



Mortality Risk of Wood Turtle in a Landscape under Active Agriculture and Potential Management Strategies

Shaylyn Wallace*, Graham Forbes,
Joseph Nocera

Agricultural Practices

Use fields to bask, feed and access nesting habitat

During hay harvest season

New Brunswick

Management:

- Mow from the inside out
- Raise blade height
- Implement riparian buffer
- Delay hay harvest



Our Objective



Study Site

Nearby Fredericton, NB

- ~70% forest, 20% agri and 10% riparian buffer, shore, river etc.

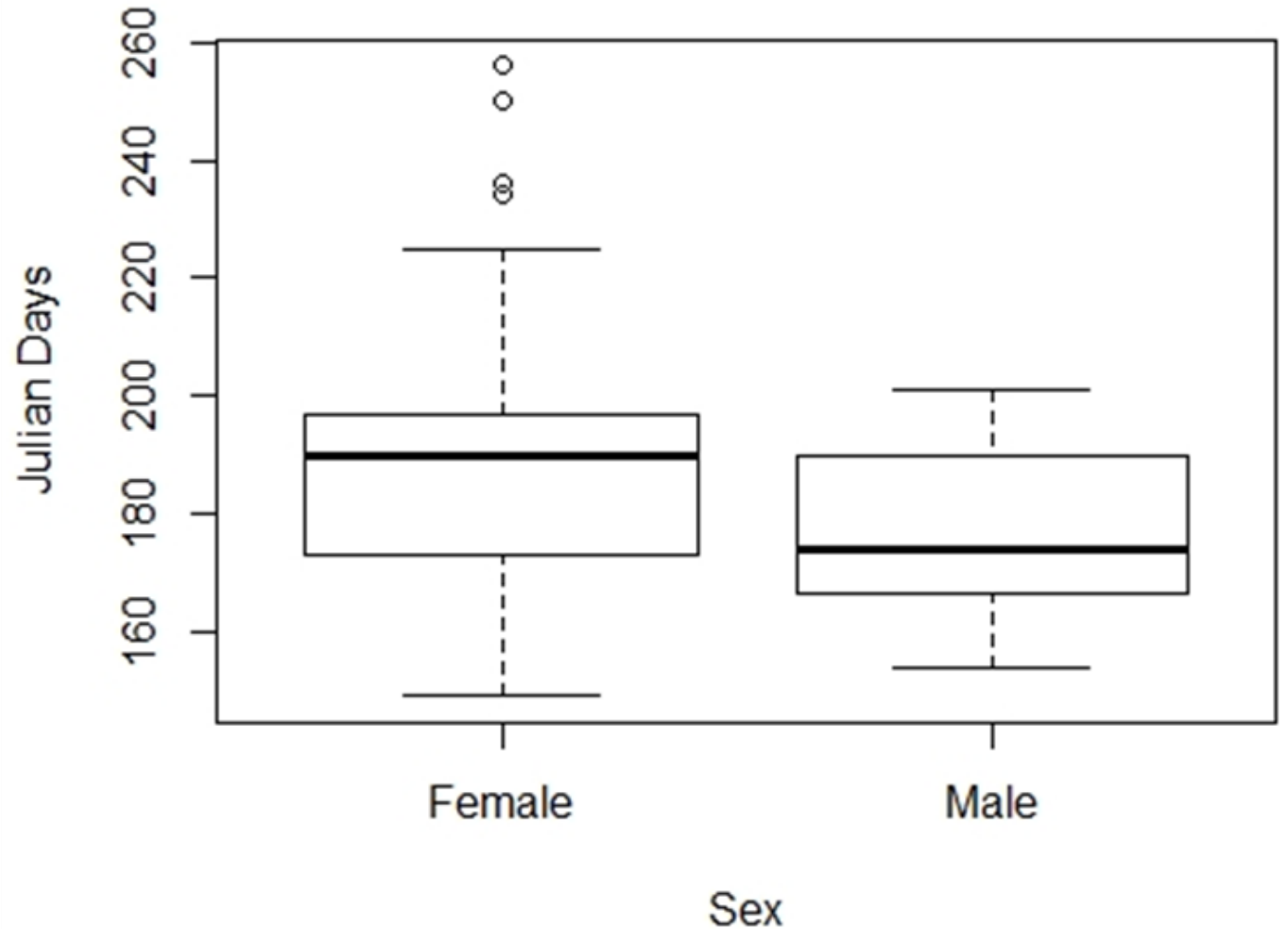
Tagged and tracked 23 turtles (6 males, 17 females) in 2017 and 2018



