

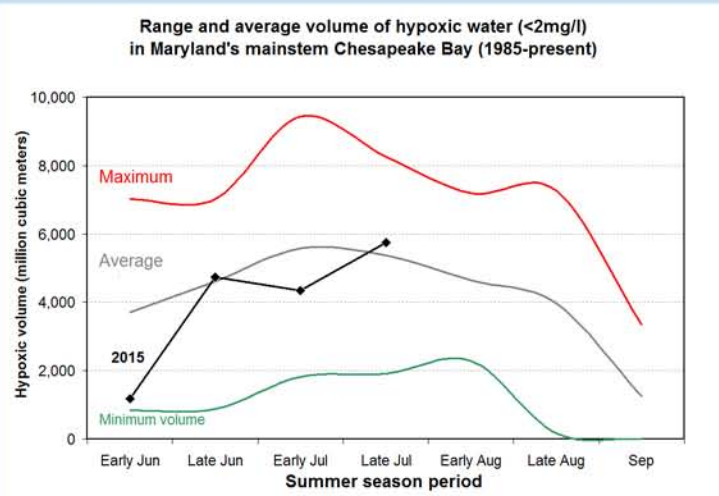
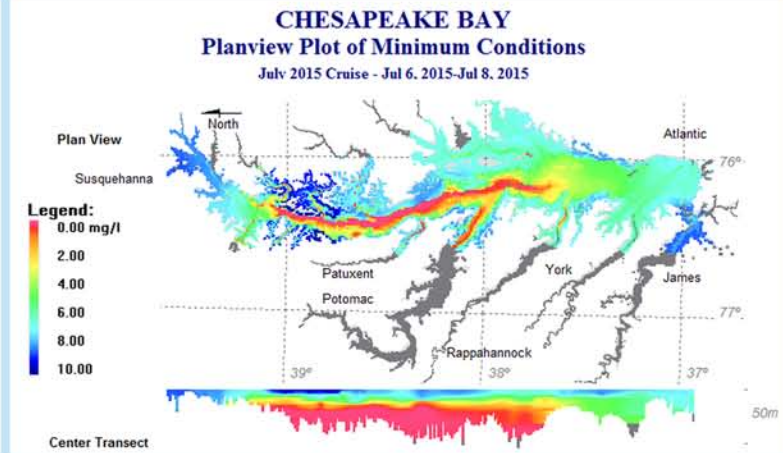
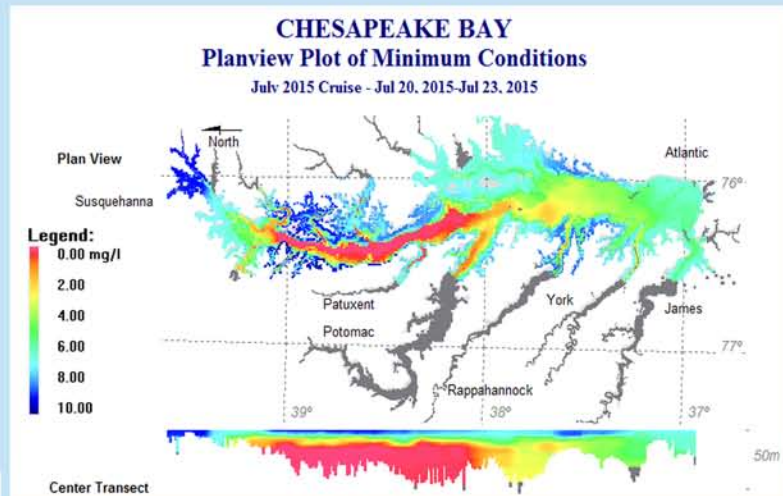
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2015 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report - Late July Update



The late July 2015 Maryland Chesapeake dead zone volume has risen to slightly above average. The hypoxic water (areas with <math><2\text{mg/l}</math> oxygen) receded in Virginia, but has risen higher in the water column in Maryland, allowing shallower lateral parts of the Bay to be affected. The total MD volume is 1.38 cubic miles. The dead zone corresponds to red and orange on the maps which begins between 20-30ft below the water surface.

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) - 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 27, 2015

