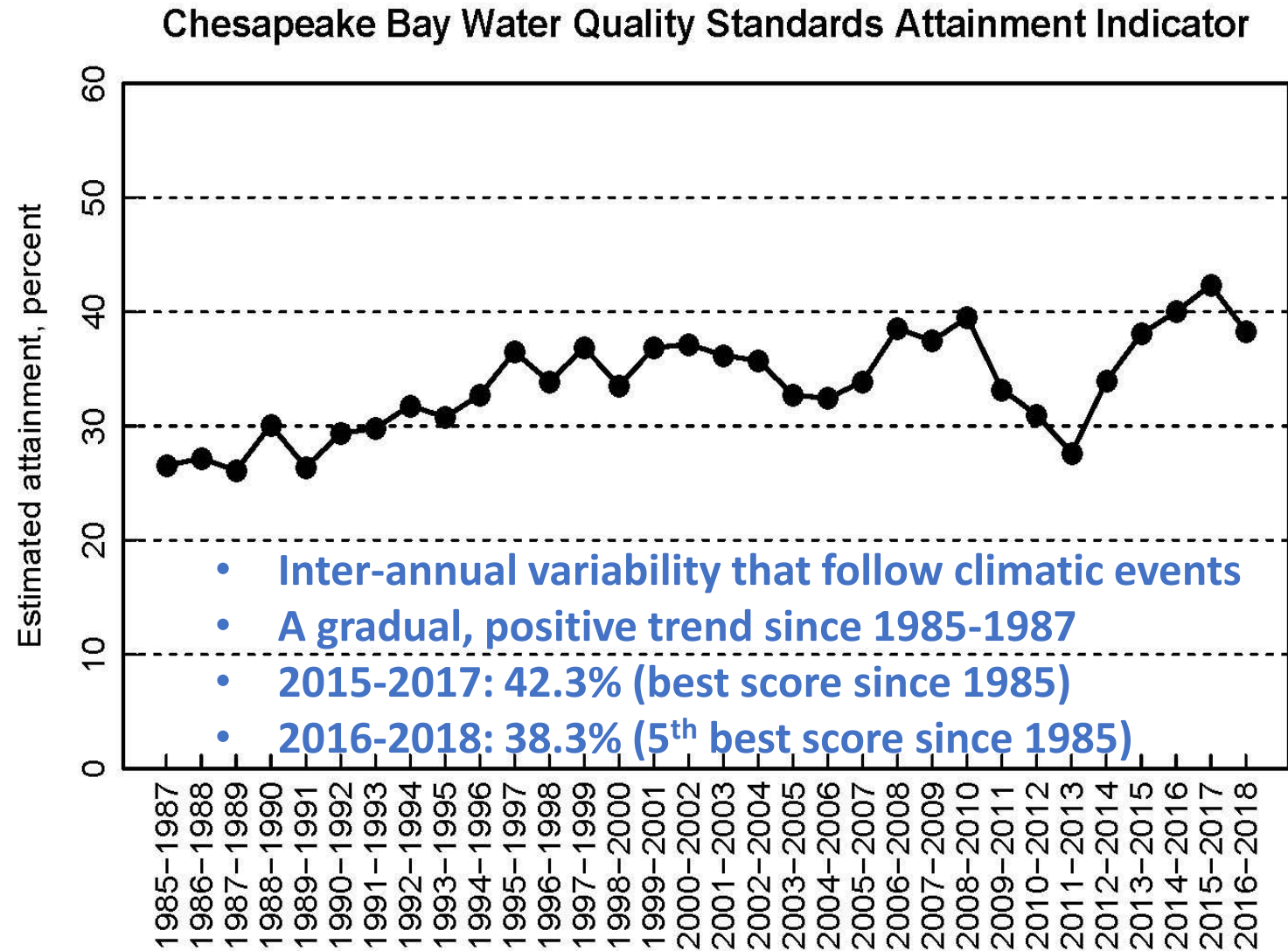


# **Water Quality Standards Attainment Indicator and a first look into “Attainment Sensitivity”**

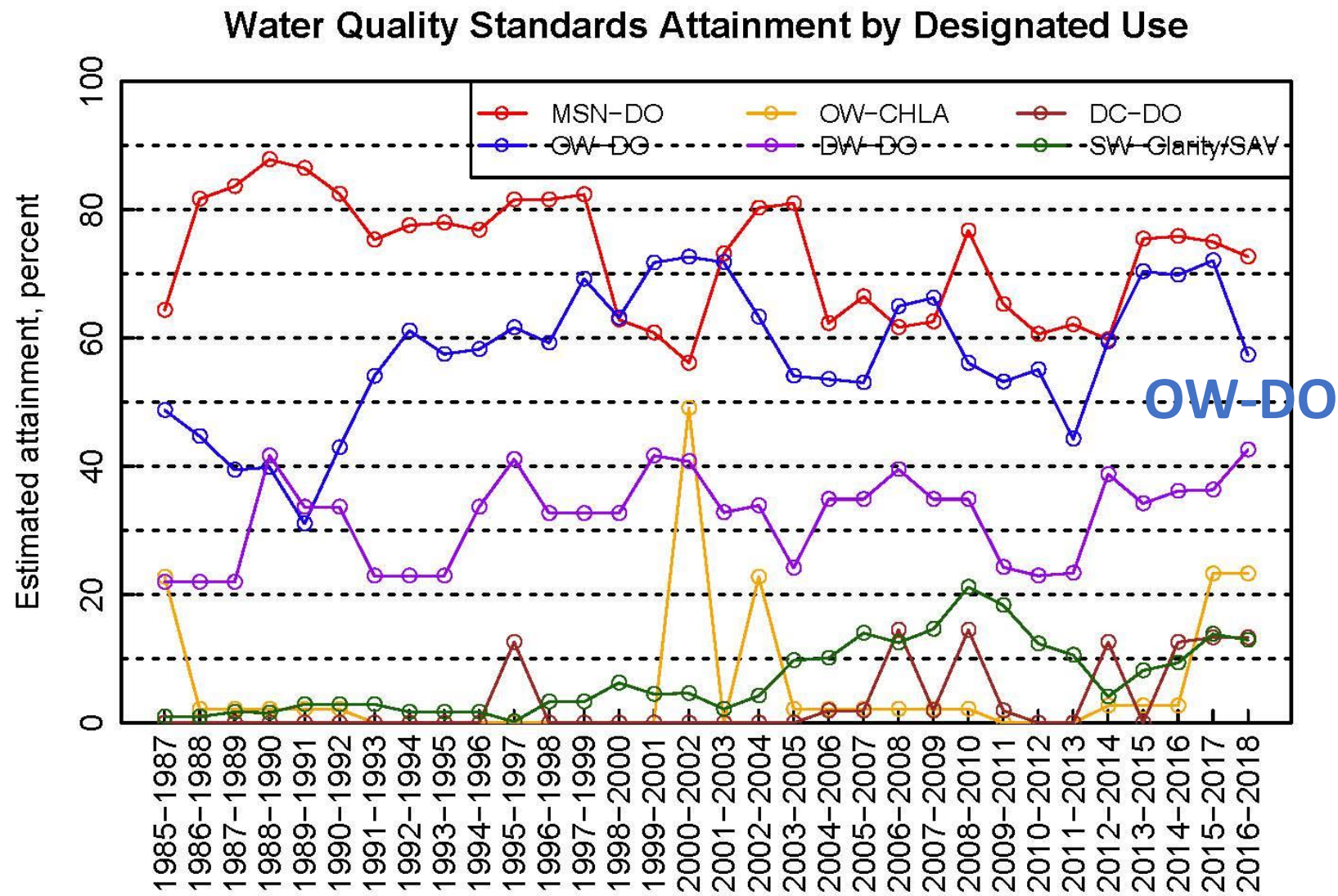
