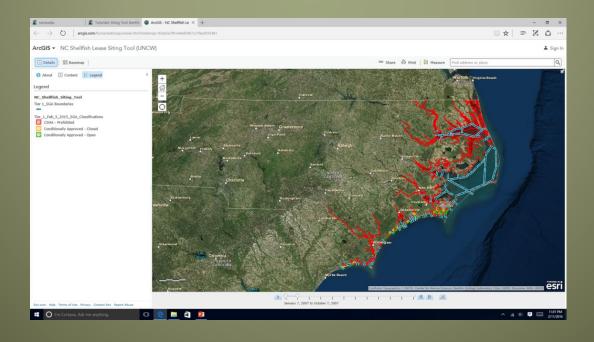
# Using the North Carolina Shellfish Aquaculture Siting Tool

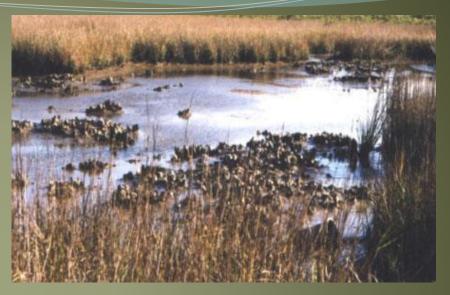
Troy D. Alphin and Martin Posey,

University of North Carolina Wilmington, Center for Marine Science



#### Today

- Creating the tool
  - Why use it?
- What is the tool?
  - Development
- Under development
- Case study for data tools





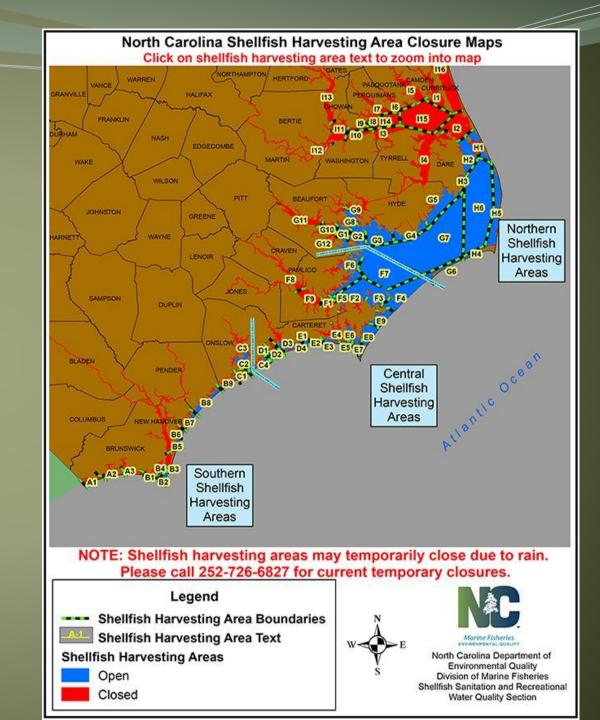
#### NC Shellfish Siting Tool

- Here we have developed an interactive online tool, specifically designed to help potential Shellfish growers with site selection for further investigation.
- Here we provide visualization of public datasets with the goal of reducing user conflicts and regulatory demand.
- https://uncw.edu/benthic/sitingtool/
- http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/shellfish-lease-franchise-programs

Troy's Disclaimer "This is not a substitute for on site verification"

#### When we started

- Aquaculture needs to fill a greater portion of consumer demand
- Modeled off existing tools- UCONN Shellfish mapper <a href="https://shellfish.uconn.edu/maps/">https://shellfish.uconn.edu/maps/</a>
- Guidance from
  - NCDMF
  - NC Sea Grant
  - NOAA
  - DCM
  - Growers- experienced and new
- Obstacles to the overall industry
  - Regulations (moving target)
  - Market factors
  - Perceived vs Real conflict
  - Siting of new operations



