

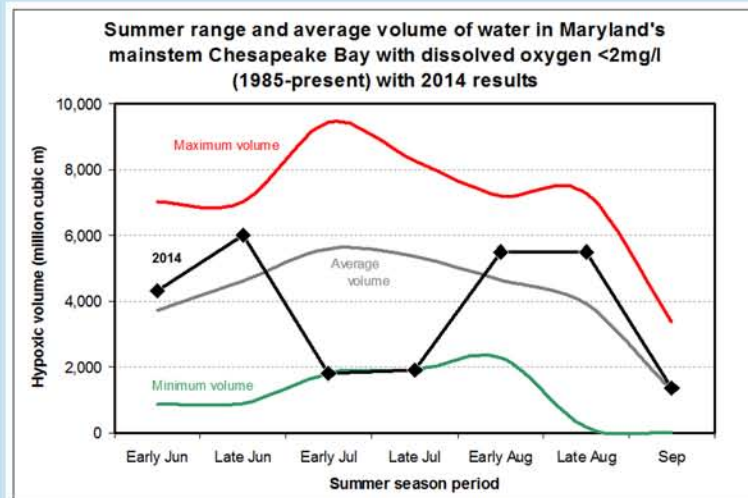
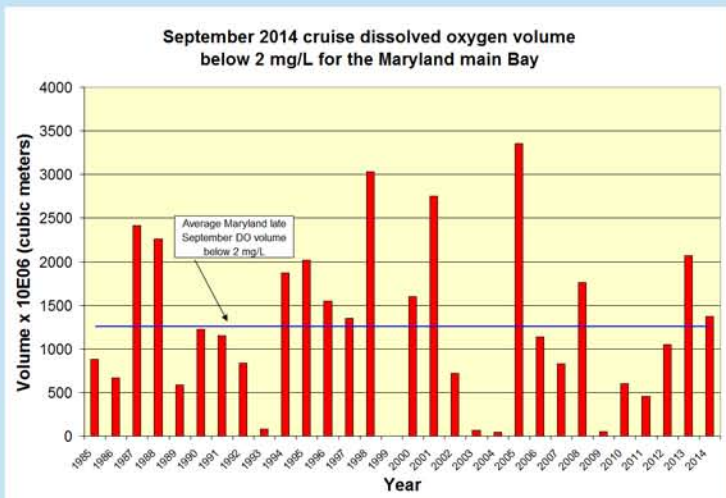
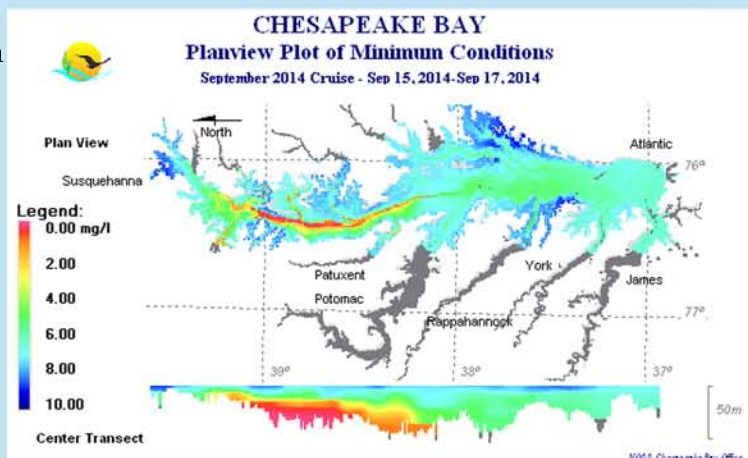
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2014 Chesapeake Bay Dead Zone Report - September Update



The September 2014 Bay sampling shows that dead zone volume (<2 mg/L dissolved oxygen) in Maryland's portion of the Bay is about average compared to the previous 30 years of September data. The dead zone size decreased from 1.32 cubic miles in August to 0.33 in mid-September. Cooler temperatures will likely dissipate it further, if not completely, by the mid-October monitoring cruises.

In the beginning of summer, NOAA, USGS and university scientists predicted a larger than average dead zone due to higher than average Spring flows and nitrogen loading. That prediction largely held true except for the anomaly of Hurricane Arthur that acted to mix and oxygenate waters, producing record small dead zones throughout July.



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-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 monitoring will continue through the Fall/Winter and dead zone reporting will start again in June 2015.

Posted: September 24, 2014

