

# Connecticut's Response to the Management of Pathogenic *Vibrio* *parahaemolyticus*

Kristin DeRosia-Banick

Environmental Analyst 3

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of  
Aquaculture

CT Industry Overview

```
graph TD; A[CT Industry Overview] --> B[History of Vp Illness in CT]; B --> C[Controlling Illnesses Via Rapid Cooling]; C --> D[ISSC Funded Rapid Cooling Studies: Preliminary Results]; D --> E[Vibrio parahaemolyticus Forecasting Efforts 2014-2015];
```

History of Vp Illness in CT

Controlling Illnesses Via Rapid Cooling

ISSC Funded Rapid Cooling Studies:  
Preliminary Results

*Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Forecasting Efforts  
2014-2015

# CT Industry Overview

- 41 harvesters licensed as Shellstock Shippers
- Hydraulic hard clam and eastern oyster harvest
- Aquaculture cage production and bottom cultivation
- All subtidal harvest: generally >6 feet depth at MLW
- 21 Oyster producers operating under VPCP
  - 7 producers operating in the outbreak growing area of Westport Norwalk Darien utilizing rapid cooling on board vessel
  - 8 producers operating outside the outbreak area utilizing on-board mechanical refrigeration or rapid cooling
  - 6 producers operating under 5/5 traditional VPCP

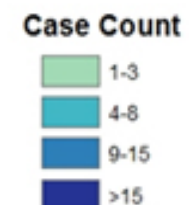
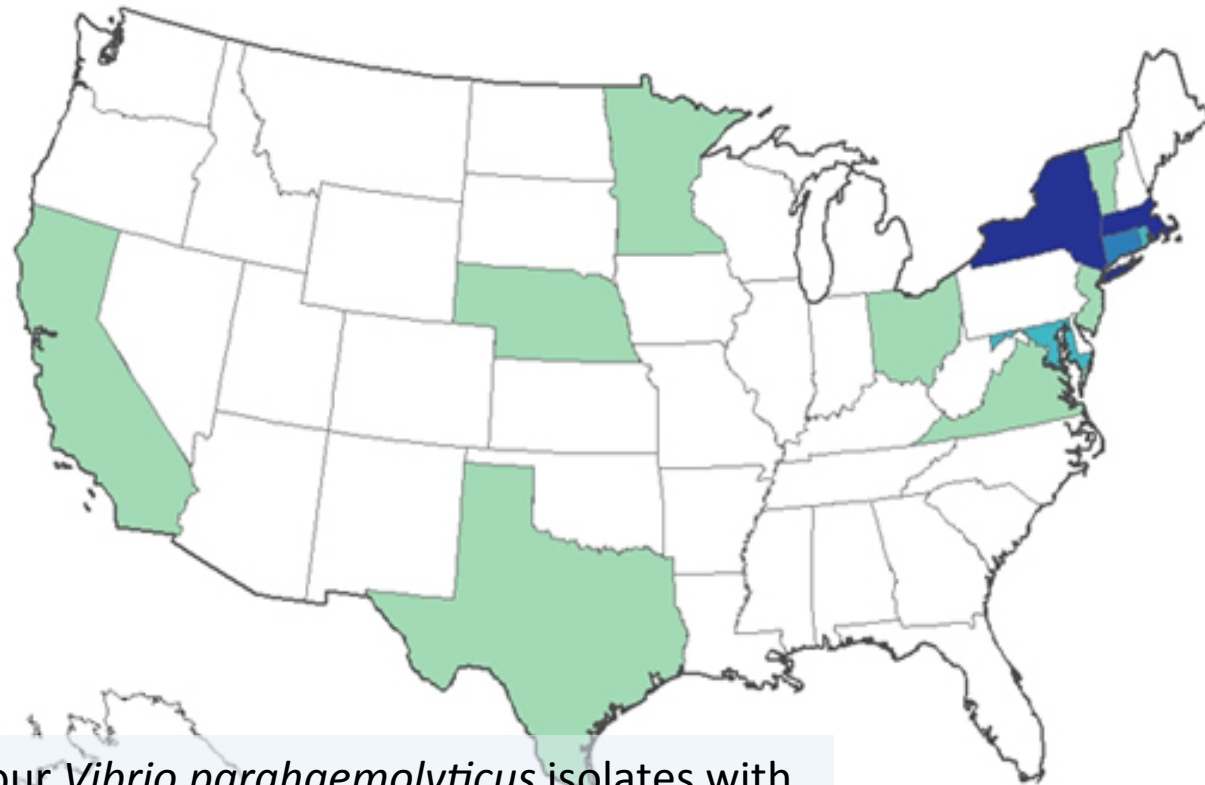
# Vp Illness History in Connecticut: 2009 to 2015 Illness Summary

<b>Year</b>	<b>Confirmed Cases Linked to CT Shellfish</b>	<b>Multi-State Shellfish Cases Including CT Source</b>
2009	1	2
2010	1	2
2011	1	2
2012	1*	3
2013	23**	11
2014	1	2
2015	2	8

\*2012 Closure of Westport/Norwalk growing area from 7/15/12 through 9/19/12

\*\* 2013 Closure of Westport/Norwalk growing area from 8/2/13 through 9/16/13

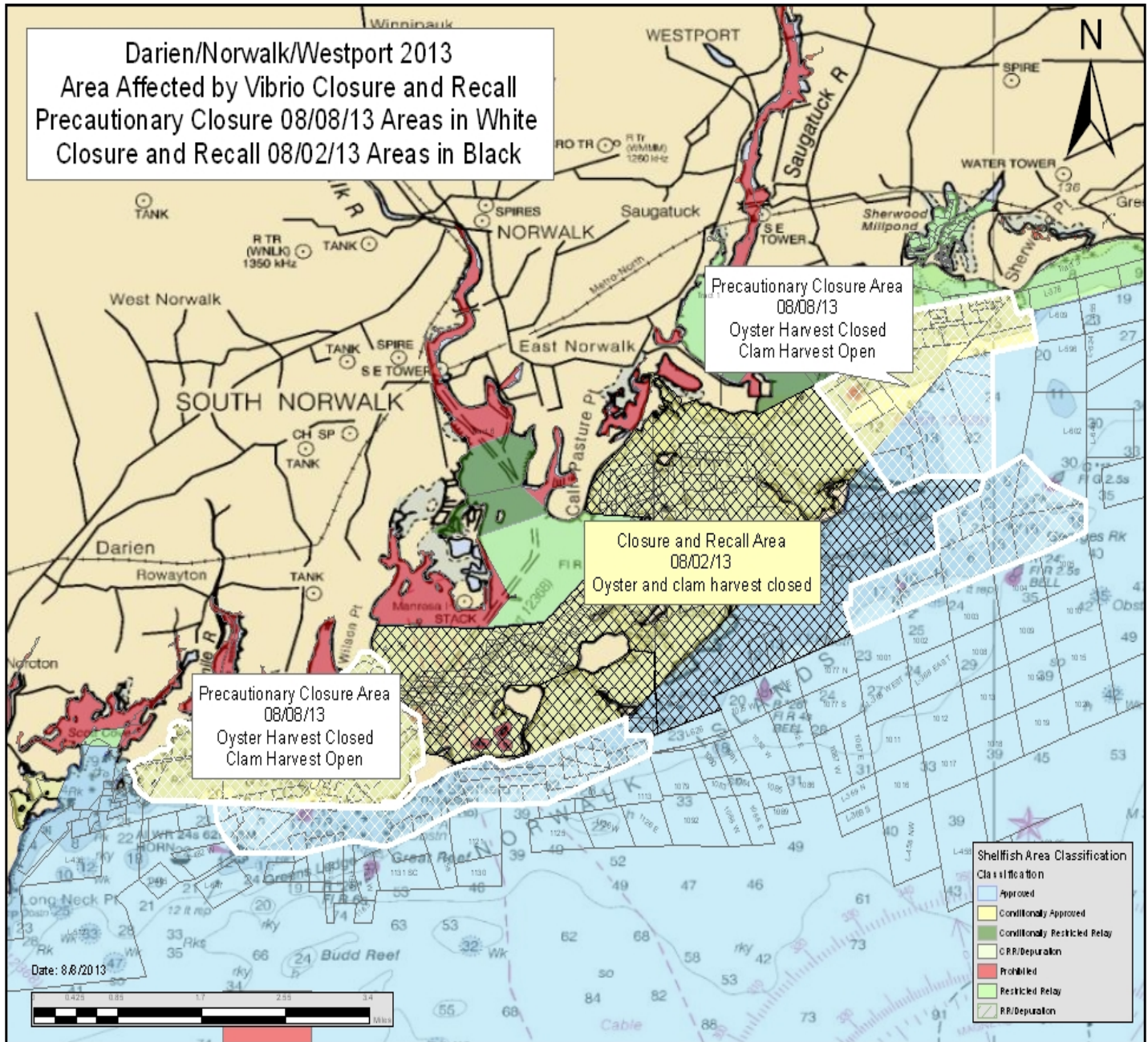
# Vp Outbreak Strain 2013 (O4:K12)



One hundred and four *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* isolates with the same DNA “fingerprint” were reported to PulseNet from persons in 13 states who became ill from May 12, 2013 through August 19, 2013. Of the 104 *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* isolates, 76 have been serotyped and all 76 were found to be serotype O4:K12

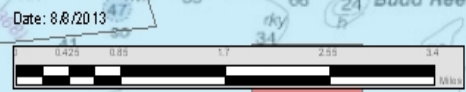
<http://www.cdc.gov/vibrio/investigations/vibriop-09-13/map.html>

Darien/Norwalk/Westport 2013  
 Area Affected by Vibrio Closure and Recall  
 Precautionary Closure 08/08/13 Areas in White  
 Closure and Recall 08/02/13 Areas in Black



**Shellfish Area Classification**

Classification	Color/Pattern
Approved	Light Blue
Conditionally Approved	Yellow
Conditionally Restricted Relay	Green
CRR/Depuration	Red
Prohibited	Orange
Restricted Relay	Light Green
RR/Depuration	Cross-hatched



