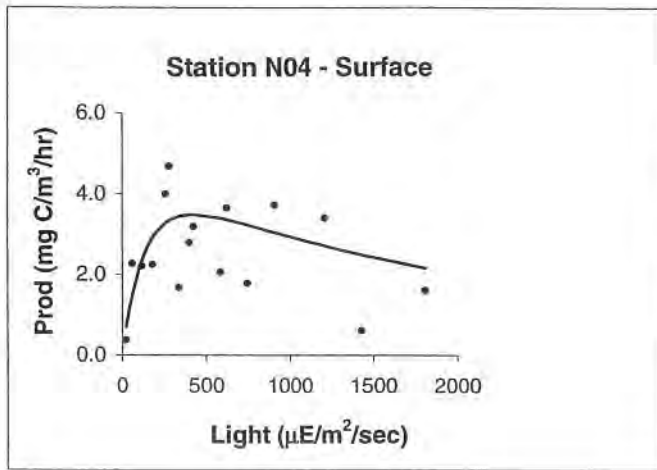
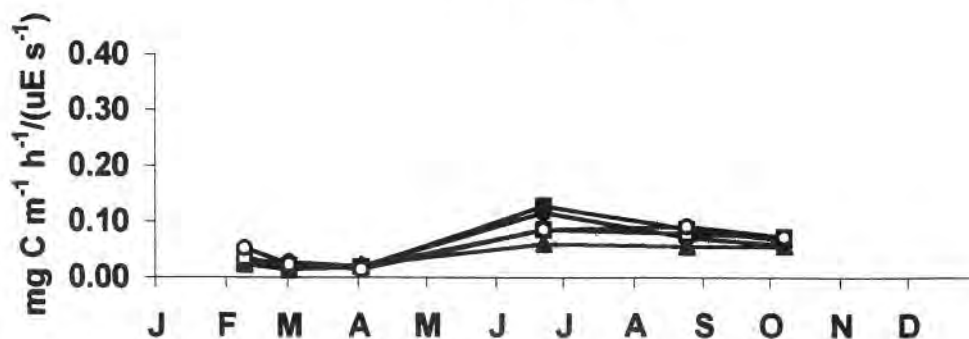
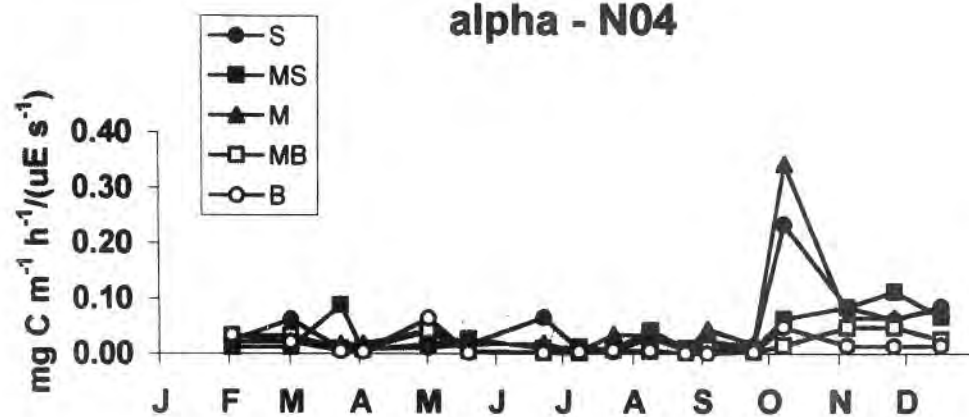


Figure 5.1 An Example Photosynthesis-Irradiance Curve From Station N04 Collected in August

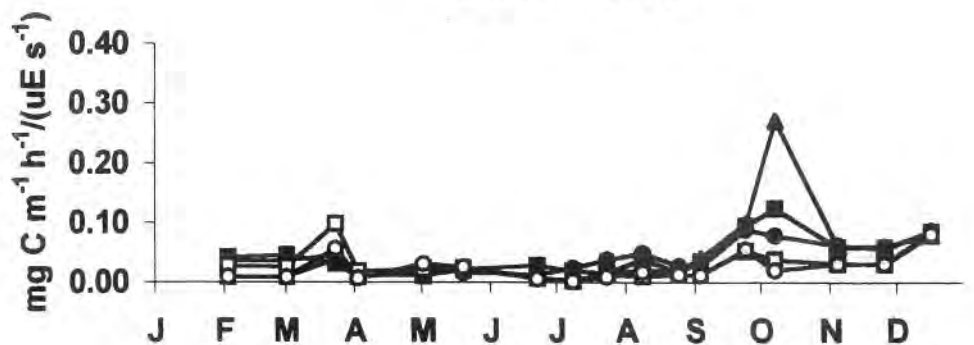
### alpha - F23



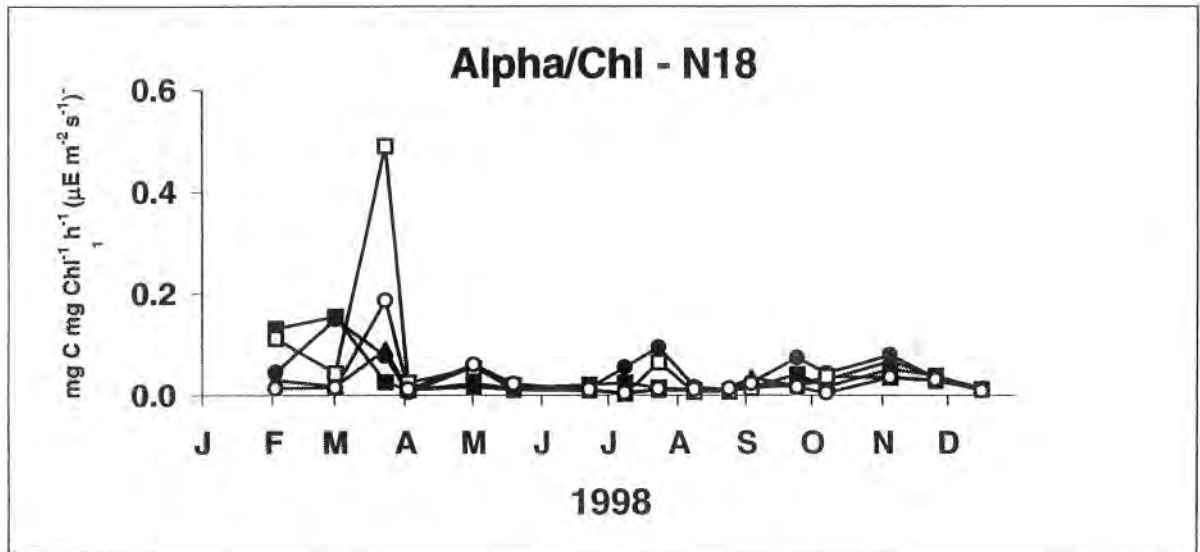
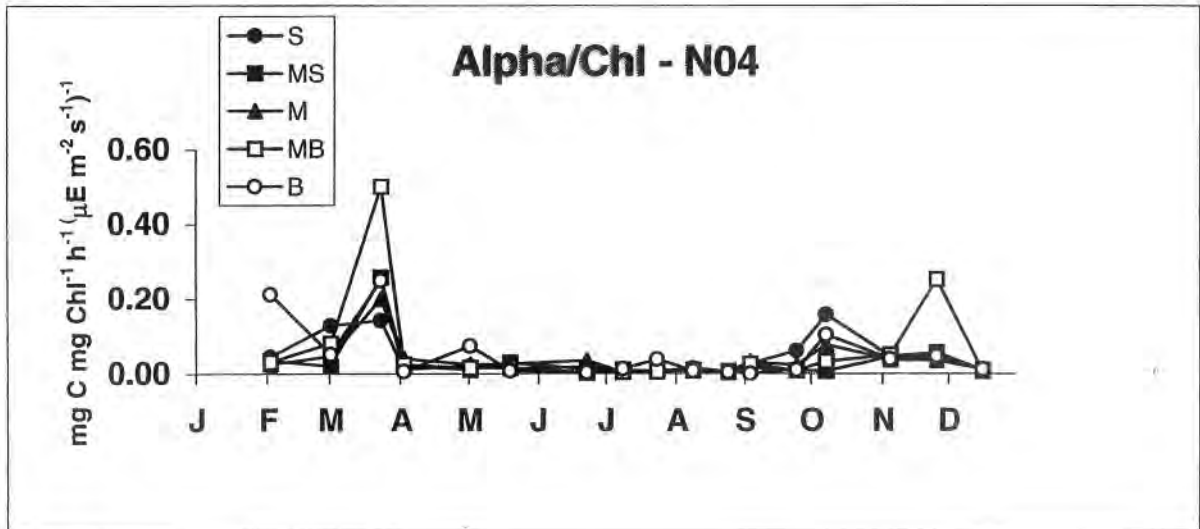
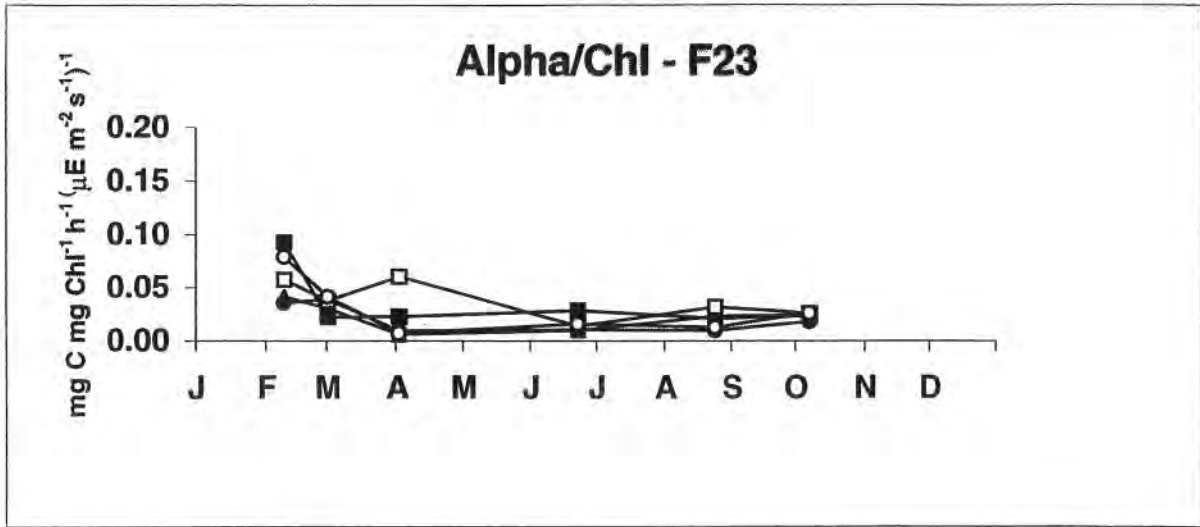
### alpha - N04



### alpha - N18

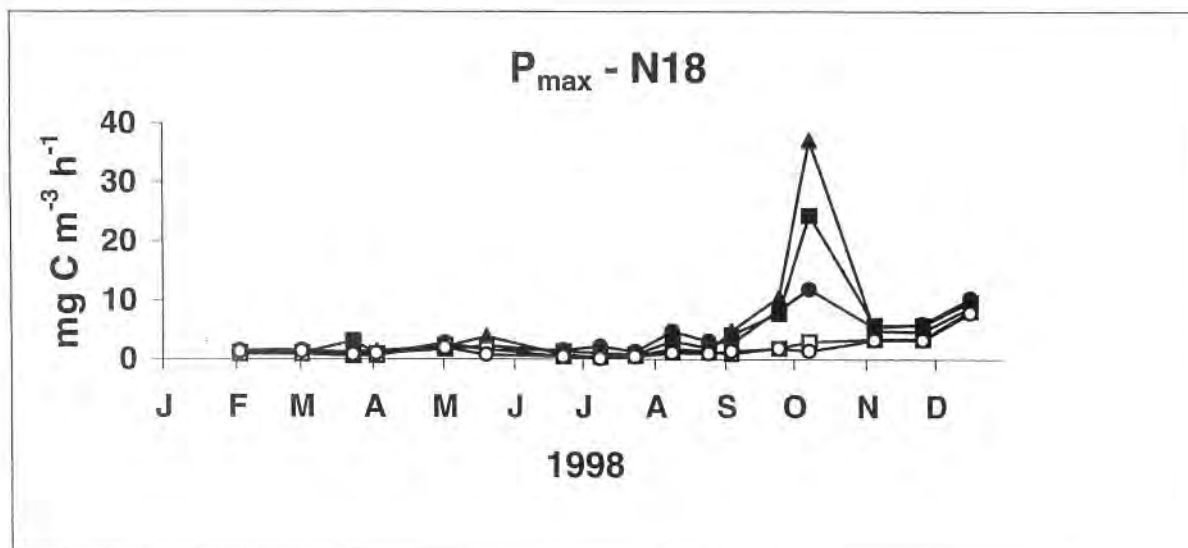
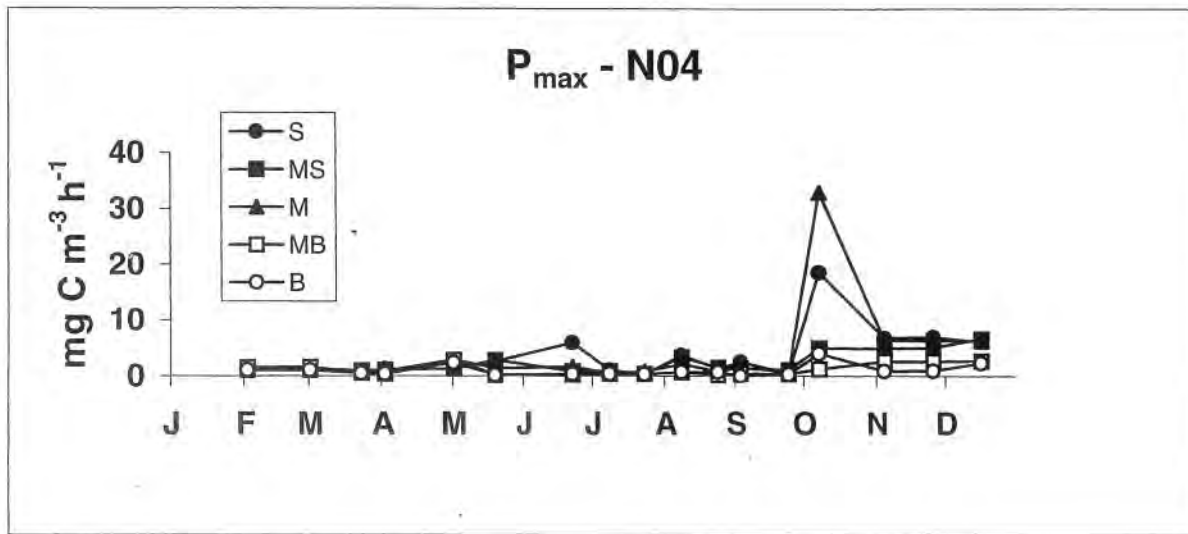
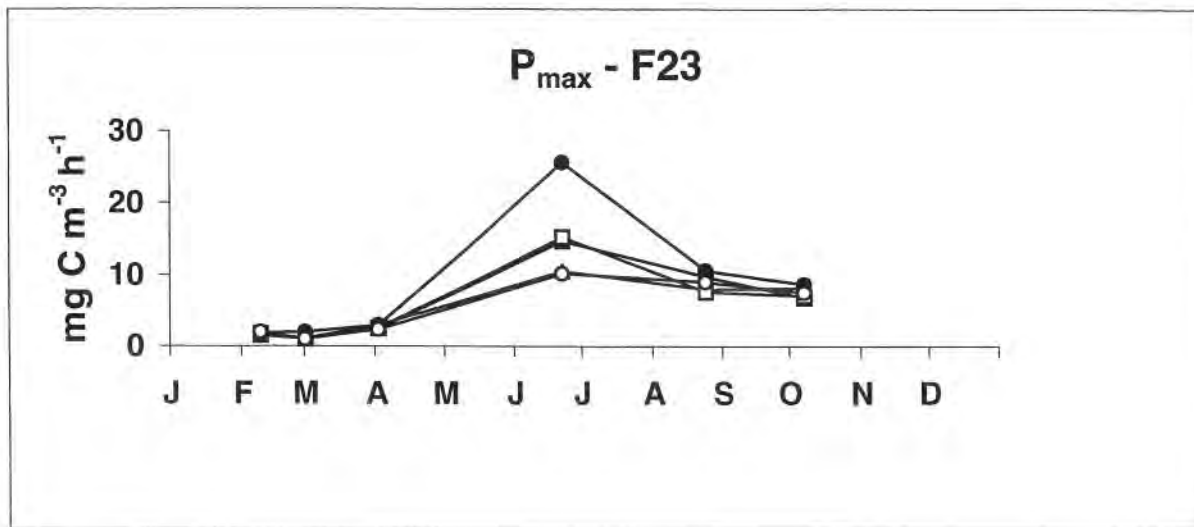


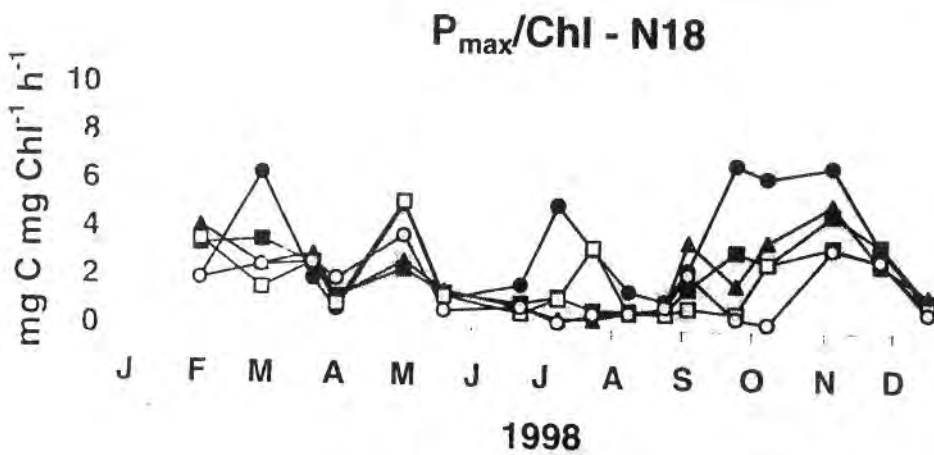
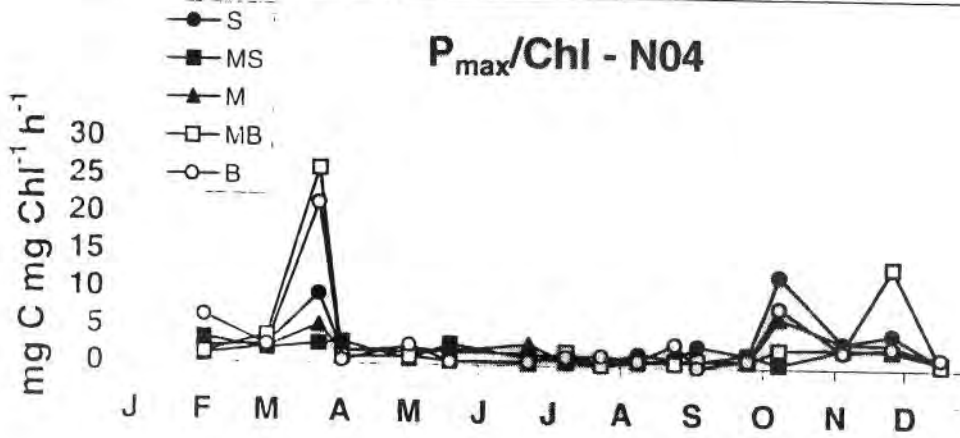
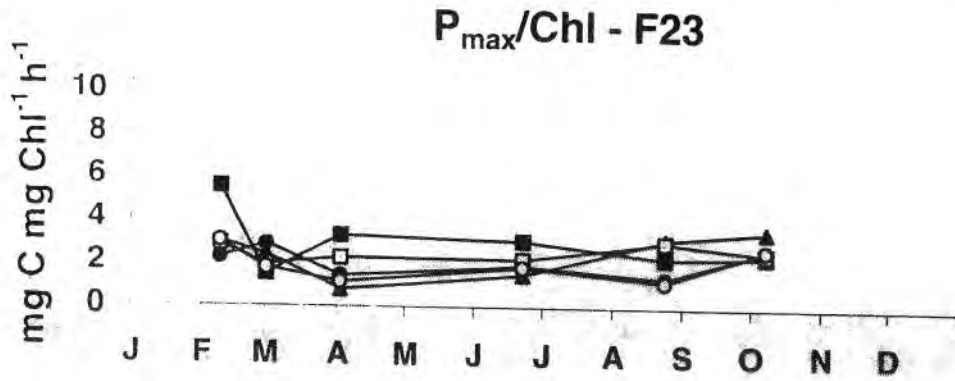
1998

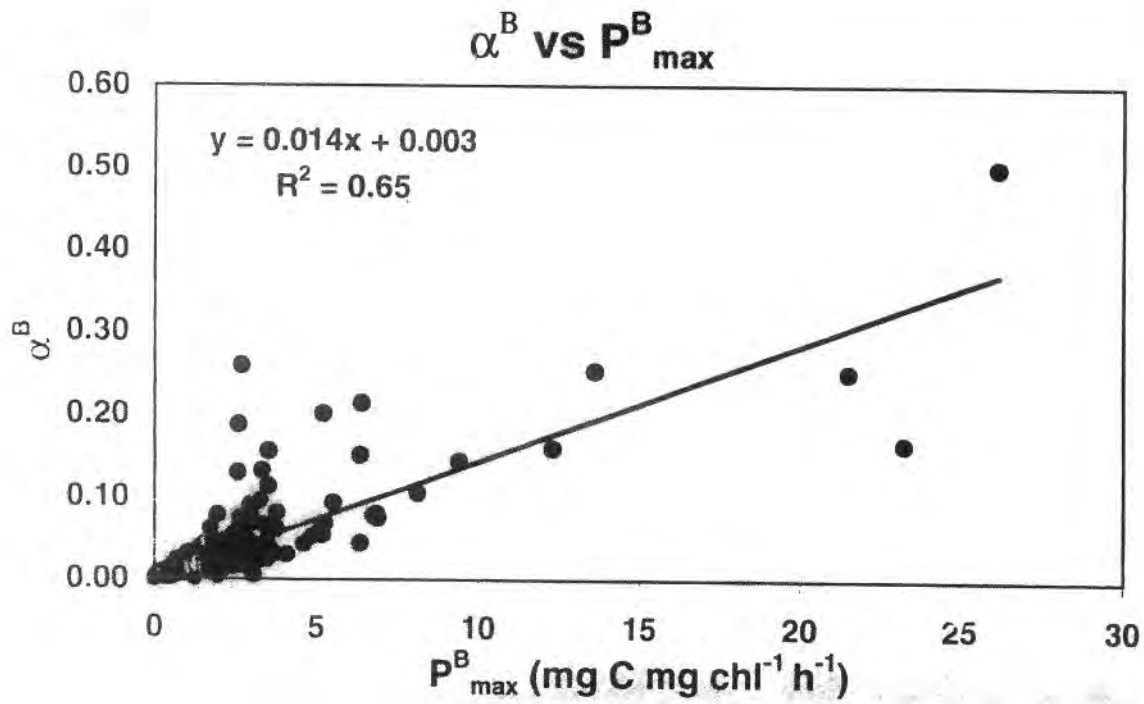
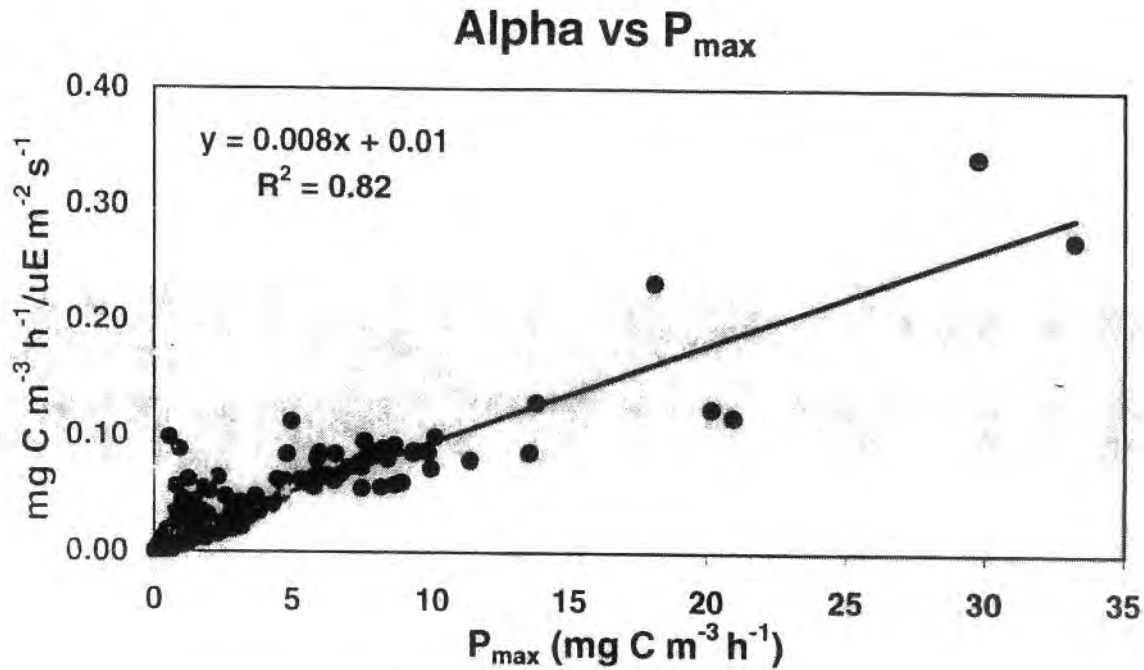


