



Methods and Materials

In order to measure settlement of the common eastern oyster *Crassostrea virginica* in the Mullica River Great Bay (MRGB) estuary, 10 sites along the salinity gradient were chosen. These sites begin downstream at the known beds of Fitney Point areas approximately 40 km upriver (Collin's Point) where local waterman and NJDEP data collection efforts note increasing spatial coverage of oyster beds (Figure 2). Spat collection bags (370 mm x 300 mm / 25mm mesh size) consisting of 20 clean and flat oyster shells of average size 3" were deployed from June 1-September 30 of each year (2014 and 2015). In addition to the biweekly monitoring bags, five "seasonal" bags spread evenly (Collin's Point, East Bridge, Moss