# 2014 and 2015 *Vibrio* *parahaemolyticus* Control Plan (VPCP)

- Two control plans in place: one for 2013 outbreak area and one for the rest of CT growing areas
- Vp Control Plans in CT apply to Oysters Only (only sporadic cases linked to Hard Clams in CT)
- Outbreak Area VPCP: required the rapid cooling of oysters harvested from the waters of Norwalk, Westport and Darien to an internal temperature of 50°F within one hour of harvest from June 1 through September 30
- General VPCP: 5 hours from harvest to refrigeration and 5 hours to cool to internal temperature of 50°F from June 1 through September 30



# Rapid Cooling Verification Studies

Oyster with Smart Button data logger sent through process





# Rapid Cooling Definition for CT

- Rapid Cooling was defined in the 2014 and 2015 Vp Control Plan as “the reduction of the internal temperature of shellstock to 50°F within 1 hour of harvest or time of first exposure”
- Small number of oyster producers have beds in the outbreak area
- SSCA allowed growers to propose process to meeting Rapid Cooling requirement
- Evaluated each company’s process prior to allowing harvest from outbreak area
- Verification studies have included on-vessel mechanical refrigeration, ice slurry, and direct ice

# Small Scale Ice Slurry

- Harvest between 25 and 150 100-count bags per day
- Cost of ice approximately \$300 to \$500/week for 5 day workweek



# Medium Scale Ice Slurry

- Production level between 150 bags and 300 100-count bags per day
- Cost of ice approximately \$400 to \$500/week for 5 day workweek



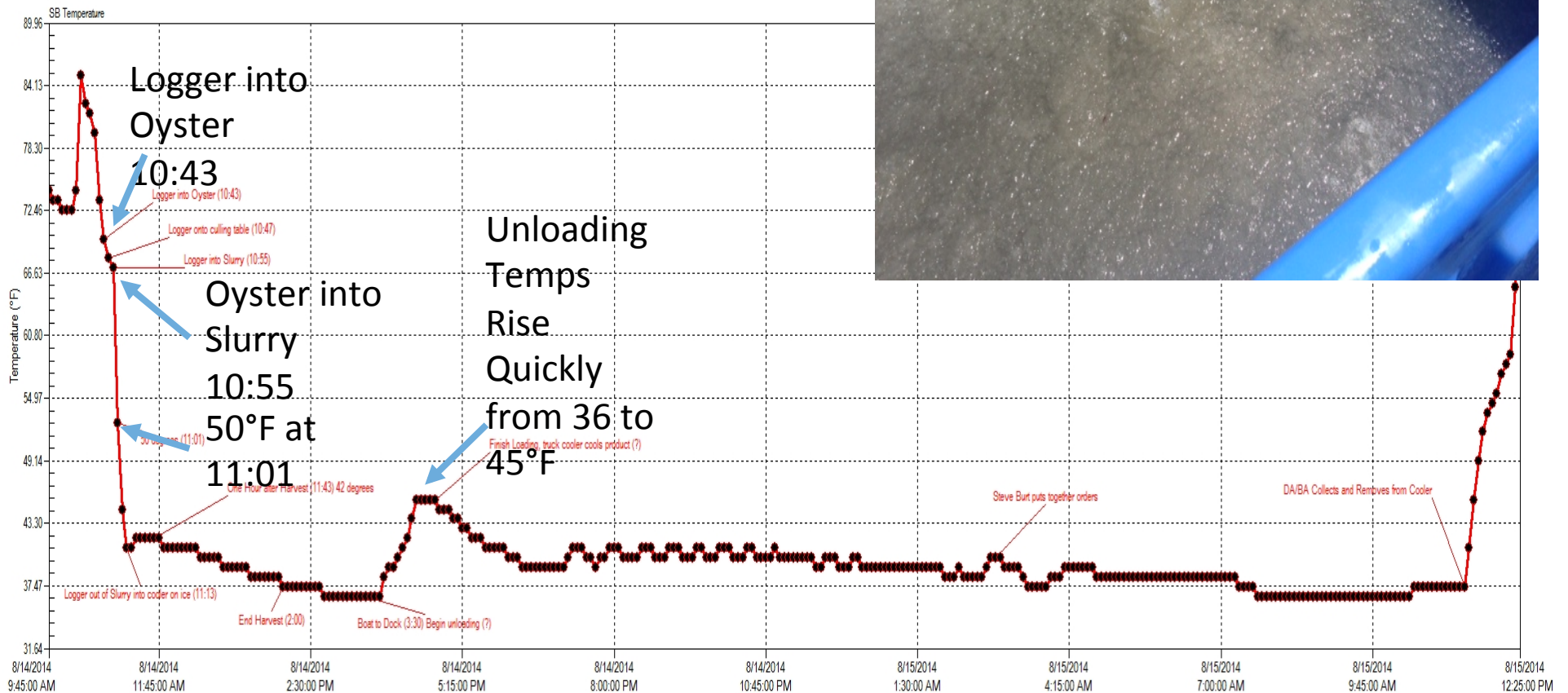
# Large Scale Ice Slurry

- Harvest 500 to 1000  
100 count bags per day



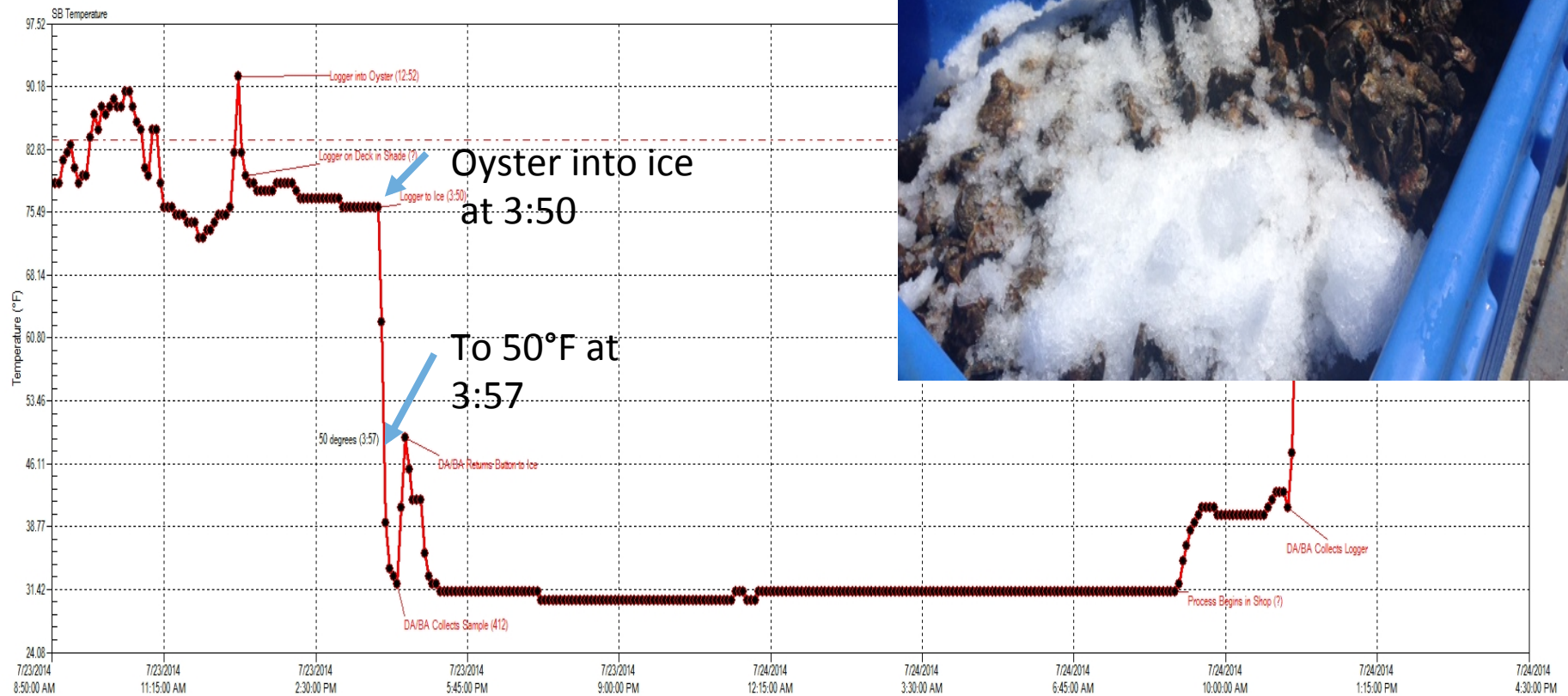
# Cooling Profiles: Ice Slurry

H+H Westport L-617 81414  
3368681 SB2K\_DS1921G 0000003366E9 (2014)