#### NC Grower's Concerned

- Water Quality
- Storms!
- Human interactions!
  - Not everyone agrees
  - Community Engagement
- Locations
- Others
  - Marketing
  - Distribution
  - Finance

#### North Carolina's Shellfish Industry: Site Conditions and Economic Impacts

A statewide survey of shellfish leaseholders



Marc J. Turano, North Carolina Sea Grant Martin Posey, University of North Carolina Wilmington Troy Alphin, University of North Carolina Wilmington

### Utilize Environmental vs non-environmental\*\*

Orthoimagery from NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

NCDENR

DMF

DCM

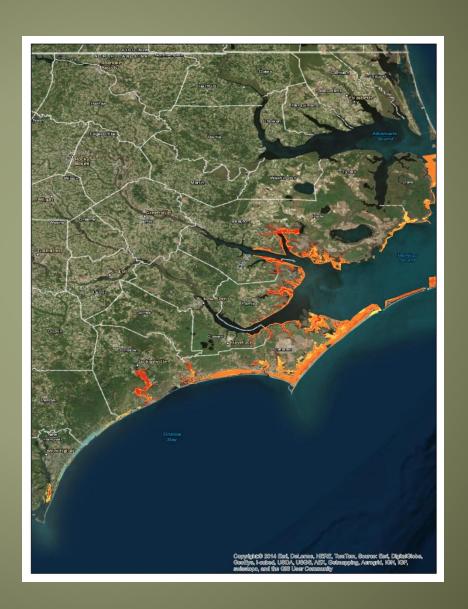
NOAA

Siting tool

1-3 thousand hits/month

~1000 unique hits

Many users not on the coast



#### How to Select New Areas

- New to the industry or new to the area
- Provides some info on classification and conditions
  - Always changing/ updating
- Provides mainly public information
  - Sometimes time from unintended uses
- For those that are familiar with your growing area historical data and metadata
  - Past might be a good predictor

#### Under Development

- Currently 22 layers available
- Data layers for risk factors- wind and storms, competing uses
- Decision Support tool- development in conjunction with NCDMF and stakeholders to help guide new growers through the process
- "Developing Farm and Market tools for Shellfish Mariculture in North Carolina"- Starting 2021. Partnership with NC Sea Grant. Farm planning to business incubator for growers

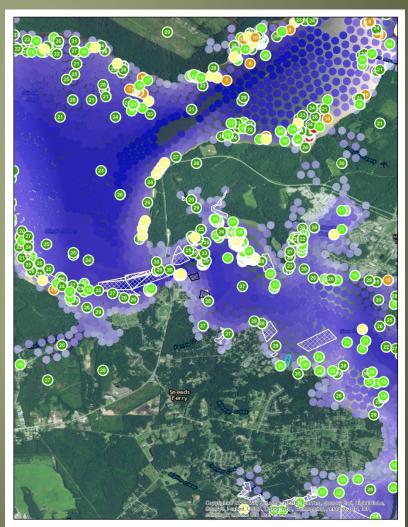
#### Before you get started

- Type of operation
  - Shell on bottom
    - Spat on shell
  - Floating bags
  - Bottom cages
- Effort you can commit
- How much area can you afford to work



#### What Parameters are Most Important?

- Based on stakeholder input
- Site feasibility
  - Classification
  - Depth
  - Salinity
  - Existing Leases
  - Bottom Type
- Future site impacts
  - Land-use
  - % impervious surface
  - Rainfall

