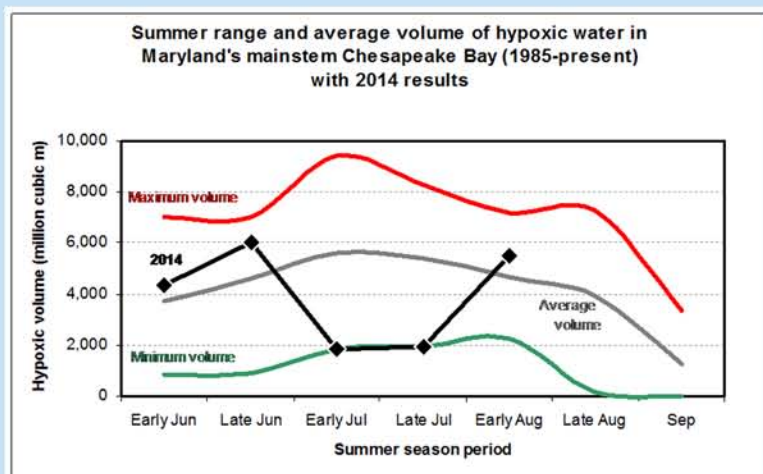
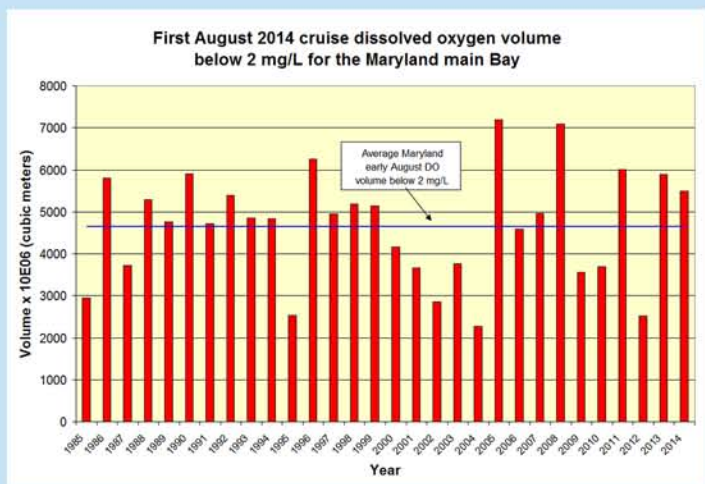
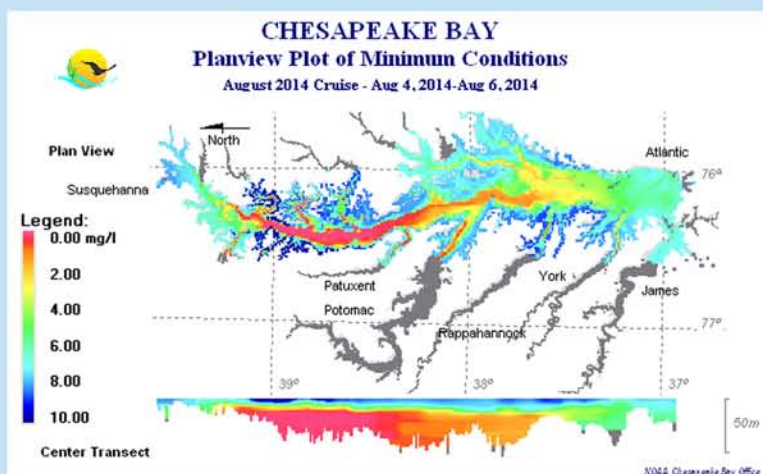


Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2014 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report - Early-August Update



The early-August 2014 Bay sampling shows that hypoxic volume (dead zone) in Maryland's portion of the Bay **has returned to slightly above average in size**. It is the **8th largest** MD early-August hypoxic zone recorded in 30 years of sampling and follows on the smallest July MD dead zone seen in 30 years. The record small dead zone was caused mostly by water column mixing as Hurricane Arthur passed by MD at the start of July. The current volume of dead zone waters in the MD main Chesapeake is 1.32 cubic miles. This result is in line with predictions (<http://1.usa.gov/1qK7DaC>) by a team of NOAA, USGS and university scientists and is due to a 20% increase in Baywide 2014 vs 2013 Spring nitrogen loading to the Bay, caused by higher water flows.



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

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 collected by Maryland and Virginia. Data collection is funded by these states and their partner, the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program. The next update will be published in early September.

Posted: August 19, 2014