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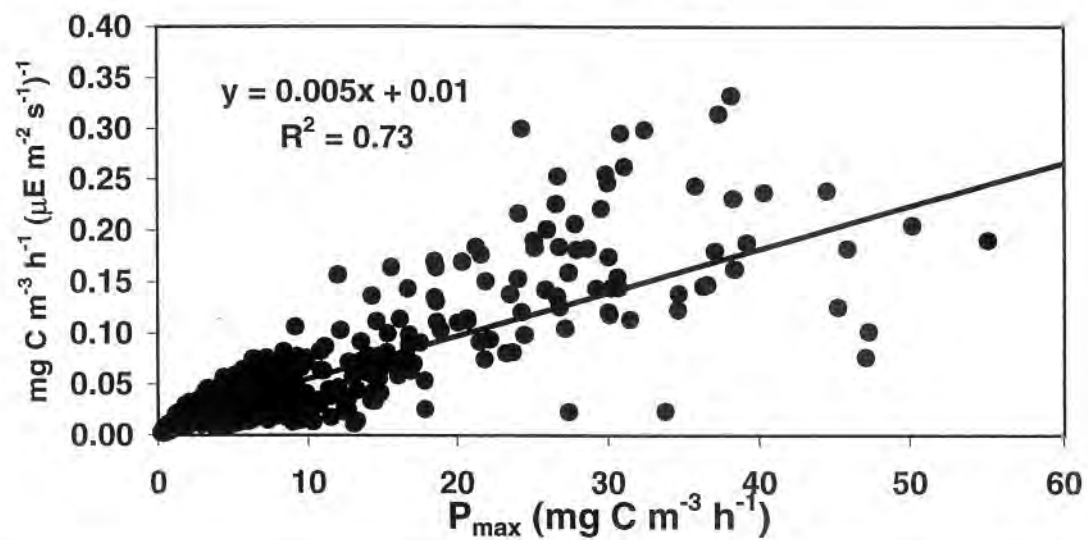




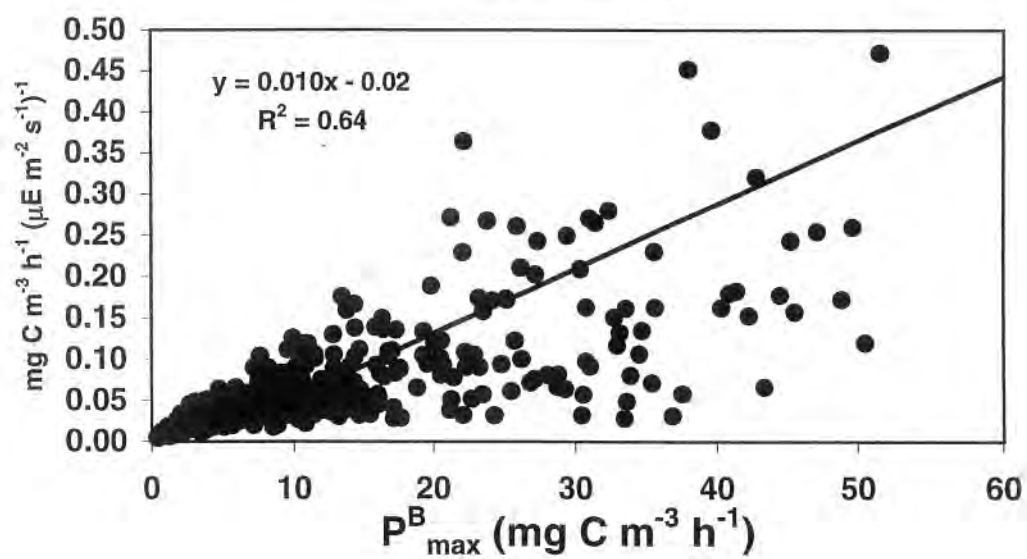




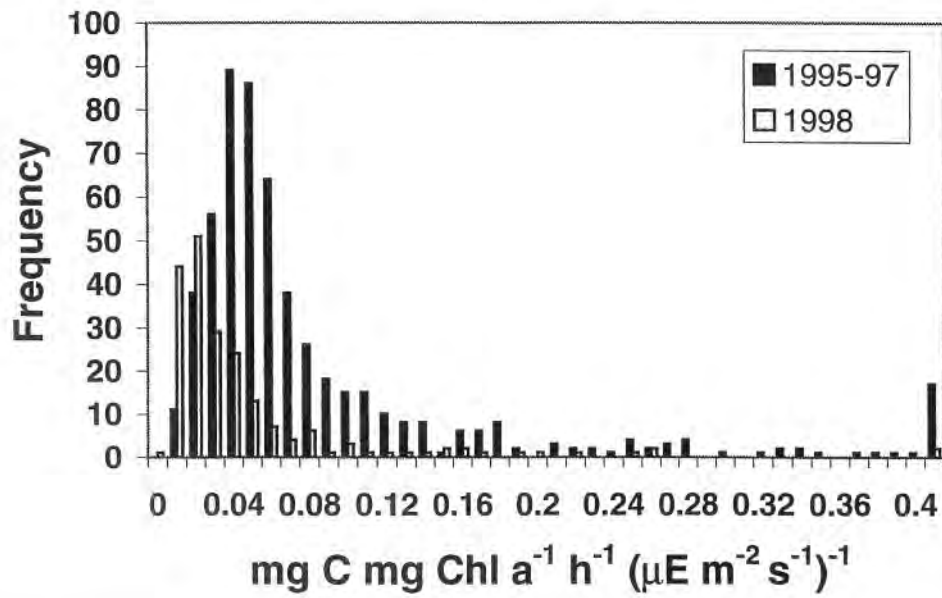
**Alpha vs  $P_{\max}$**   
**(1995 - 1997)**



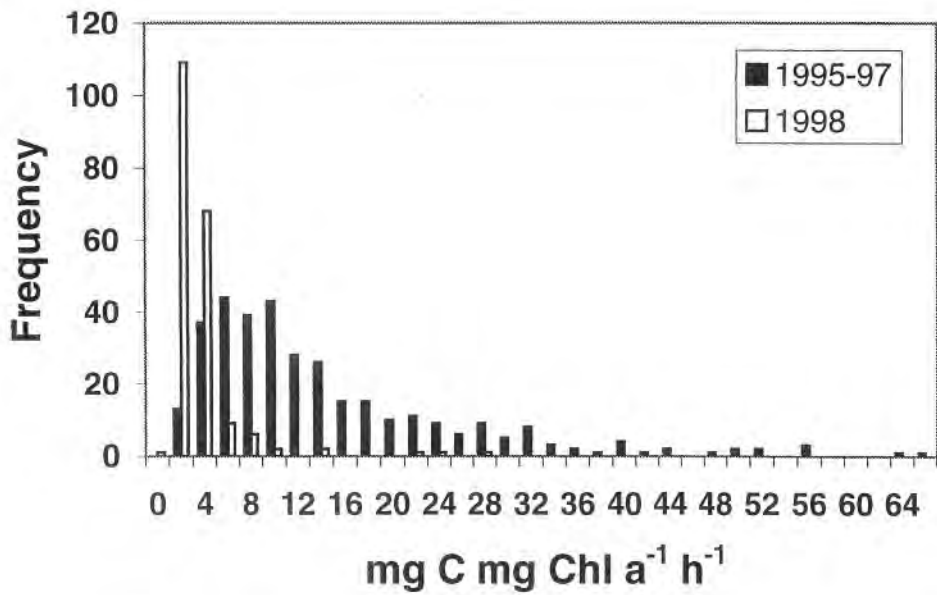
**$\alpha^B$  vs  $P_{\max}^B$**   
**(1995 - 1997)**



### Alpha/Chl a



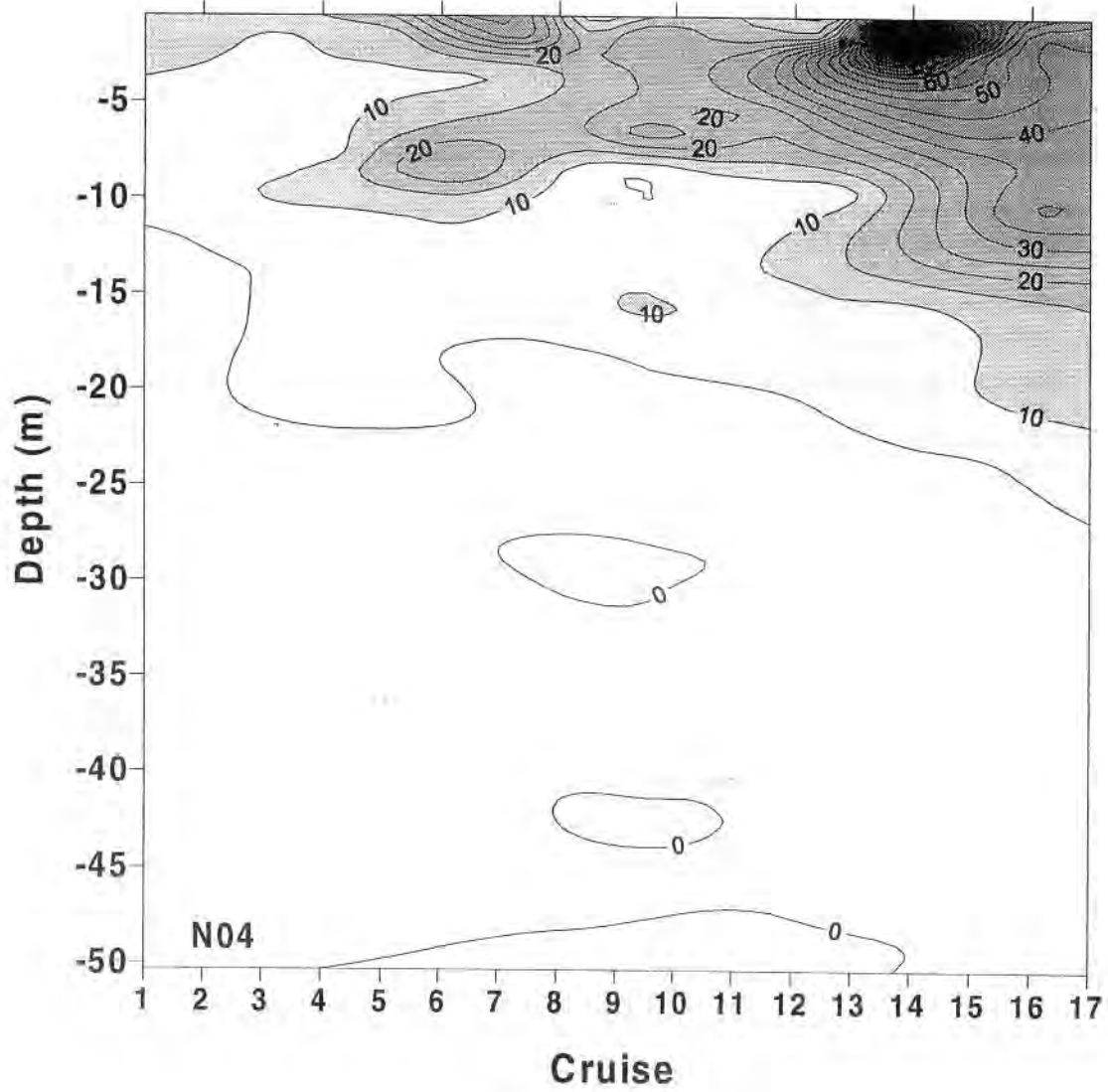
### $P_{\text{max}}/\text{Chl a}$



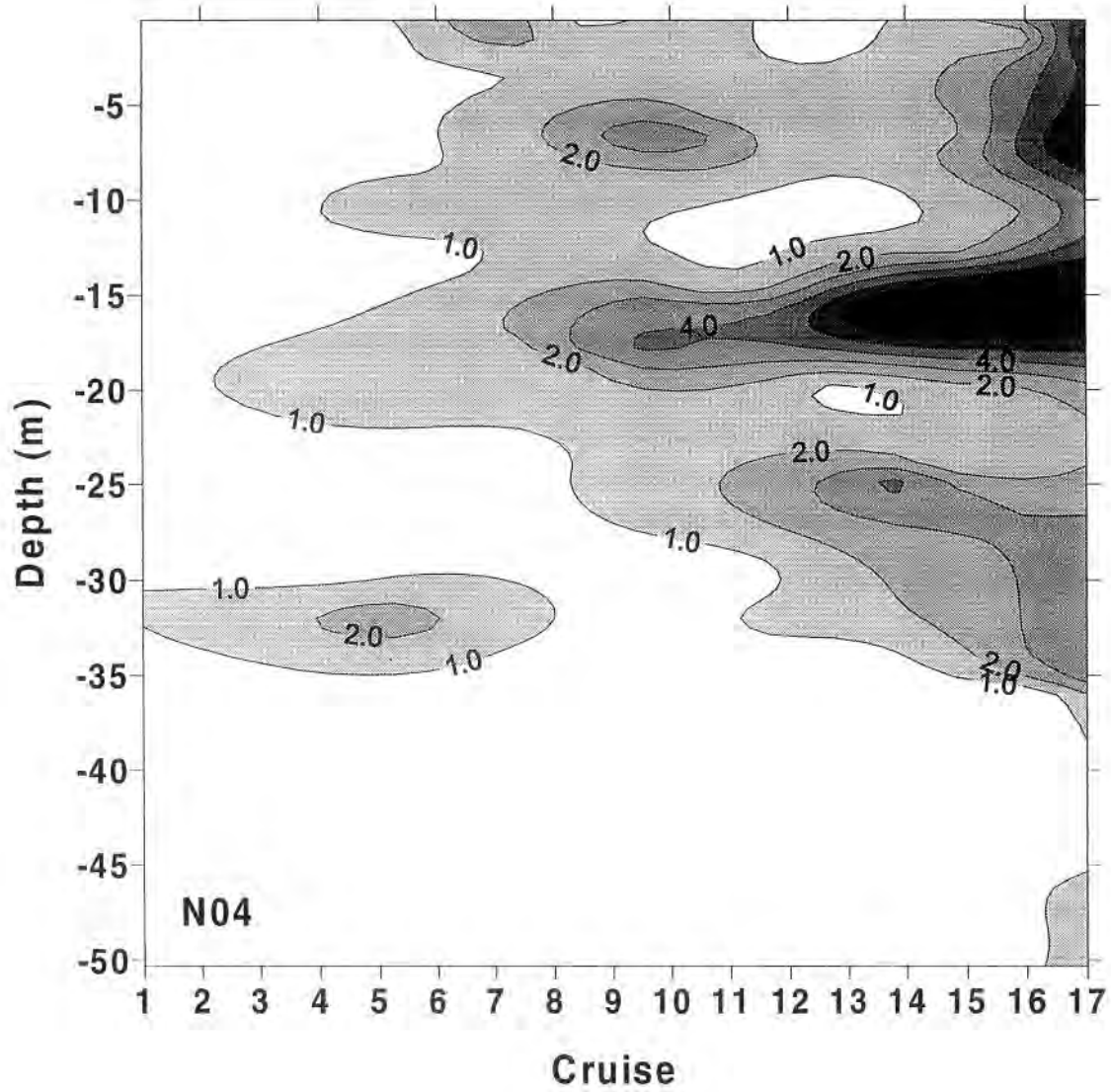
## MODEL PARAMETERS - SUMMARY

- Seasonal pattern for N04 and N18 different from F23
- Parameters generally decreased with increased depth
- Chl-specific parameters increased during the spring and fall bloom periods (but no spring bloom materialized)
- Increased photosynthetic efficiency related to:
  - 1-elevated light in spring
  - 2-improved nutrient availability in fall
- Parameters significantly correlated (as in prior years)
- Frequency distributions skewed to the left relative to 1995-97

