

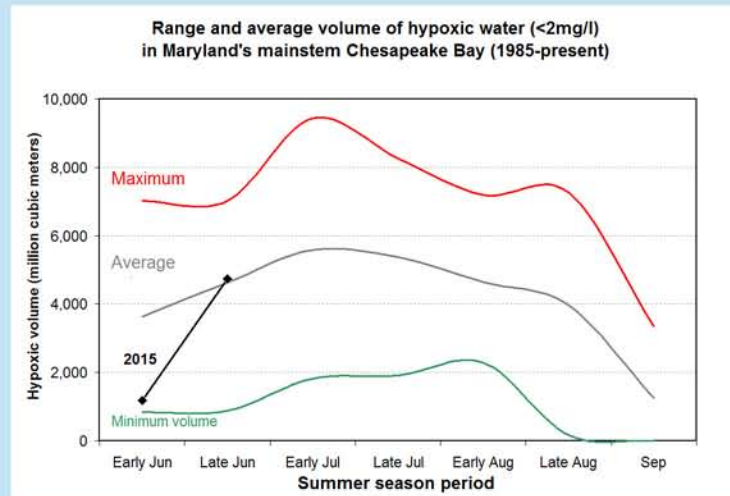
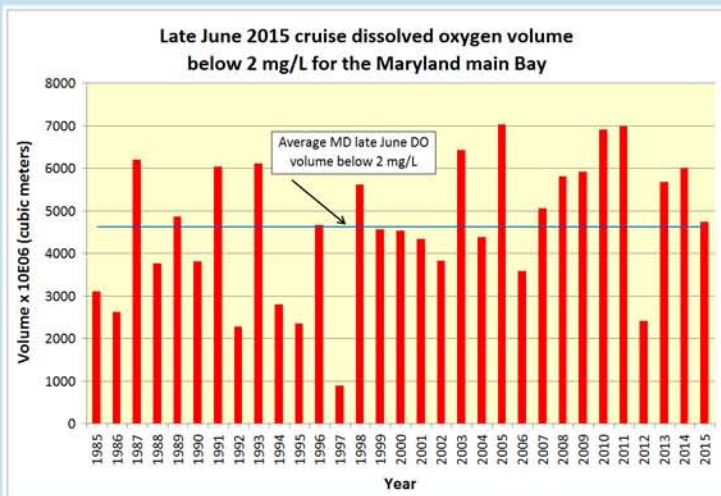
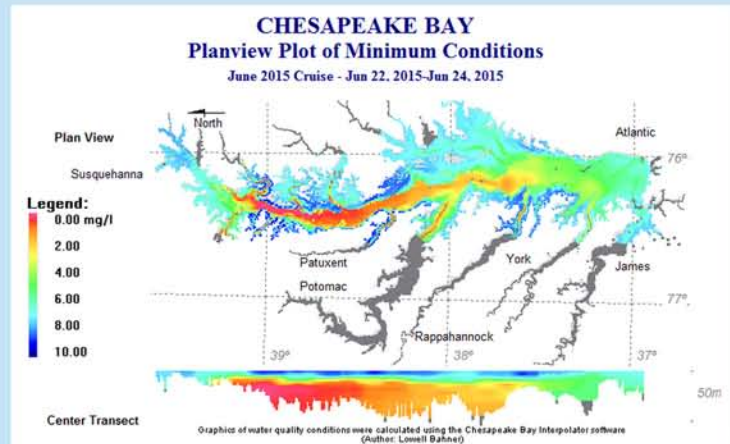
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2015 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report - Late June Update



The late June 2015 Bay sampling shows that the dead zone volume (<2 mg/L dissolved oxygen) in Maryland's portion of the Bay is about average compared to the previous 31 years of late June data. The dead zone size is 1.14 cubic miles compared with 0.28 cubic miles in early June. For perspective, the late June volume is roughly equivalent to the volume of 1,670 large NFL stadiums. The increase is attributed to warming waters which hold less oxygen as well as a record amount of June rainfalls which increased water column stratification and likely introduced more nutrients from runoff.

In the beginning of summer, NOAA, USGS, UMCES and UMich scientists predicted a smaller than average dead zone due to lower than average Spring flows and nitrogen loading.



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
- *University of MD Center for Environmental Science* Chesapeake dead zone forecast history (<http://bit.ly/1Cr1hB6>)

Crabs, fish, oysters and other creatures in the Chesapeake Bay need 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: June 30, 2015