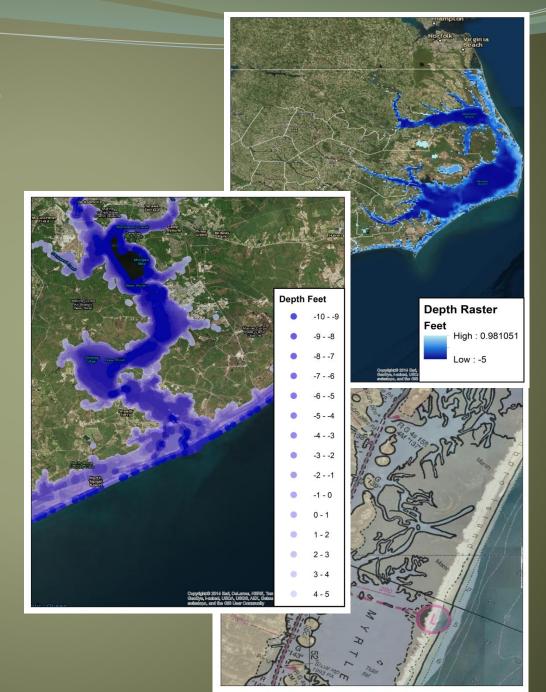


#### Classification Only



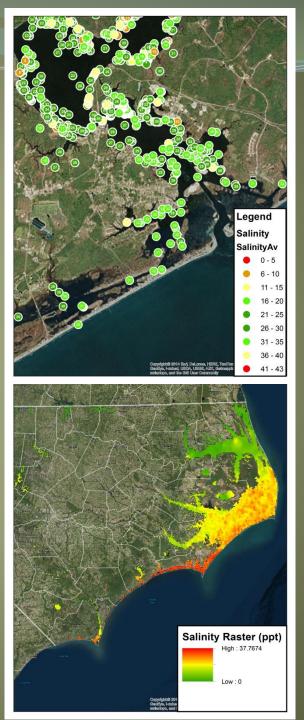
#### Depth Contour

- Multiple file types
- Differences in precision
- Clarity
- Raster data currently available



#### Salinity

- No clear comprehensive data set
- Consistency
  - Missing metadata
- 5 yr mean (based on available data)
  - Min and Max
- Salinity Raster disappears when zoomed in at 1:300,000
- Salinity Point Data appears at 1:300,000



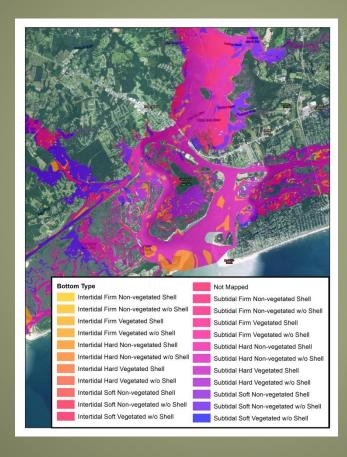
#### Existing Leases

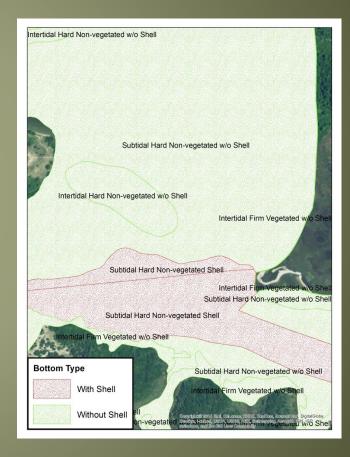
- Only shows relative size and position
  - Acreage
- No identifier in dataset
- Lease vs Franchise
- New river leases\*\*\*

