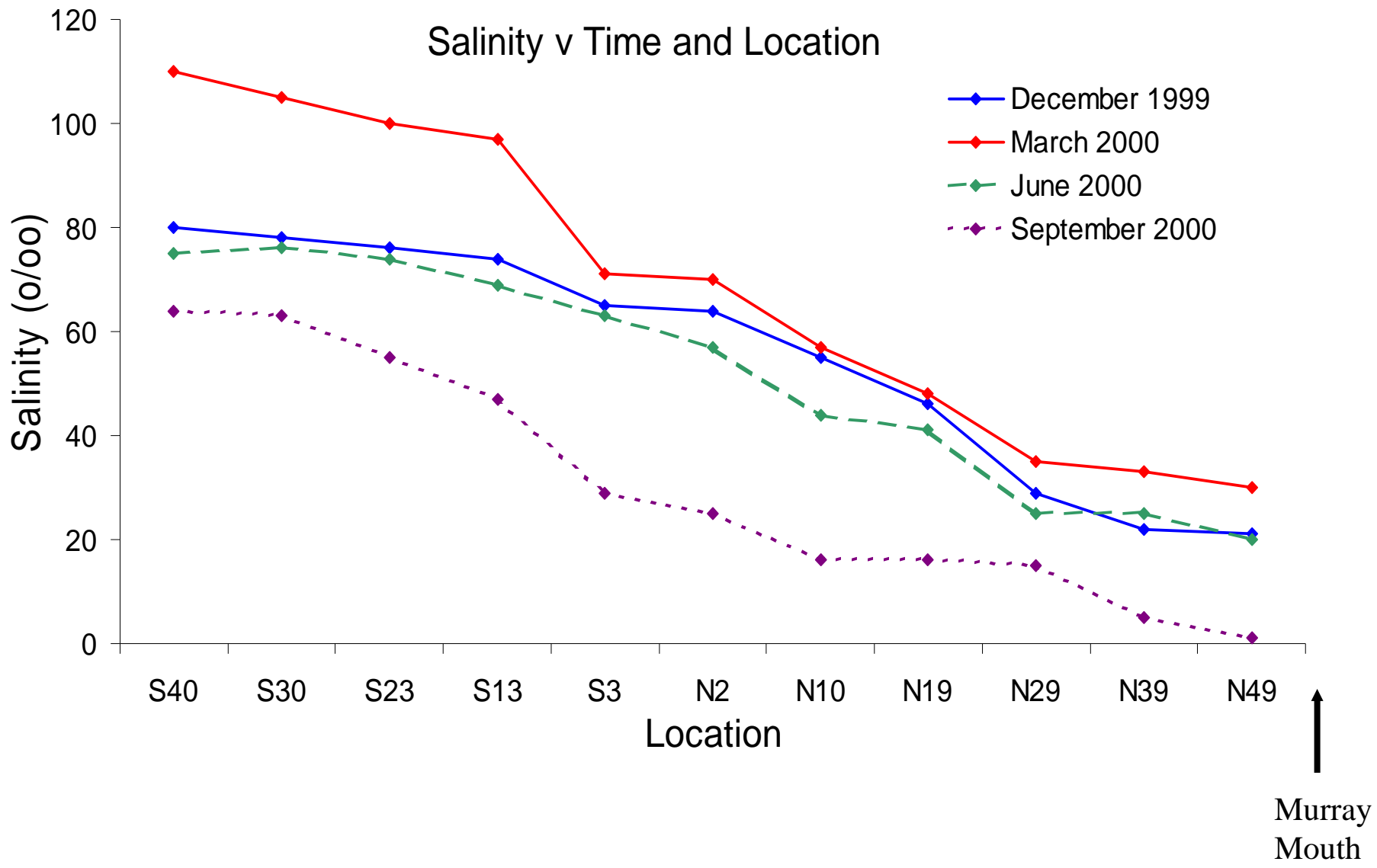




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Lessons Learned from the
Coorong









