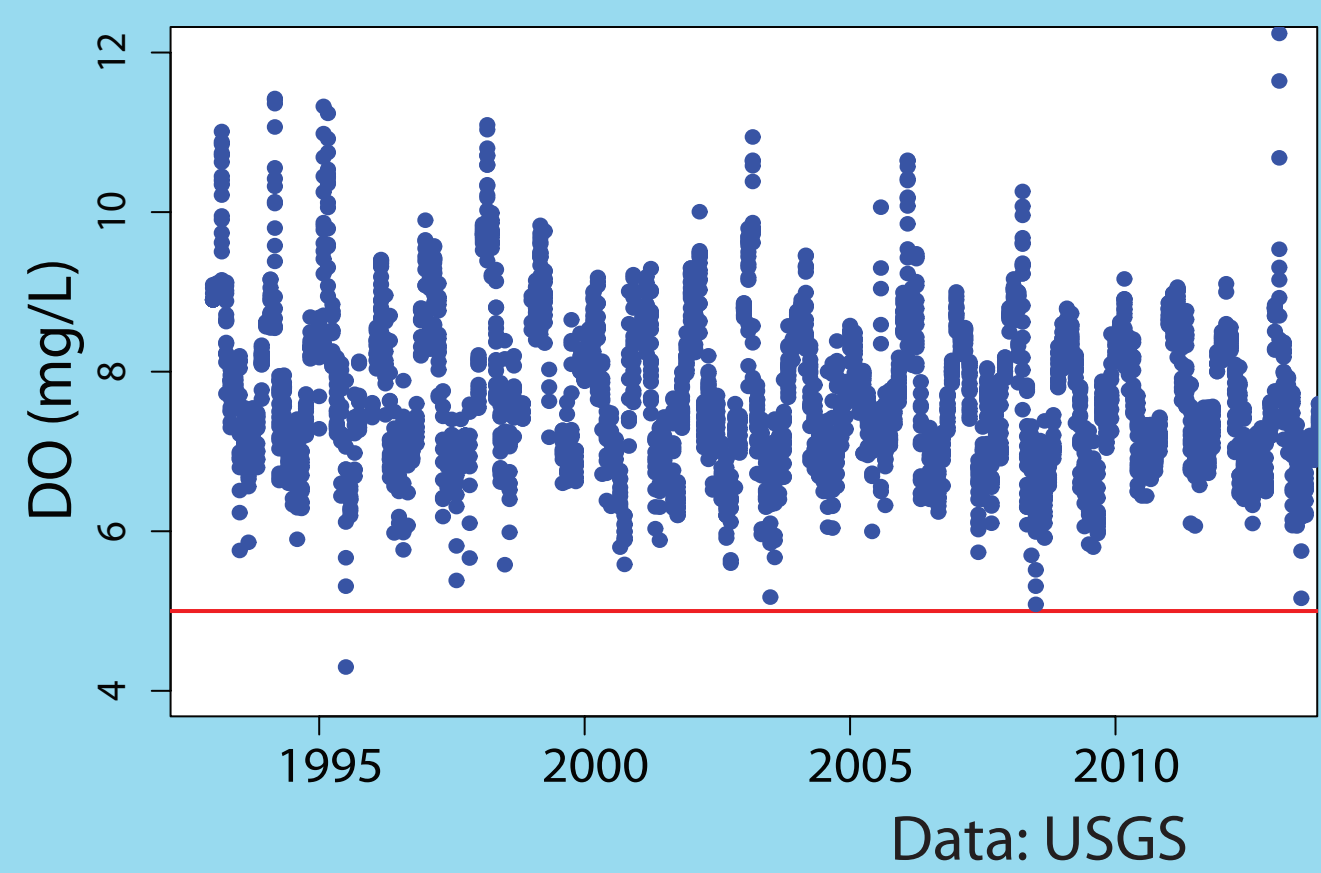


# DISSOLVED OXYGEN IN SOUTH BAY SLOUGHS

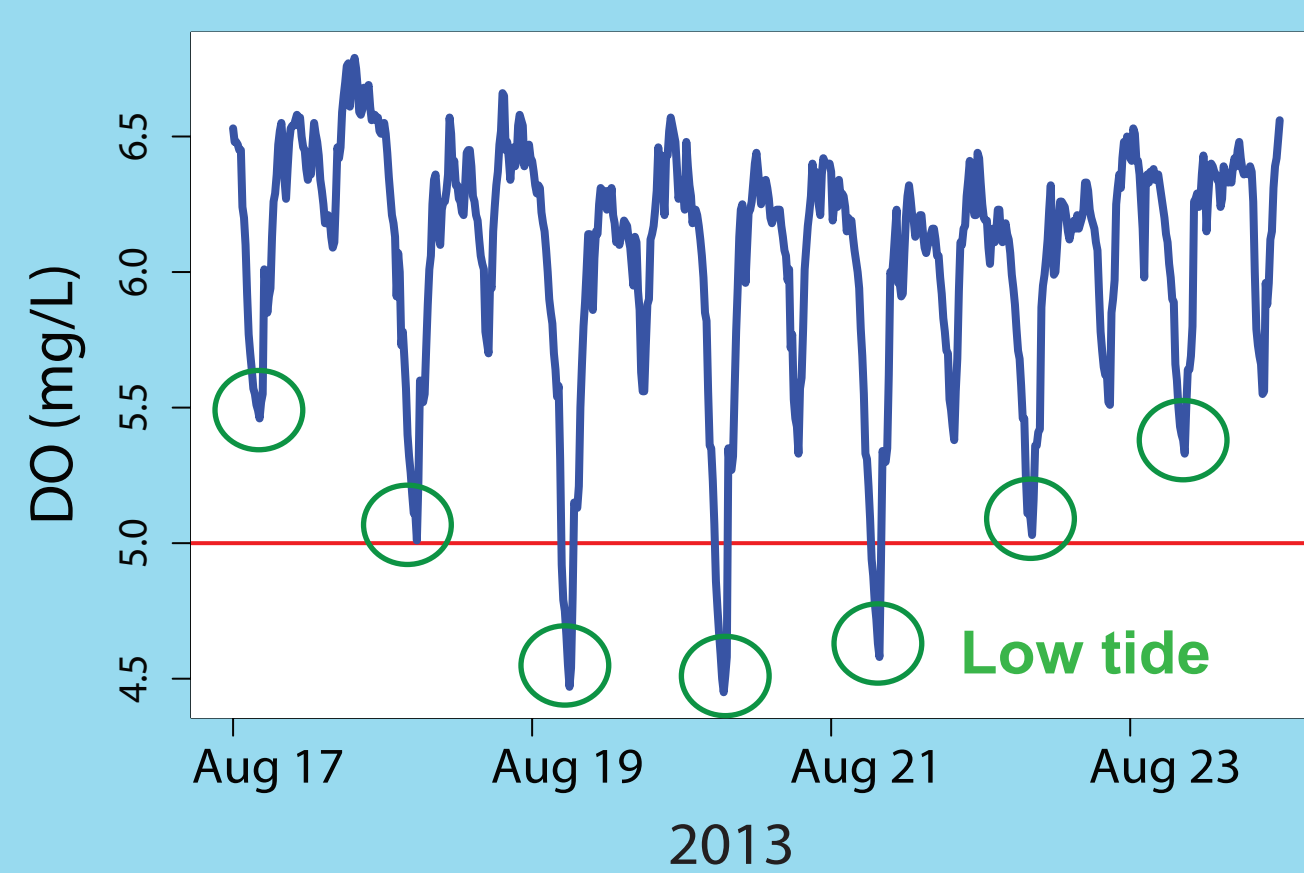
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## WHY MONITOR THE SLOUGHS?



Dissolved oxygen (DO) monitoring in South San Francisco Bay has historically occurred 1-2x monthly and average concentrations are typically 6-8 mg/L despite high nutrient loading to this region.



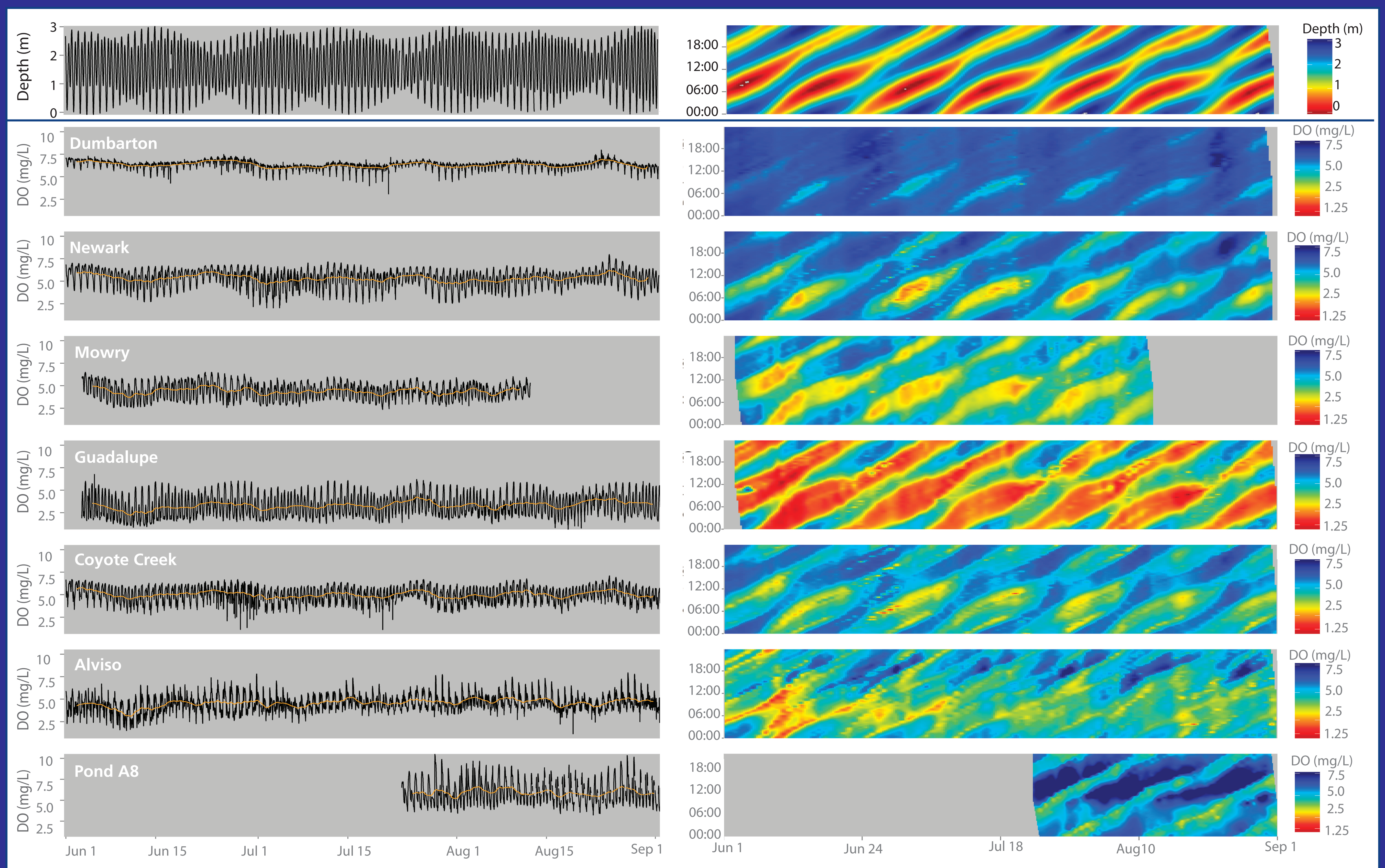
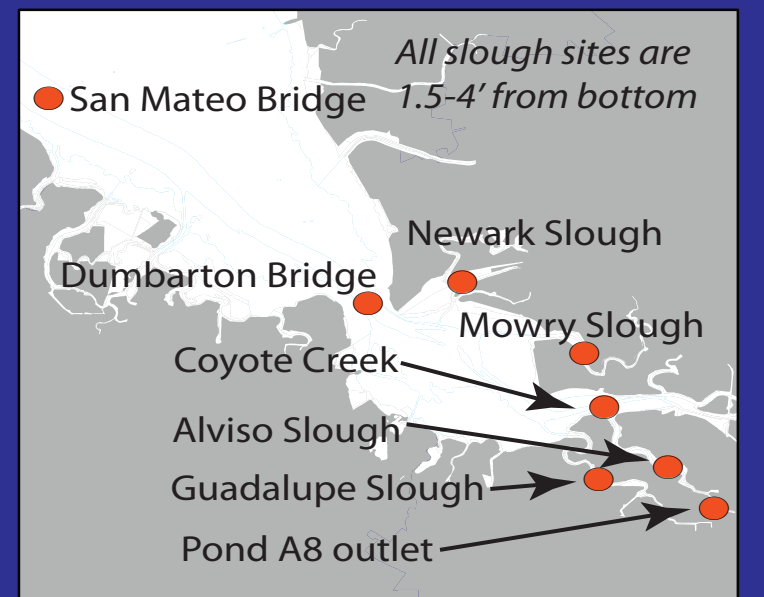
However, recent high frequency data at the Dumbarton Bridge has shown DO can dip below 5 mg/L in the deep channel on spring ebb tides.