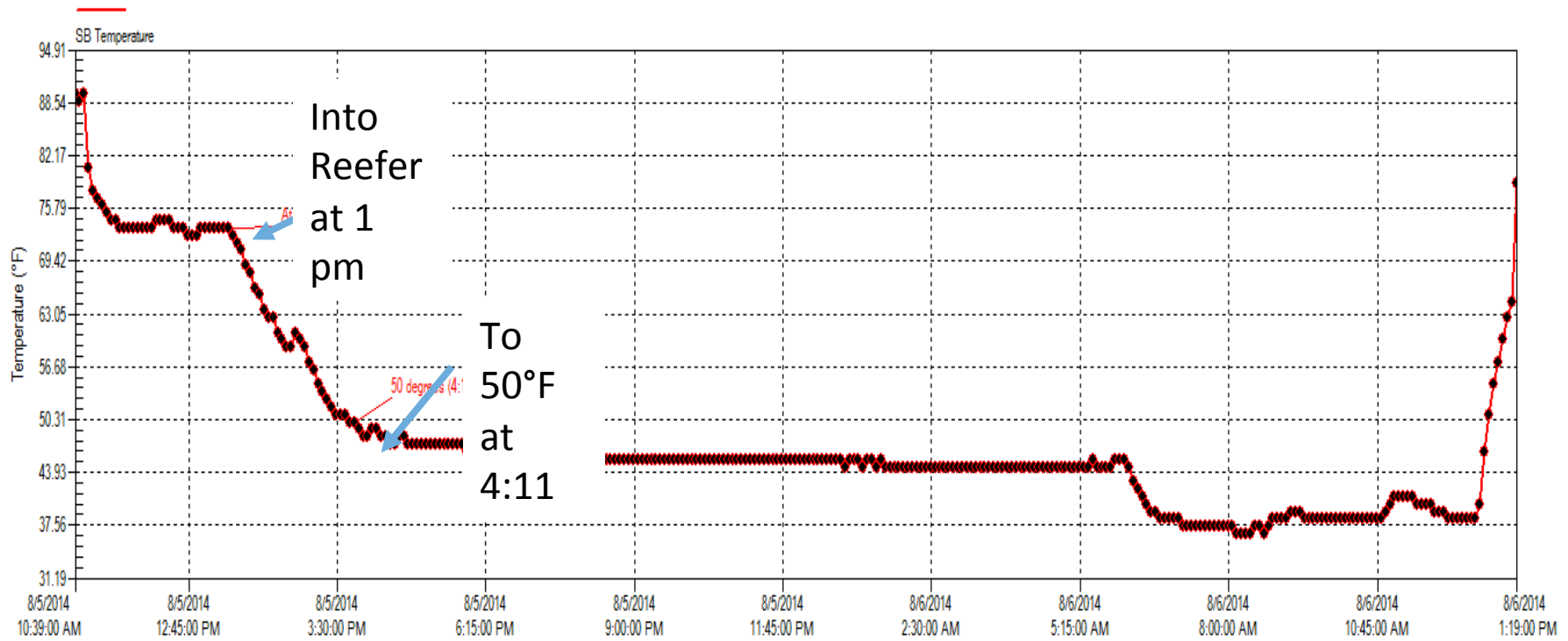
# Cooling Profile: Packed in Direct Ice

NRB New Haven L-344 72314  
3374327 SB2K\_DS1921G 000000337CF7 (2014-8



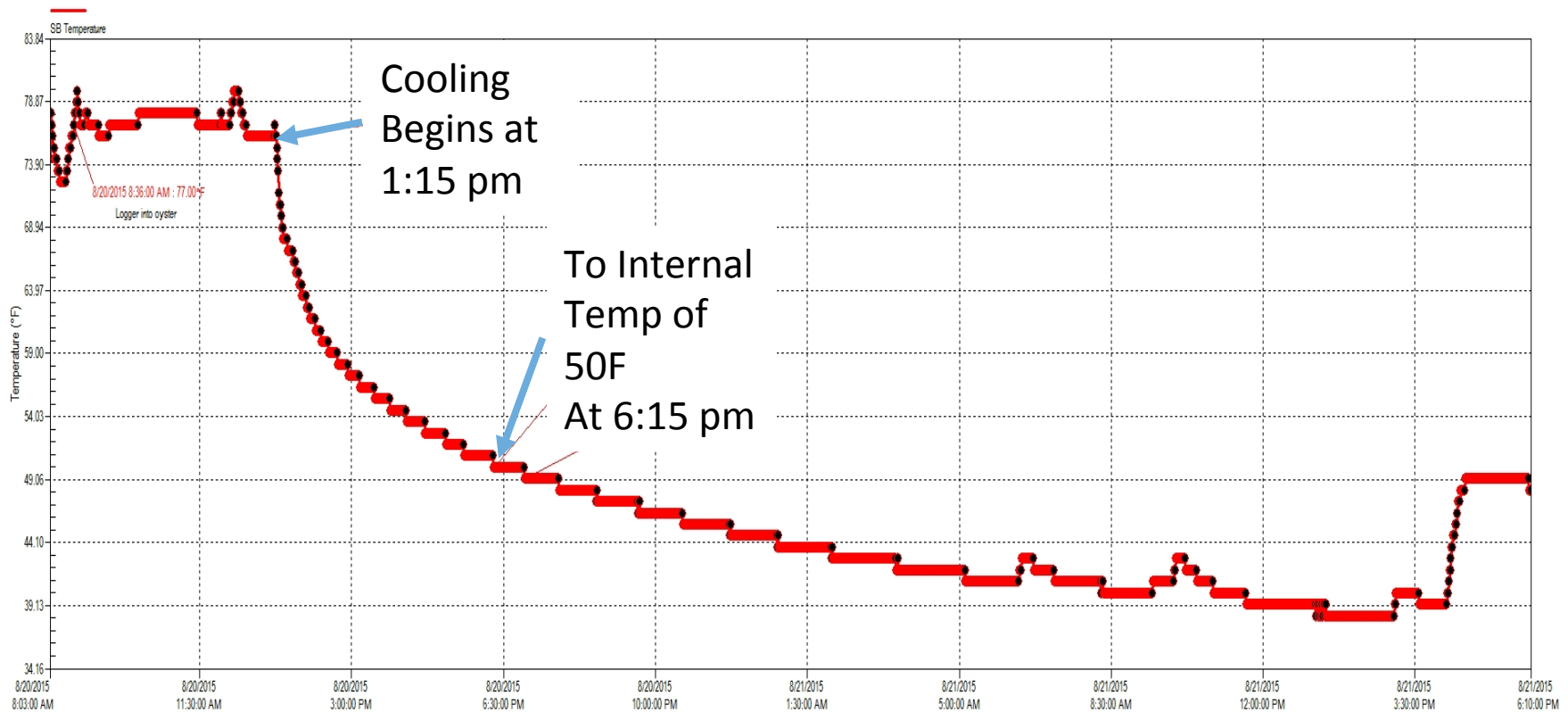
# Cooling Profile: Refrigerated Truck

337



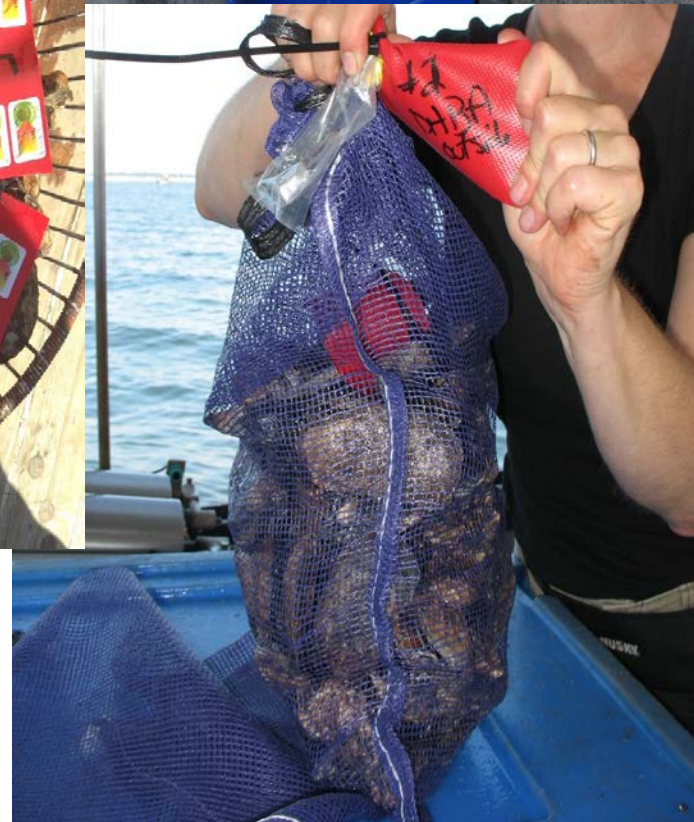
# Cooling Profile: Mechanical Refrigeration 5 Hours

8.20.15 00000033899F  
3377567 SB2K\_DS1921G 00000033899F (2015-9-1 15.37.58)





# CT 2015 ISSC Study



# CT 2015 ISSC Study: Techniques and Practices for Vp Reduction

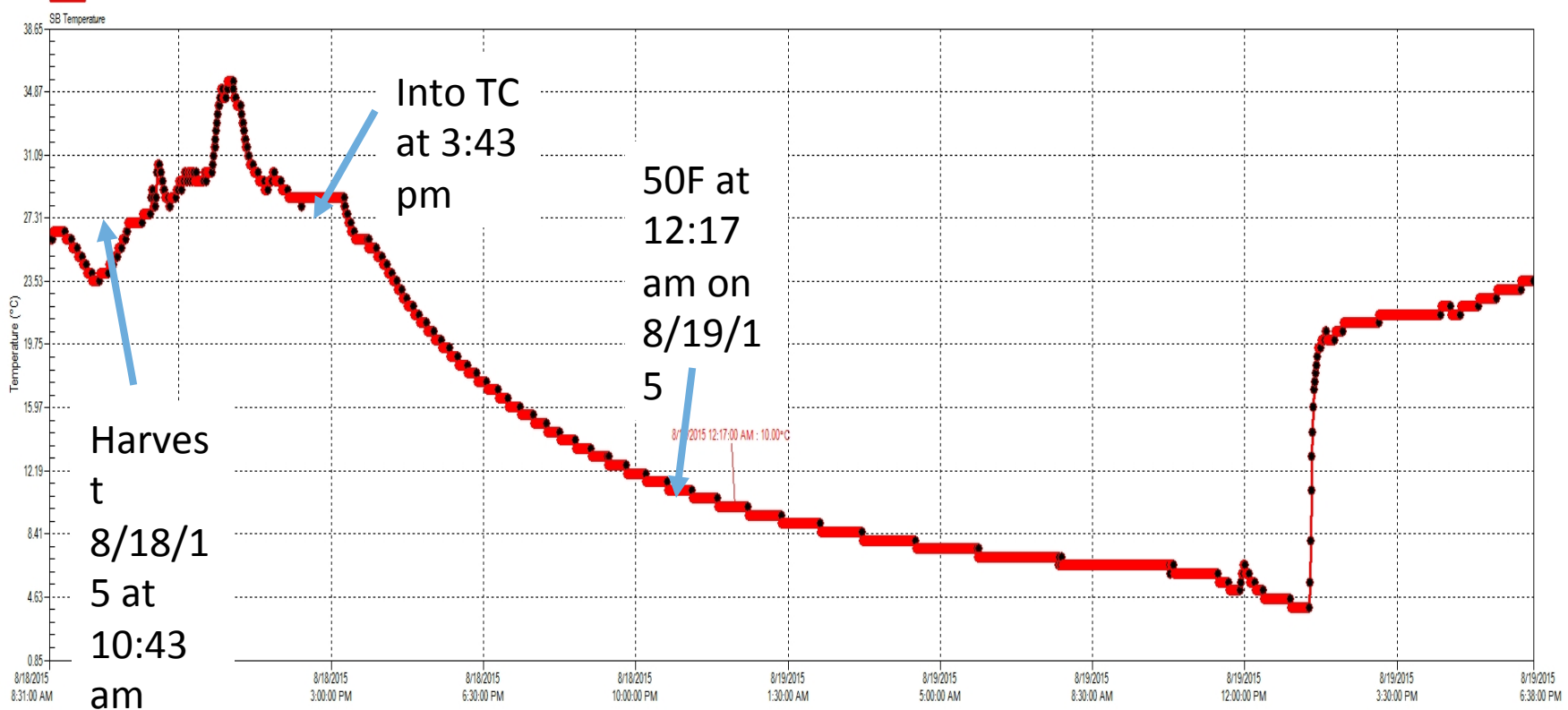
- Baseline/Zero Hour: Immediate rapid cooling to internal temperature of 50°F or less using ice slurry
- 1 hour from harvest to internal temperature of 50°F or less using ice slurry
- 3 hours from harvest to internal temperature of 50°F or less using ice slurry
- 5 hours from harvest to internal temperature of 50°F or less using ice slurry
- NSSP standard VPCP: 5 hours from harvest into traditional mechanical temperature control and 10 hours to an internal temperature of 50°F