**Qian Zhang (UMCES) & Peter Tango (USGS)**

**CAP Workgroup  
August 19, 2020**

# I. WQS Attainment Indicator (2016-2018)



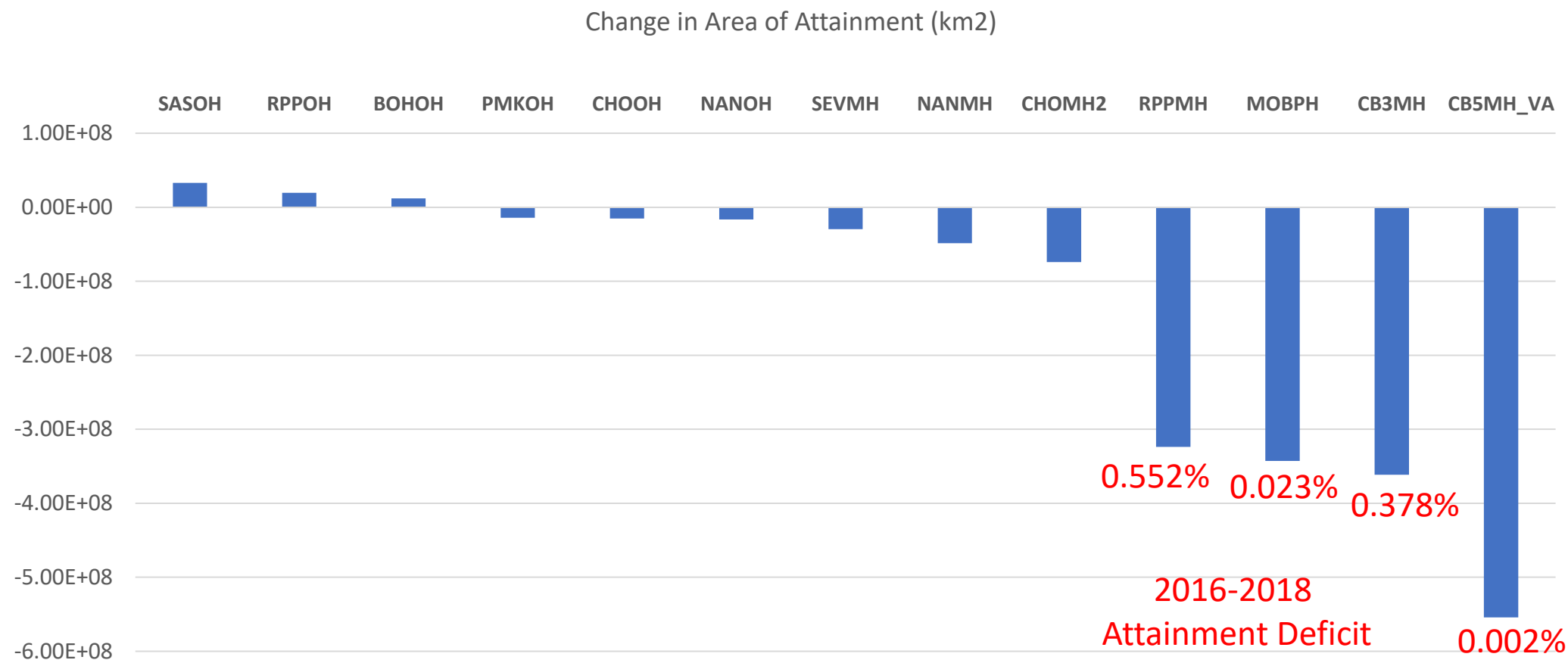
# WQS Attainment Indicator (2016-2018)



# OW Segments

Segment Name	2015-2017 Attainment	2016-2018 Attainment	Change in Area of Attainment (km2)	2016-2018 Attainment Deficit
SASOH	No	Yes	3.31E+07	0.000%
RPPOH	No	Yes	1.95E+07	0.000%
BOHOH	No	Yes	1.19E+07	0.000%
PMKOH	Yes	No	-1.41E+07	2.607%
CHOOH	Yes	No	-1.50E+07	3.666%
NANOH	Yes	No	-1.65E+07	4.590%
SEVMH	Yes	No	-2.94E+07	0.251%
NANMH	Yes	No	-4.84E+07	4.590%
CHOMH2	Yes	No	-7.42E+07	1.052%
RPPMH	Yes	No	-3.24E+08	0.552%
MOBPH	Yes	No	-3.43E+08	0.023%
CB3MH	Yes	No	-3.62E+08	0.378%
CB5MH_VA	Yes	No	-5.54E+08	0.002%
SUM			-1.72E+09	

# OW Segments



## II. Attainment sensitivity analysis

- The tools that we have now:
  - **Attainment indicator** (binary pass/fail analysis)
  - **Attainment deficit** (any value from 0% to 100% deficit; 0% could be very different in terms of buffer)
- To share a pilot analysis of DO attainment sensitivity (AS) to criteria threshold;
- The proposed tools are useful to quantify the resilience of attaining segments (the “**attainment buffer**” concept).

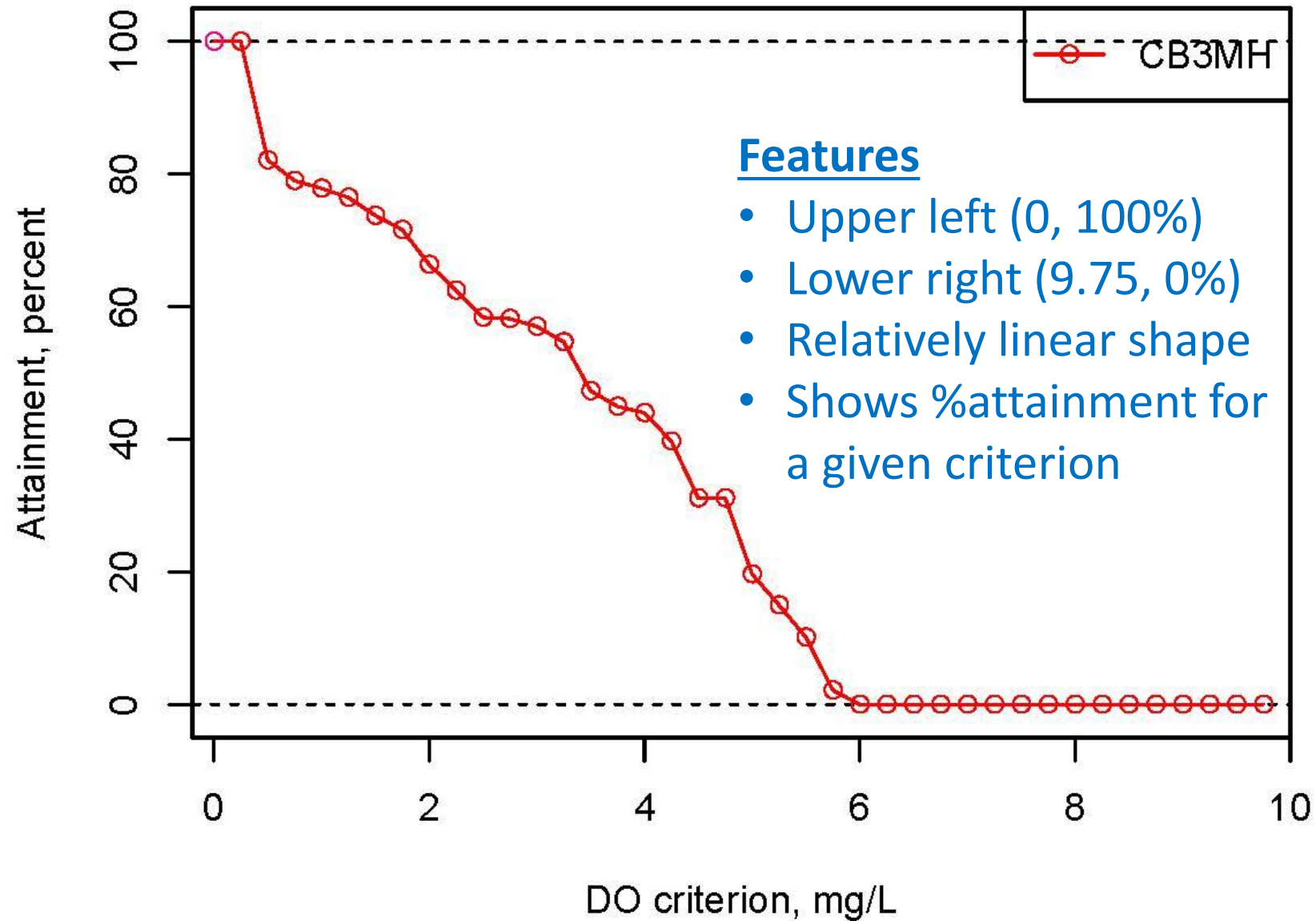
Designated Use	Season	Threshold	Critical Value	Applicable Segments
Open-water fish and shellfish (OW)	Year-round	30-day mean	5.5 mg L <sup>-1</sup> in very low salinity; 5 mg L <sup>-1</sup> otherwise	92
		7-day mean	4 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	
		Instantaneous	3.2 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	
Deep-water seasonal fish and shellfish (DW)	June 1 - September 30	30-day mean	3 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	18
	June 1 - September 30	1-day mean	2.3 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	
	June 1 - September 30	Instantaneous	1.7 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	
	October 1 - May 31	OW criteria apply		
Deep-channel seasonal refuge (DC)	June 1 - September 30	Instantaneous	1 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	10
	October 1 - May 31	OW criteria apply		

# Calculation

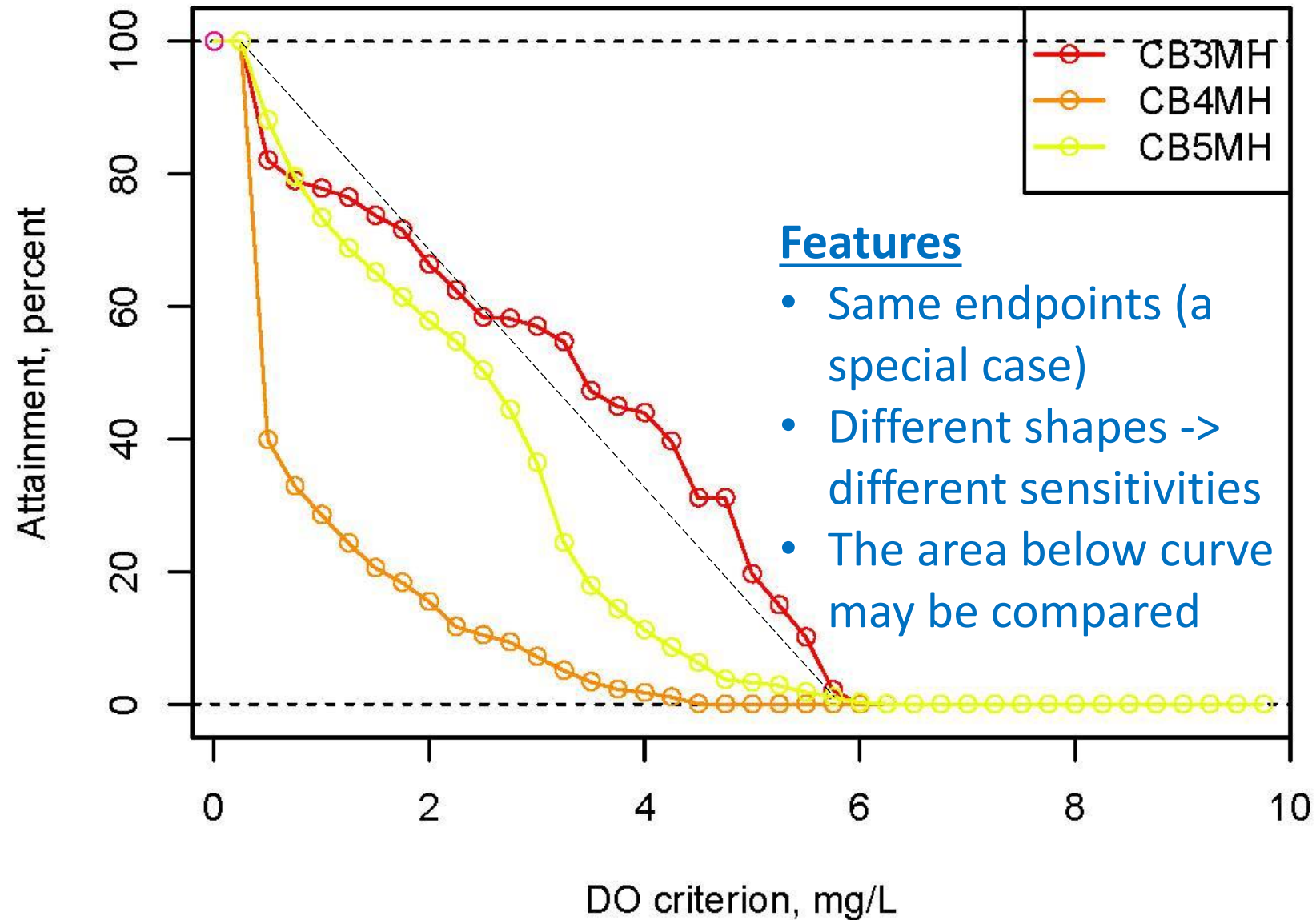
- For each tidal segment
  - For each year (**not 3-year period**)
    - For each individual month (**June-September**)
      - Compute the interpolated DO concentrations
        - Assign a criterion threshold and compute the %attainment (i.e., above that criterion threshold)
        - Vary the threshold and re-do the computation
        - ...
        - **Plot %attainment as a function of threshold**