We hypothesize that this is caused by exchange with low DO water in sloughs and wetlands, where initial observations at one moored slough site show DO frequently drops below 5 mg/L and is often 2-3 mg/L. In this project, we established a network of continuous sensors at slough and channel sites to answer the following questions:

1. How do DO concentrations in sloughs vary in space and time?
2. What mechanisms control the frequency, duration and severity of low-DO events?
3. How does exchange with sloughs affect conditions in the open Bay?

## HOW DOES OXYGEN VARY IN SPACE AND TIME?

Throughout Spring 2015 we installed 5 additional sensors in sloughs and creeks of Lower South Bay, bringing our total network to 8 sites. The figures below show data from all sites for 3 months in summer 2015. The left panel shows a time series, the right panel shows contour plots of date (x-axis) and time of day (y-axis). The top panel of each shows depth (m). Presence of freshwater input, salt pond connections and wastewater inputs noted next to each slough



- All slough sites experienced DO concentrations < 5mg/L, and many frequently had DO < 3 mg/L
- DO concentrations were lowest in the sloughs with direct salt-pond connections: Alviso Slough and Guadalupe Slough, with Guadalupe being the lowest overall
- There is considerable tidal variability in DO concentrations at all slough sites, as much as +/- 5 mg/L at some sites
- On a qualitative basis, DO appears to be regulated not by a diurnal production cycle, but by the semidiurnal and semimonthly tides