# Temperature Profile: 5 Hours from Harvest to Temperature Control/ 10 Hours to 50F

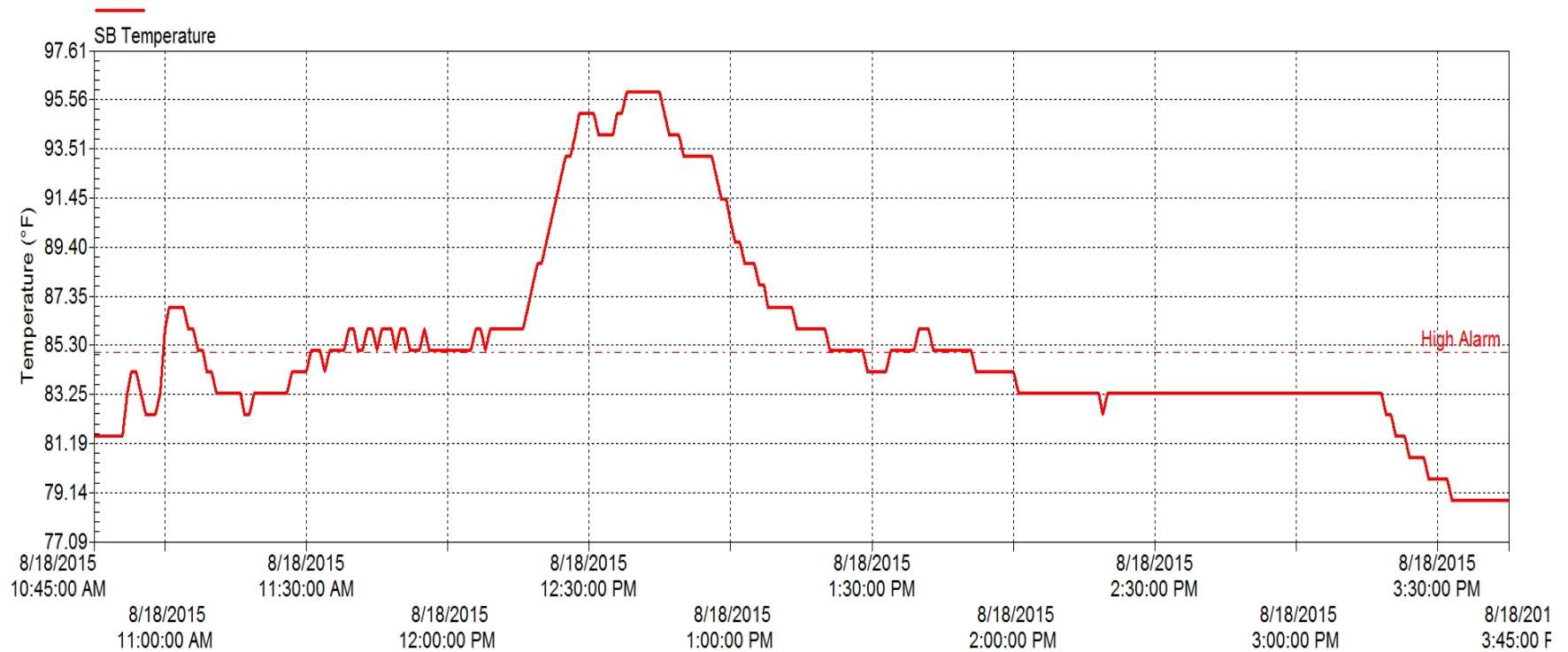
08.18.15 0000003365DB

3368411 SB2K\_DS1921G 0000003365DB (2015-8-31 14.3.6)



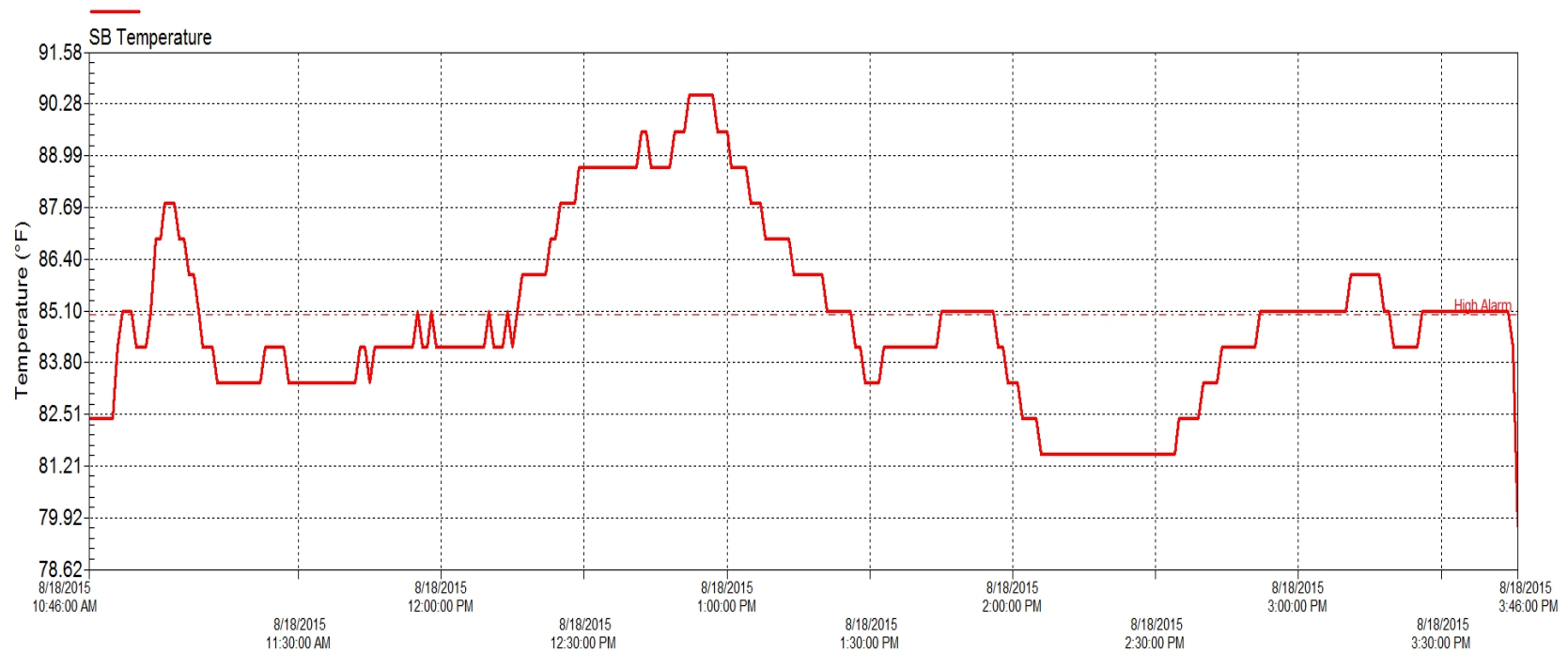
# Ambient Temp: 5 Hours on Deck (8/18/15)