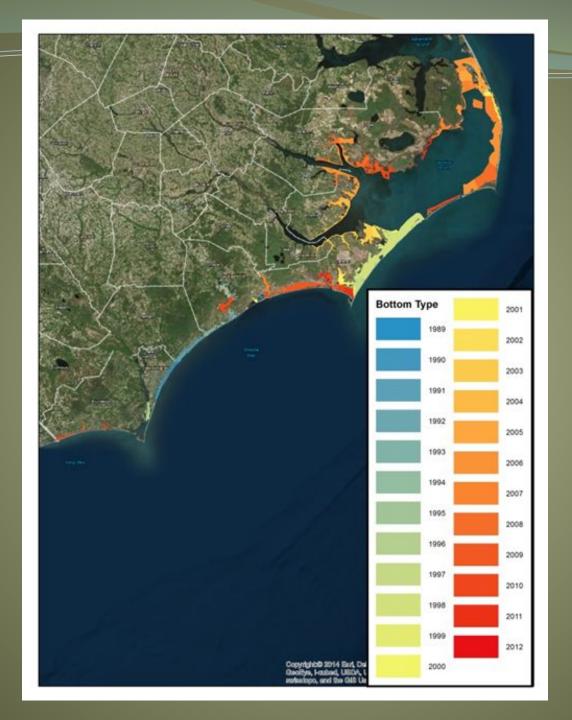


#### Bottom Type Information

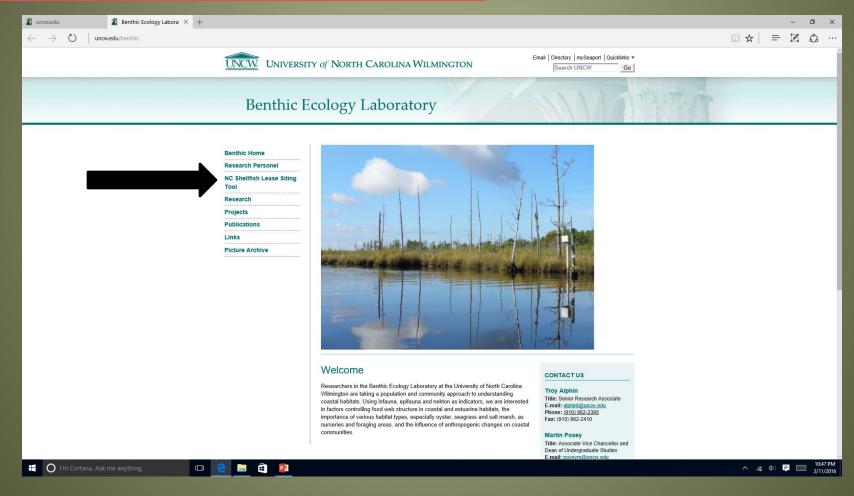
- Data verification
- Note date data was collected



