

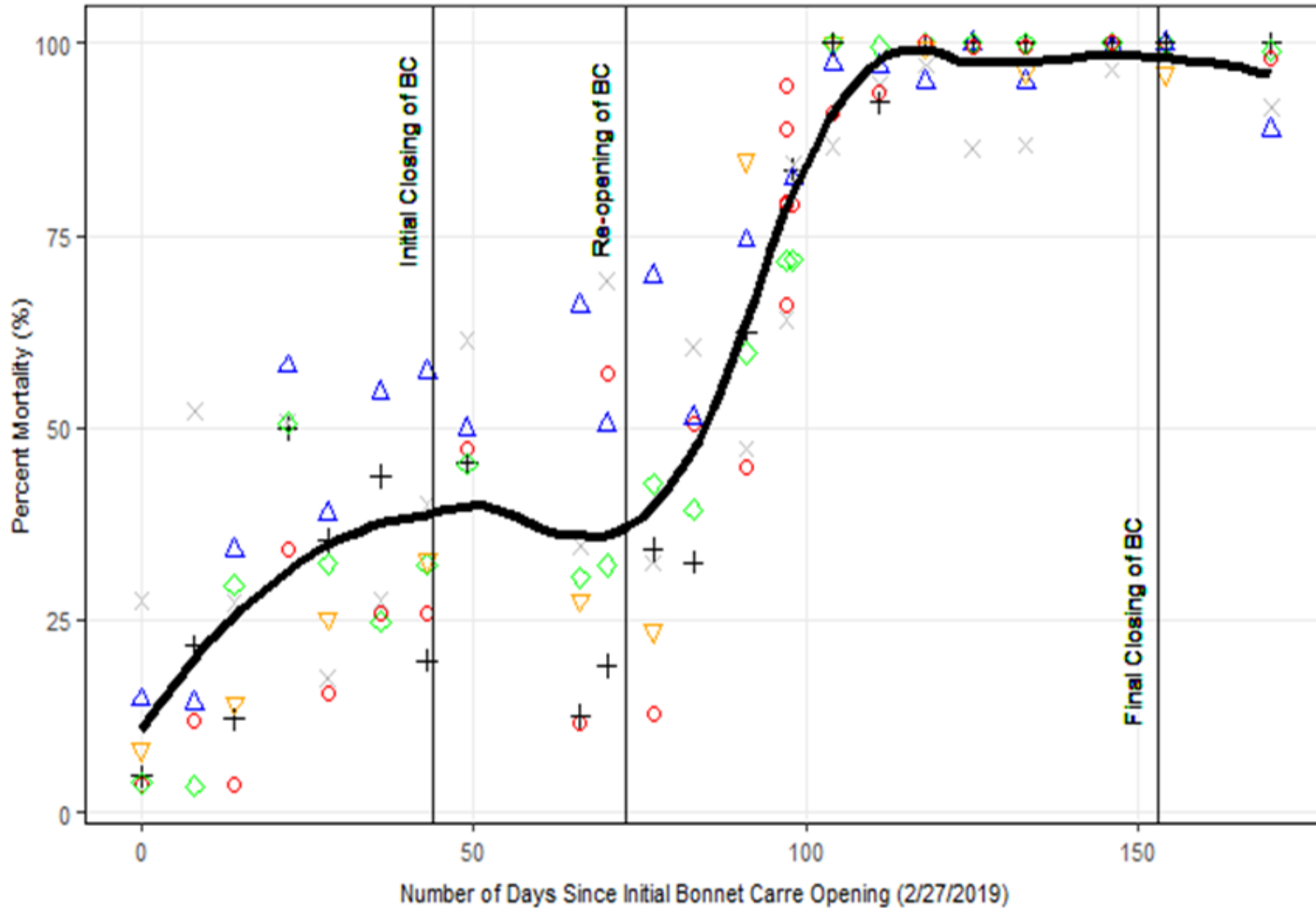


ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

MS Oyster Resource Status Report

MDMR – Shellfish Bureau

Oyster Mortality



Oyster Reef

- Henderson Point
- △ Pass Christian Dredging
- + Pass Christian Tonging
- × Pass Marianne
- ◇ St. Joe
- ▽ St. Stanislaus

