

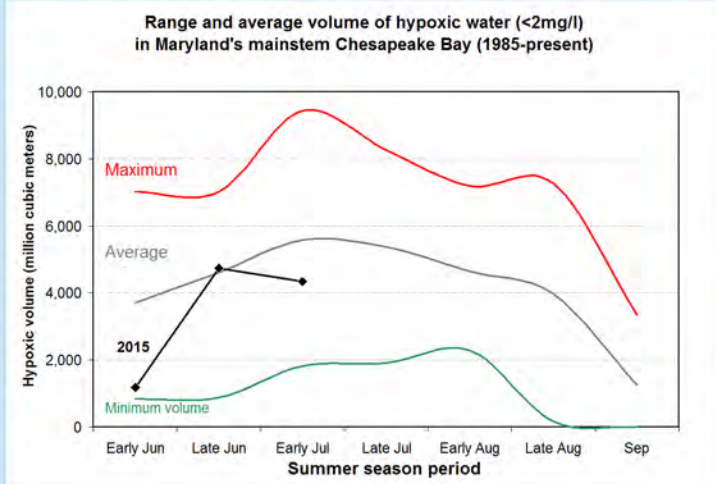
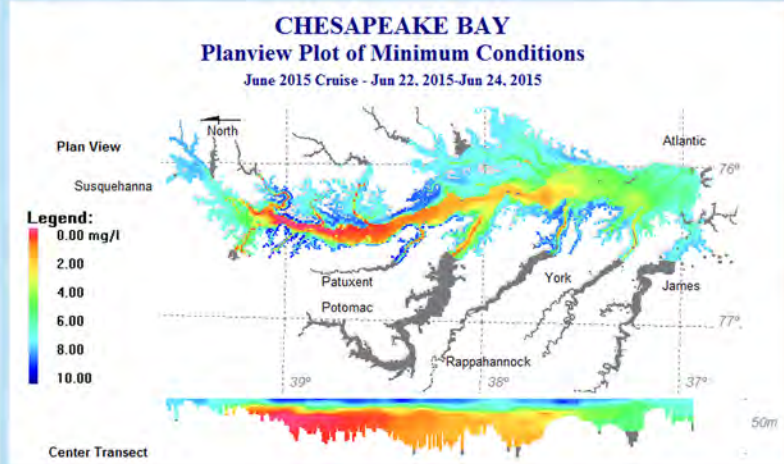
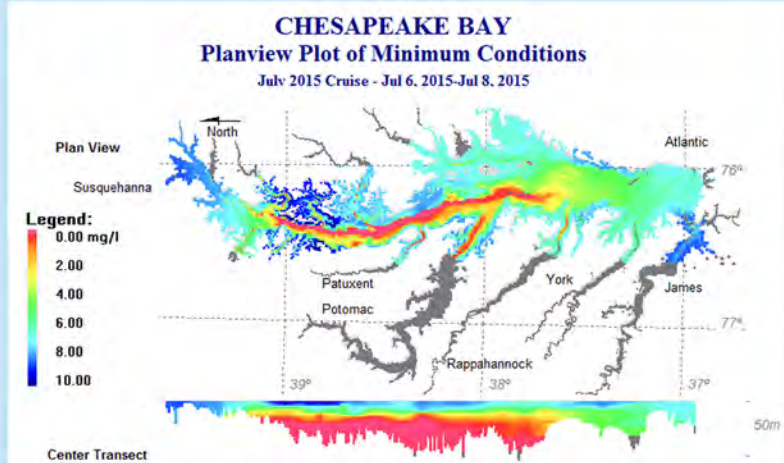
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2015 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report - Early July Update



The early July 2015 Maryland Chesapeake dead zone volume is below average and it is the 9th smallest for that period since monitoring began in 1985. Although the MD portion is below average and smaller than late-June's, the dead zone did intensify in the Virginia portion of the Bay between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. The total MD volume is 1.042 cubic miles. The dead zone corresponds to red and orange on the maps.

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.



For more information:

- *Eyes on the Bay* (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 dead zone 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. This area of hypoxia is often termed "The Dead Zone" in media reports.

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: July 20, 2015