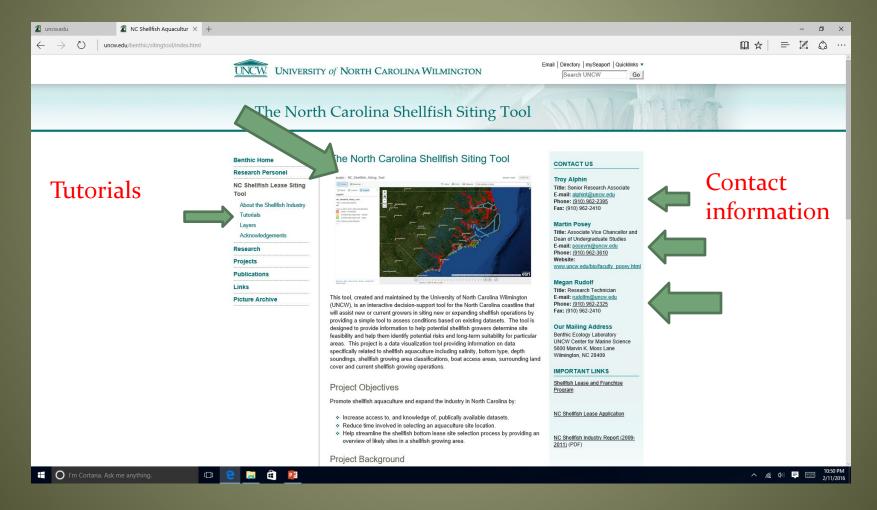




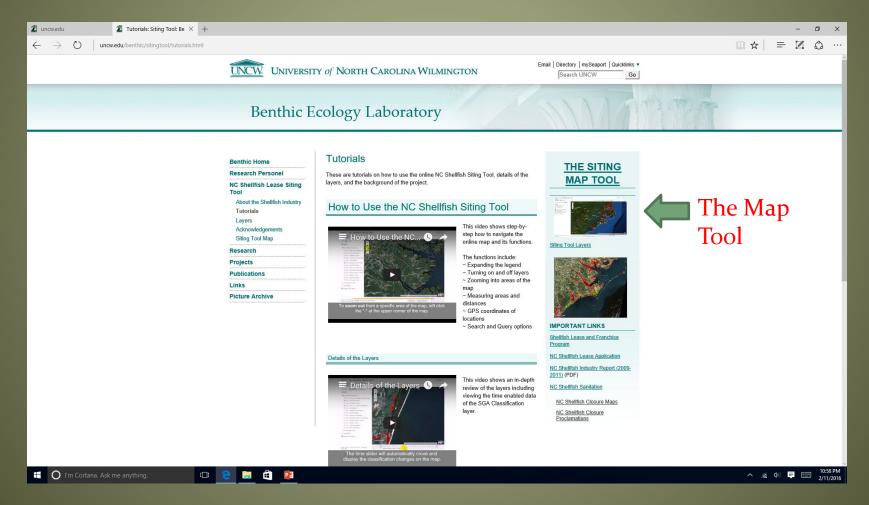
## How does it work http://uncw.edu/benthic