# Production (mg C/m<sup>3</sup>/d)

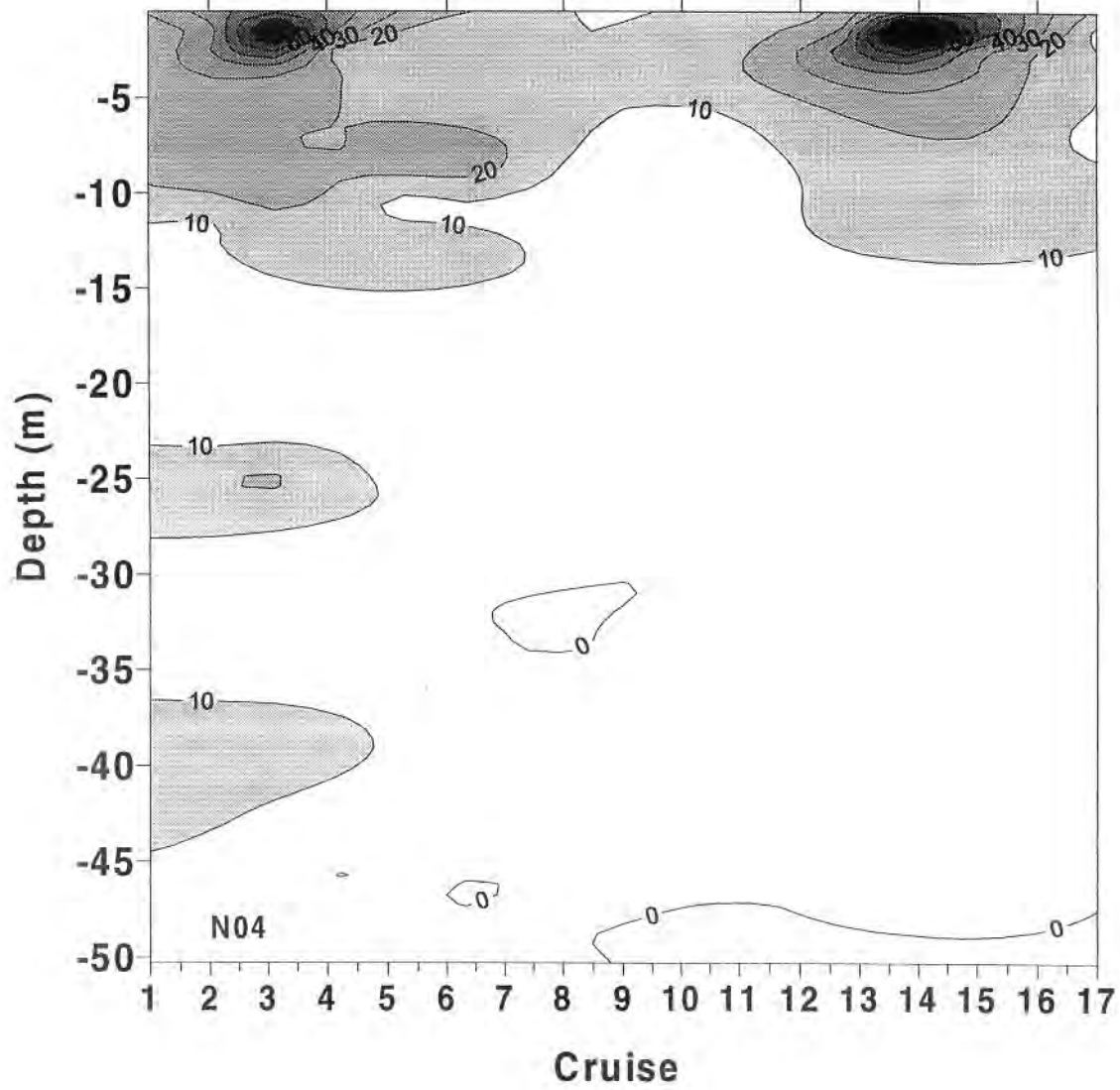


# Chlorophyll a (ug/l)

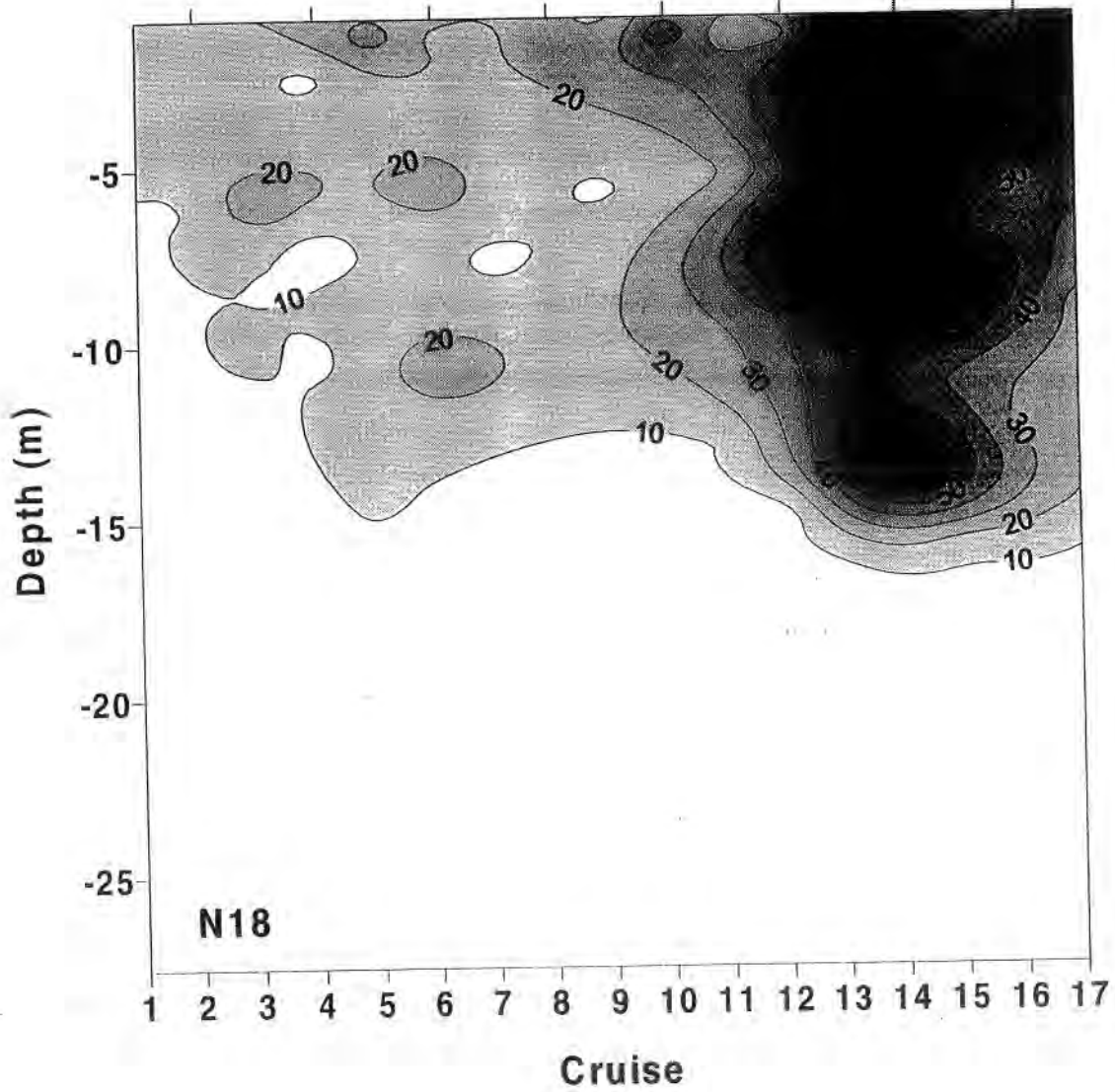




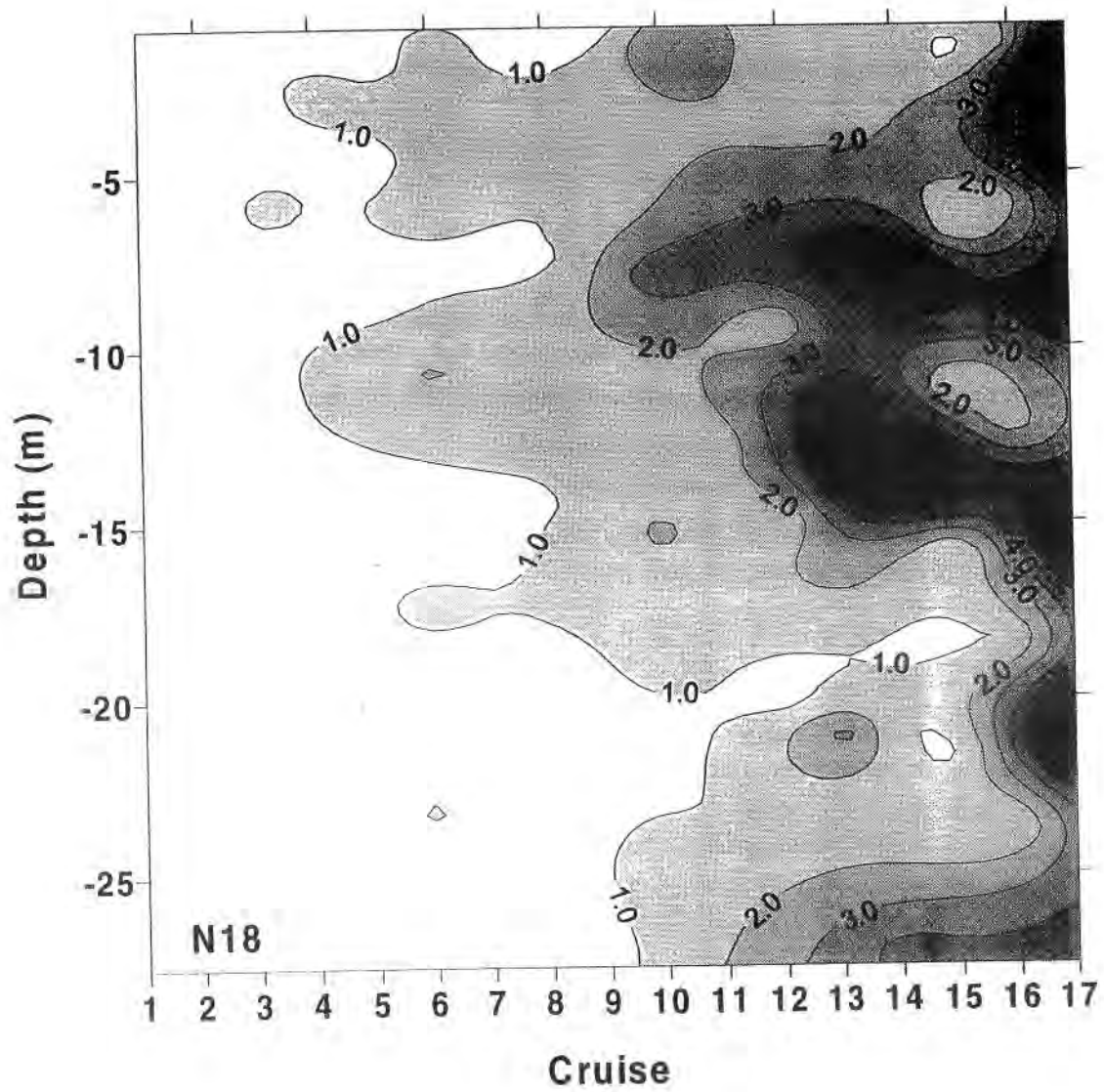
## Chlorophyll-specific Production (mg C/mg chl/d)



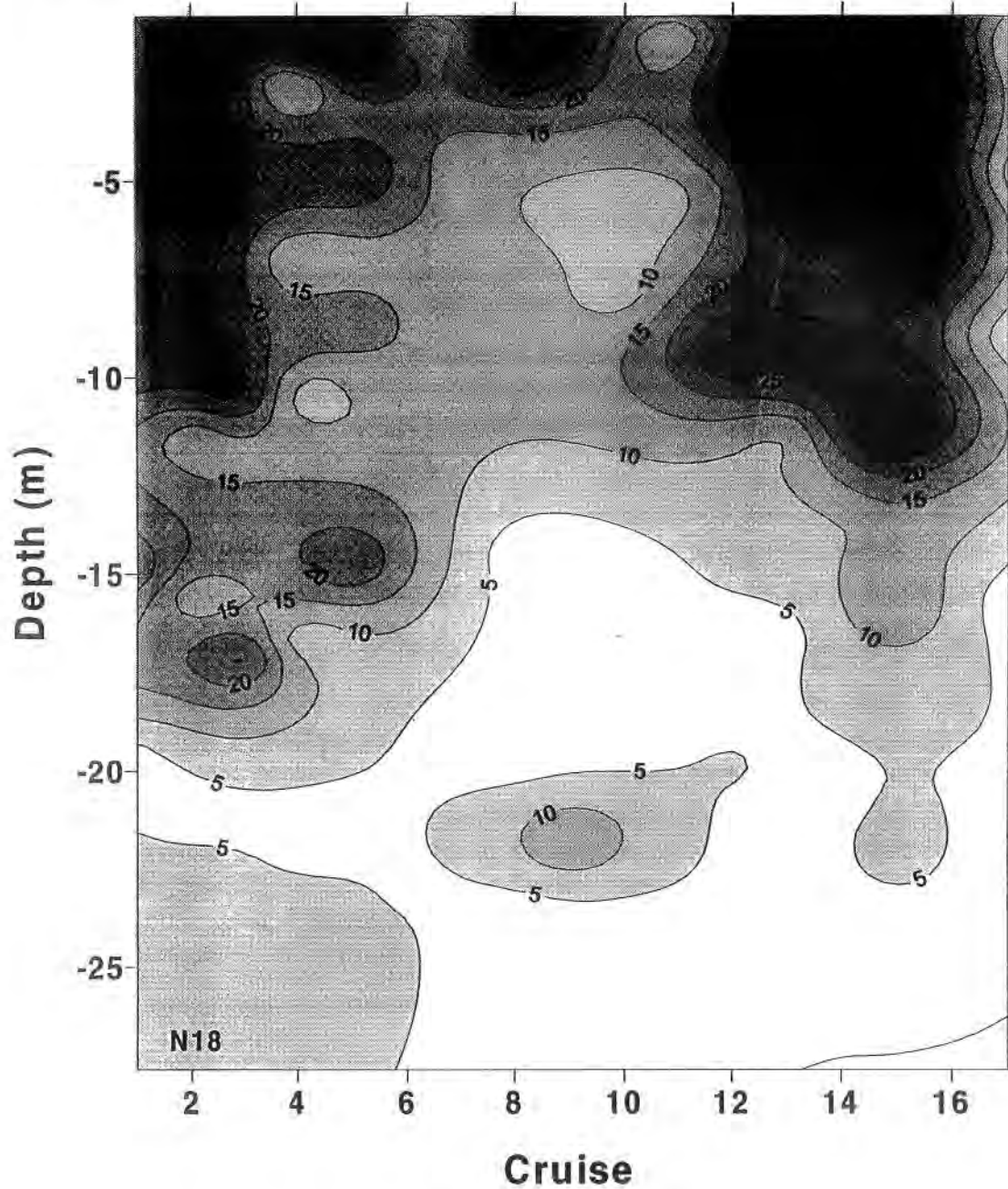
### Daily Production (mg C m<sup>-3</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>)



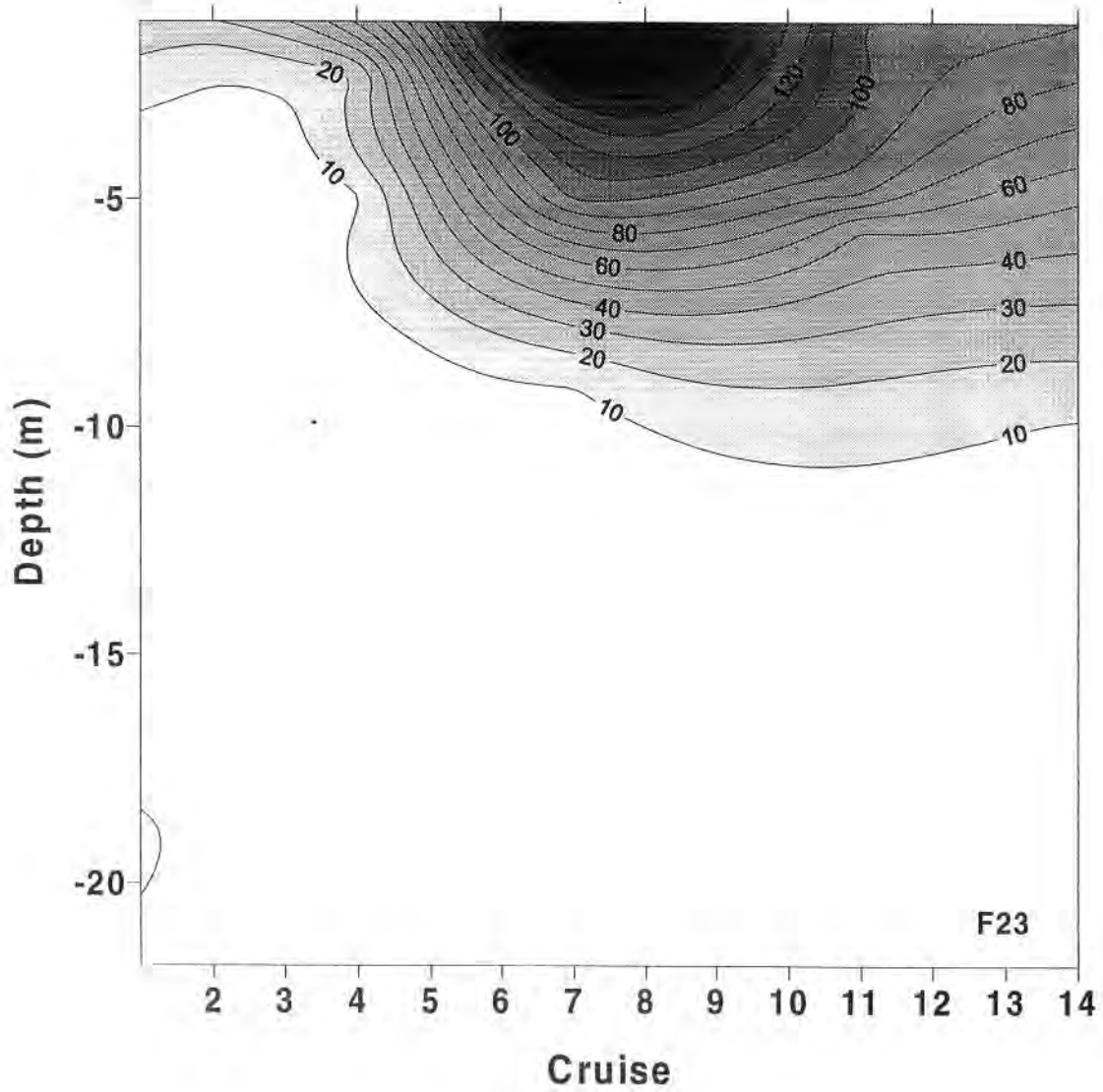
### Chlorophyll a (ug/l)



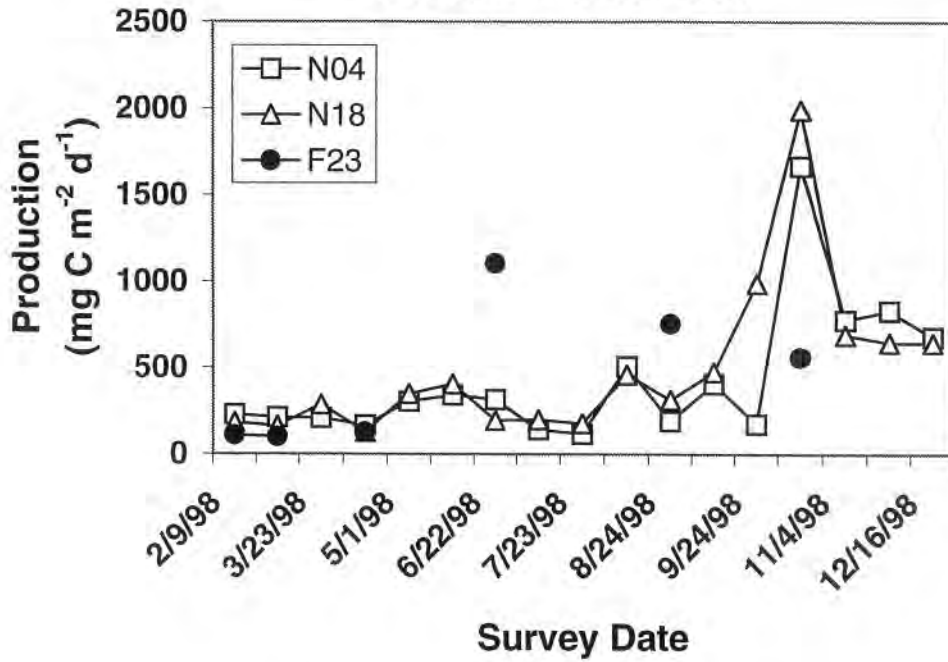
# Chlorophyll-specific Production (mg C/mg chl/d)



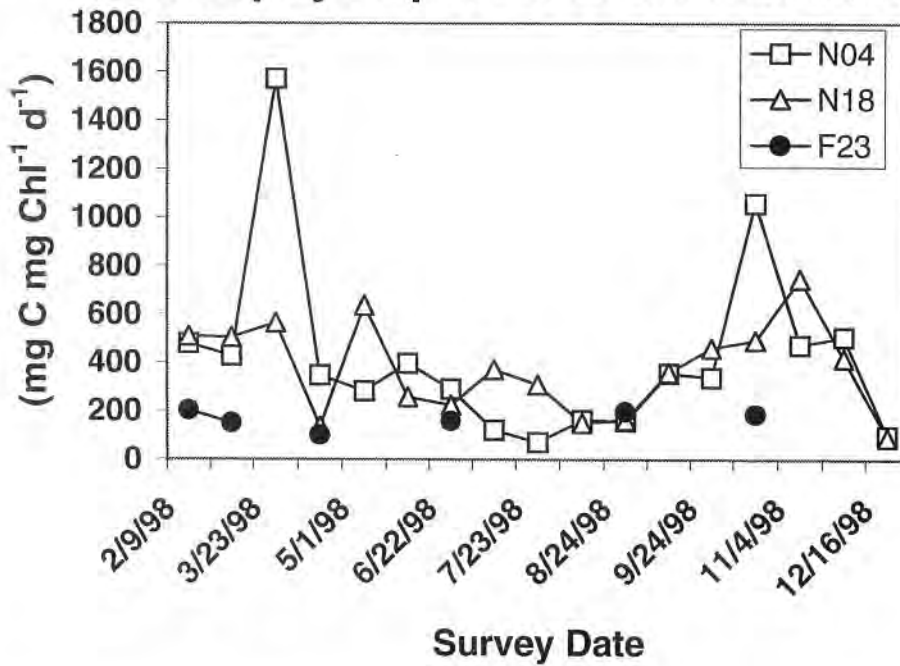
# Daily Production (mg C/m<sup>3</sup>/d)

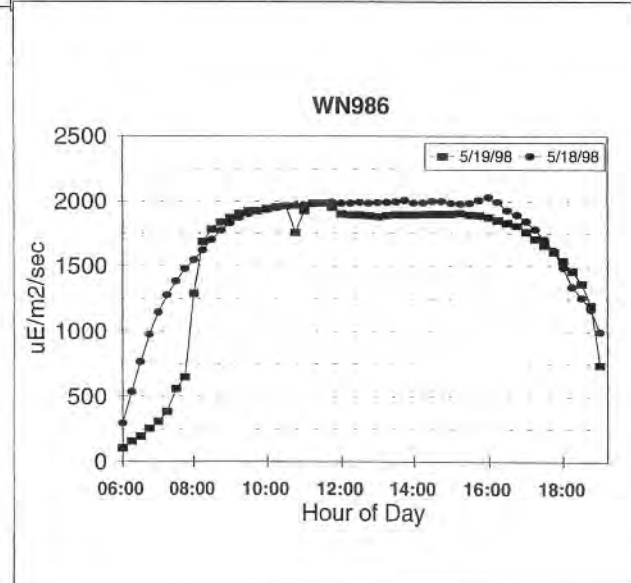
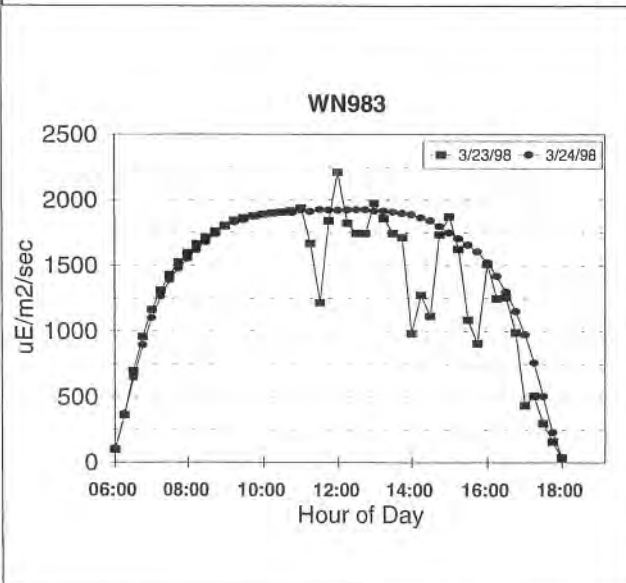
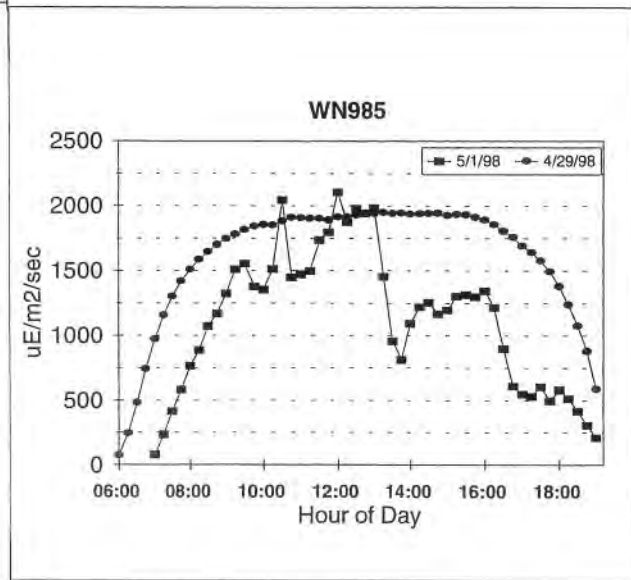
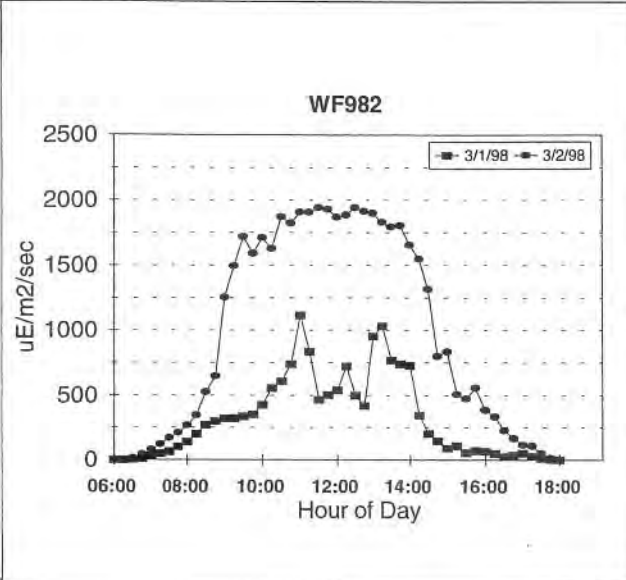
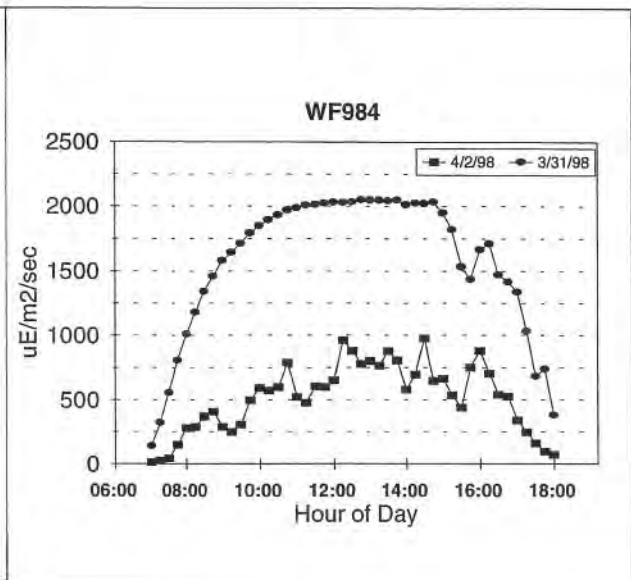
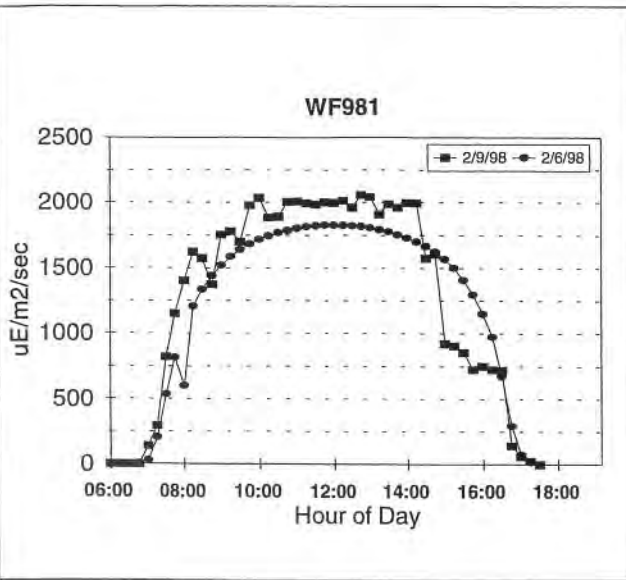


### Areal Production

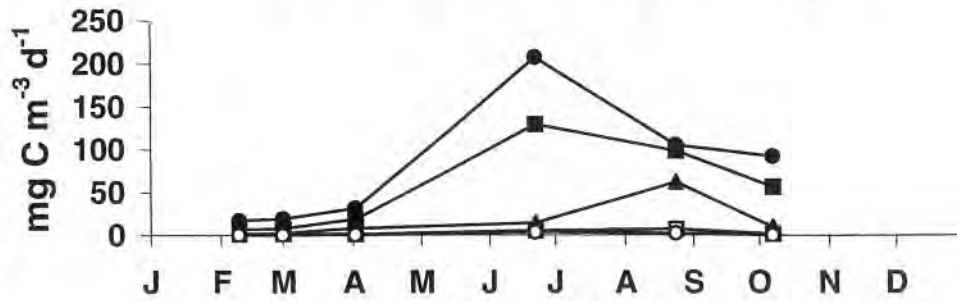


### Chlorophyll-Specific Areal Production

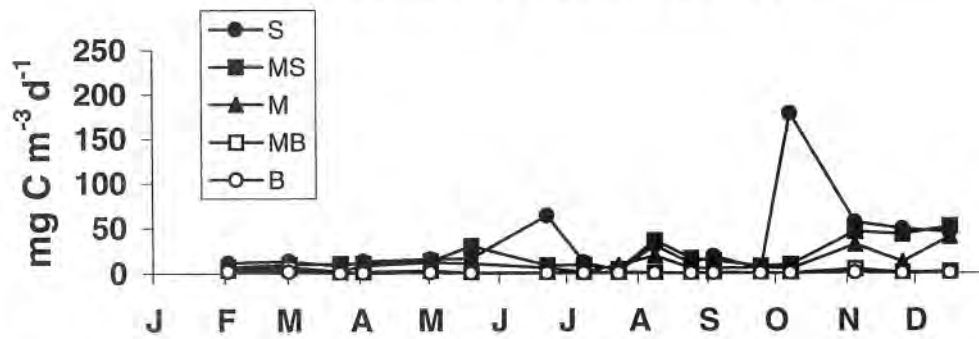




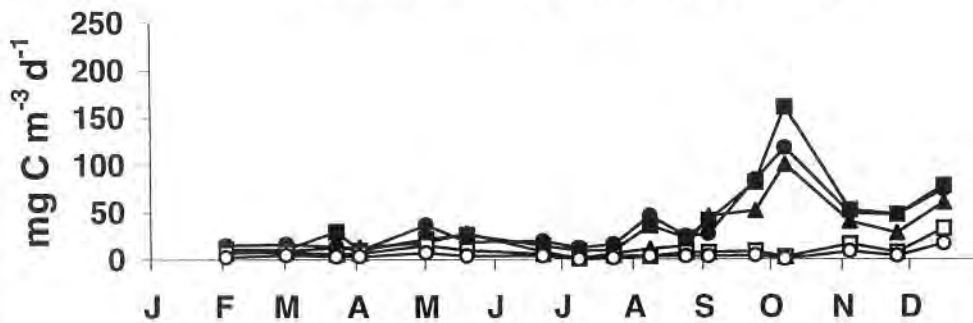
Maximum Production - F23



Maximum Production - N04

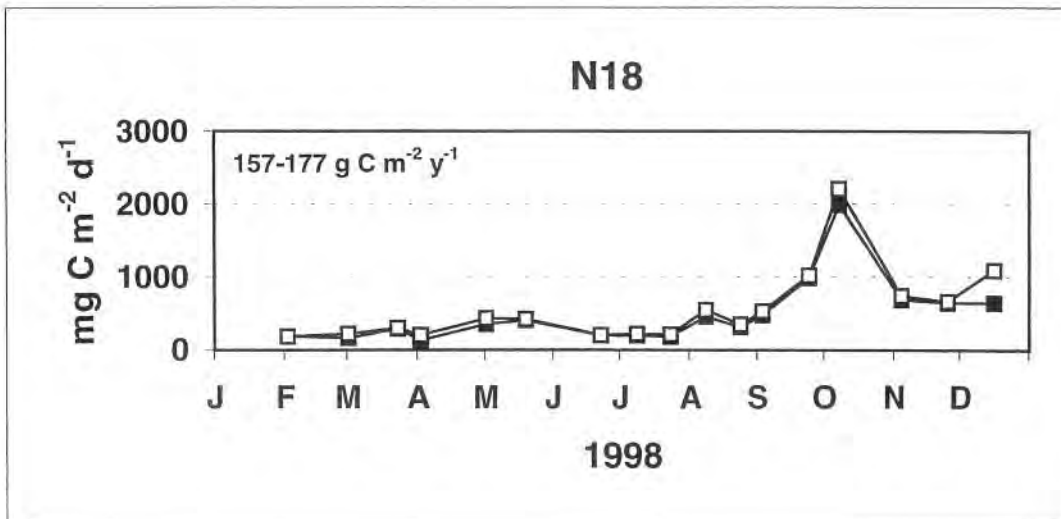
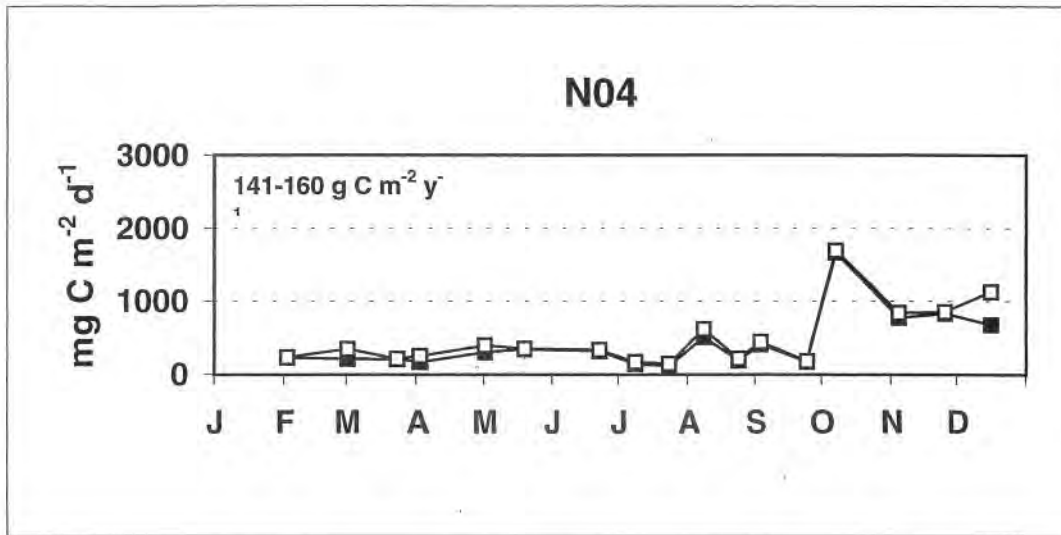
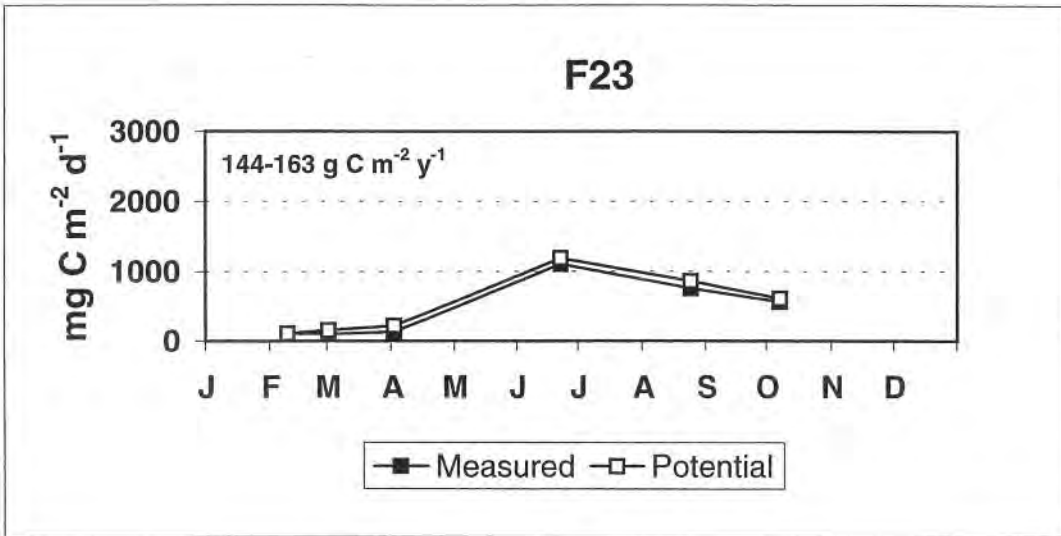


Maximum Production - N18

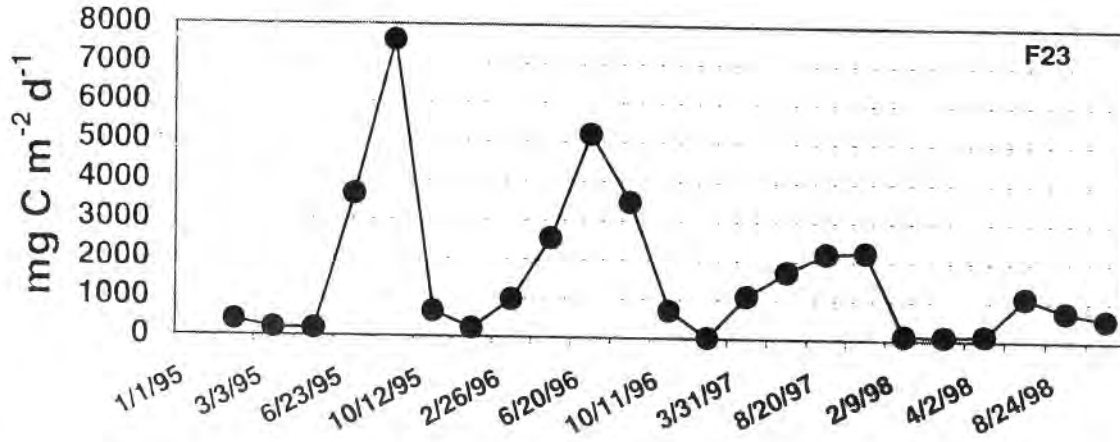


1998

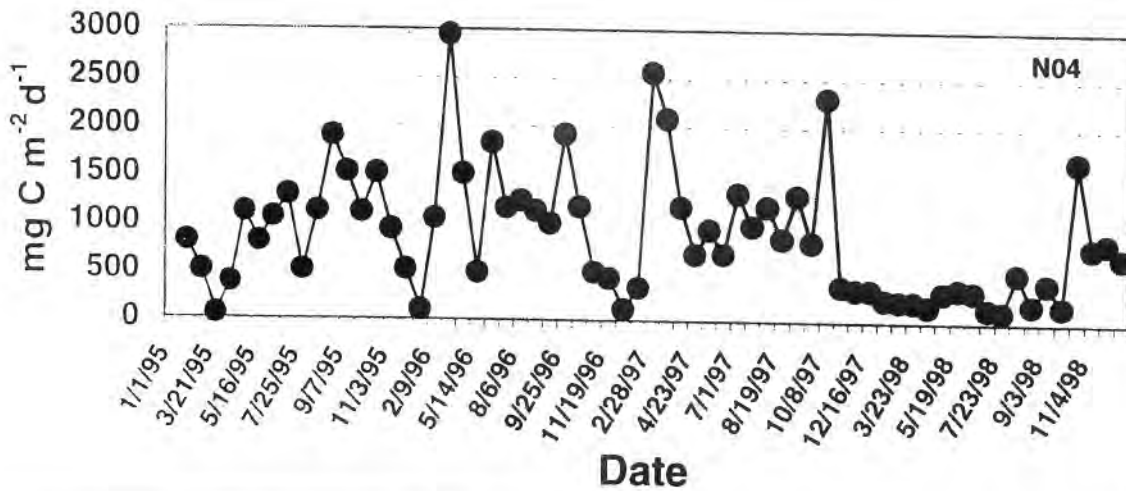




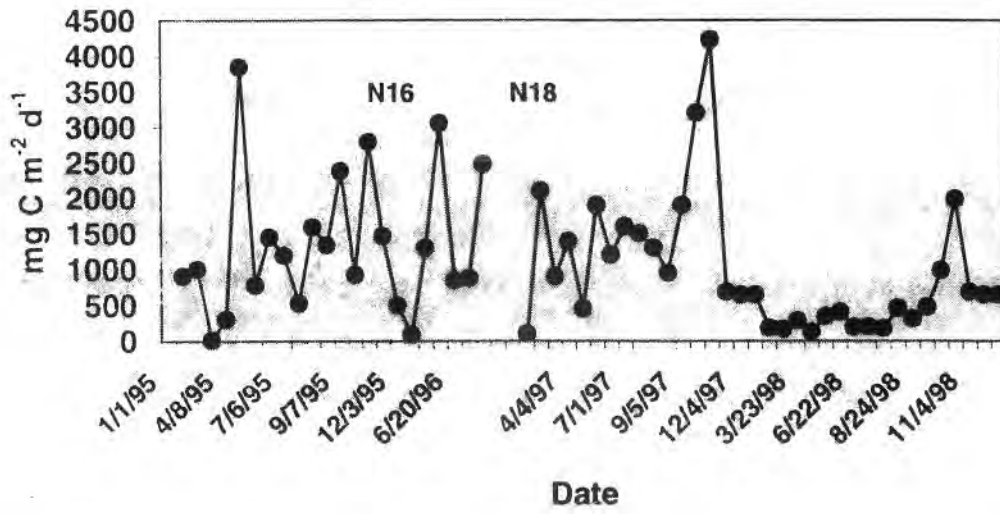
### Production - C14



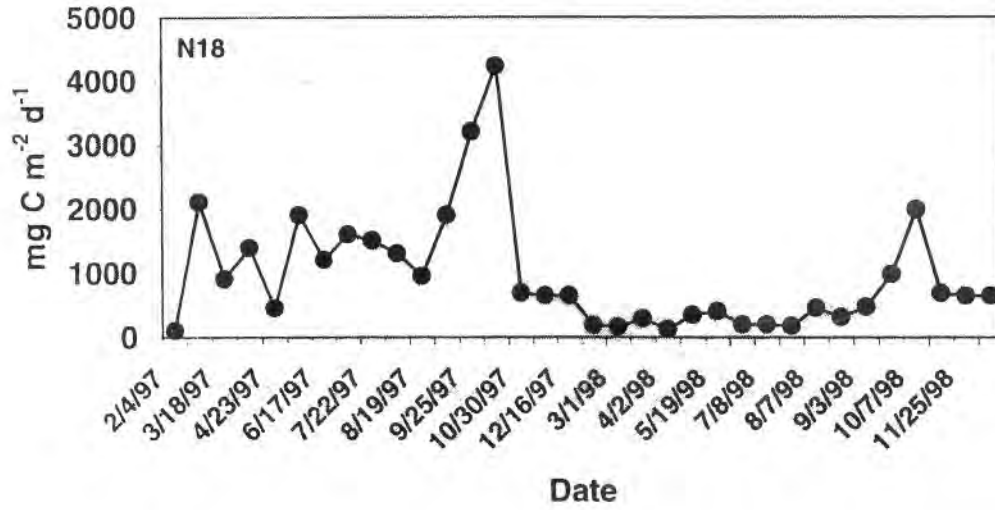
### Production - C14



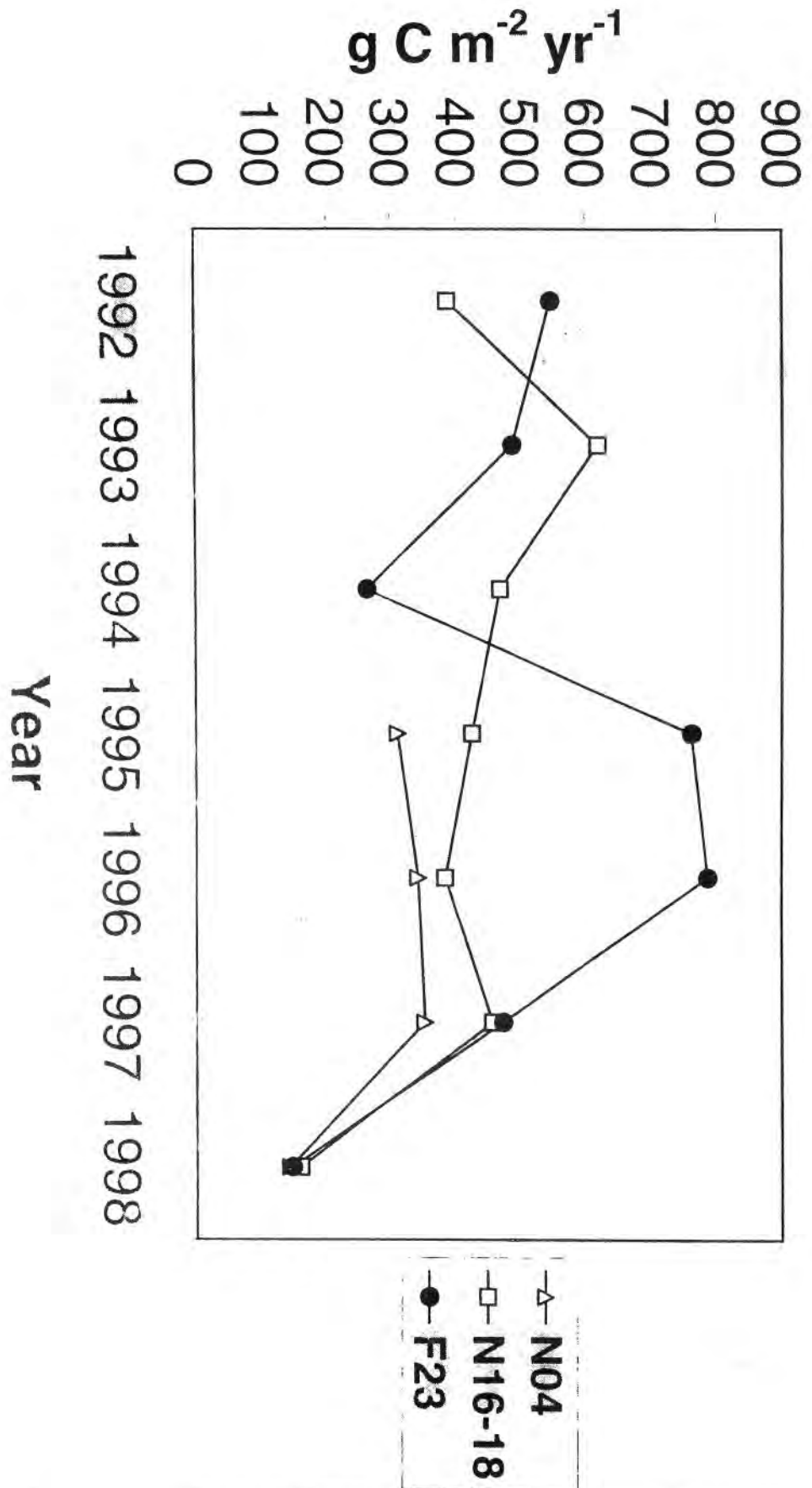
### C14 Production



### C14 Production



# Annual Production



## PRODUCTION - SUMMARY

- N04 and N18 exhibited peak productivity during the fall bloom (surface samples)
- Production at F23 increased through June then declined during the fall
- Subsurface chlorophyll maxima above 15 m characterized by elevated productivity (but not below 15 m)
- Chl-specific production increased during the spring bloom period (N04-18) but no bloom materialized
- Annual productivity low relative to prior years (since no spring bloom)
- Productivity decreasing at F23 over time, bloom peaks declining at N04