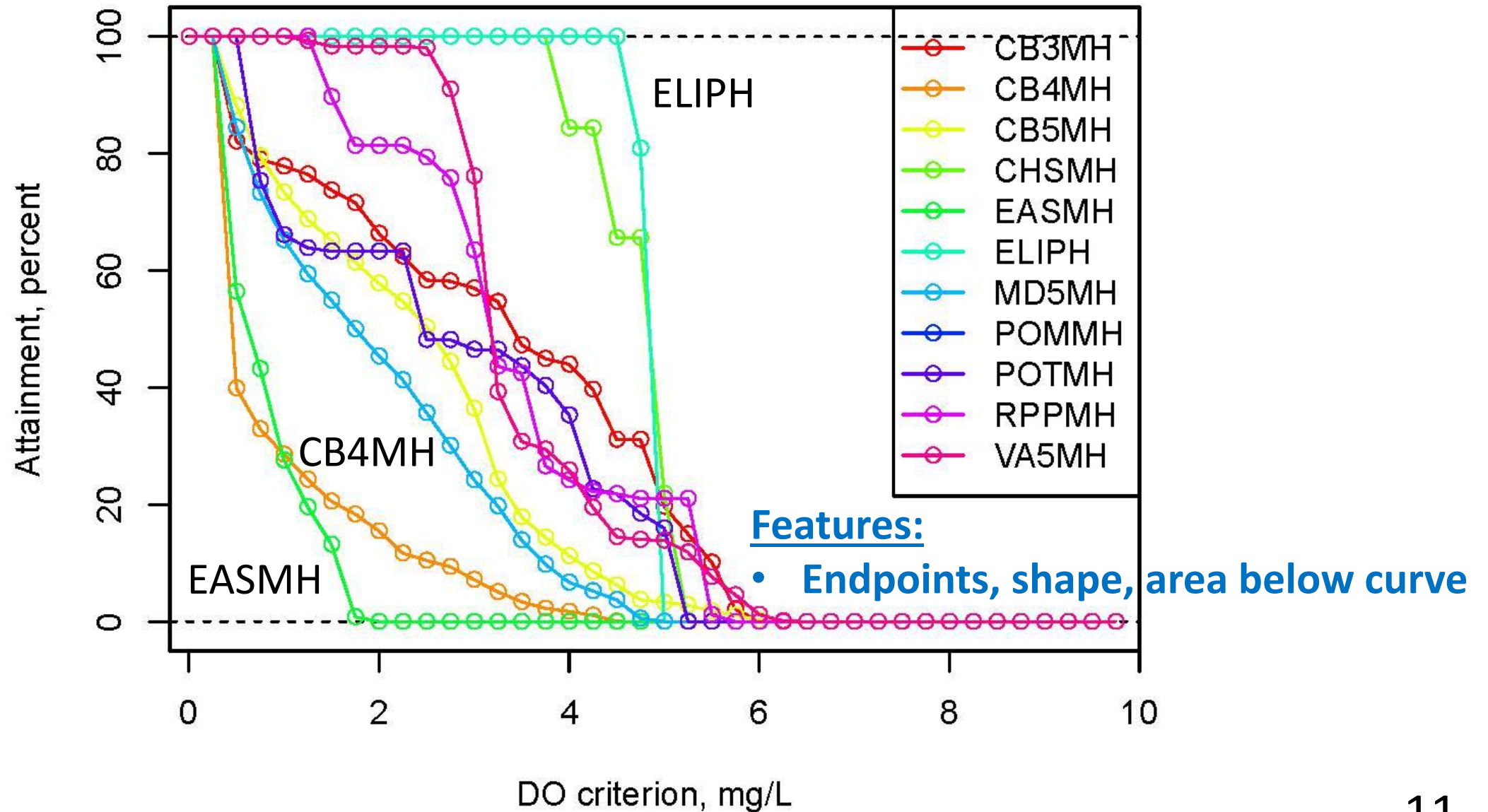
## DC in August 2016



## DC in August 2016



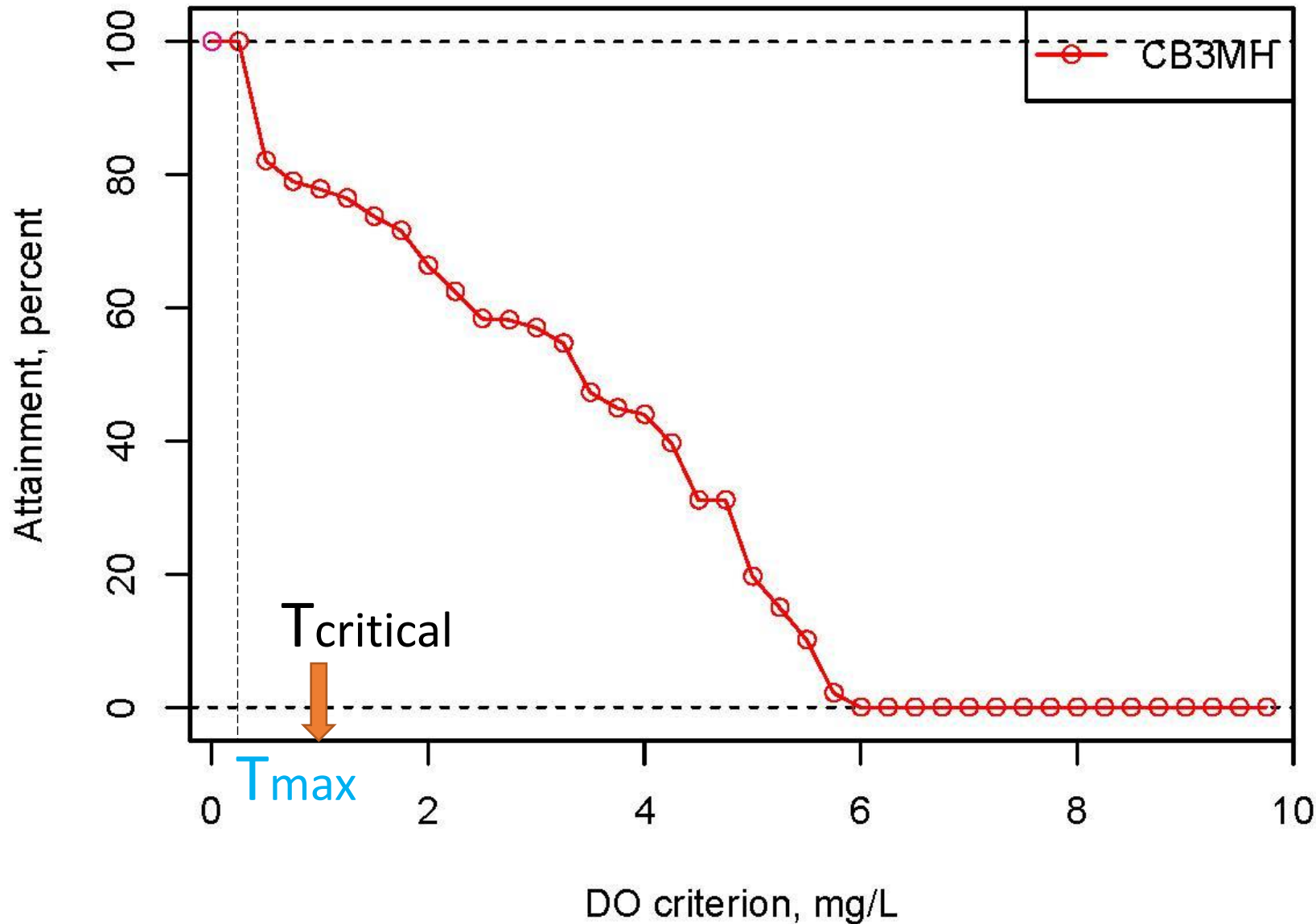
## DC in August 2016



# Potential new metrics

1. Maximum allowed concentration,  $T_{\max}$
