

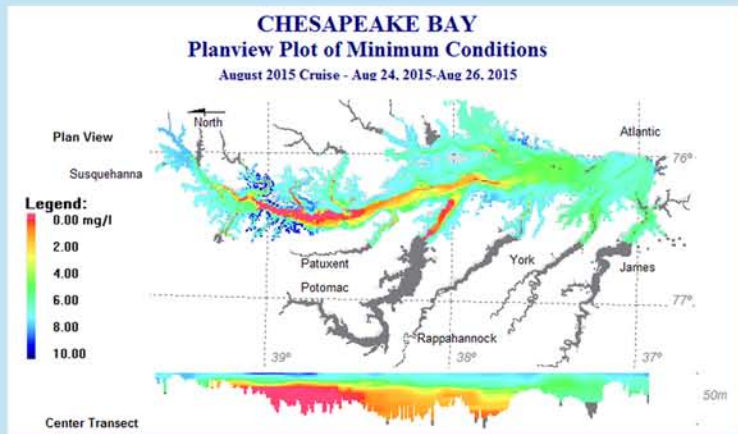
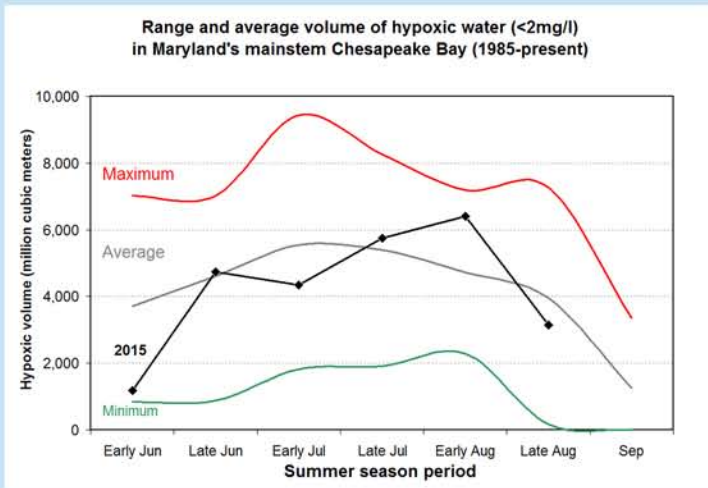
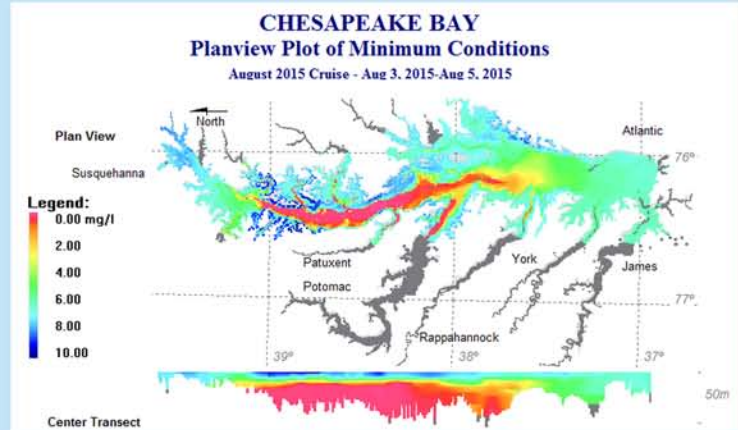
# Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## 2015 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report - August Update



The August 2015 Maryland Chesapeake dead zone was a tale of two halves. The hypoxic water volume (<math><2\text{mg/l}</math> oxygen) in early August was the third worst on record, while conditions rebounded in late August to below average size for the time period. Early August conditions are likely attributable to wetter and warmer weather, while waters cooled in late August, reducing vertical temperature gradients which can contribute to hypoxia.

In the beginning of the summer, NOAA, USGS, UMCES and U. of Michigan scientists predicted a smaller than average dead zone due to lower than average spring flows and nitrogen loading, and thus far that appears to be holding true to form on average over the summer.



For more information:

- *Eyes on the Bay* ([www.eyesonthebay.net](http://www.eyesonthebay.net)) - Chesapeake and Coastal Bays water quality results, and past hypoxia reports
- *Baystat* (<http://baystat.maryland.gov>) Maryland's action and progress towards Chesapeake restoration
- *U of MD Center for Environmental Science* Chesapeake hypoxia forecast history (<http://bit.ly/1CrhB6>)

Crabs, fish, oysters and other creatures in the Chesapeake Bay require oxygen to survive. Scientists and natural resource managers study the volume and duration of bay hypoxia (less than 2 mg/L oxygen) to determine possible impacts to bay life.

Each year from June-September, Maryland DNR computes these volumes from data collected by Maryland and Virginia. Data collection is funded by these states and their partner, the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program. Bay dead zone monitoring and reporting will continue through the summer.

Posted: September 3, 2015