## Potential Factors Influencing Size of Spring Bloom

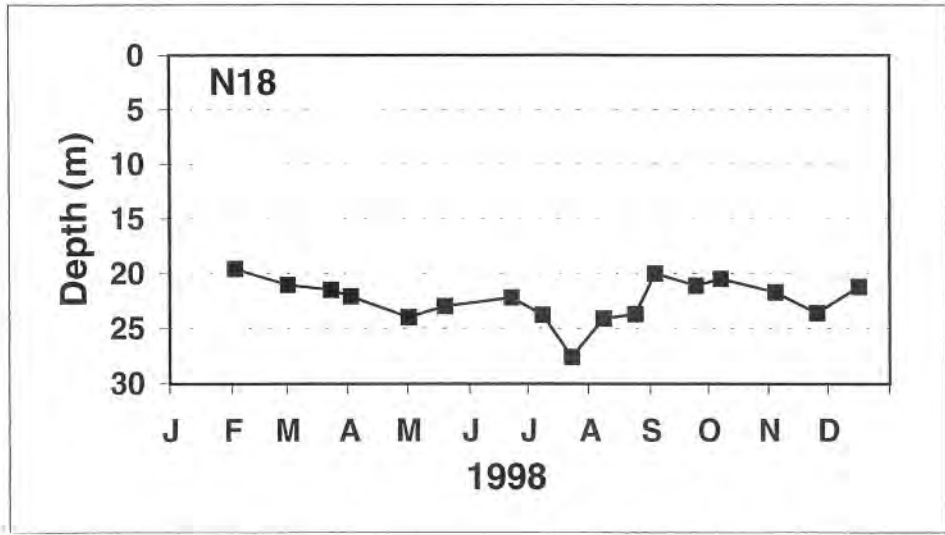
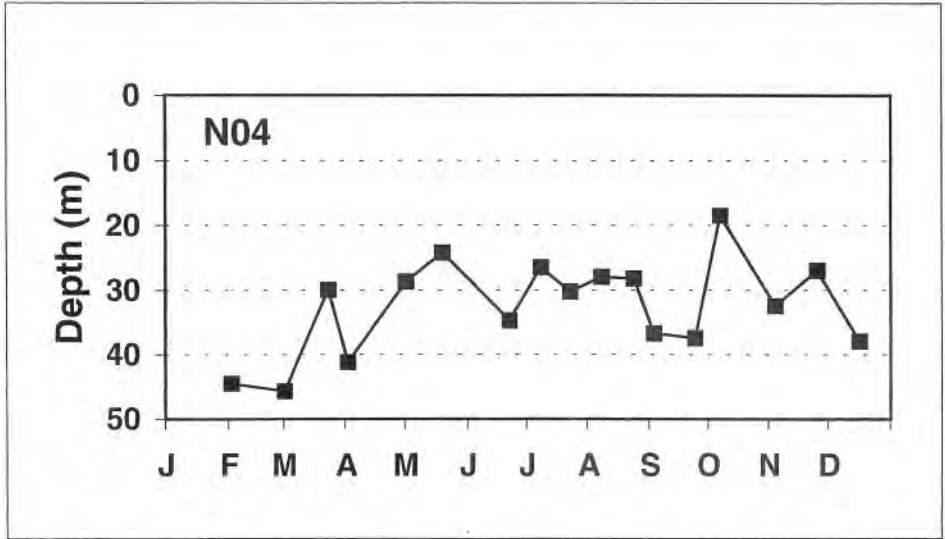
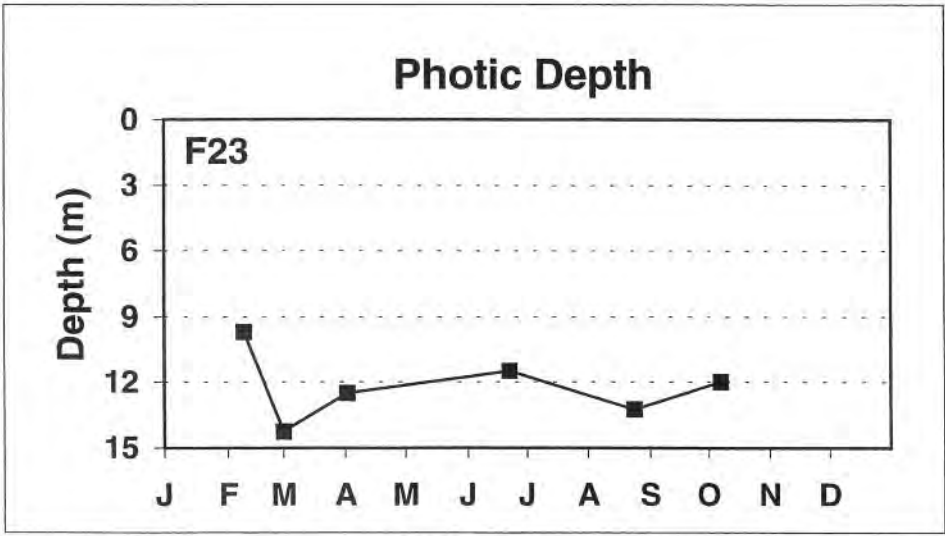
$I_0$  - Daily Incident Radiation

Limiting Nutrients

Photic Depth

Temperature - Direct and Indirect

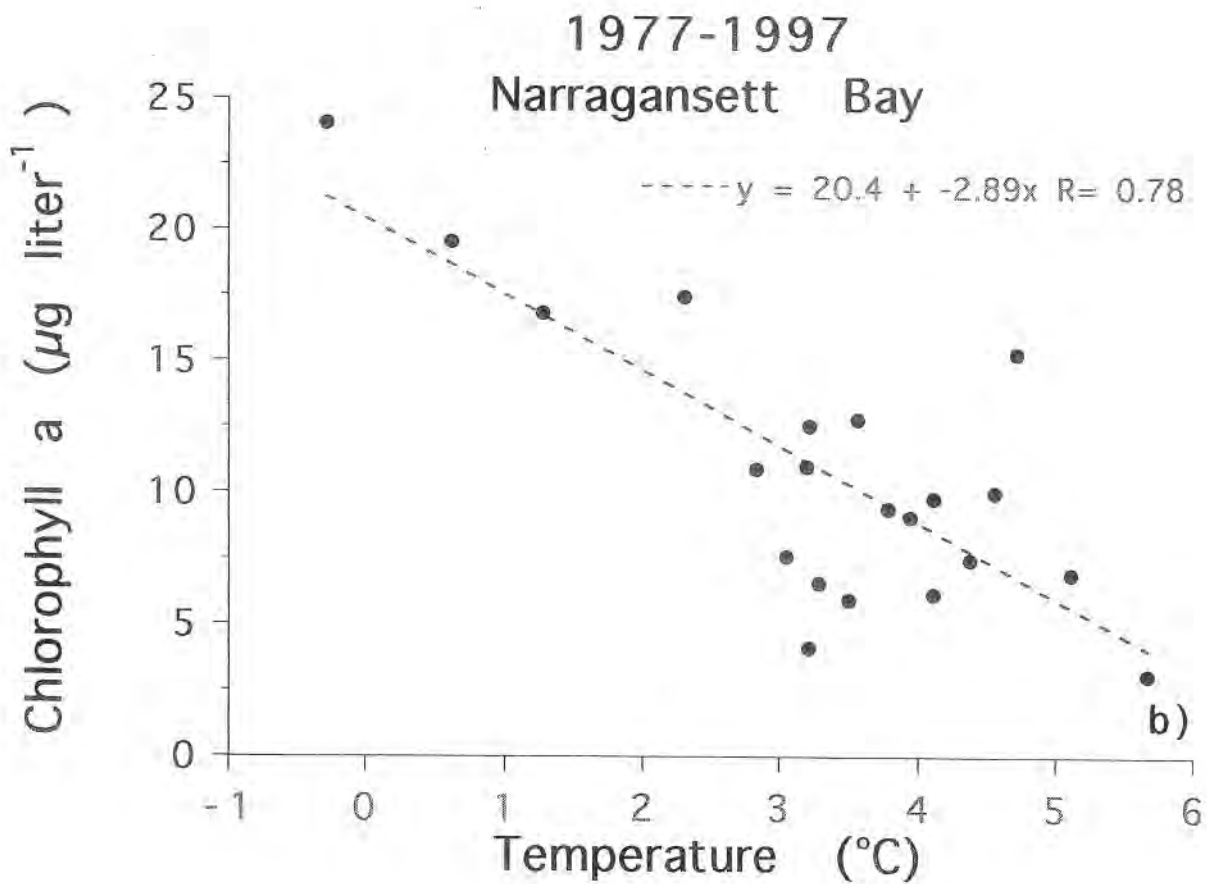
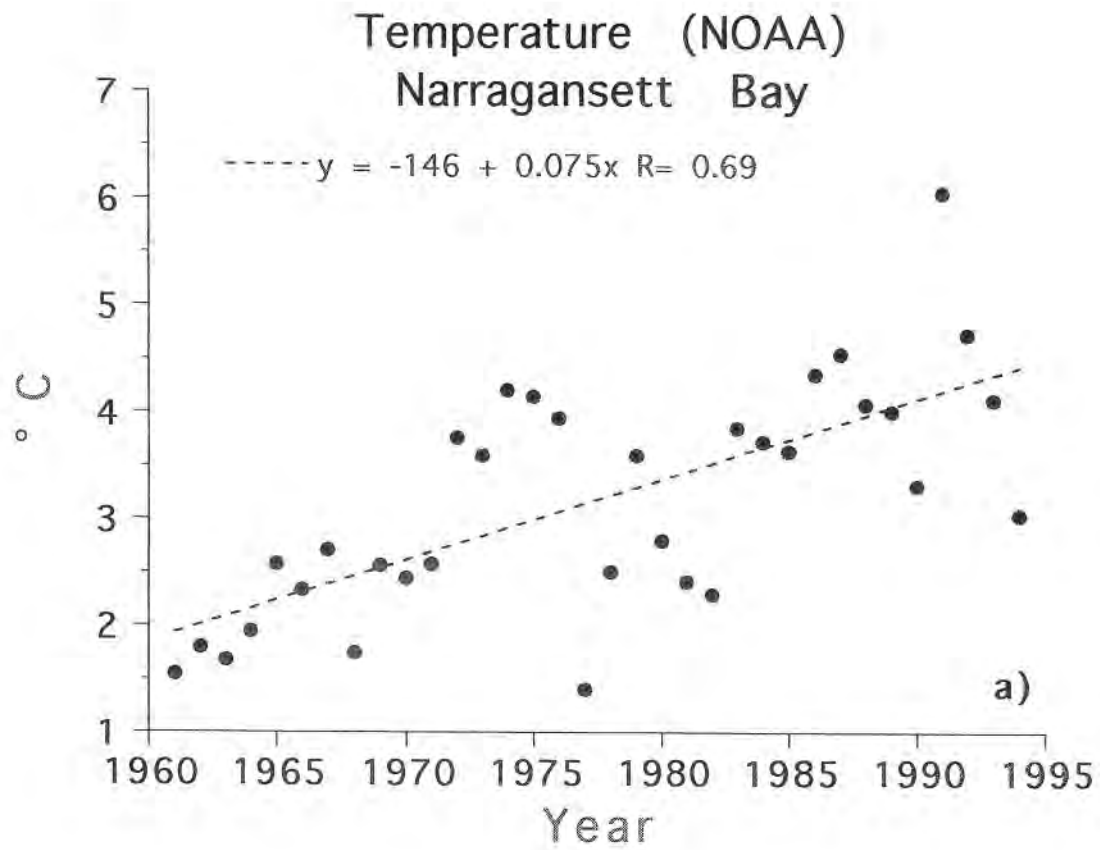
Predation - Zooplankton, Benthos

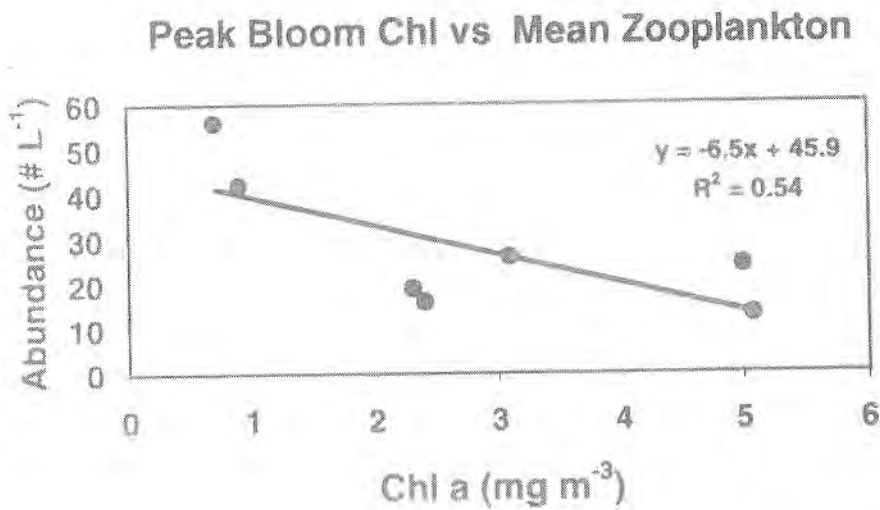
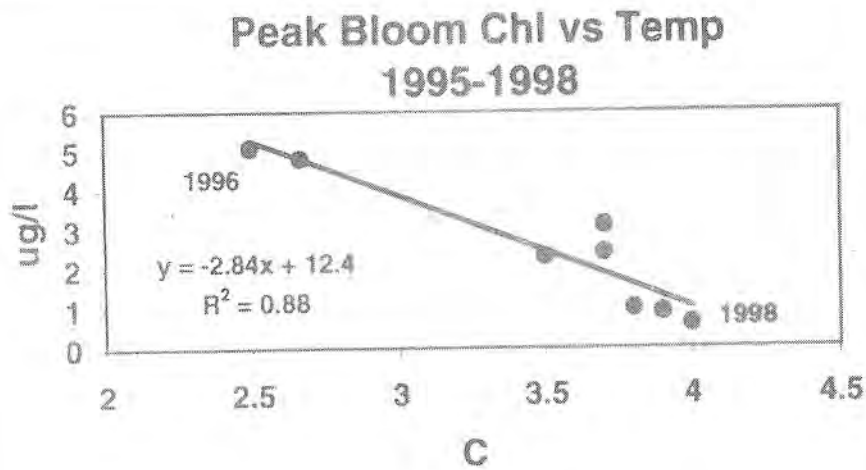
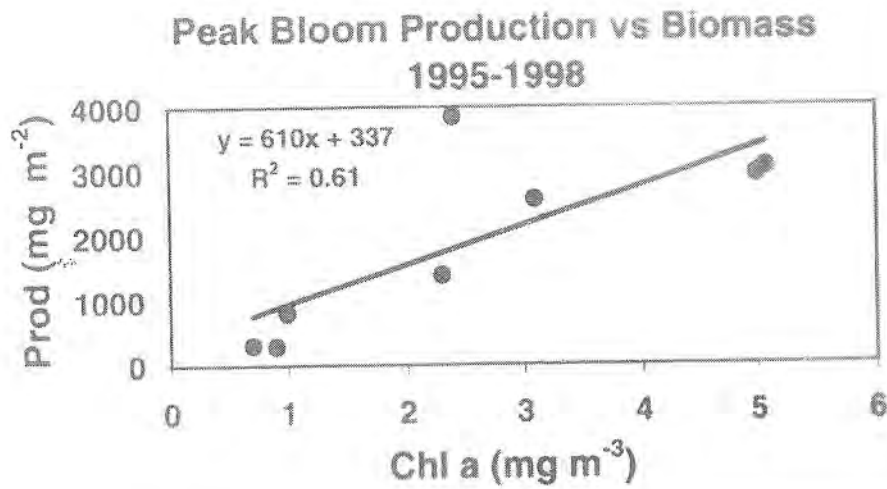


Mean Photic Depth (m) During  
Spring Bloom Period (Feb-Apr)

Year	F23	N04	N16-18
1995	18.7	42.6	33.6
1996	14.5	22.1	24.0
1997	15.3	26.6	26.8
1998	12.2	40.4	21.0







## Modeling Production

$$P(^{14}\text{C}) = m B I_0 Z_p + b$$

$P(^{14}\text{C})$  = primary production ( $\text{mg C m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ )

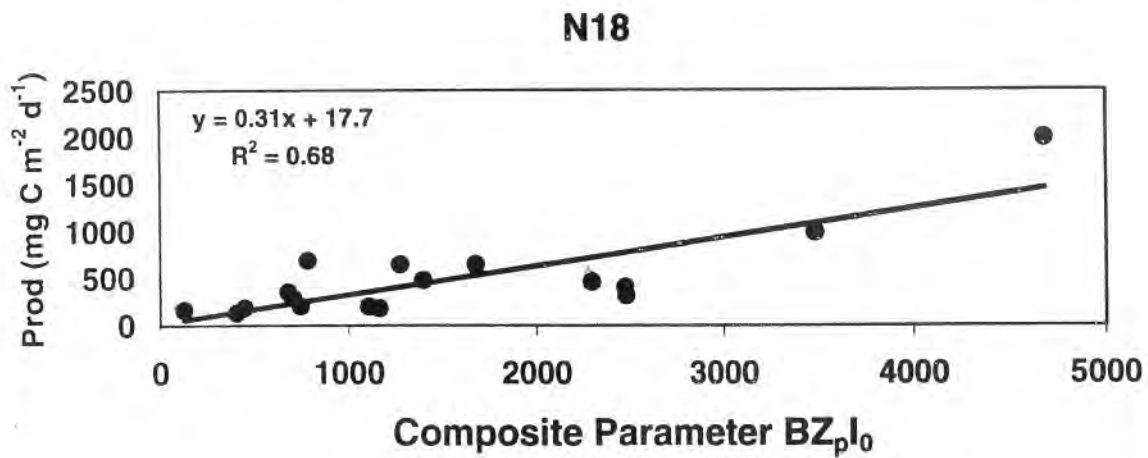
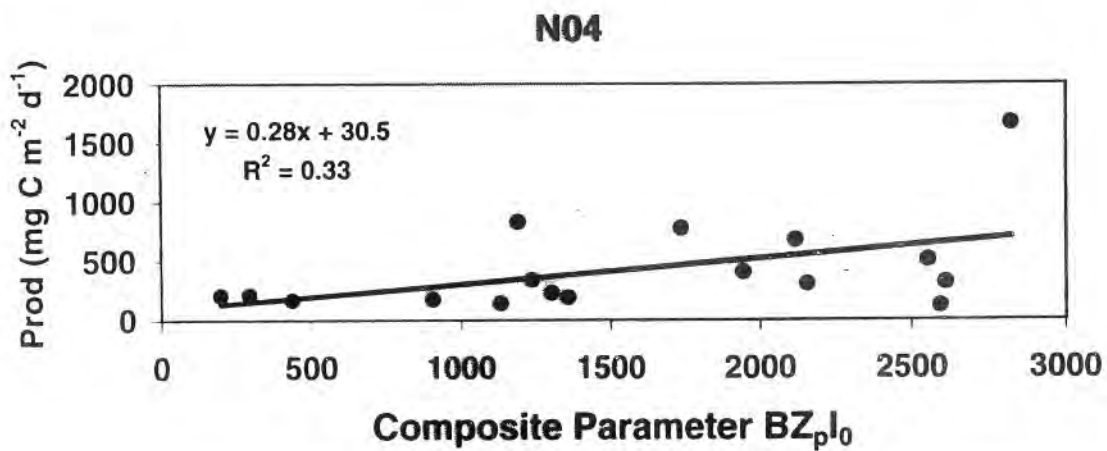
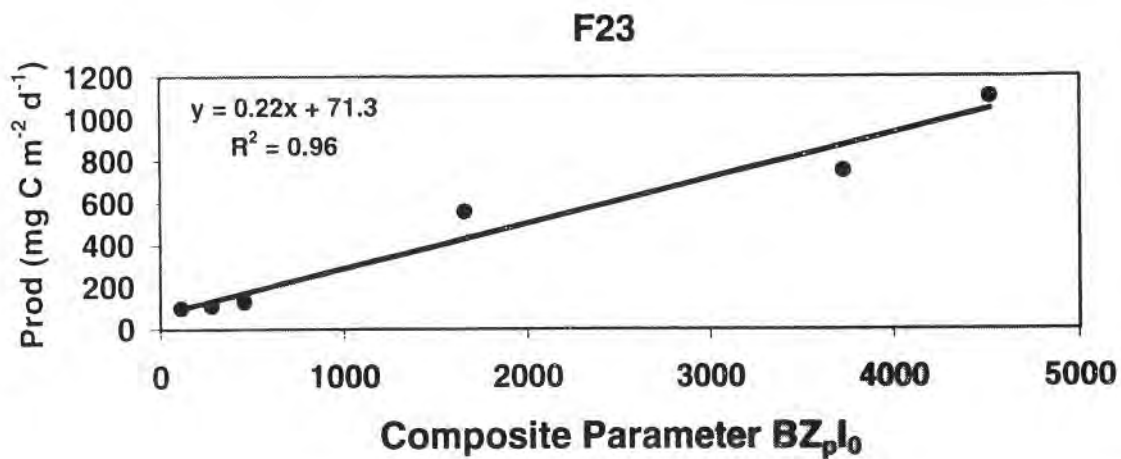
$B$  = biomass ( $\text{mg Chl a m}^{-3}$ )

$I_0$  = incident irradiance ( $\text{E m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ )

$Z_p$  = photic depth (m)

$b$  = intercept

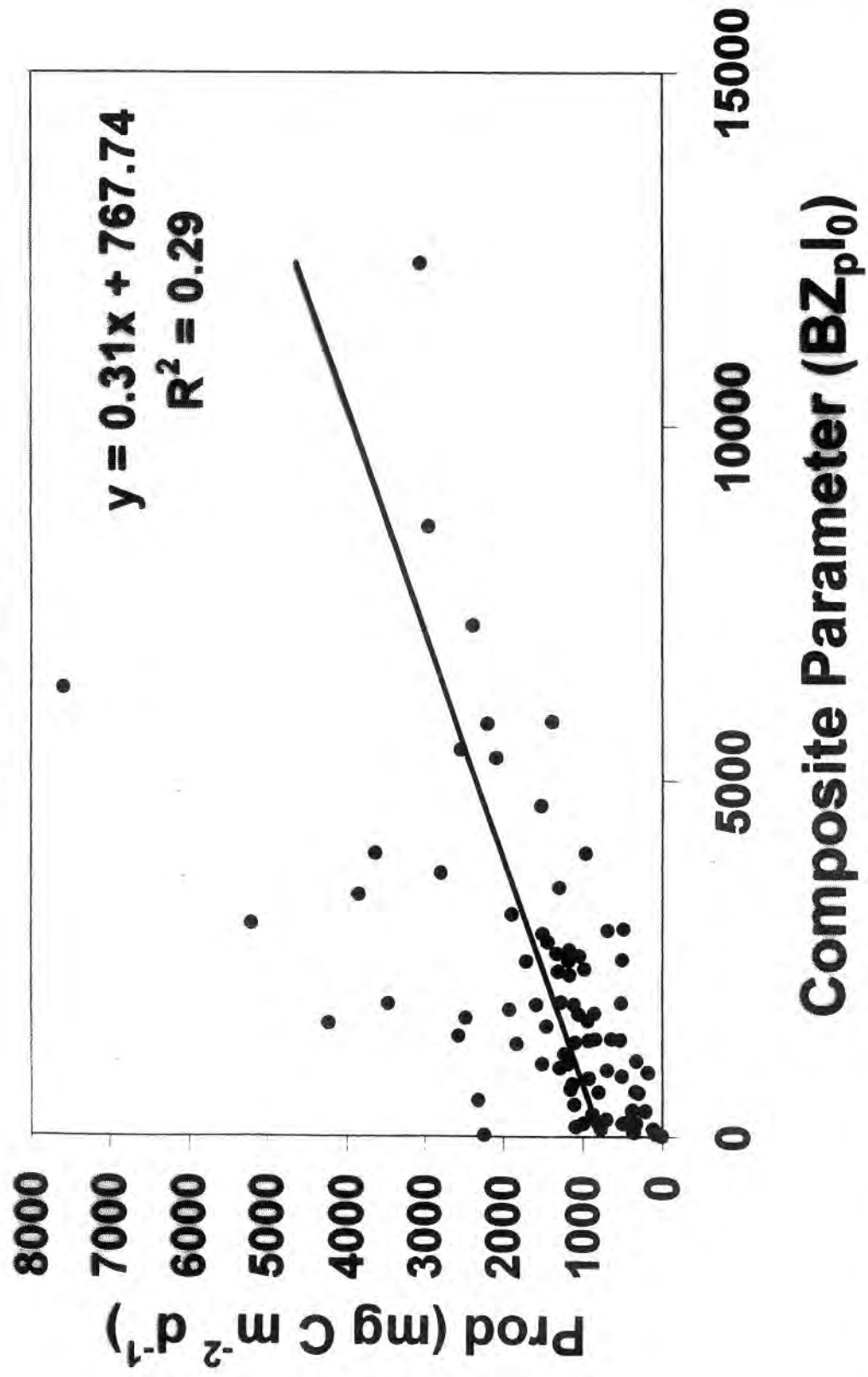
$m$  = slope



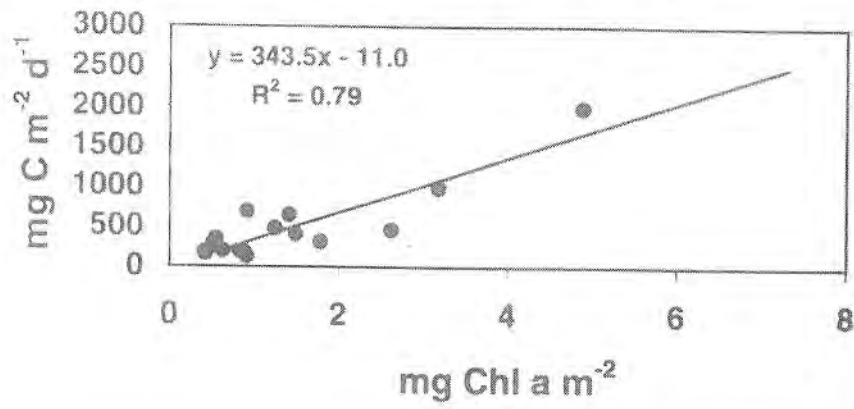
Slope of equation  $P=mBI0Zp+b$

Station	F23	N04	N16-18
1994	0.56	0.56	0.56
1995	1.87	0.39	0.64
1996	0.88	0.23	0.56
1998	0.22	0.28	0.31

