



**Figure 8.** Data from across studies are synthesized to improve our understanding of ecological processes in Mass. Bay. Seasonal (May – Oct.) averages in sediment oxygen demand (SOD) (a) show strong bay-wide inter-annual variability. Red dotted line indicates Dec. 1992 storm, green dotted line indicates the startup of the outfall in 2000. Average annual water column chlorophyll from 1992 to 2000 (b) is linearly related to and explains nearly 50% of the variation in average seasonal SOD. There was no abrupt transition in inter-annual cycles of SOD as a result of outfall startup. Data are from MWRA benthic nutrient flux and water column studies.