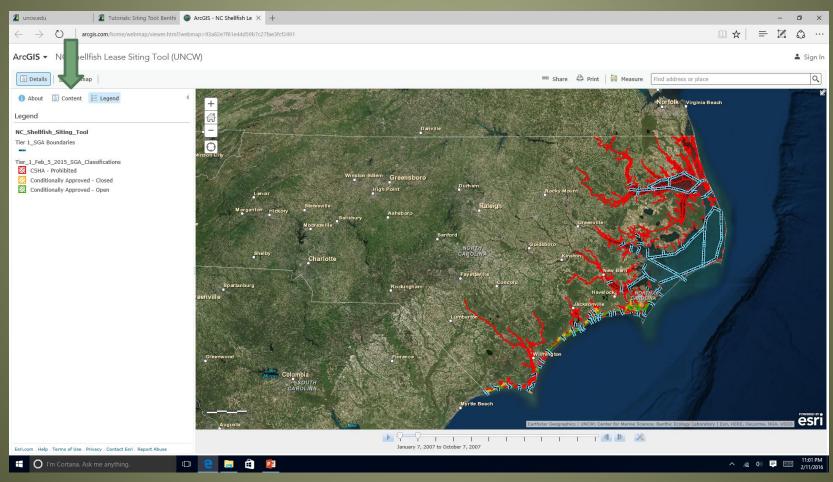
#### **Contact Info and Tutorials**



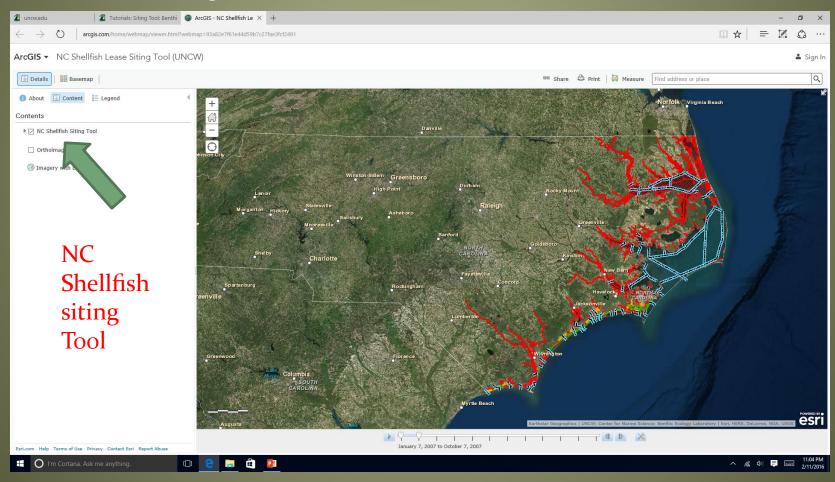
#### Select Tutorial or Get Started

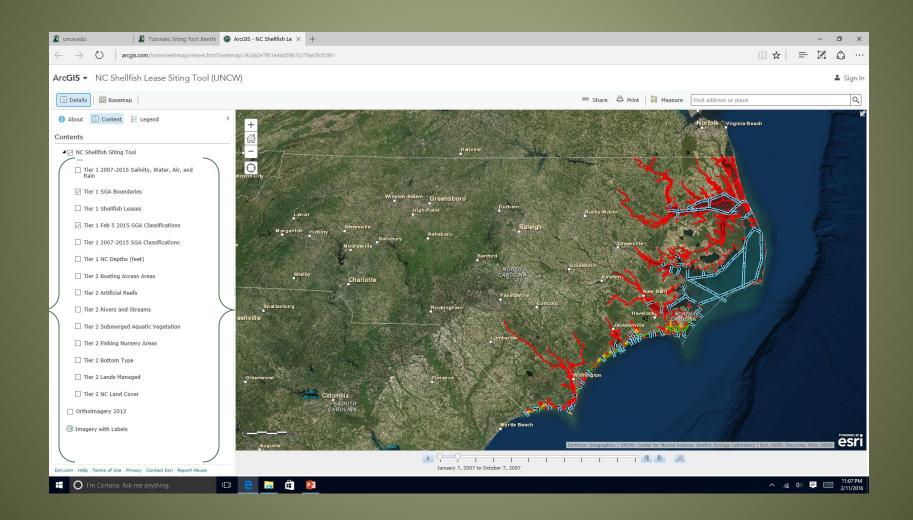


#### The Starting Map

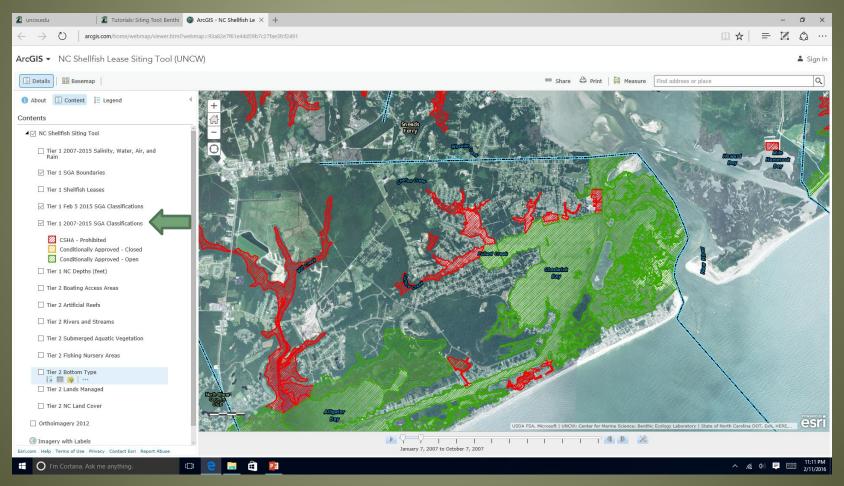


#### Reveal the Layers

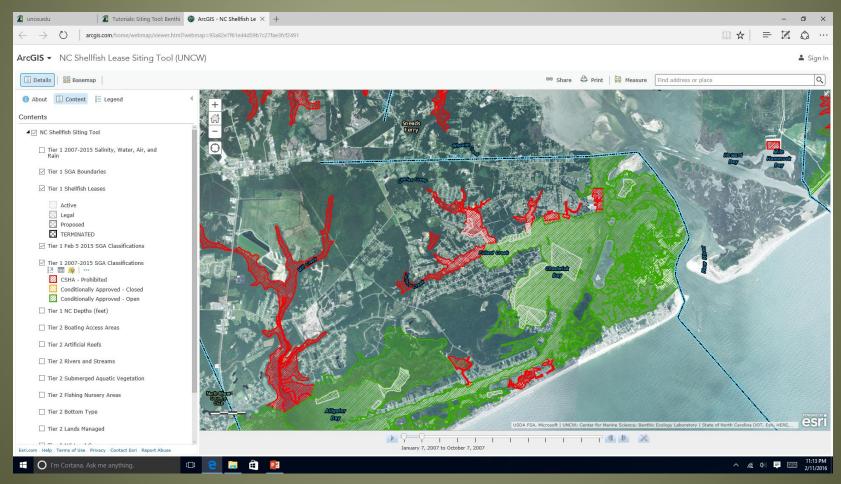