2. Area under the curve, AUC

## DC in August 2016



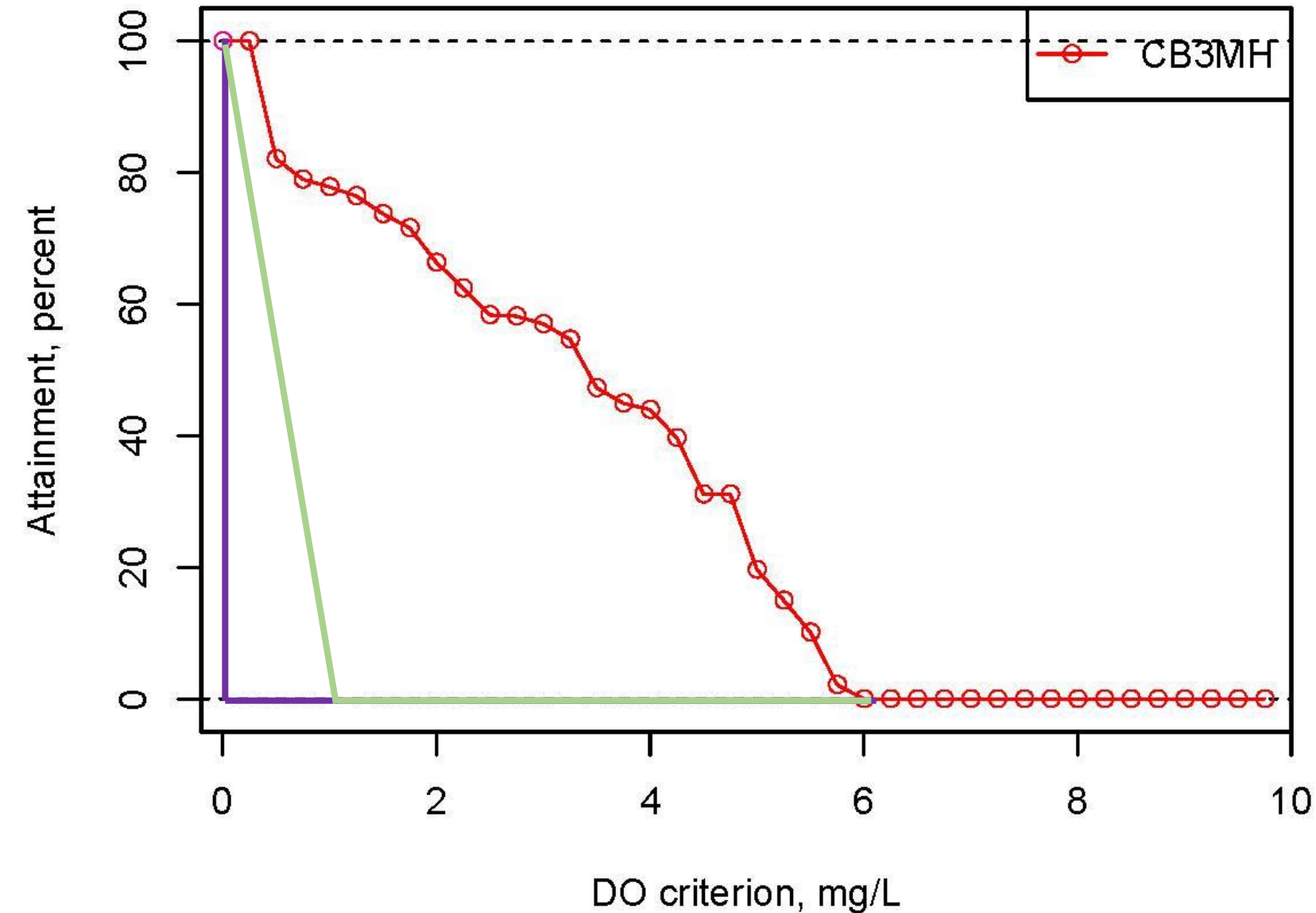
**Metric 1: Tmax**  
= maximum allowed  
criterion that achieves  
an attainment of 100%.