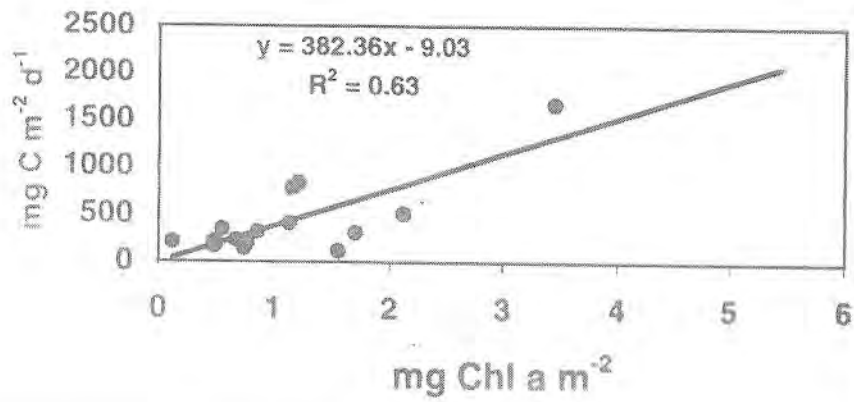
1995-1997



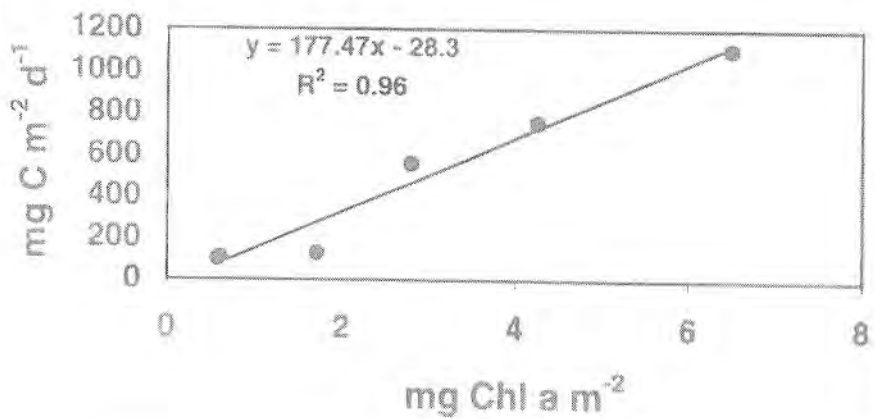
Production vs Chl - N18

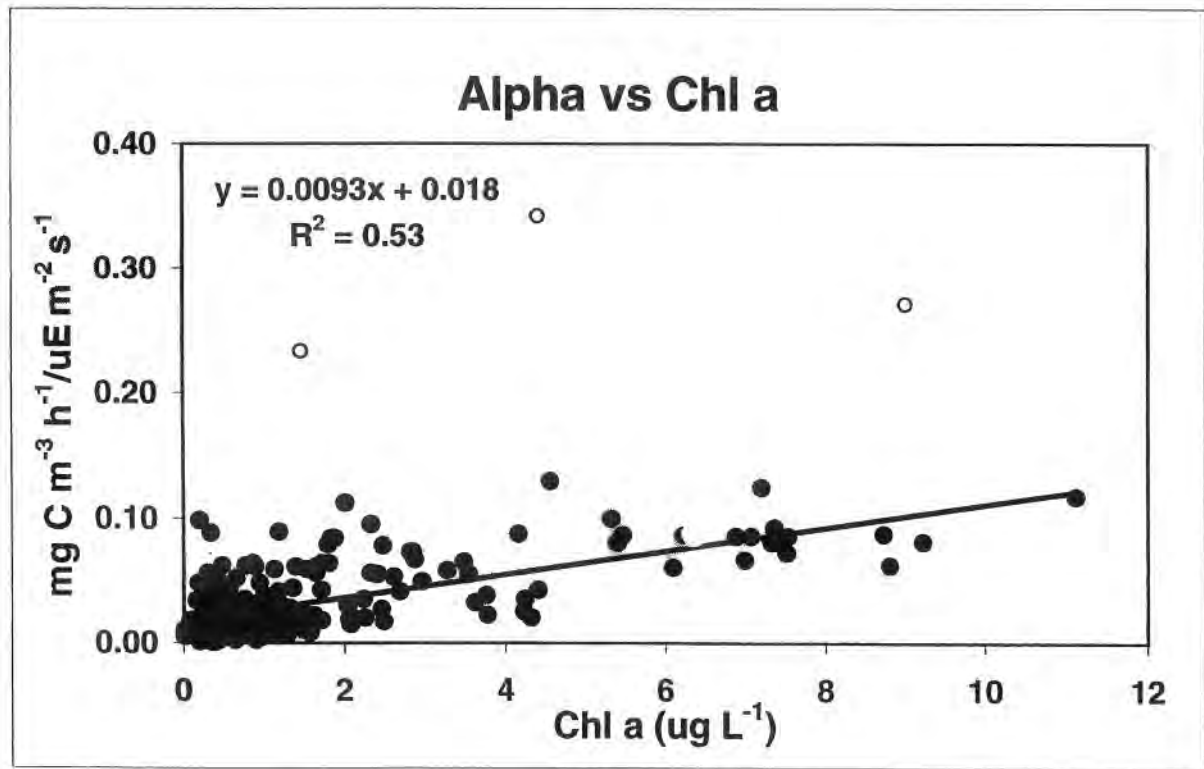
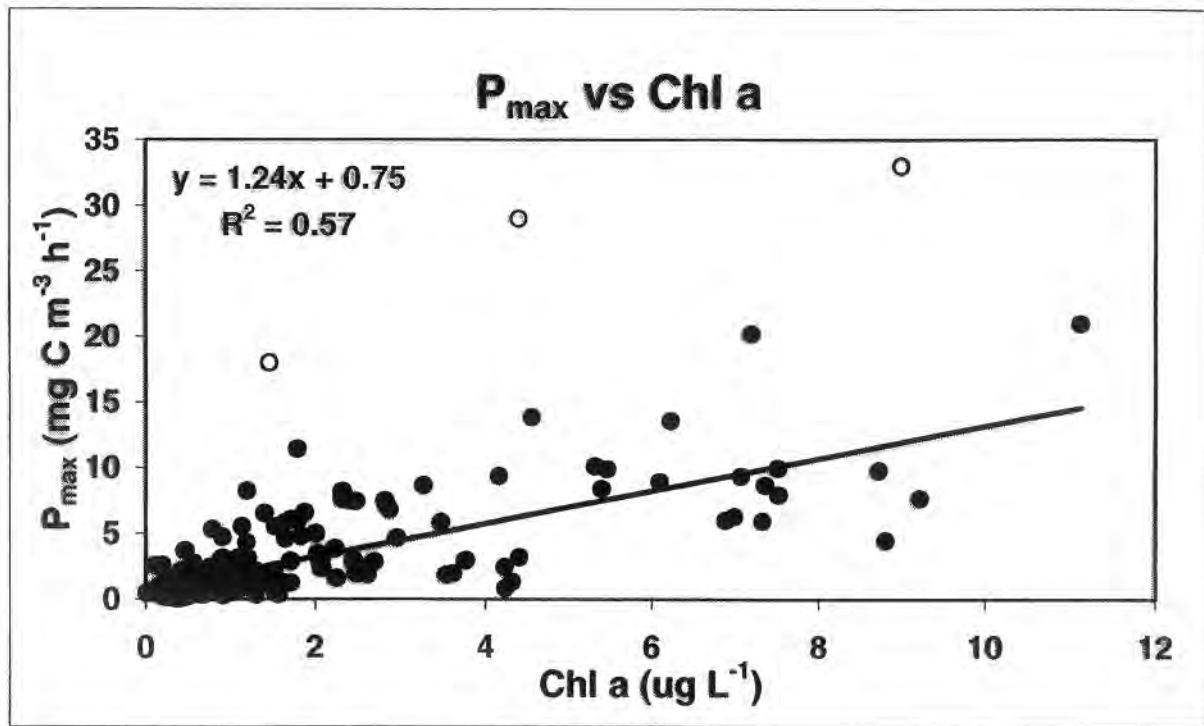


N04



F23







## CONCLUSIONS 1998

- Annual production at N04, N18 and F23 lower than in prior years
- Seasonal productivity pattern dominated by fall bloom
- No winter-spring bloom despite increased chlorophyll-specific production during typical bloom period
- Bloom failure not correlated with nutrient availability or light limitation
- Bloom failure may be related to warm winter temperatures and increased grazing by zooplankton
- Productivity significantly correlated with composite parameter (but variable across years)

# **E nthic Fluxes**

**ing in Harbor only**

**diment nutrient recycling to  
roduction**

**ng affect nutrient ratios**

**he sediment in nutrient  
nitrification and burial**

**delling – calibration and**

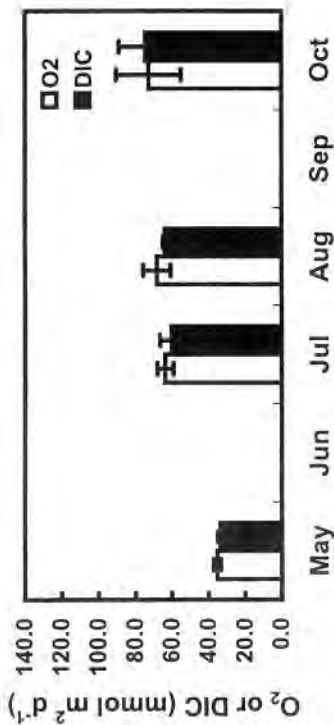
**d sediment-water nutrient**

**grain size**

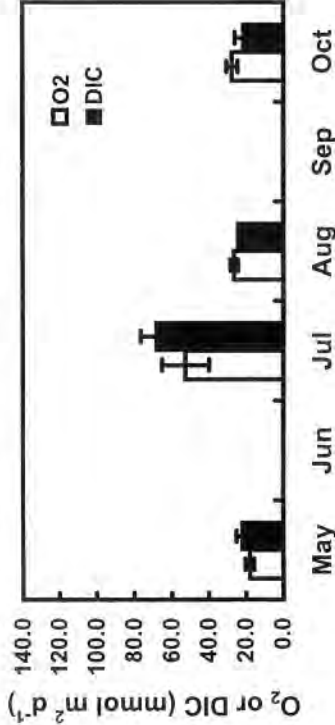
## **Conclusions**

- 1) Long term trends – It's a bit early (and stations have changed) but sediments in the highly impacted sites in the Northern Harbor may be showing some decrease in fluxes even with the amphipods present.**
  
- 2) Denitrification rates have gone up and down a bit with amphipod colonization but still not a major factor in removing anthropogenic N.**
  
- 3) DIN/DIP ratio may have shifted up but majority of 1998 data still shows benthic fluxes still less than 16 (i.e. would contribute to N limitation)**
  
- 4)**

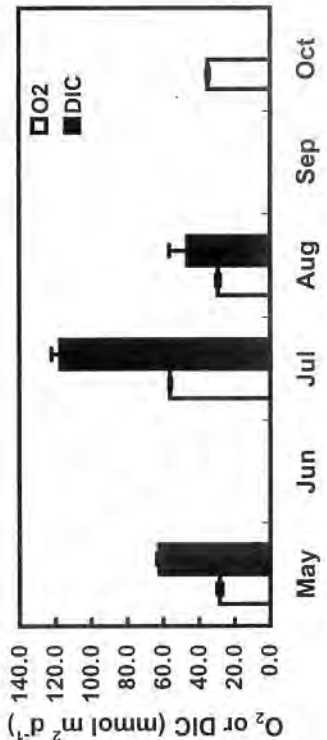
Sediment Respiration at BH03



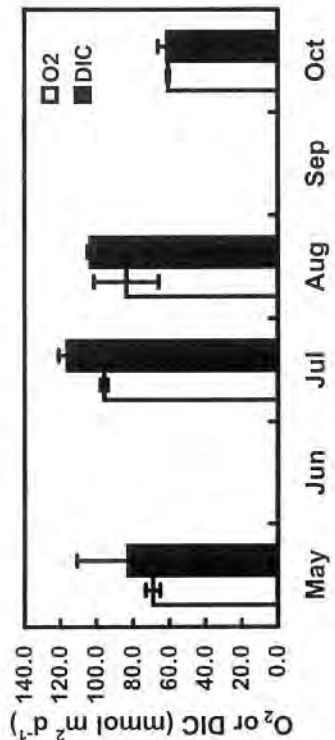
Sediment Respiration at QB01

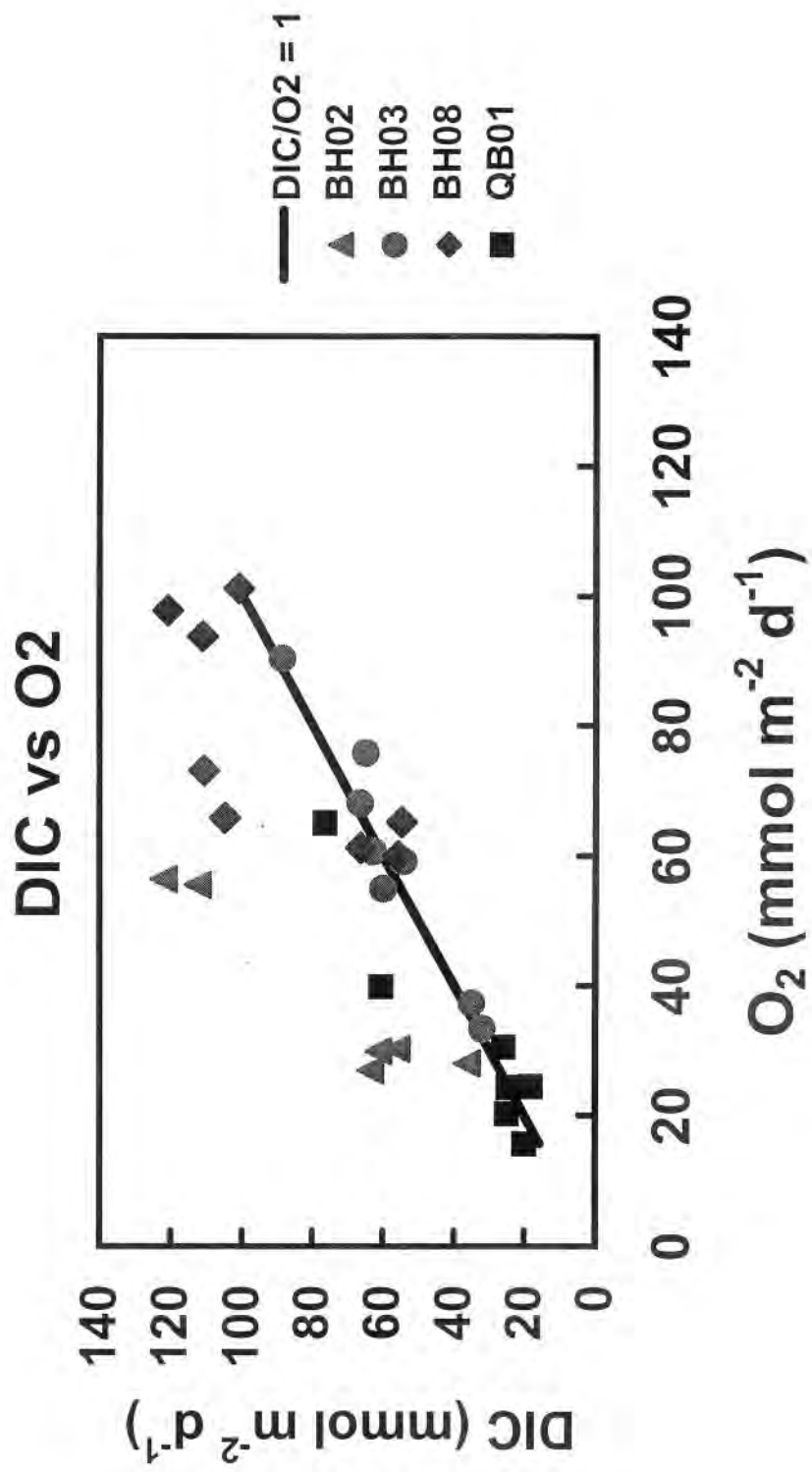


Sediment Respiration at BH02

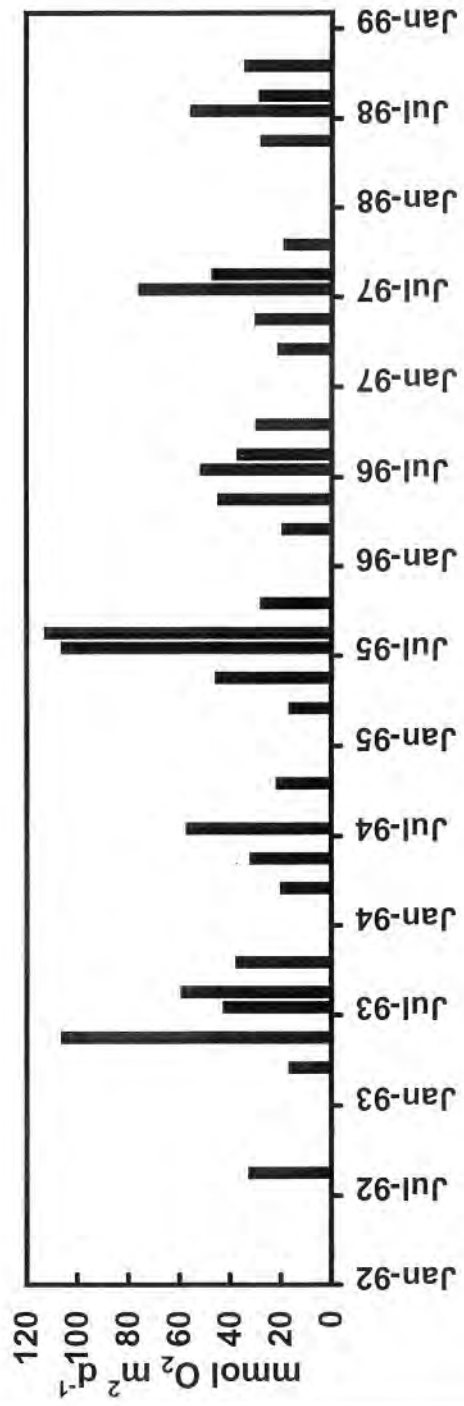


Sediment Respiration at BH08A

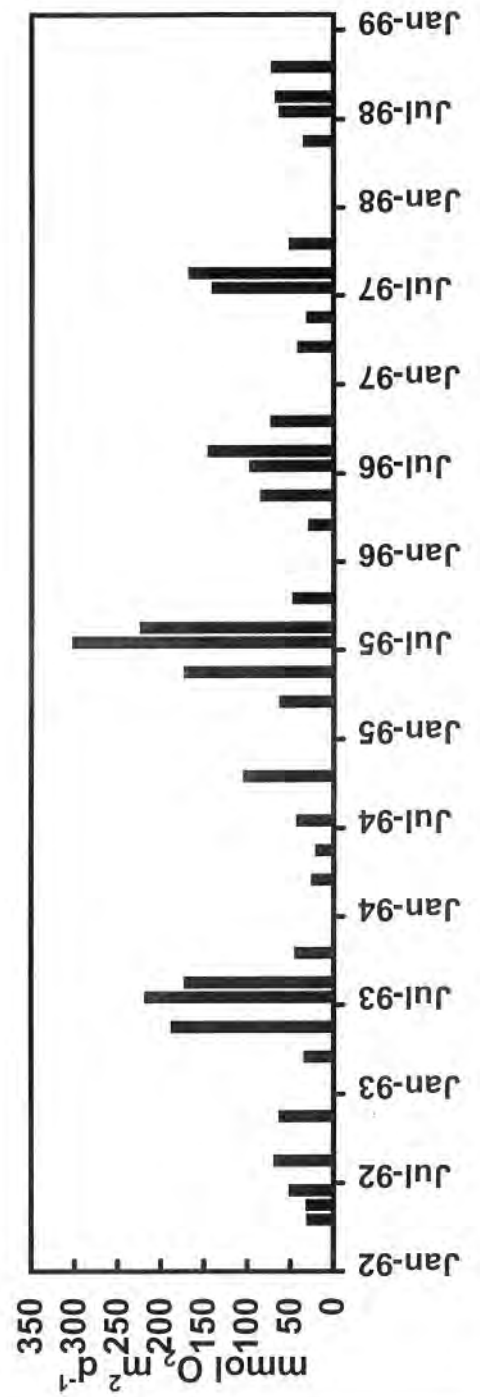


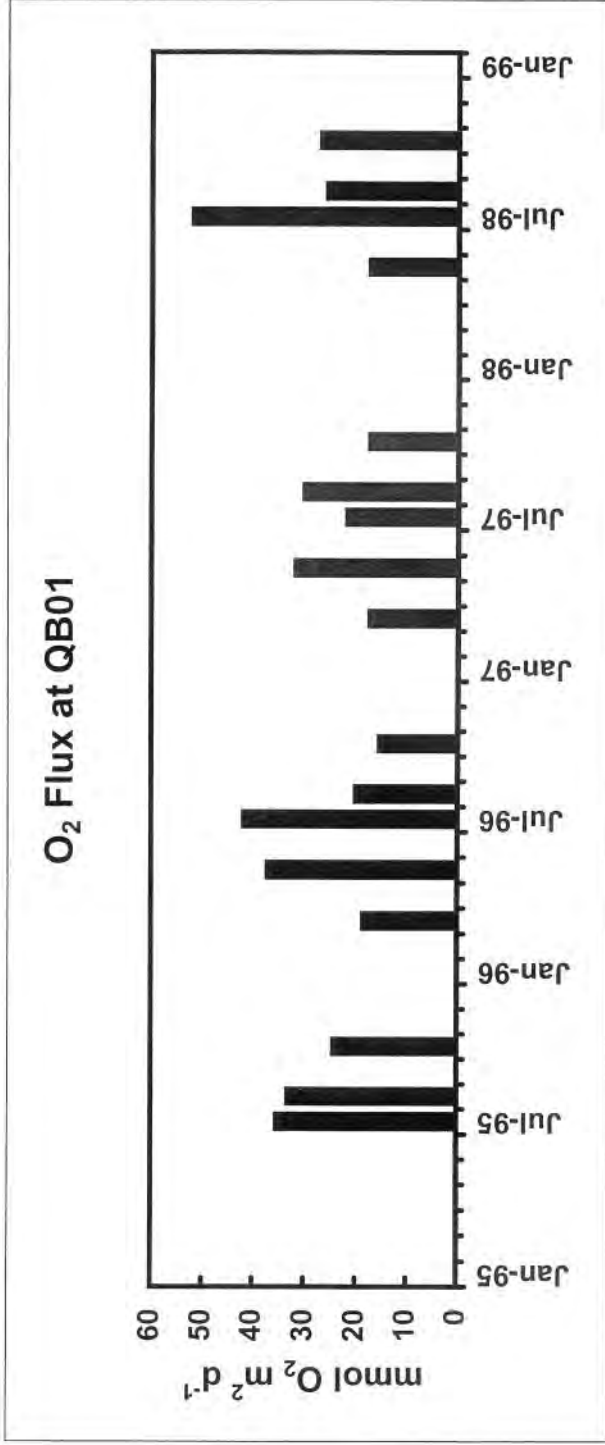
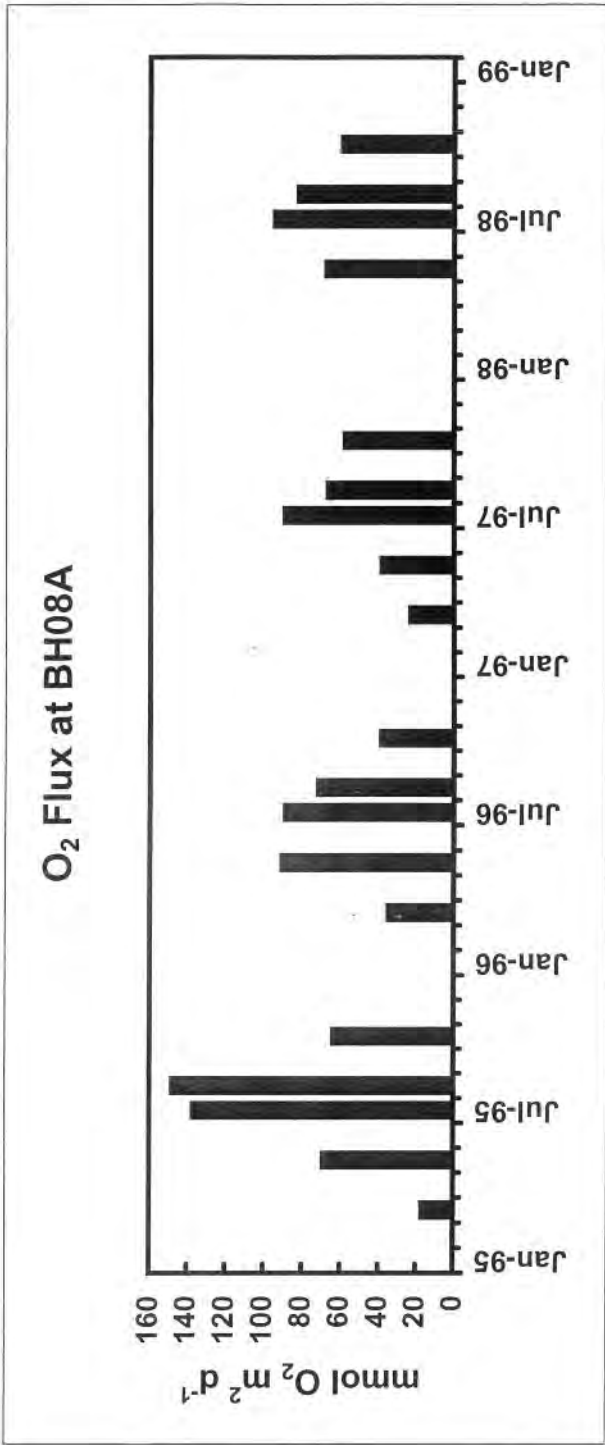