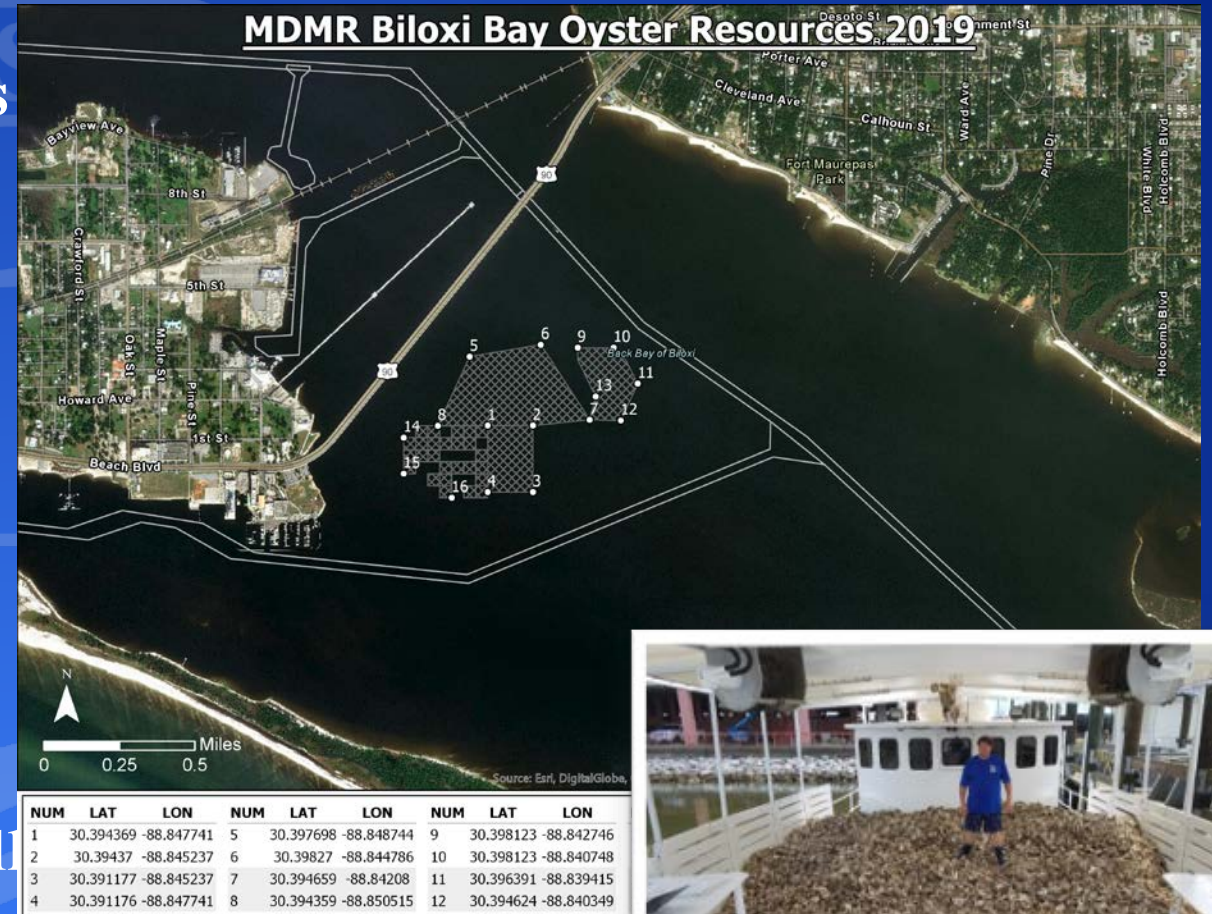
Oyster Reef Restoration Efforts

2011 Bonnet Carre Disaster Relief Funds

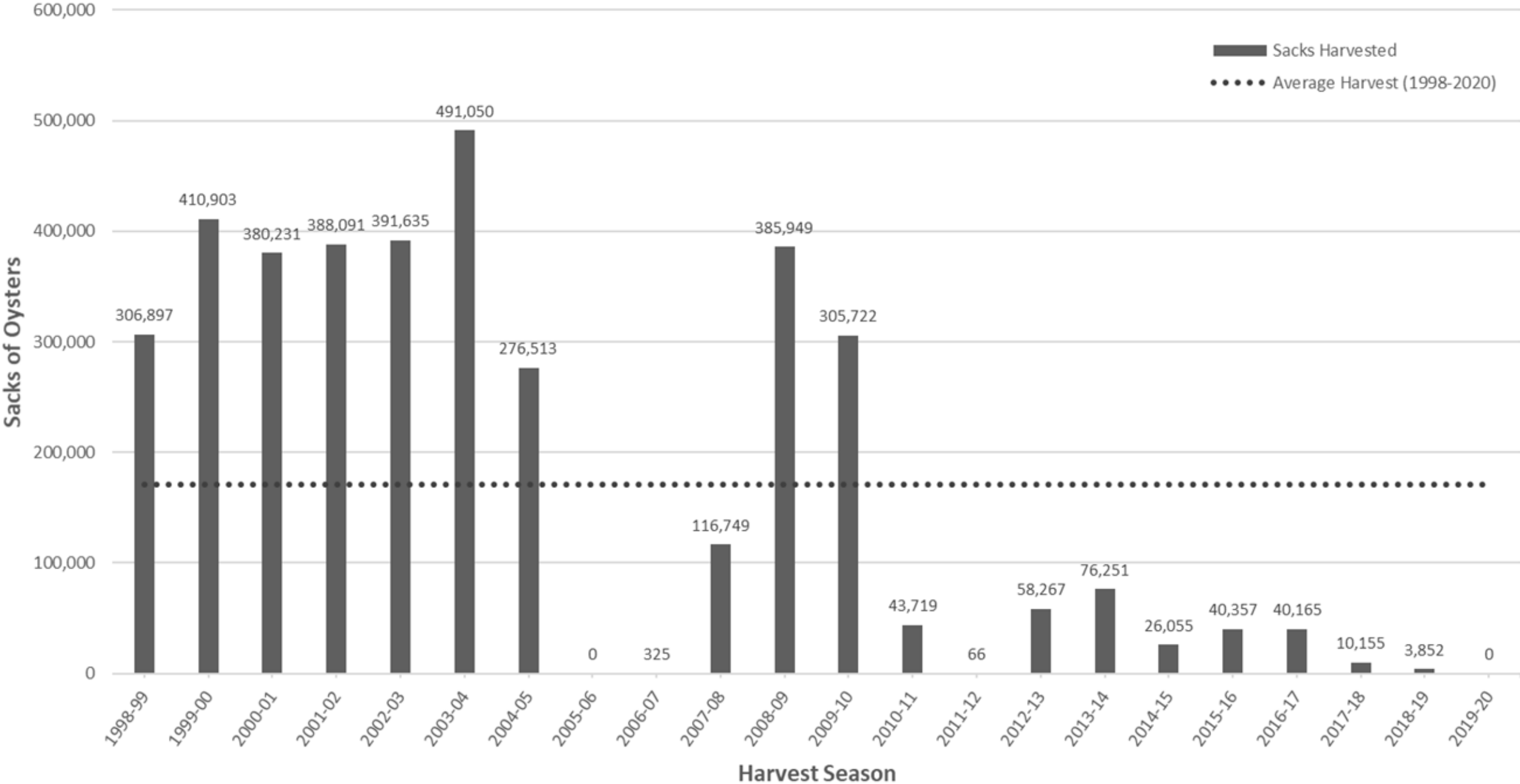
- Western MS Sound, Biloxi & Pascagoula Bays
- Acres oyster restoration = 1,065
- Limestone & oyster shell

Public Trust Tidelands Funds

- Biloxi Bay
- Acres oyster restoration = 26 (1-acre sites)
- Oyster, limestone, concrete, and spat on shell
- Long-term monitoring to measure effectiveness of different cultch types



MS Oyster Landings for Public Reefs



Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)

- Influx nutrient rich fresh water
- *Dolichospermum* spp. and *Microcystis*, producers of dangerous hepatotoxin – microcystin.
- Symptoms – abdominal pain, headache, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, pneumonia, etc.
- State-wide coastal beach closures
- Advisories for commercial and recreational fisheries
- Hypoxia – blooms can lead to low oxygen levels in the water column, resulting in mortality of marine organisms



Aquaculture & Community Involvement

MDMR Oyster Aquaculture Program

- 25 acres leased Aquaculture Park
- To-date >250k off-bottom oysters harvested
- 7 farmers, 21 participants enrolled in training program



Oyster Gardening Program

- Engage community and raise public awareness
- 2019 produced 48,558 seed-sized oysters at 42 sites
- Oysters used to restore reefs in non-harvest areas