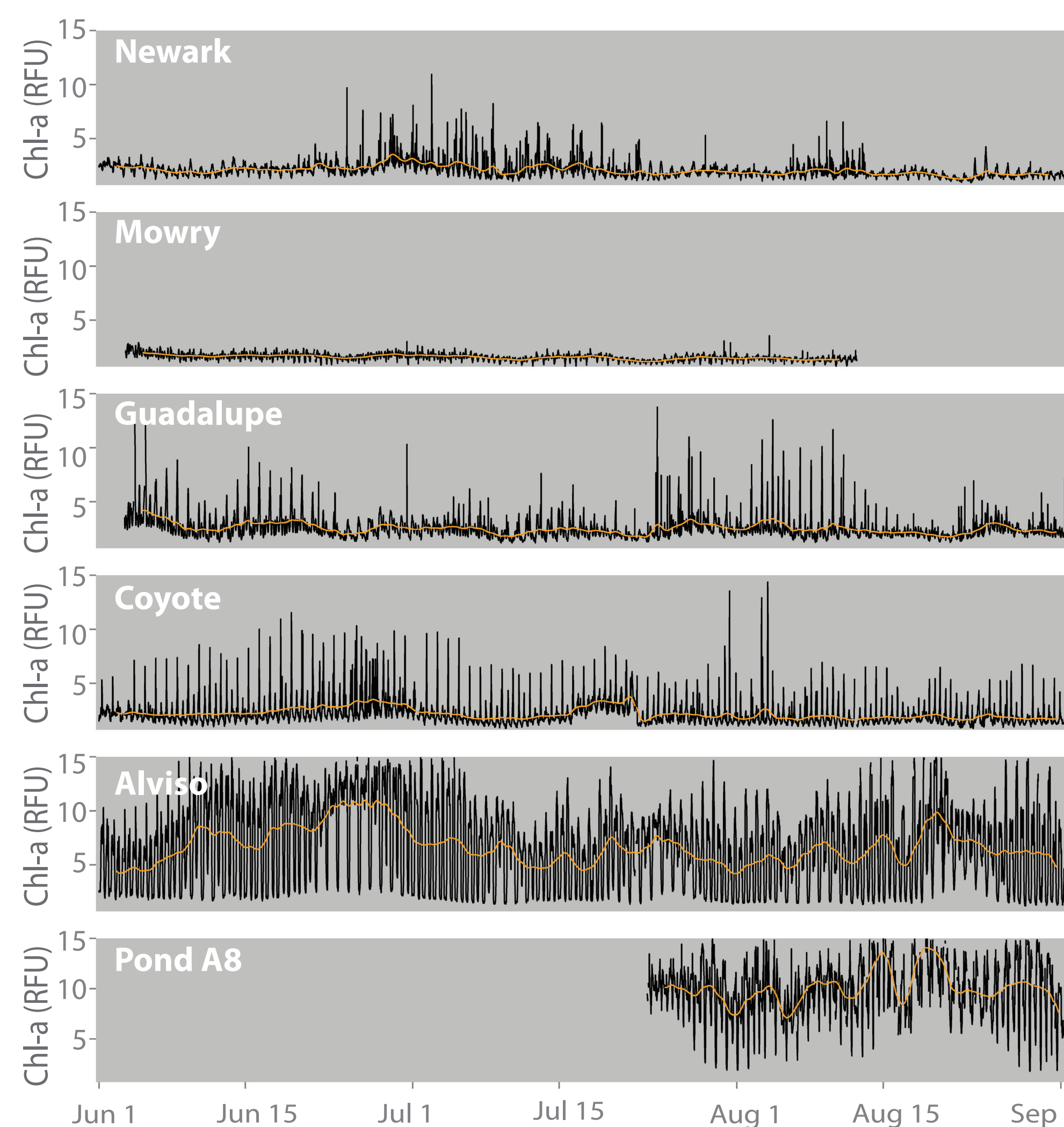
## WHAT MECHANISMS REGULATE OXYGEN CONCENTRATION?

### Production/Respiration

- Chl-a concentrations in sloughs are higher than in the open Bay, as much as 5-10x higher at some sites
- Respiration of chl-a and other organic matter could draw DO down more in sloughs with low volume:area ratios

### Physical Processes

- Stratification may contribute to low DO by restricting reaeration of bottom waters. Stratification has been observed previously in Alviso Slough
- DO is a minimum in Alviso and Guadalupe Sloughs on neap tides, when less flushing occurs with higher-DO waters of the open Bay



## NEXT STEPS

- Collect high-spatial resolution data (longitudinally and vertically) to complement the moored data to better characterize the extent of low-DO in sloughs
- Characterize the relative importance of biological and physical processes in controlling how sloughs respond to organic matter inputs
- Quantify how sloughs could affect conditions in the open Bay through a simple box-model (and ultimately complex 3D modeling)



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