Counts of small waders in Northern Coorong

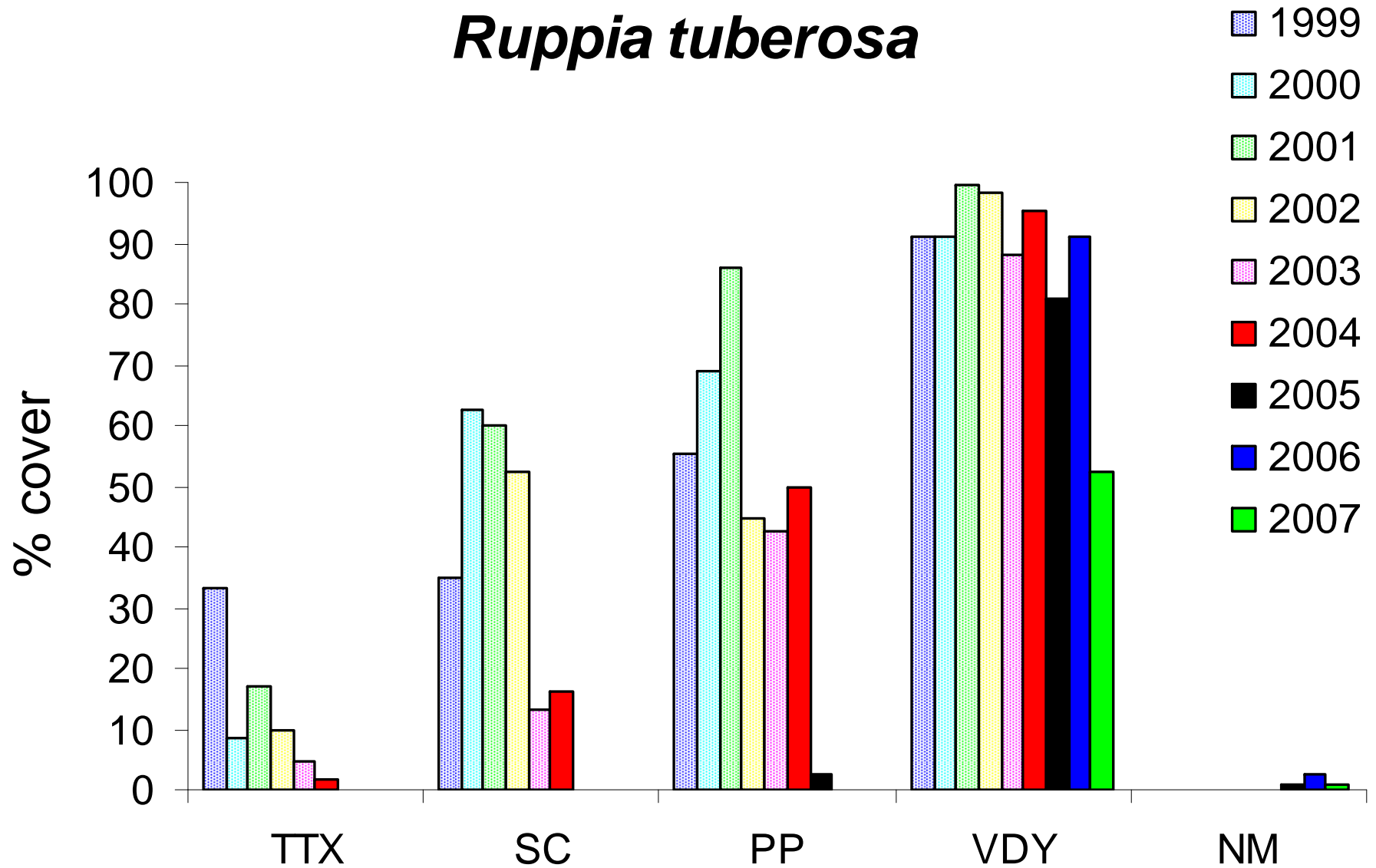
Years	# small waders
1960's	250,000
1980's	23,000 – 36,000
1990's	5,000 – 15,000
2000's	5,000 – 19,000





