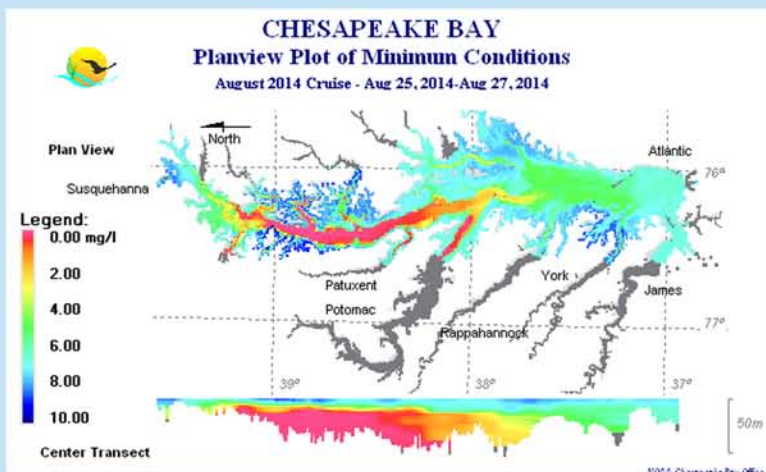


# Maryland Department of Natural Resources

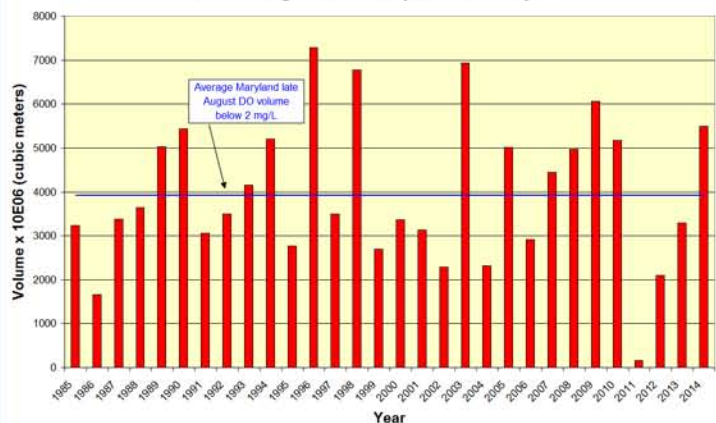
## 2014 Chesapeake Bay Dead Zone Report - Late-August Update



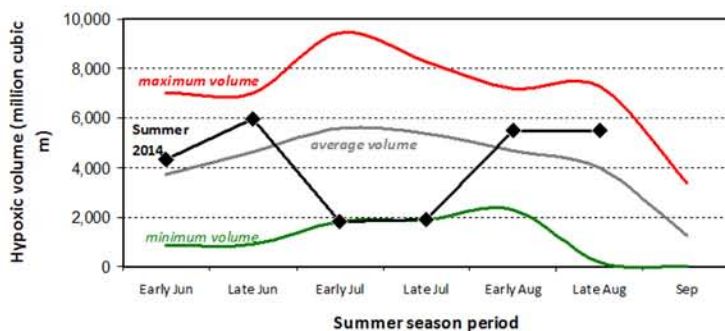
The late-August 2014 Bay sampling shows that dead zone volume (<2 mg/l dissolved oxygen) in Maryland's portion of the Bay, **remained equal in size to early-August results**. On average, Chesapeake dead zone size tends to decrease in late August. It is the **5th largest** MD late-August dead zone recorded 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.



Second August 2014 cruise dissolved oxygen volume below 2 mg/L for the Maryland main Bay



Summer range and average volume of waters with less than 2mg/l oxygen in Maryland's mainstem Chesapeake Bay (1985-present) with summer 2014 results



For more information:

- **Eyes on the Bay** ([www.eyesonthebay.net](http://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: September 4, 2014