$T_{\max} = T_{\text{critical}} (1\text{mg/L})$   
→ just attaining

$T_{\max} < T_{\text{critical}} (1\text{mg/L})$   
→ attainment deficit

$T_{\max} > T_{\text{critical}} (1\text{mg/L})$   
→ attainment buffer

## DC in August 2016



## Metric 2: AUC

= area under the attainment curve

1) Purple:  $AUC = 0$   
→ 0% attainment

2) Green:  $AUC = 0.5$   
→ 0% attainment, but better than the purple line

## Metric 2: AUC

1) Purple: AUC = 0  
→ 0% attainment

2) Green: AUC = 0.5  
→ 0% attainment, but  
better than the purple line

3) Blue: AUC = 1  
→ 100% attainment

4) Orange: AUC = 2  
→ 100% attainment, but  
better than the blue line



# Summary of new metrics

## 1. Maximum allowed concentration, $T_{\max}$

- The larger, the better condition
- Examine attainment deficit and buffer simultaneously

## 2. Area under the curve, AUC

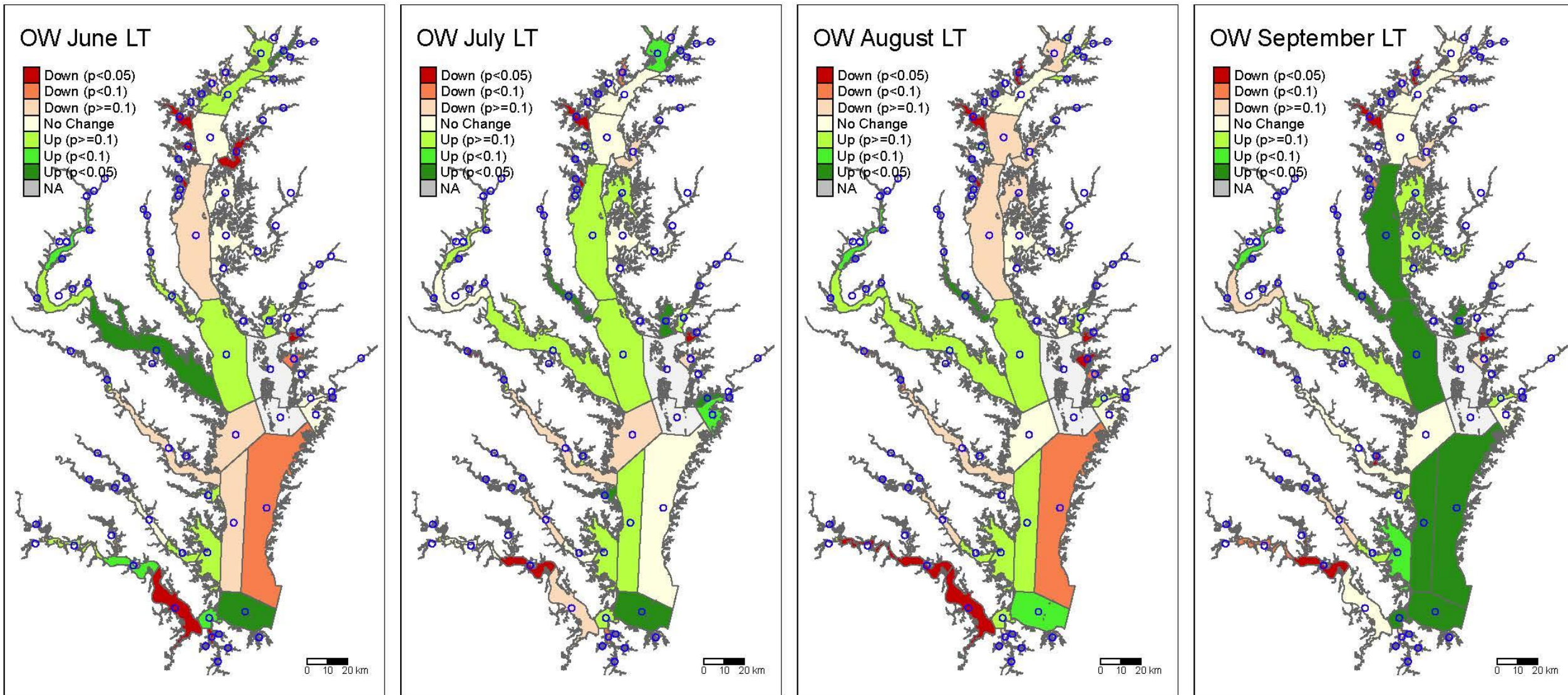
- The larger, the better condition
- Examine attainment deficit and buffer simultaneously



# Application of the metrics

- For each segment
  - For each year
    - For each individual month (June-September)
      - Extract the AS curve (%attainment vs. DO threshold)
        - Compute  $T_{\max}$  and AUC for that segment, month, year
        - Compute MK trend for both metrics, respectively
        - Plot long-term trend (LT), short-term trend (ST), and current status maps for the Bay segments

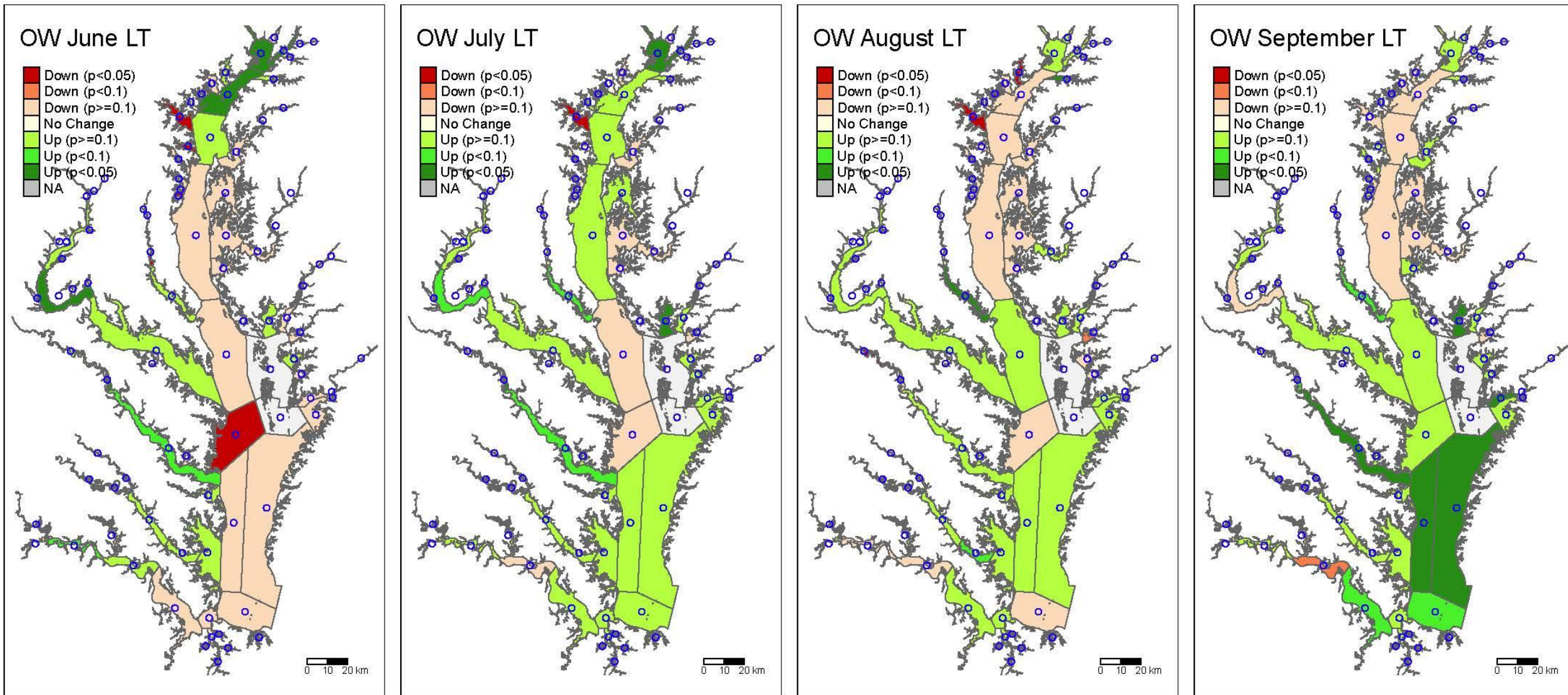
# OW $T_{max}$ Long-term Trend (1985-2017)



Preliminary results, subject to change.



# OW **AUC** Long-term Trend (1985-2017)



Preliminary results, subject to change.

# Summary on attainment sensitivity analysis

- The proposed metrics for attainment sensitivity (AS) help:
  - Expand from the specific thresholds (as in previous attainment indicator or attainment deficit analysis)
  - Describe the status of segments in a more comprehensive way:
    - ❑ The segments' deficit (if not attaining)
    - ❑ The segments' resilience ("buffer") (if attaining)
  - Quantify segments' evolution over seasons or years
  - Make comparison among segments