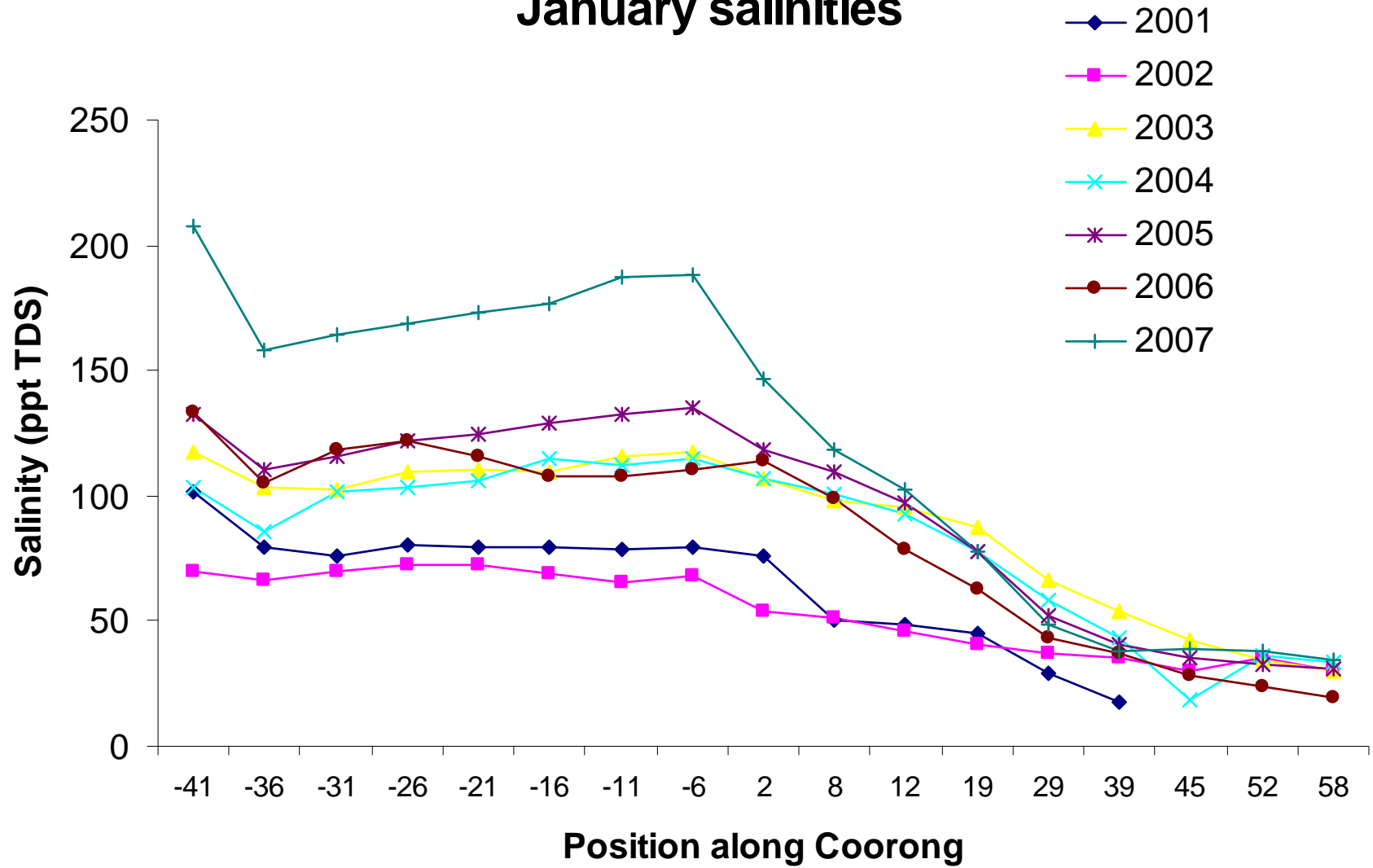
Davo Blair Photography

Ruppia tuberosa





January salinities







Changes in key food resources

Year	Hardyheadfish/trawl Sth Lag	Polychaetes (per core) Nth Lag	<i>Ruppia</i> seeds (per core) Sth Lag	<i>Ruppia</i> turions (per core) Type II Sth Lag	Chironomid larvae (per core) S Lag
2001	151	15.3	2.9	10.8	1.5
2002	125	6.4	2.0	9.7	0.3
2003	57	3.5	1.4	1.2	0.7
2004	83	2.9	2.6	4.6	0.1
2005	14	2.0	0.7	2.0	1.0
2006	42	3.2	1.2	1.8	2.5
2007	0	3.9	0.2	0.2	0.3



Grey Teal

1980s	59,000
2000s	10,000
2007	2,500



Fairy Tern

1980s	1350
2000s	240
2007	6



Migratory sandpipers

1980s 45,000

2000s 12,500

2007 9,000



Red-capped Plover

1980s 2,200

2000s 500

2007 430

Lessons learnt

- Ramsar & EPBC Act ineffective
- Wetland systems deteriorate without environmental flows
- Coorong had capacity to cope with drought – but not an extended period of no flow

Why are environmental flows so hard to secure?

- Water now too valuable
- Environment not valued enough
- The problem of scale
- Time lags