08.18.15 3365DB

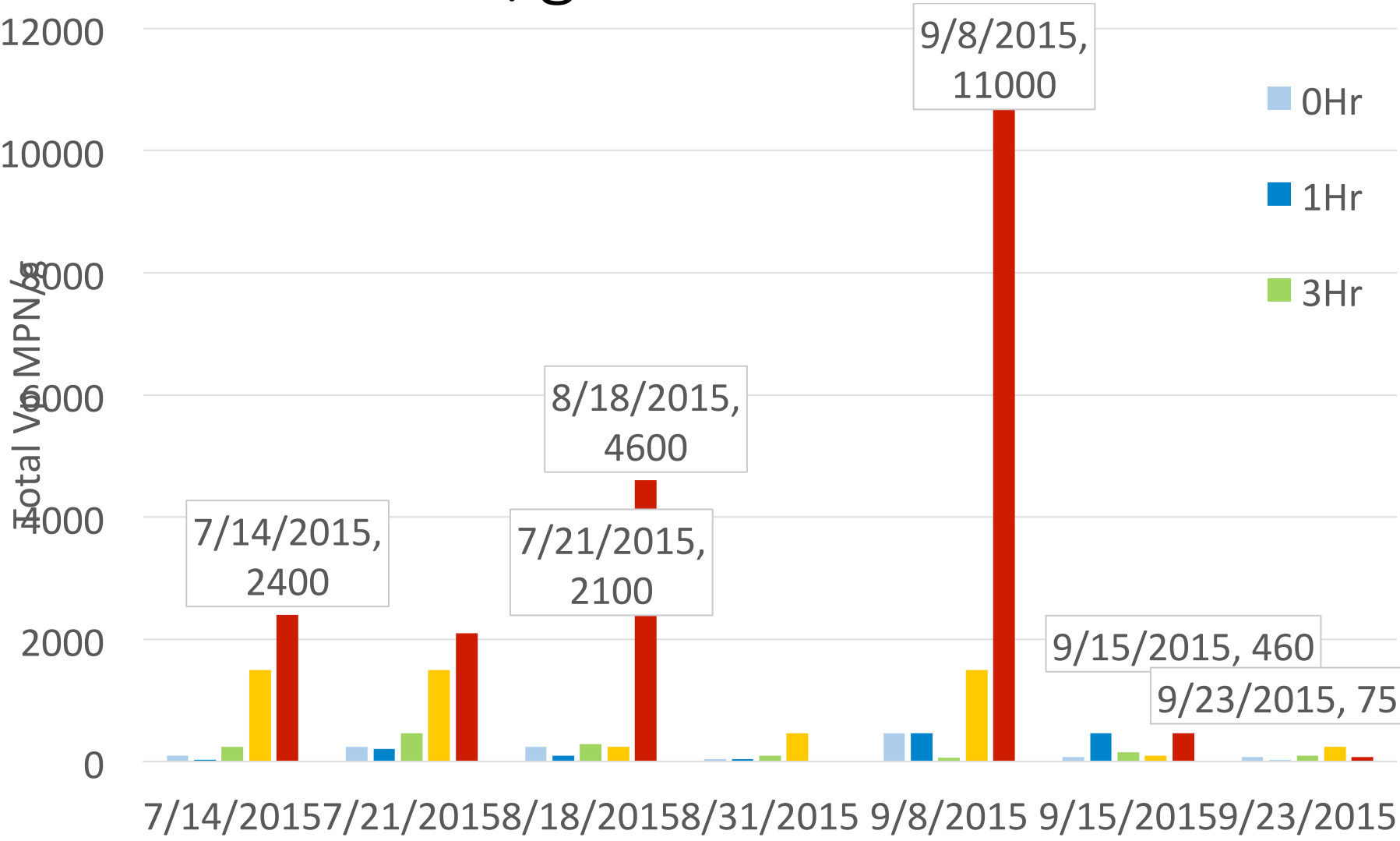


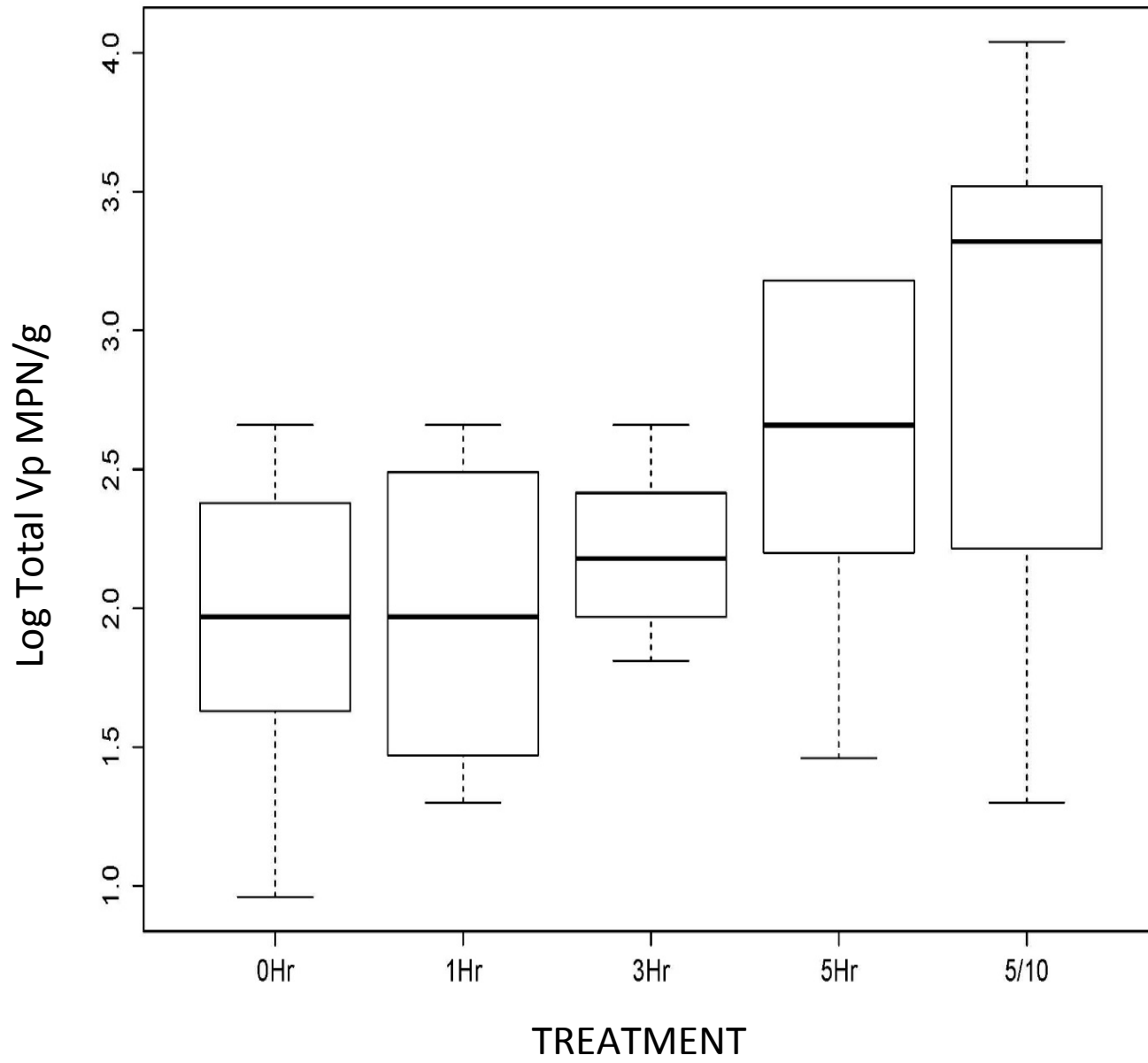
# Internal Oyster Temp 5 Hours on Deck (8/18/15)

08.18.15 000000337E77



# Process Study: Total Vp MPN/g





# Modeling *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Outbreaks in Commercial Shellfish Areas

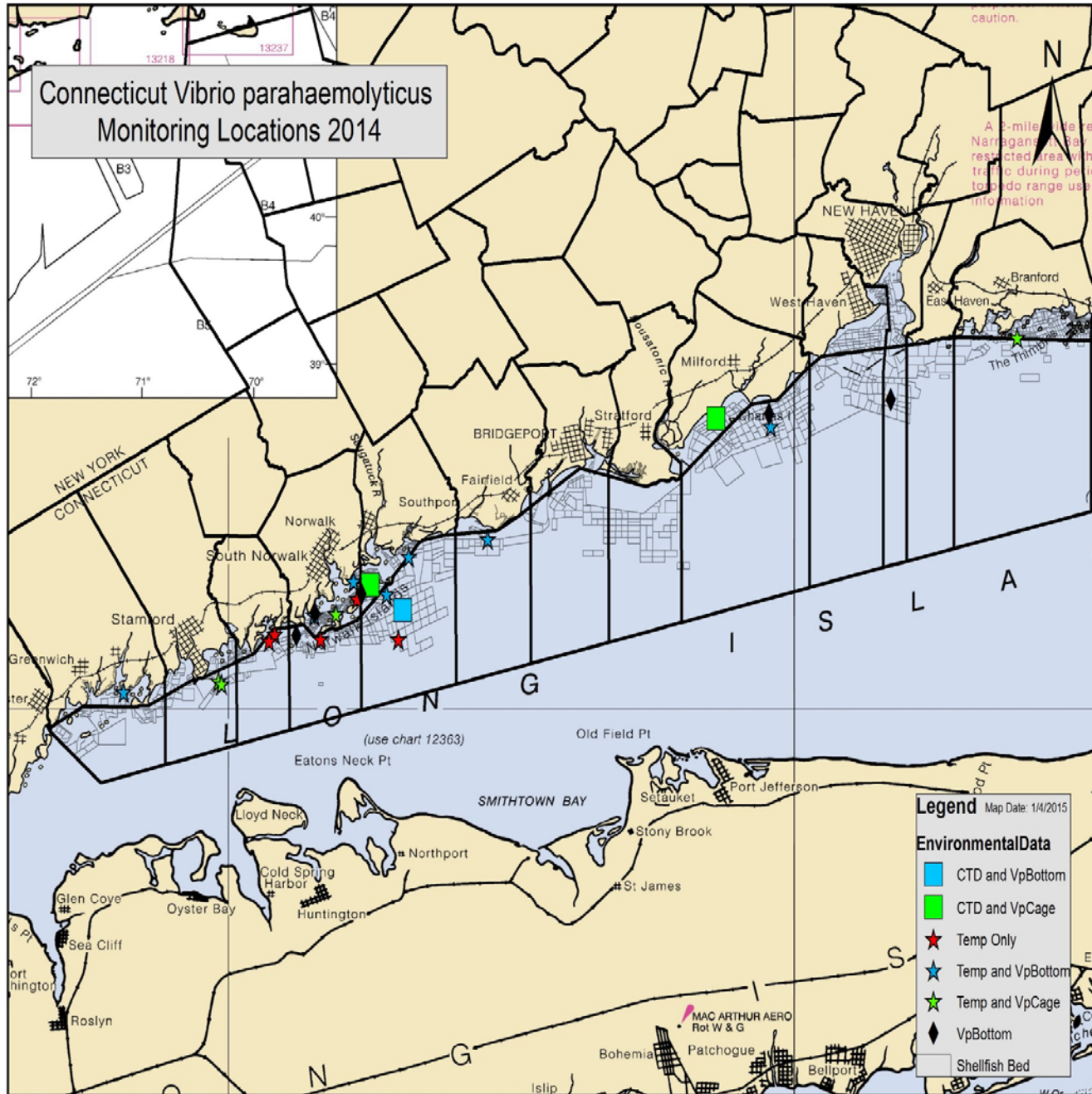
Principal investigators are [Mike Whitney](#) (UConn Marine Sciences), [Evan Ward](#) (UConn Marine Sciences), and [Kristin DeRosia-Banick](#) (CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture)