Use of Fields

21/23 tagged turtles found
in field at least once

35% of female relocations
and 17% of male relocations
in field in June and July



Response Trial Method





Response Trial Results

Most did not escape

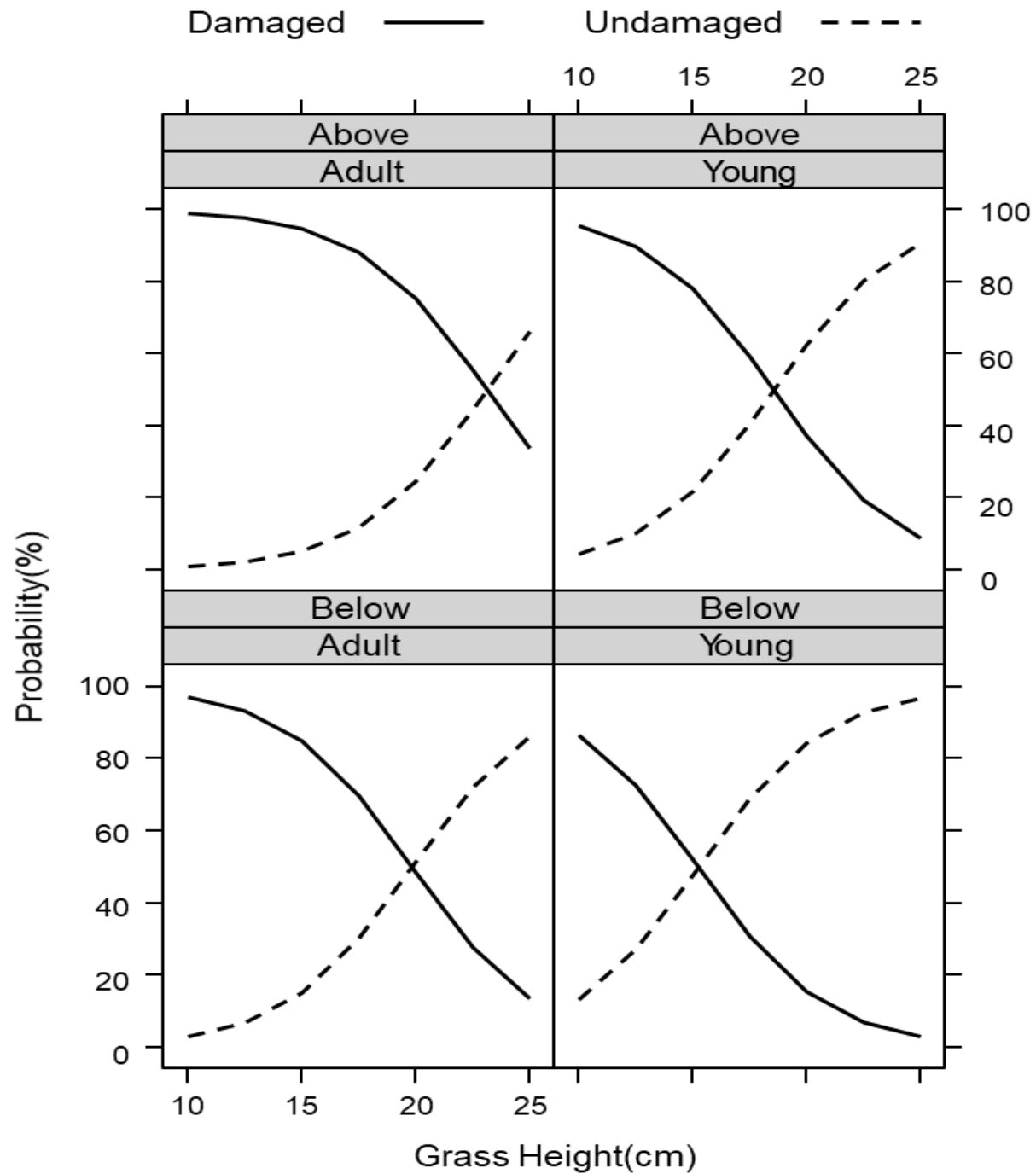
1m/minute