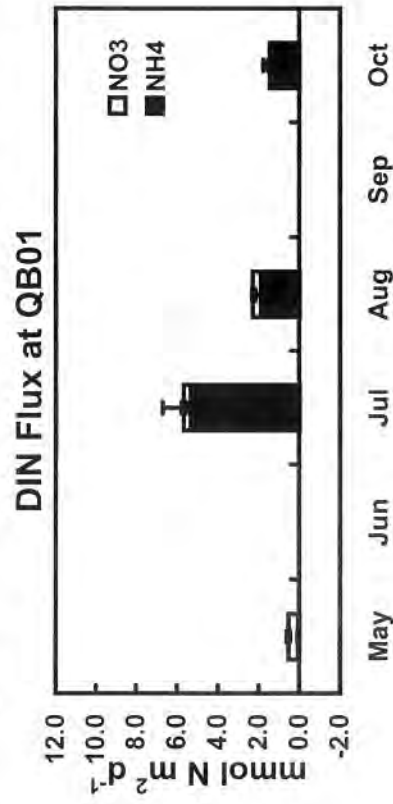
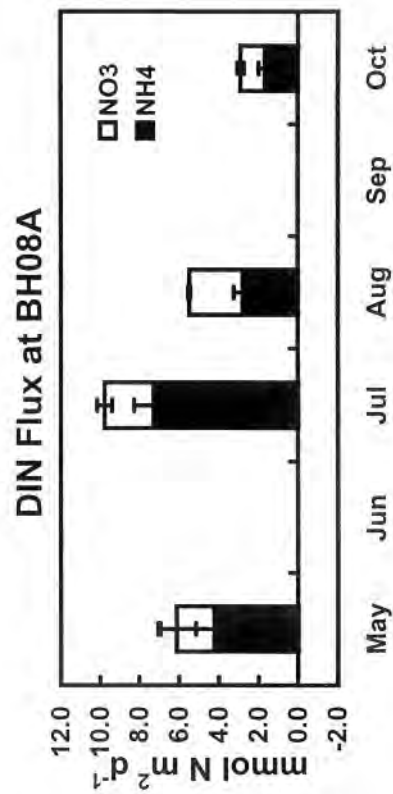
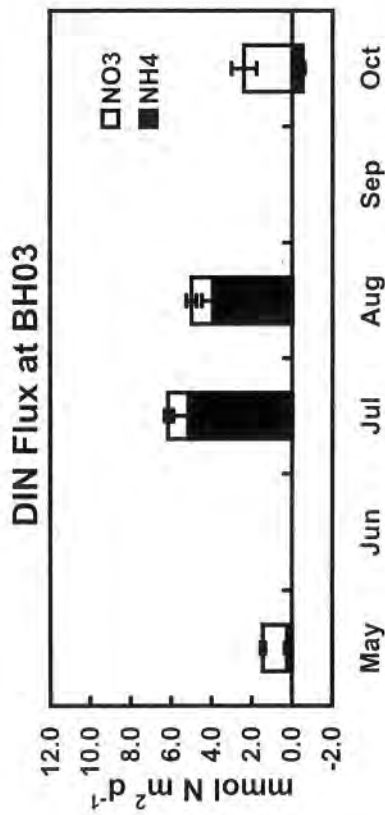
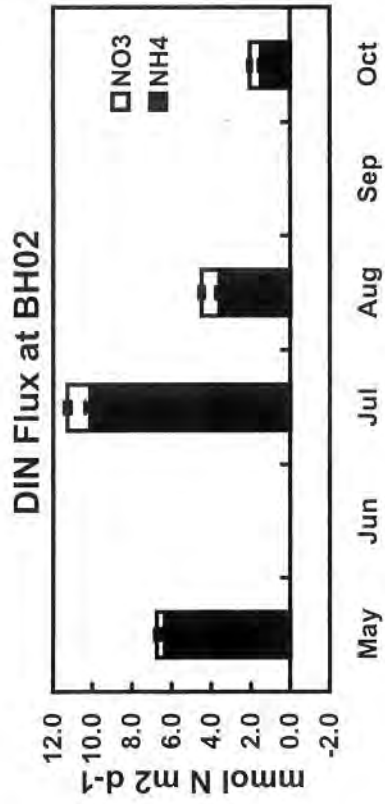
O<sub>2</sub> Flux at BH02



O<sub>2</sub> Flux at BH03 and BH03A

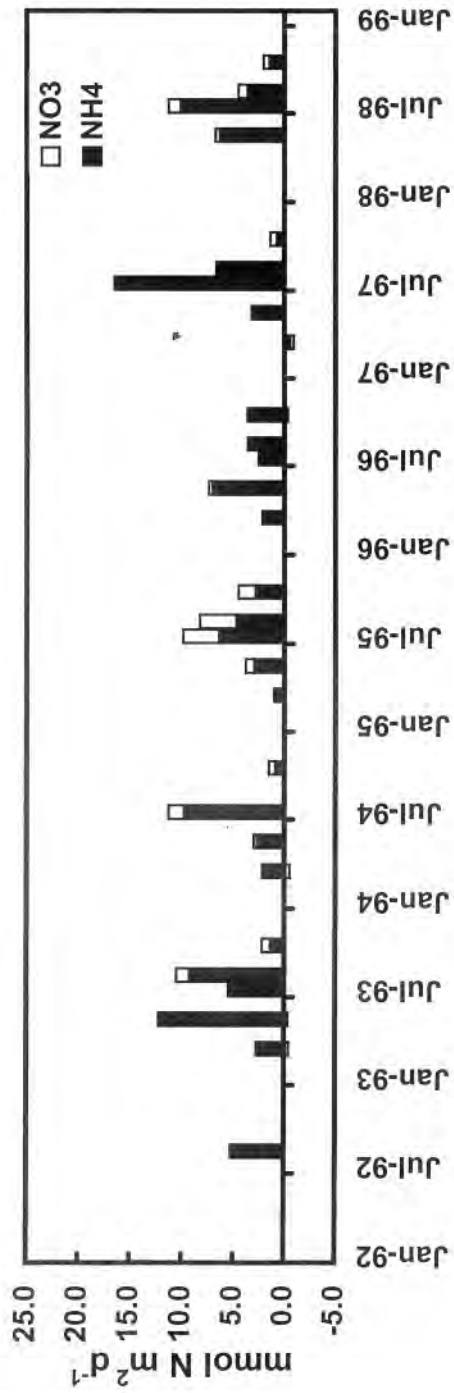




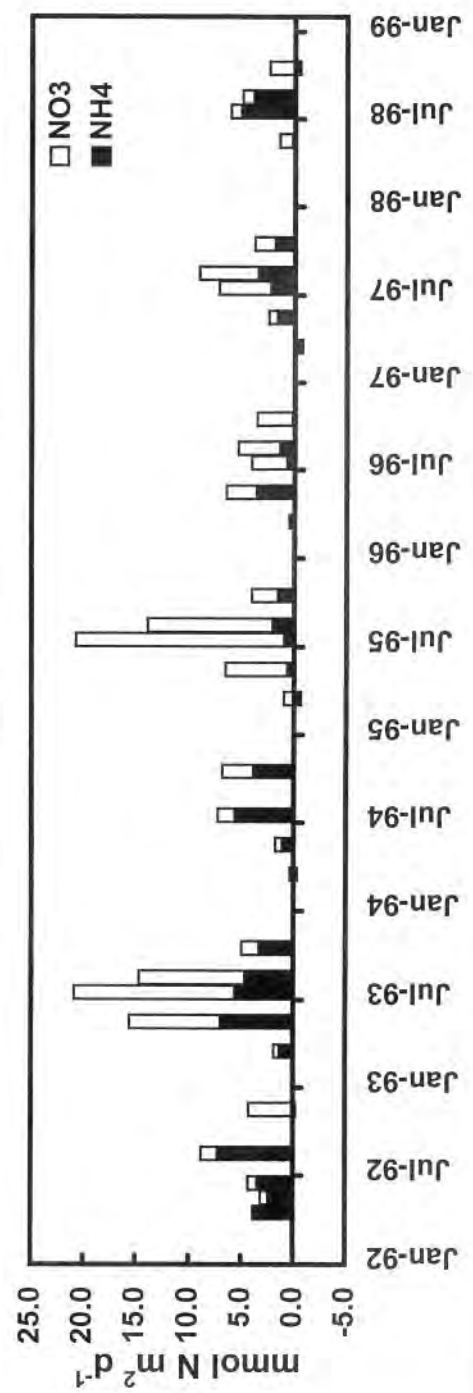




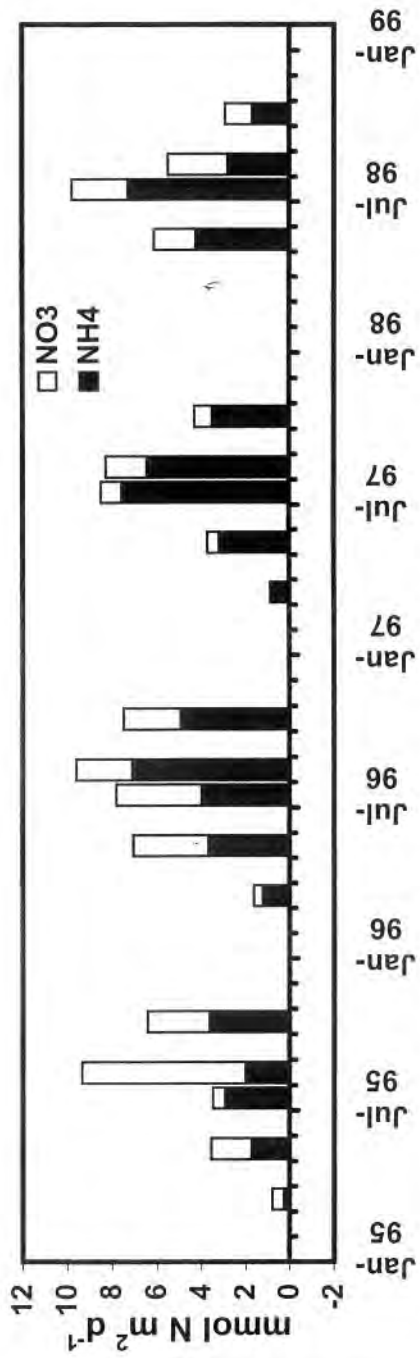
DIN Flux at BH02



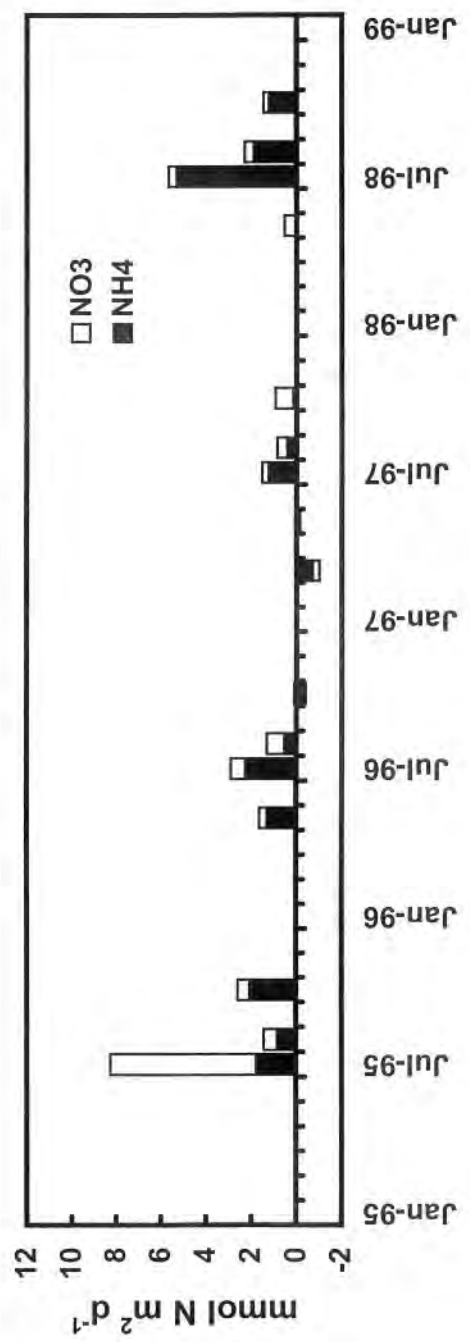
DIN Flux at BH03 and BH03A



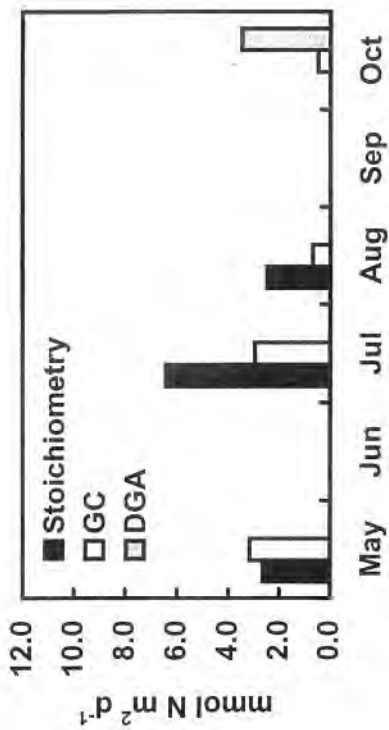
DIN Flux at BH08A



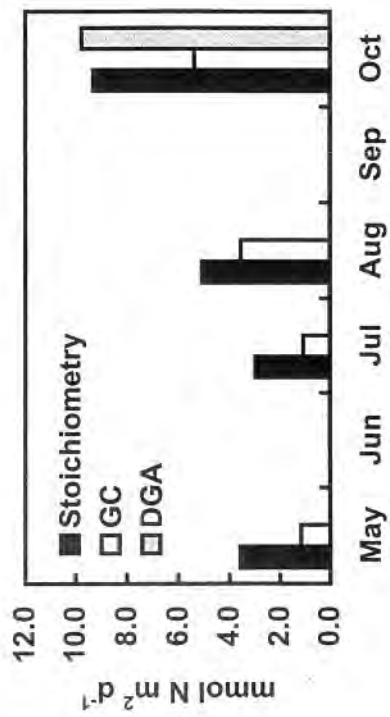
DIN Flux at QB01



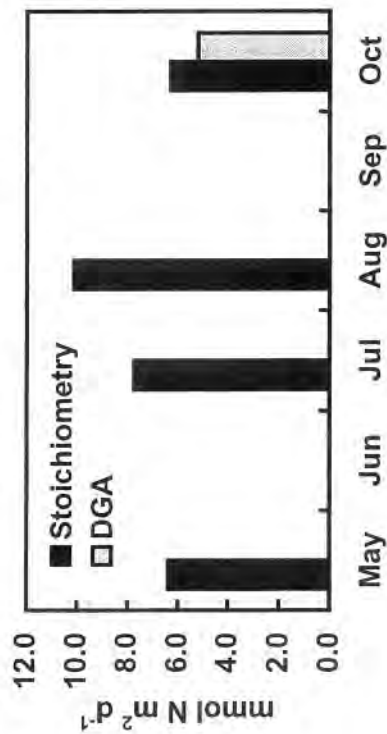
BH02 Denitrification



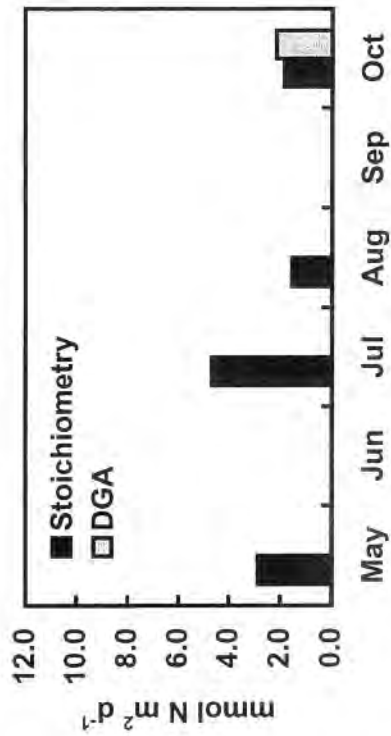
BH03 Denitrification



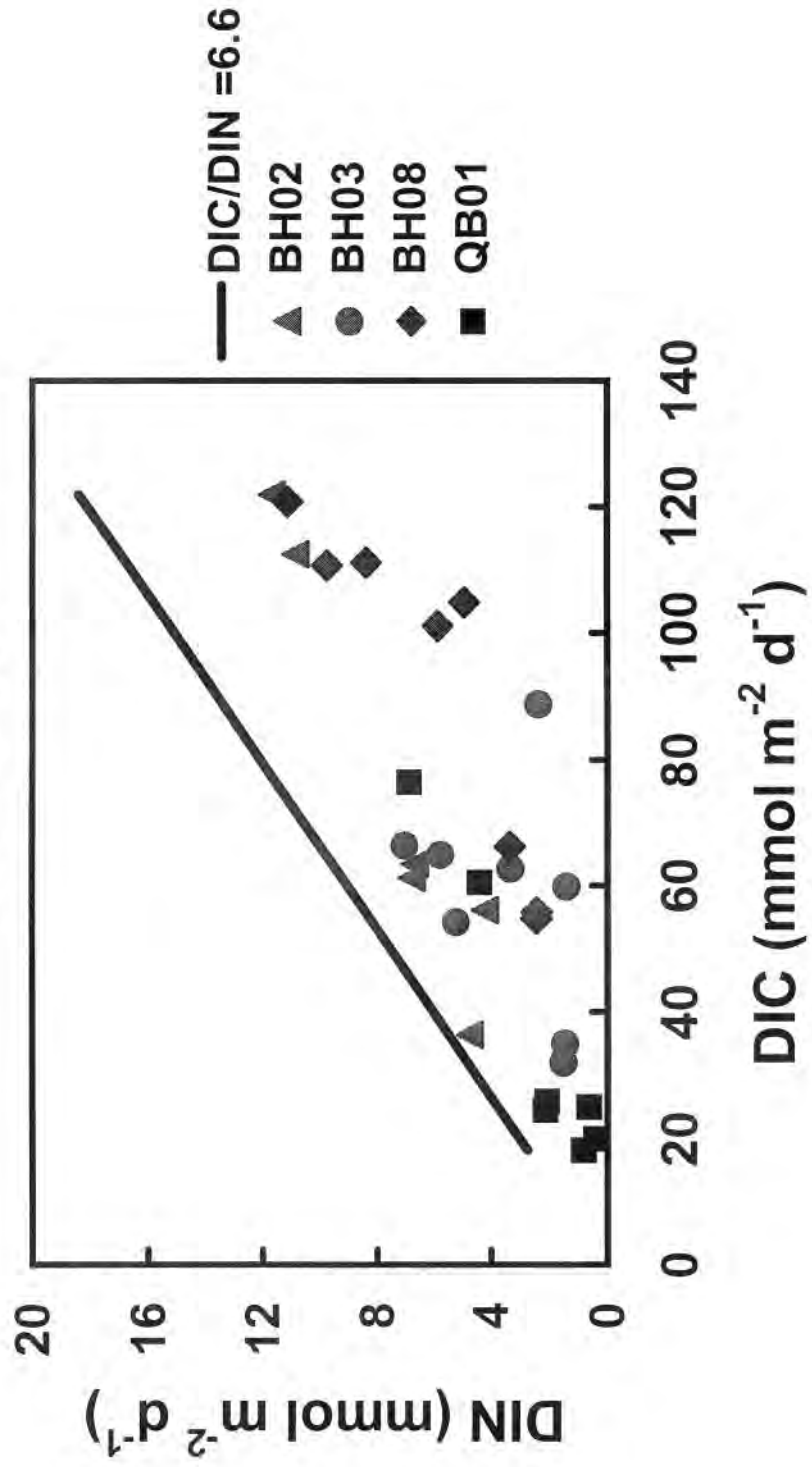
BH08A Denitrification

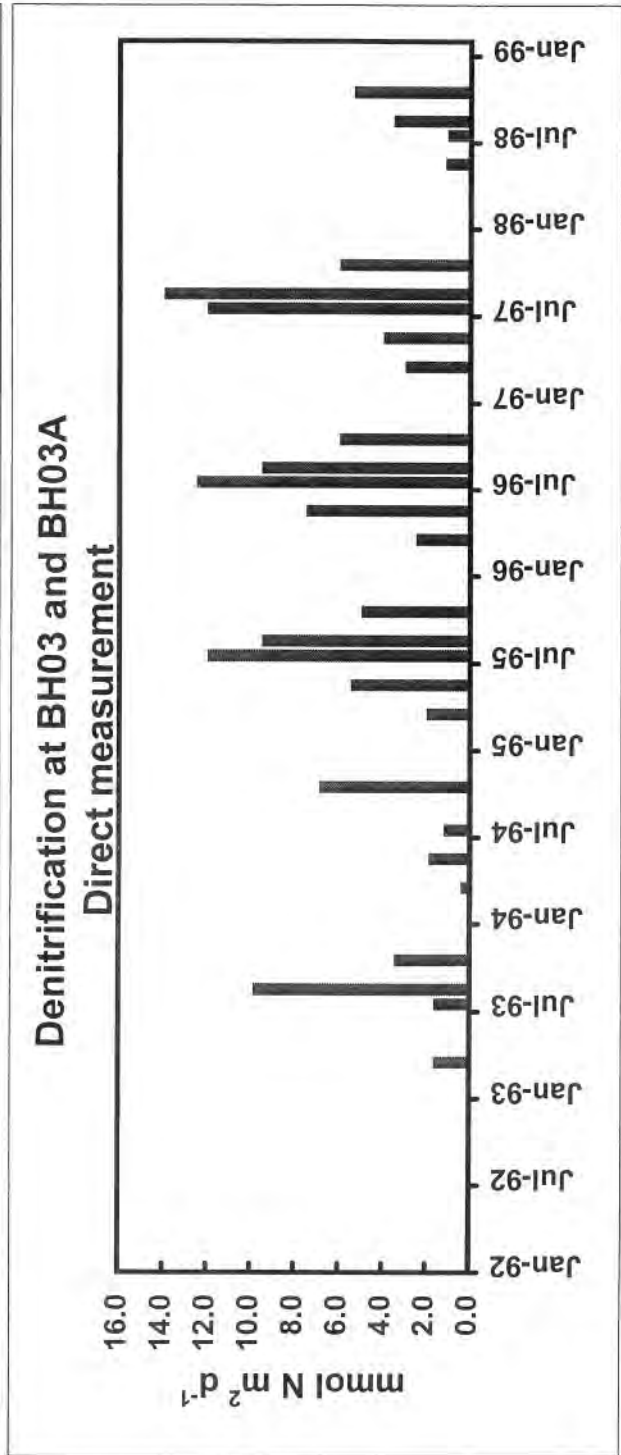
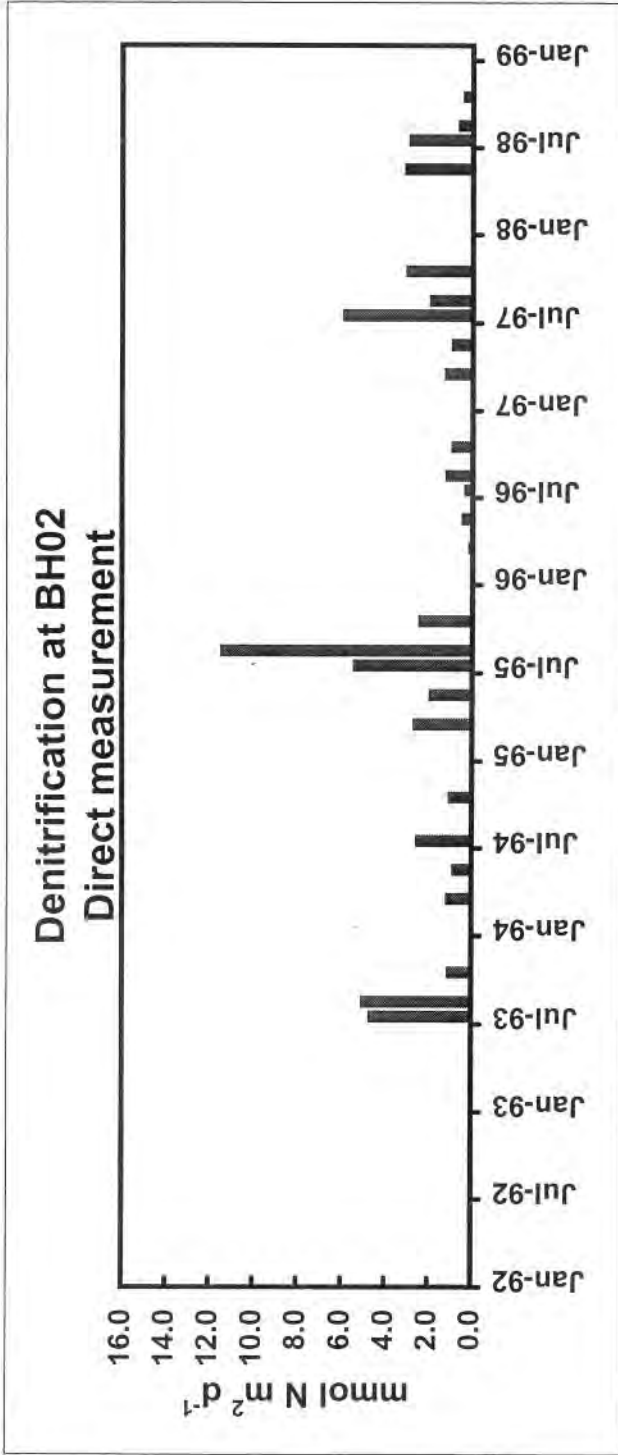


QB01 Denitrification

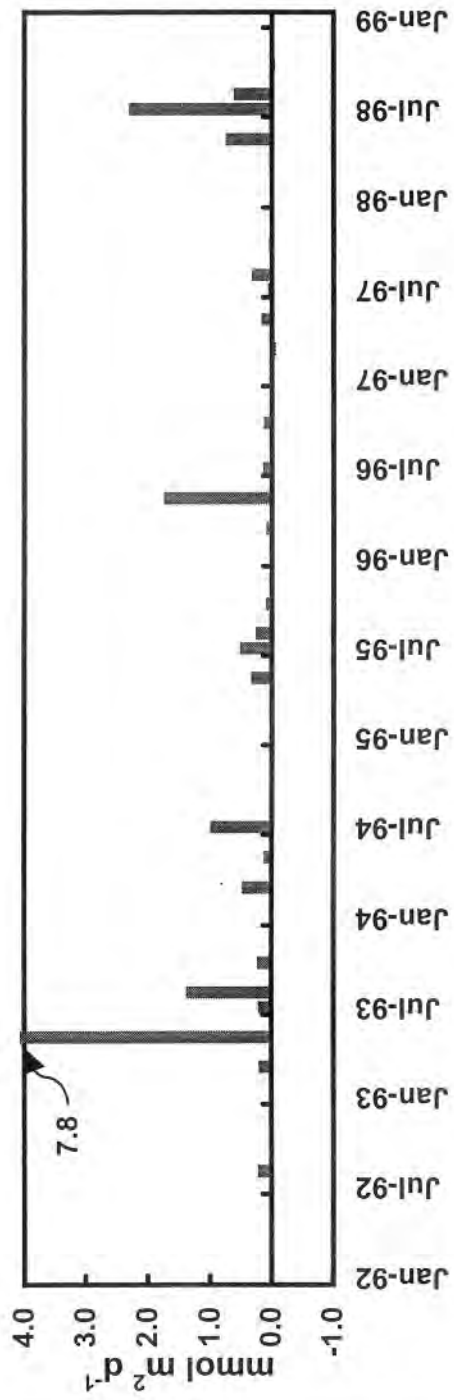


# DIN vs DIC

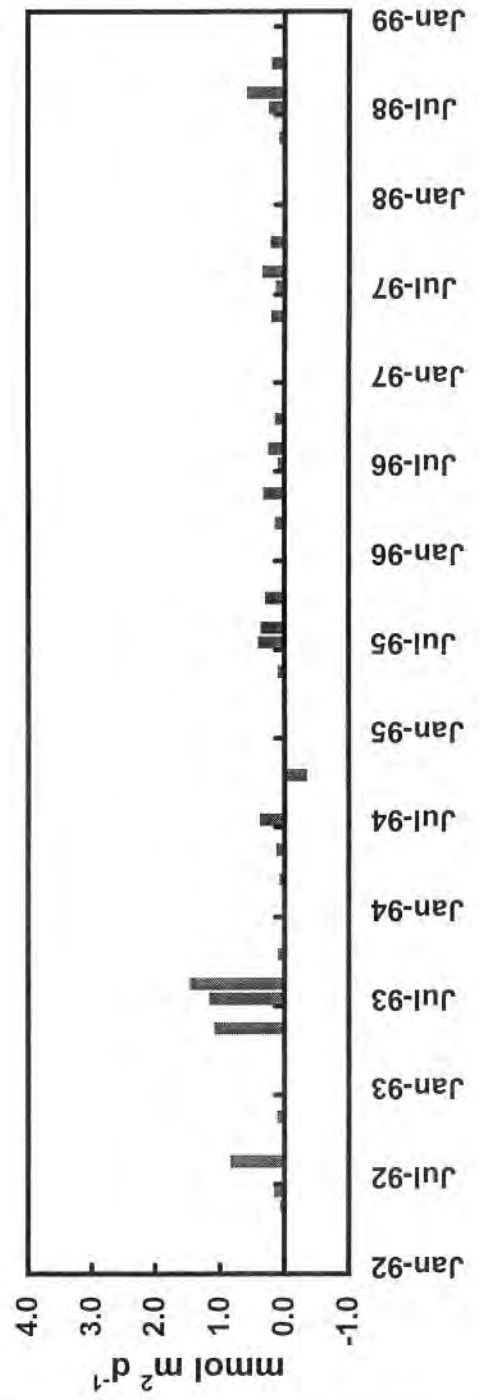


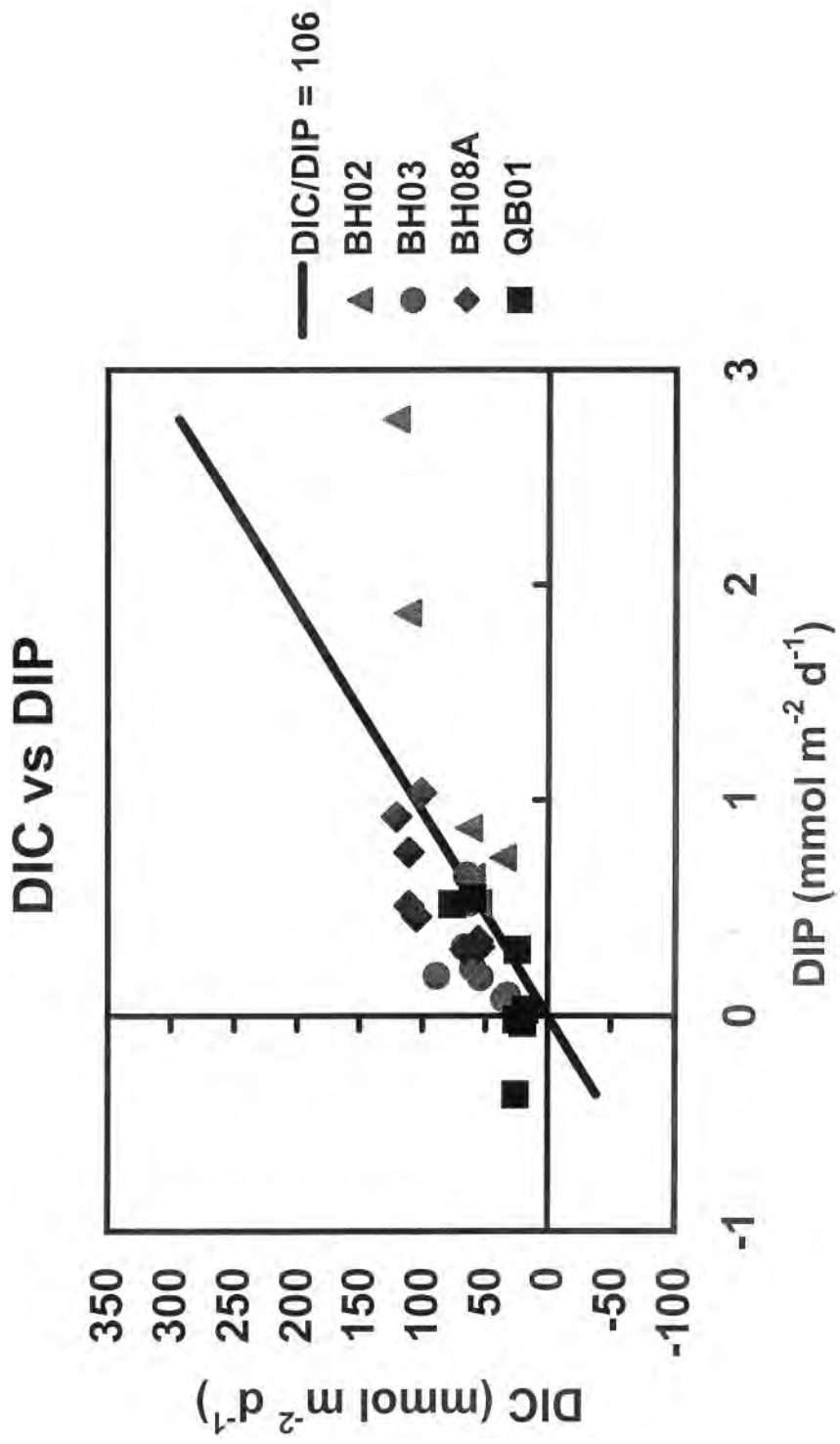


PO4 Flux at BH02

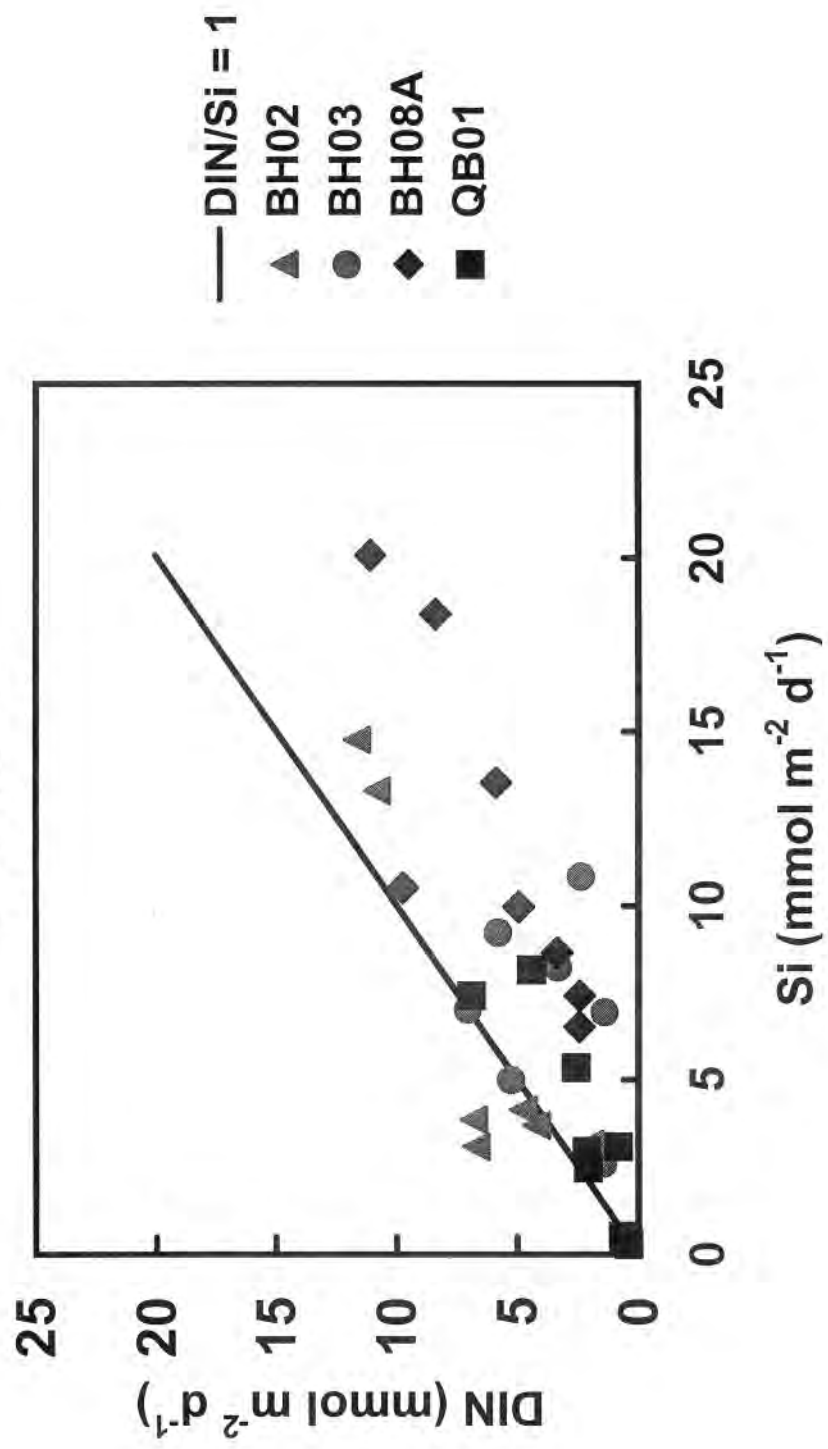


PO4 Flux at BH03 and BH03A





# DIN vs Si





***Water Column Monitoring and Nutrient Cycling***  
**Statistical Approach to Threshold Testing and Rule Setting (Dr. Jeff Rosen, TPMC)**

## Developing Protocols to apply the Thresholds

Automating the evaluation of the Outfall Monitoring Data

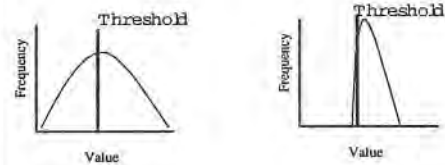
## What are the issues?

- ⊙ Should the variability in the monitoring results (or the baseline) be considered in the evaluation relative to the threshold?
- ⊙ If the variability is considered how should the results be aggregated before calculating the confidence intervals?
- ⊙ Should all parameters be handled the same way?

## Proposed Approach

- ⊙ Calculate one sided confidence intervals (the relevant direction).
- ⊙ Evaluate if threshold is within the one sided confidence interval
- ⊙ If it is within the confidence interval then threshold is not exceeded

Should the variability in the monitoring results (or the baseline) be considered in the evaluation relative to the threshold?



As an example: Should these two results both trigger the same response?

Propose that variability be considered in some of the response parameters.

- ⊙ Establish thresholds based on baseline data or levels which have demonstrated ecological or resource management foundations. e.g. State action levels, ER-L, ER-M values, etc.
- ⊙ Decide on direction of comparison,  $DO < threshold$ ,  $Arochlor > threshold$
- ⊙ Calculate a one sided 95% confidence interval (t distribution)

## Comparison

- ⊙ Trigger  $\leq$  lower confidence limit (e.g. for DO)
- ⊙ Trigger  $\geq$  upper confidence limit (e.g. for Arochlor)
- ⊙ Yes  $\rightarrow$  Trigger Response
- ⊙ No  $\rightarrow$  No response

### Example

Station	Depth	DO (mg/l)
1	0.5	6.2
2	3.3	5.2
3	6.4	4.4
4	9.6	3.6
5	12.8	2.8
6	16.0	2.0
7	19.2	1.2
8	22.4	0.4
9	25.6	0.4
10	28.8	0.4
11	32.0	0.4
12	35.2	0.4
13	38.4	0.4
14	41.6	0.4
15	44.8	0.4
16	48.0	0.4
17	51.2	0.4
Mean		5.96
Std. Dev.		1.12

- ⊙ Fabricated Data - seventeen stations sampled on one day.
- ⊙ If the warning threshold is set at 6.0 then these results would trigger a warning when it is probably not appropriate.
- ⊙ Detectable difference for these results is .96 mg/liter. Any value between 5.52 < DO < 6.48 are not distinguishable from the threshold
- ⊙ Do you want this to trigger a response?

### Aggregation Issues

- ⊙ Data collection for each parameter will occur over a wide range of spatial and temporal scales
- ⊙ The monitoring plan needs to specify how the data will be evaluated relative to each established threshold
- ⊙ The method of aggregation and comparison to the threshold can have significant effects on the actions required

### Example

	Detectable Differences Using		
	All Depths	Means of Depths	
Mean	5.96	5.96	Same as expected
Standard Deviation	2.12	1.12	Different as expected
count	85	17	Different as expected
Detectable Difference	0.81	0.96	

$$\delta = \sqrt{6.2 * (2\sigma^2) / n}$$

### Conclusion

- ⊙ The way we aggregate the results will have an effect on the comparison between monitoring results and the thresholds.
- ⊙ We need to decide on how to aggregate the results to do the comparison with the thresholds.
- ⊙ These steps need to be define in great detail
- ⊙ Ultimately these comparisons should be automated.

### Progress Made

- ⊙ Detailed descriptions of the approaches have been proposed for many parameters.
  - ❖ Total Nitrogen, Toxics, Effluent Toxicity, cBOD, Fecal Coliform, Total Suspended Solids, Floatables, Dissolved Oxygen, DO depletion rate, fish and shellfish tissue concentrations, RPD depth
- ⊙ More work is required to define detailed approaches for Chlorophyll a, Zooplankton, Nuisance algae, Benthic Communities

### Evaluating approaches for Chlorophyll a Data

- ⊙ Two Thresholds to evaluate -
  - ❖ Annual mean < 1.5 (2.0) \* baseline Mean
  - ❖ Seasonal Mean < 95th%ile baseline Seasonal mean
- ⊙ Evaluating approaches of aggregation
  - ❖ Pooling Depths at a station
  - ❖ Pooling stations for a survey
  - ❖ Pooling surveys over seasons



## Evaluating Detectable Differences

- ⊙ Will vary depending on variance estimates included in calculations?
- ⊙ What are the intended Sampling units?
  - ❖ Each depth at a station for each survey?
  - ❖ The overall station for each survey (over all depths)?
  - ❖ The Near Field (over all stations and depths) for a survey?



## Power

		Null Hypothesis		
		Accepted	Rejected	
Null Hypothesis	True	Correct	Type I Error	POWER OF THE TEST
	False	Type II Error	Correct	
		Trigger	No Trigger	

$H_0$ : Measured Value = Threshold - Trigger a response

$H_A$ : Measured Value is > (or <) Threshold - No Response

$\alpha = .05$  Probability of rejecting null hypothesis when it is True. We would not trigger a response when it should be triggered.

Power =  $1 - \beta = .80$ . The probability of rejecting the null hypothesis when it is false. The probability of not prompting a response when in fact there is no need for a response. (Prevents false alarms 80% of the time)



## Detectable Difference

What is the difference which can be detected with a given sample size (n), Variance ( $\sigma^2$ ),  $\alpha = 0.5$ ,  $\beta = .20$ ?

For one tailed test calculated from:

$$n = (Z_\alpha + Z_\beta)^2 * 2\sigma^2 / \delta^2 \quad \text{where } (\delta = \mu_A - \mu_0)$$

solve for  $\delta$

$$\delta = \sqrt{(Z_\alpha + Z_\beta)^2 * 2\sigma^2 / n}$$

$\delta$  is the detectable difference. The difference which can be detected with the probabilities of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  specified



## Products

- ⊙ Summary of distributional properties for different aggregation strategies
- ⊙ Detectable differences with  $\alpha = .05$  and  $\beta = 0.2$  for each aggregation strategy (assumes that variance estimates for the baseline are representative of the variances that will be observed post outfall relocation).
- ⊙ Recommendations for the logistics of evaluating the Chlorophyll a Thresholds.