**How do the spatial and temporal patterns in water temperature and salinity over Norwalk/Westport commercial shellfish areas influence *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* concentrations in oysters?**

Project Page: <http://cprime.uconn.edu/vibrio/>

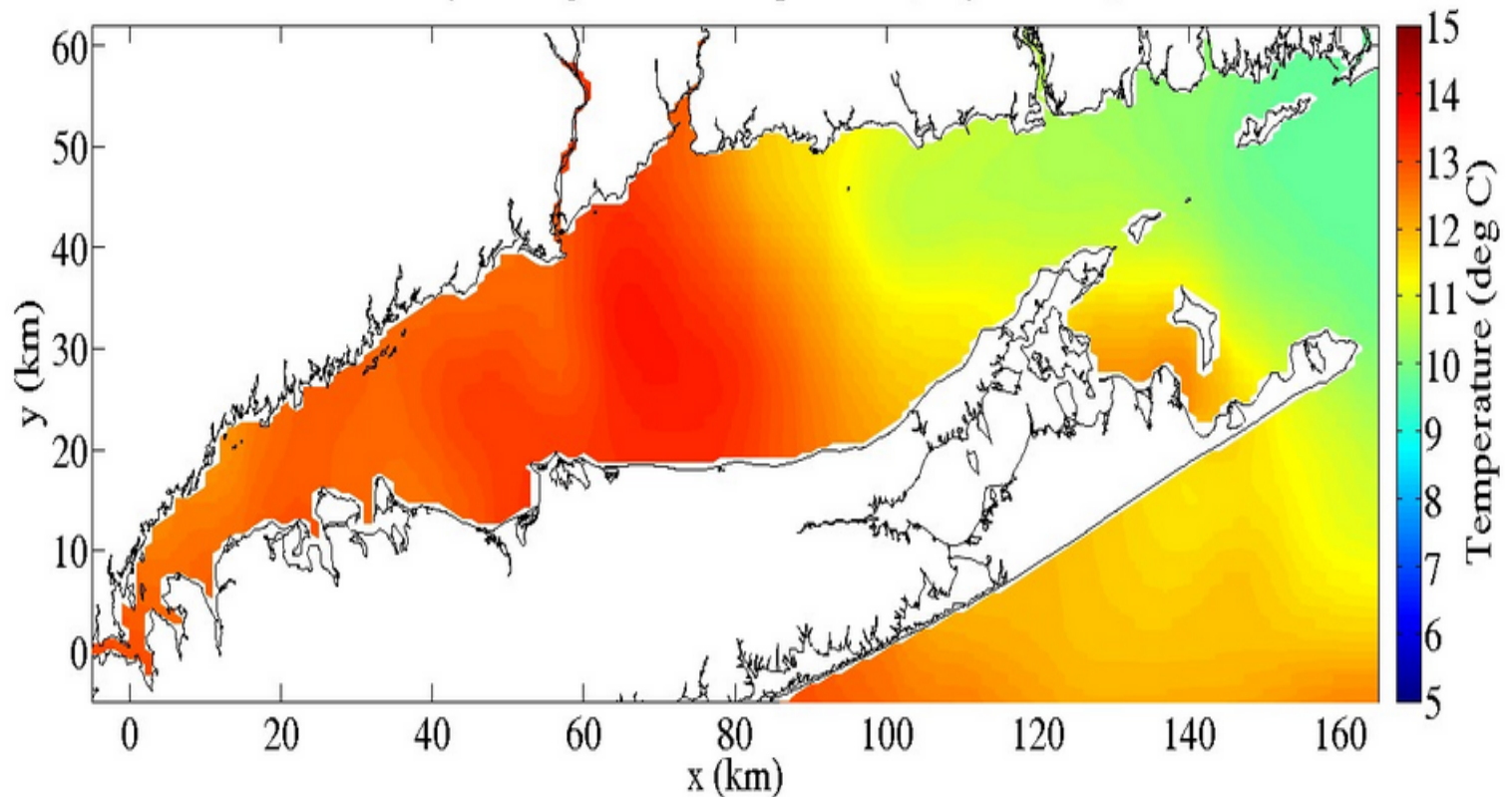
Funding Provided by Connecticut Sea Grant, University of Connecticut through Award No. NA14OAR4170086, Project Number R/EM-2





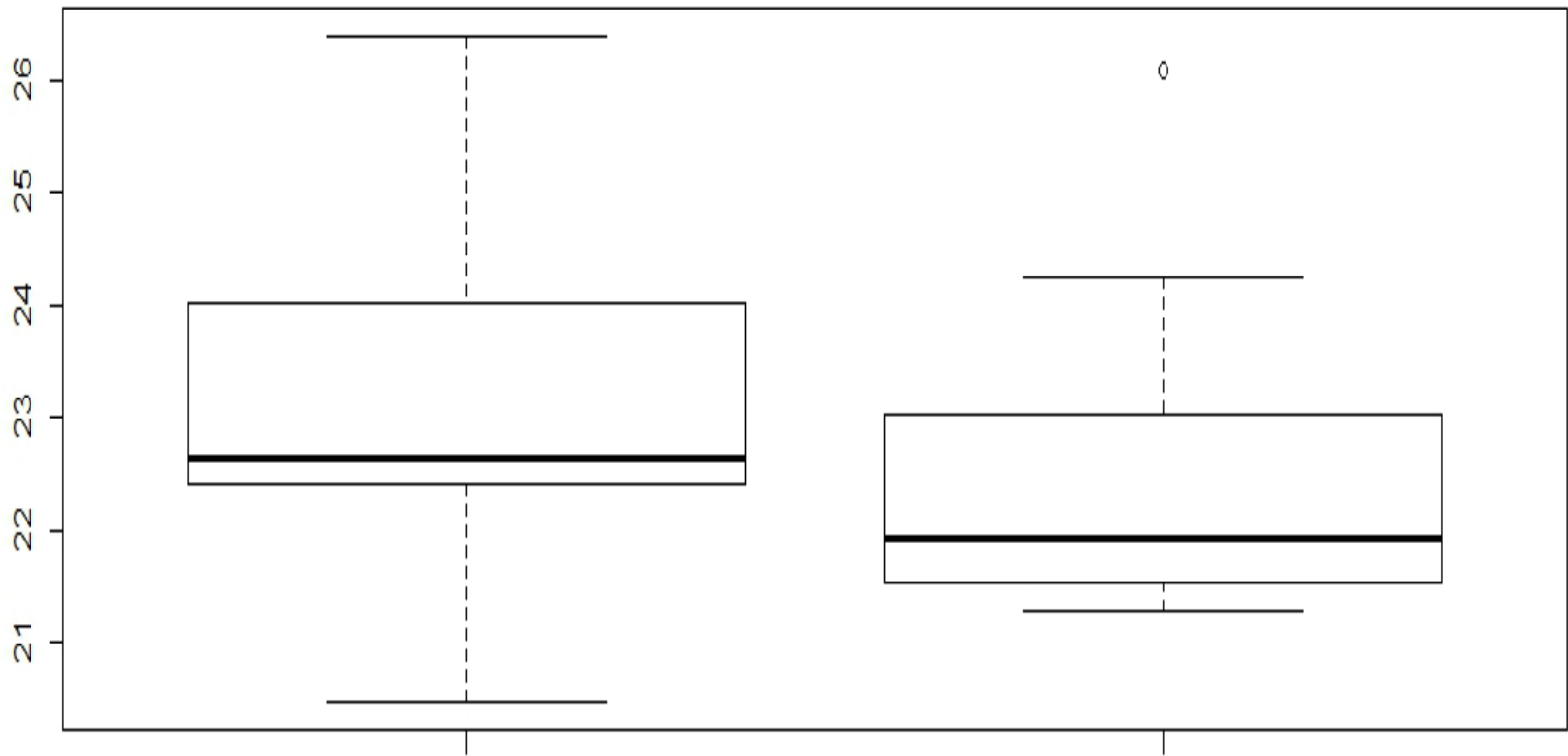
# 2015 VPCP Risk Assessment: Water Temperatures Associated with CT Vp Illnesses

Weekly-average surface temperature (May 22 2015)