All headed towards water

Mow in a zig zag pattern

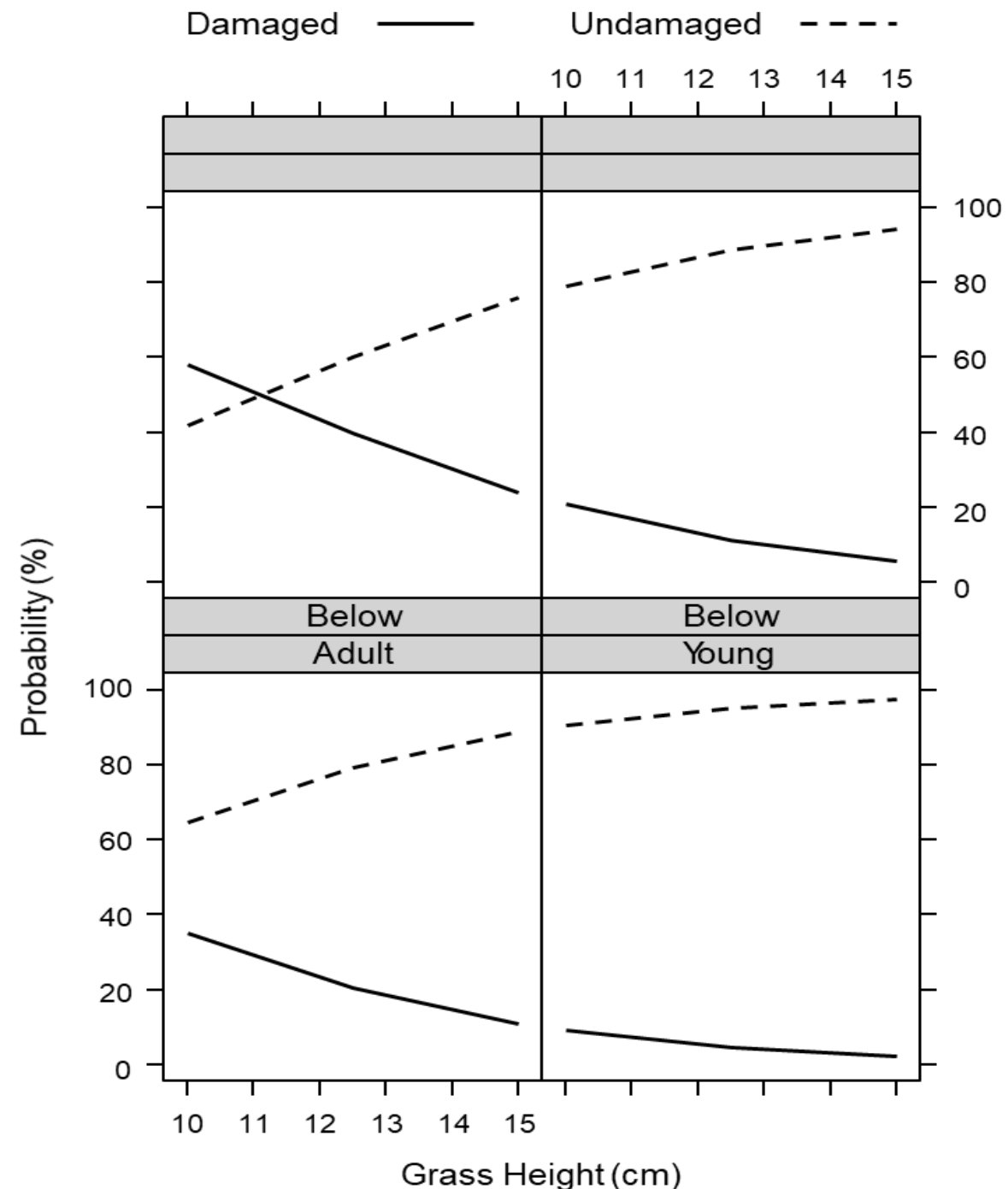
Blade Height Methods

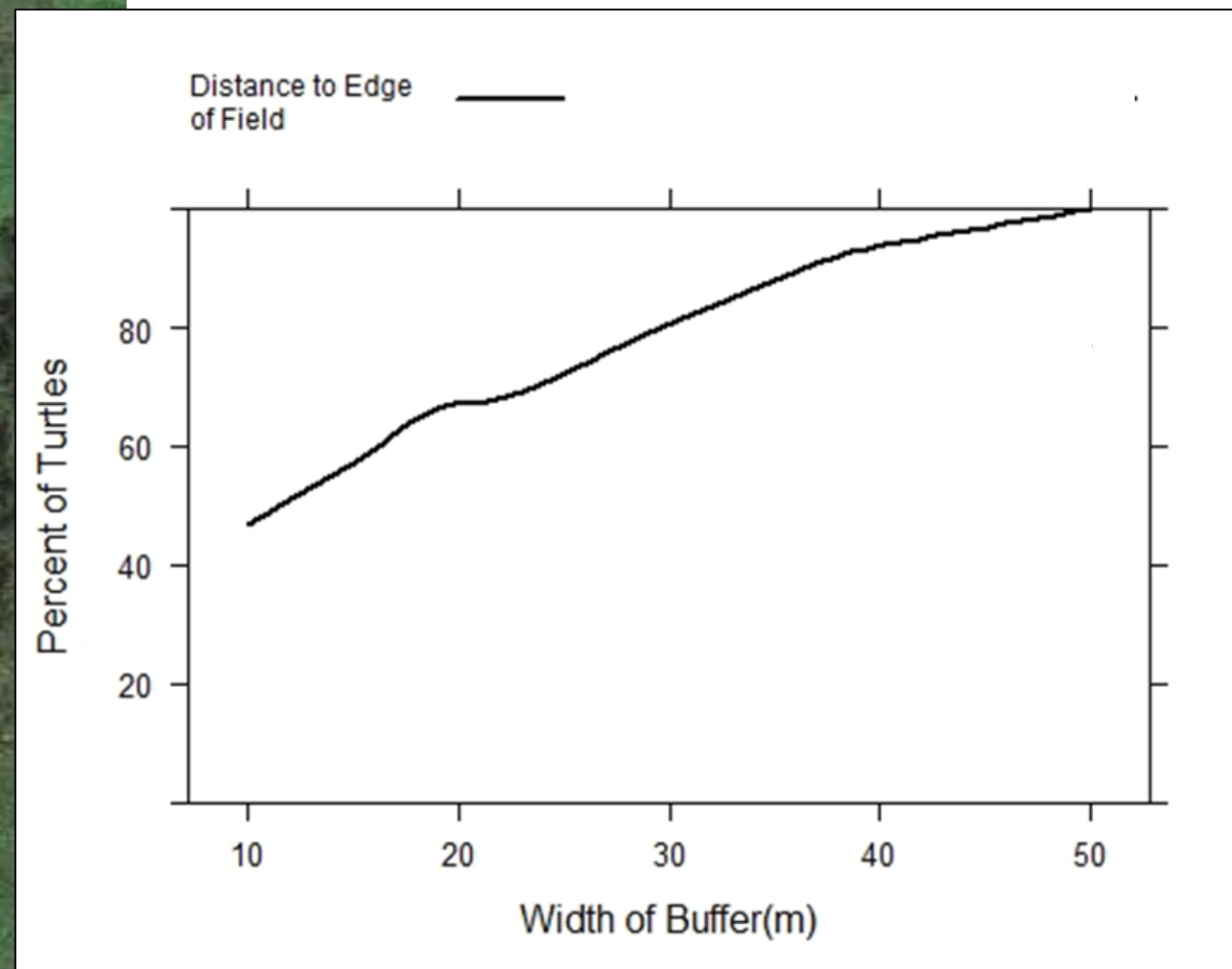




Rotary Disc Mower

Sickle Cutterbar Mower





Management



Acknowledgements



shaylyn.wallace@unb.ca

- Dr. Graham Forbes
- Dr. Joseph Nocera
- Jae Ogilvie
- Base Gagetown
- Forbes and Nocera Lab
- Department of Energy and Resource Development (DERD)
- Nature Trust of New Brunswick
- Abbey Greer and Bethan Dauphinee



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada