

Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2014 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report

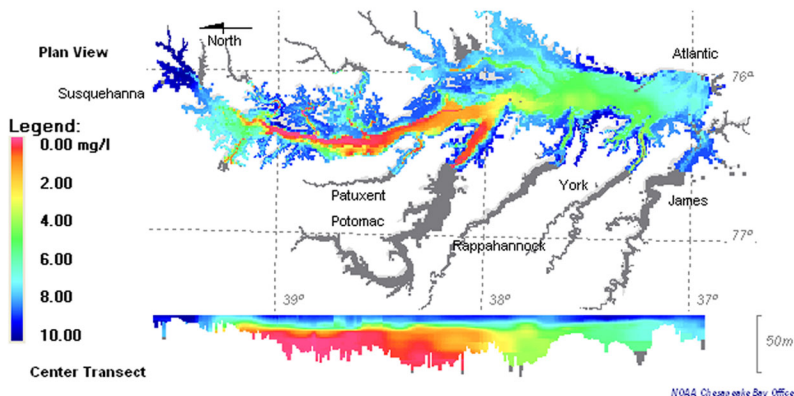
Early June Update

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.

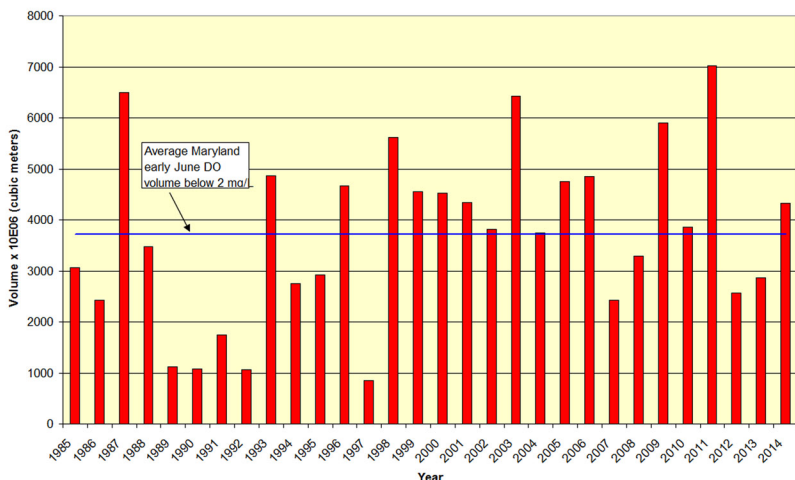
Each year from June through September, Maryland DNR computes these volumes from data that it and its Virginian counterparts collect. Data collection is funded by the States and our partner, the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program.



CHESAPEAKE BAY
Planview Plot of Minimum Conditions
June 2014 Cruise - Jun 2, 2014-Jun 4, 2014



First June 2014 cruise dissolved oxygen volume below 2 mg/L for the Maryland main Bay



The above map shows the extent of hypoxia in the horizontal (plan view) as well as a vertical transect down the center of the Bay. The oranges and reds are indicative of hypoxic zones.

This year, the early June 2014 sampling shows that hypoxic volume in Maryland’s portion of the Bay is slightly larger than the 1985 to 2013 early June average. About 20% of the MD main Bay volume has detrimental oxygen conditions. It ranks as the 13th worst early June result in 30 years of sampling.

The next DNR monitoring report will be in late June. The UMCES IAN summer dissolved oxygen forecast is slated for release next week.

For more information:

- Eyes on the Bay (www.eyesonthebay.net) - Chesapeake and Coastal Bays water quality results
- Baystat (baystat.maryland.gov) Maryland’s action and progress towards Chesapeake restoration
- UMCES Integration & Application Network (ian.umces.edu) Dissolved oxygen forecast



DNR Tidewater Ecosystem Assessment
410-260-8630
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