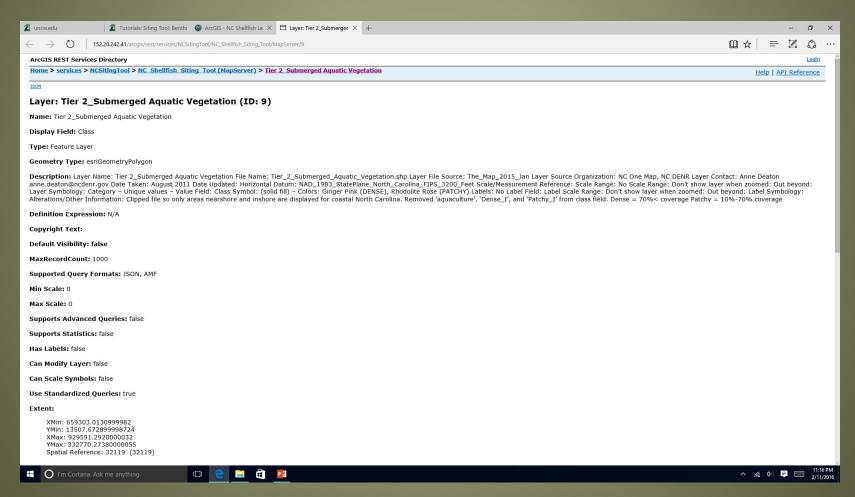
#### Focus on Target area



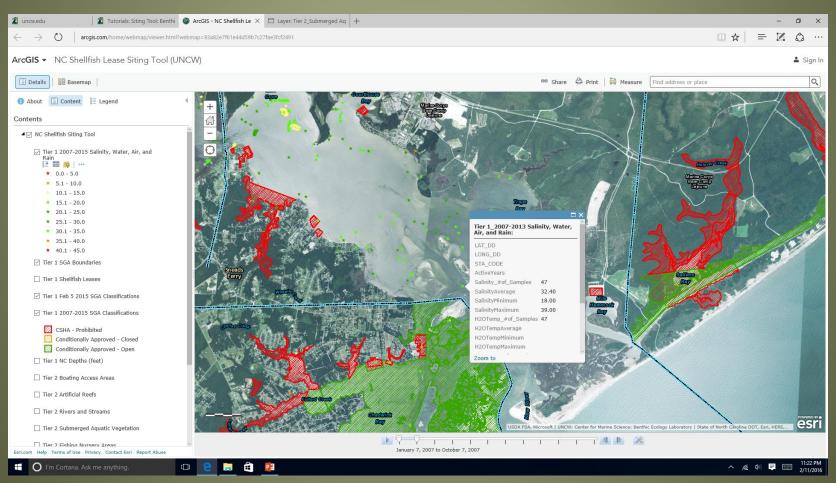
#### Turn on as Many Layers as Needed



#### Information on Data Source



#### Explore Information cont'd



#### Acknowledgements

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#### Questions?