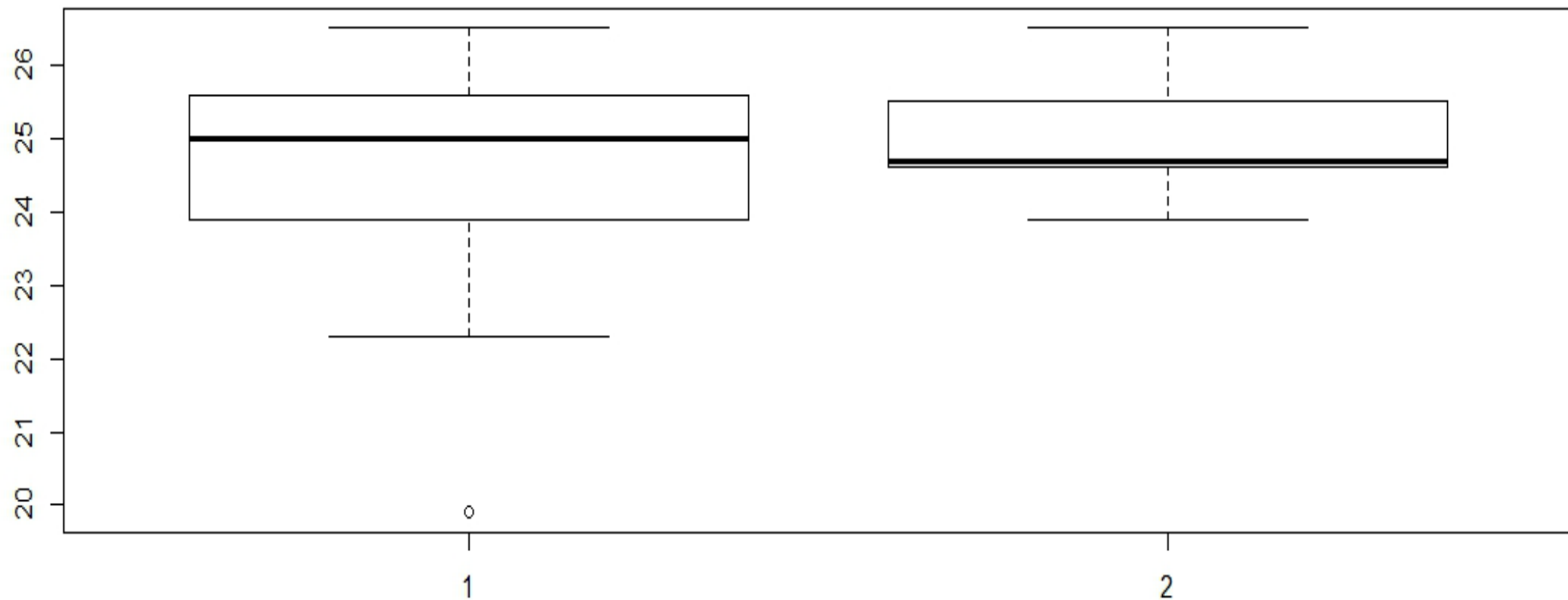
Surface temperatures from GISST satellite-observational product. Temperatures are averaged over the previous 7 days.

# 2015 VPCP Risk Assessment: Water Temperatures Associated with CT Vp Illnesses



*NASA G1SST Daily Seawater Surface Temperature in C associated with Vp illnesses, plotted by Traceback Code. Only confirmed CT source cases, Code 1 cases are single CT source harvest location/date, code 2 cases were confirmed CT source, multiple potential CT harvest location/date.*

# 2015 VPCP Risk Assessment: Water Temperatures Associated with CT Vp Illnesses

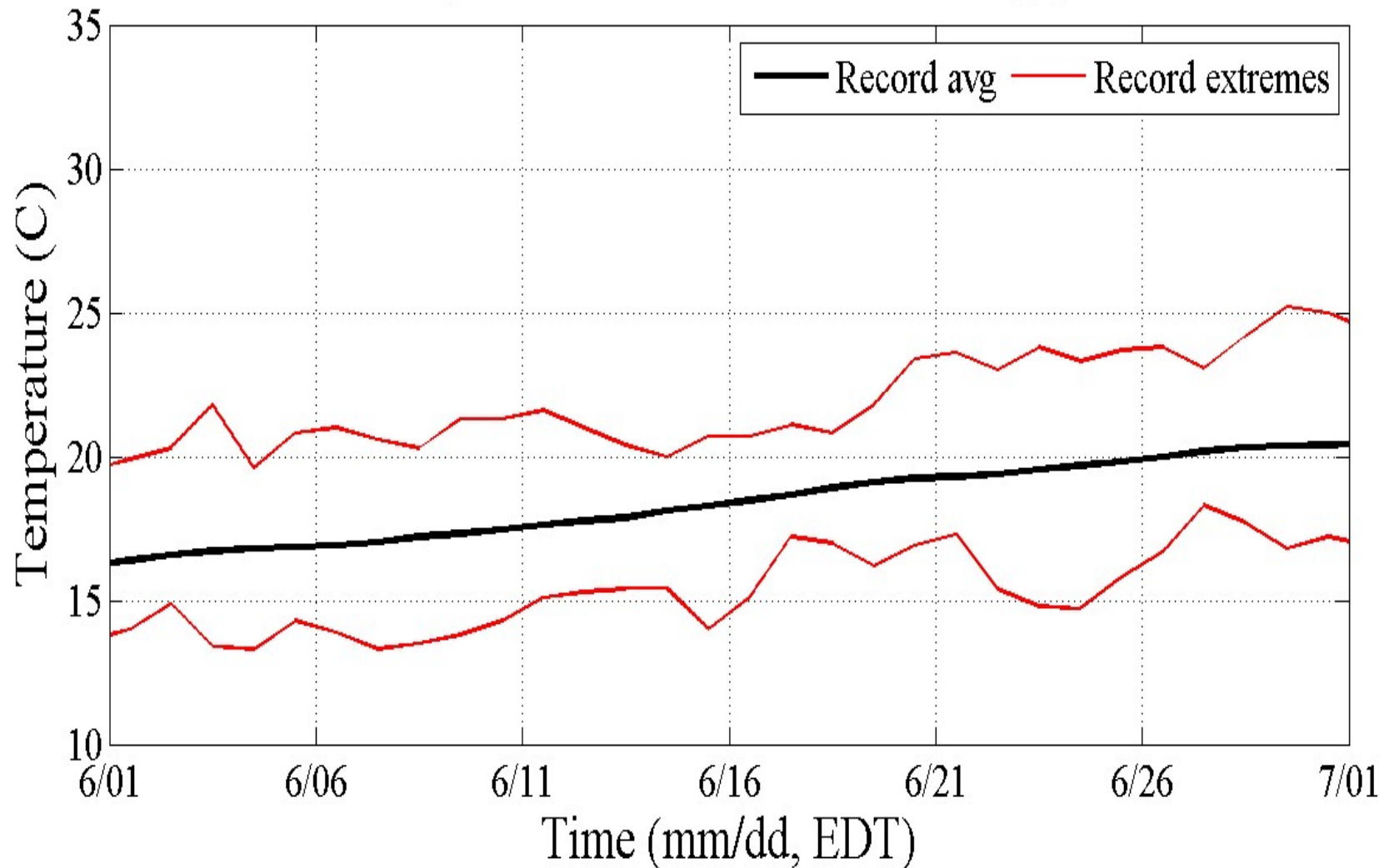


*NOAA BRHC3 Daily Maximum Seawater Surface Temperature in C associated with Vp illnesses, plotted by Traceback Code. Only confirmed CT source cases, Code 1 cases are single CT source harvest location/date, code 2 cases were confirmed CT source, multiple potential CT harvest location/date.*

2015 VPCP:

Water Temperature Trigger Based on Risk Assessment

Water temperature at NOAA station: Bridgeport CT

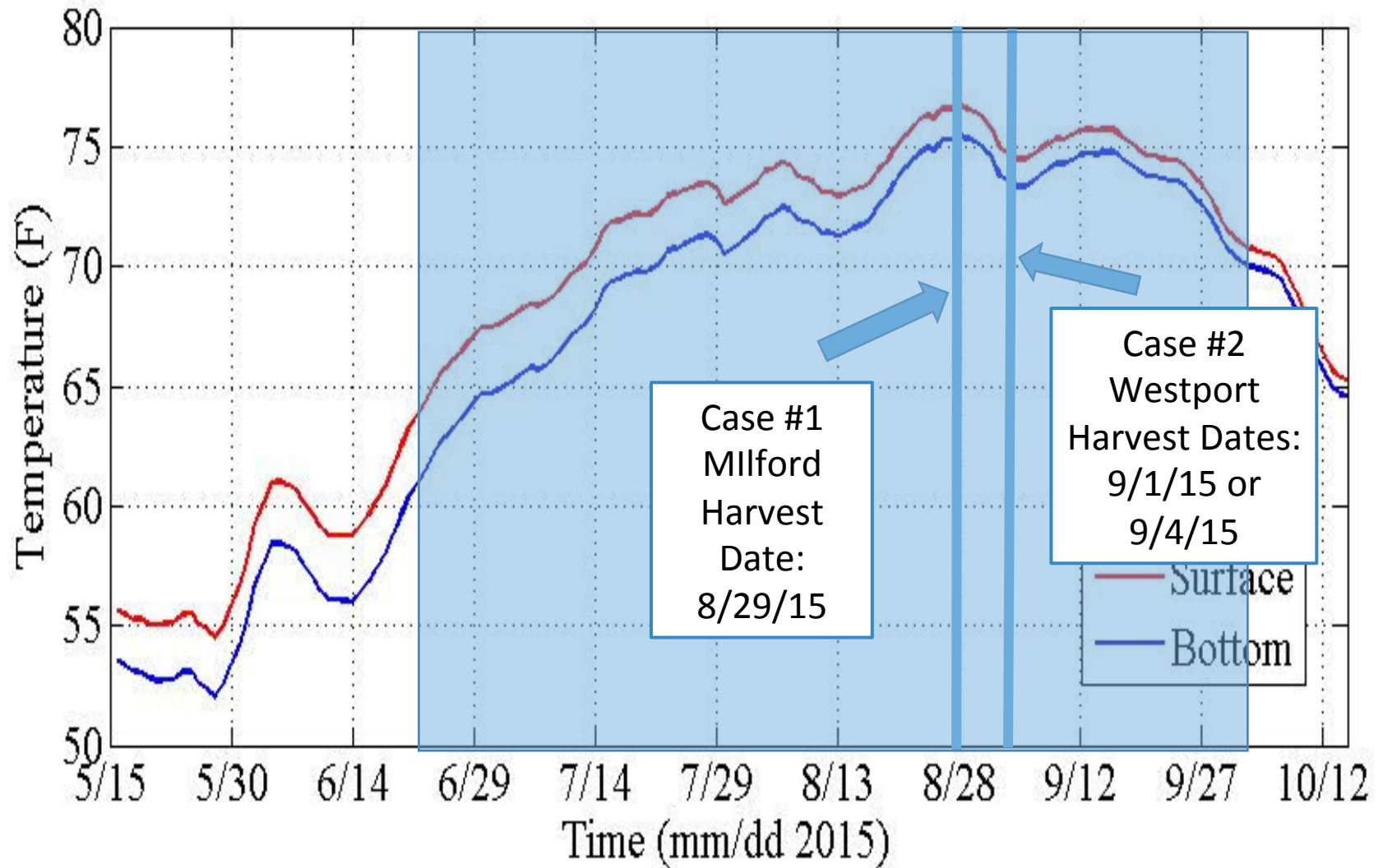


## 2015 VPCP:

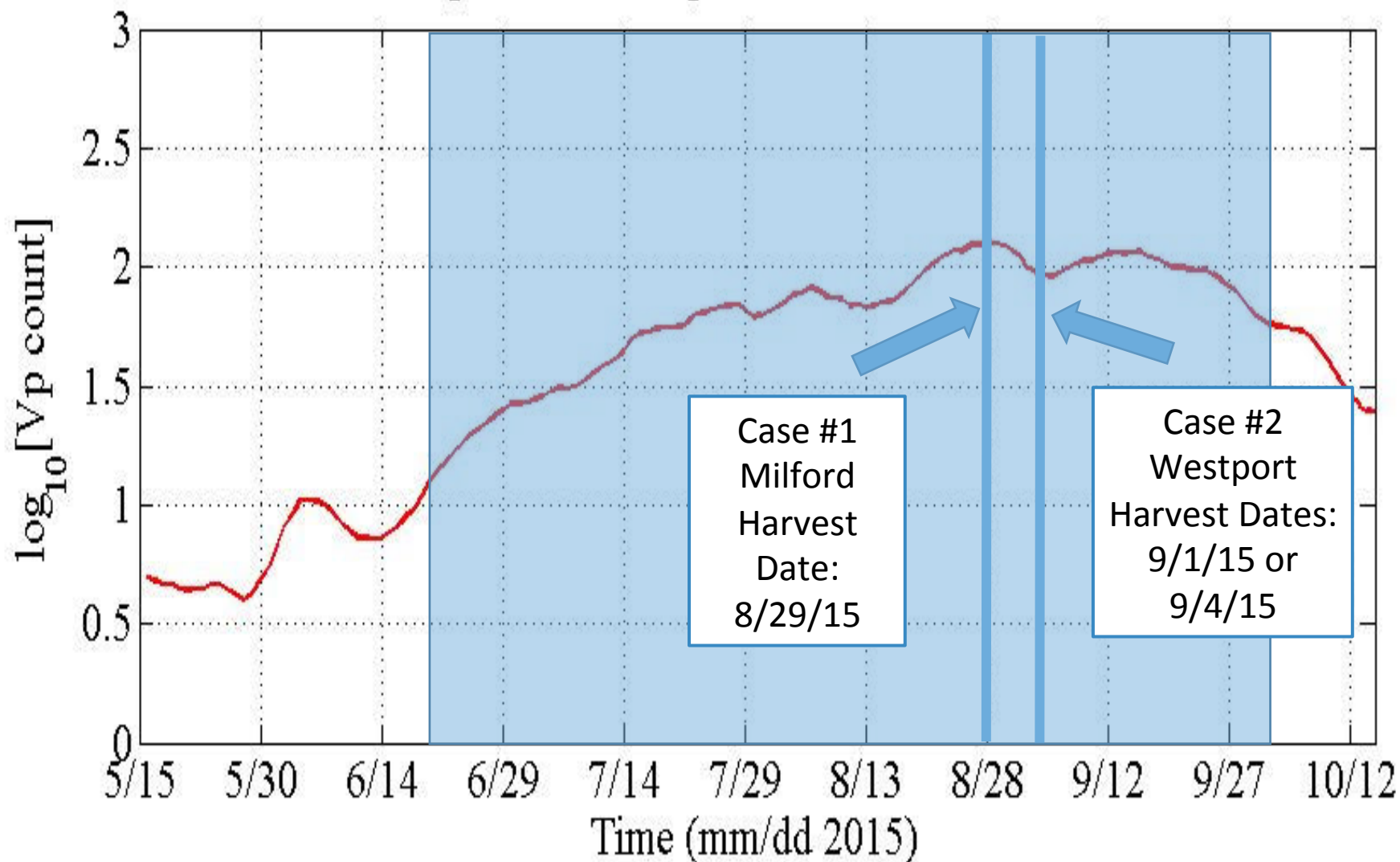
### Water Temperature Trigger Based on Risk Assessment

- In 2015 we triggered the Rapid Cooling VPCP based on surface water temperatures of 20°C/68°F rather than the 2015 trigger of June 1
- We were able to predict the approximate date when water temperatures were likely to hit the trigger based on the historical means and extremes so that growers could prepare for when the rapid cooling controls were likely to start
- Trigger for 5 Hour VPCP remained June 1th through September 30th
- During 2015 we were able to trigger the Rapid Cooling controls on June 19<sup>th</sup>, almost 3 weeks later than we would have using the previous risk assessments
- End of VPCP controls remained the same September 30<sup>th</sup>, as water temperatures did not drop below 20°C
- In 2015, no cases were confirmed prior to the June 19<sup>th</sup> Rapid Cooling trigger

Average estimated temperatures for western CT coast

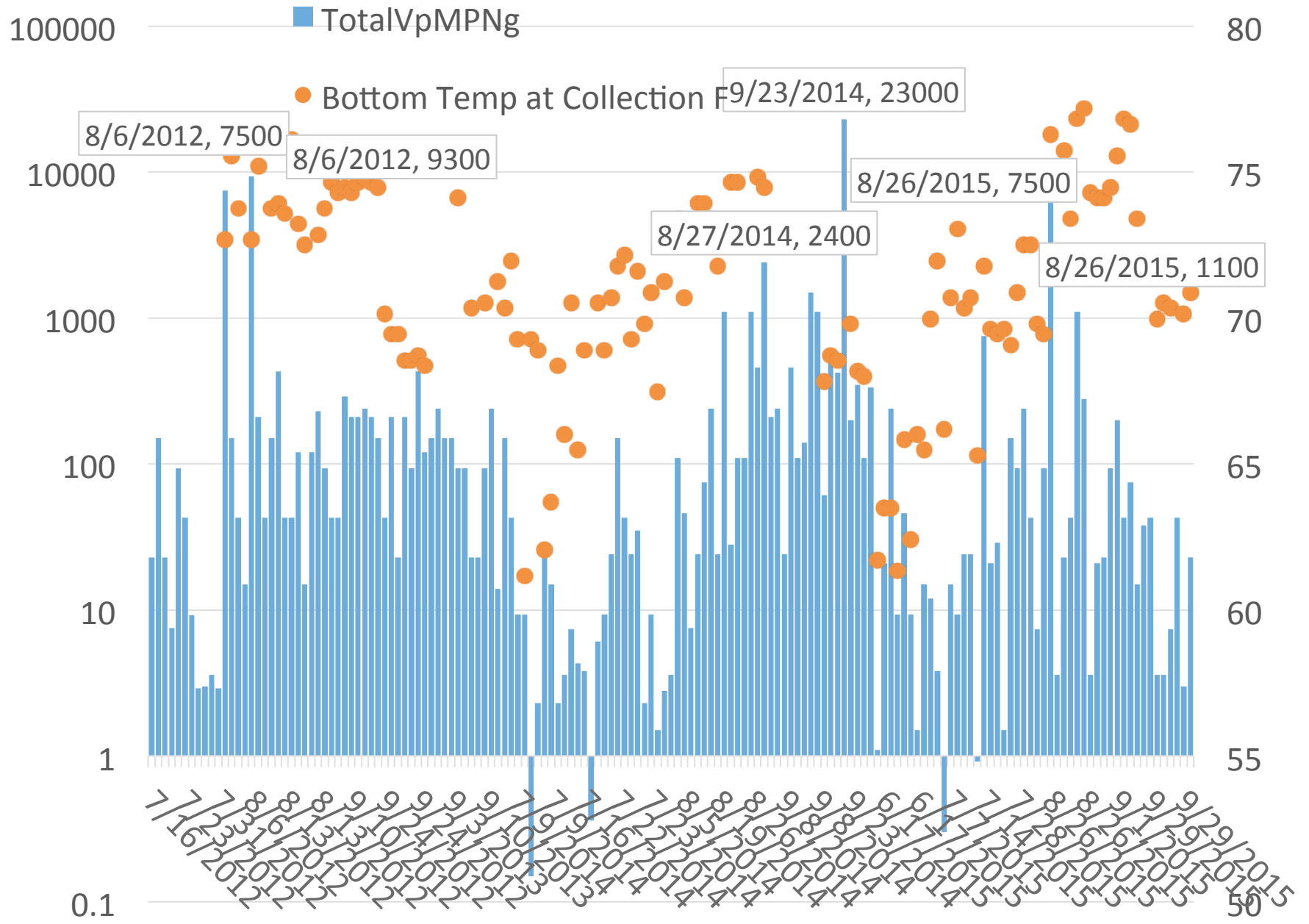


## Average estimated Vp levels for western CT coast



Vp counts in pre-harvest oyster tissue calculated using the FDA Quantitative Risk Assessment with bottom temperature and salinity estimates as inputs.





# Acknowledgements and THANKS!!!

**ISSC**

**USFDA**

Andy DePaola, Jessica Jones, John Bowers,  
Amy Fitzpatrick, Don Ullstrom

**UCONN Marine Science and Connecticut Sea  
Grant Partners**

Michael Whitney, Evan Ward, Tessa Getchis

**CT Industry Partners and Captains**

**Norm Bloom & Sons**

**CT Department of Public Health**

**Epidemiology and Emerging Infections  
Program**

Quyen Phan, MPH

**Department of Agriculture Bureau of  
Aquaculture**

**David Carey, Director**

Joseph DeCrescenzo, Alissa Dragan, David  
Lamoureux, Jr., Jenifer Yeadon

