

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2016 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report - Early June Update



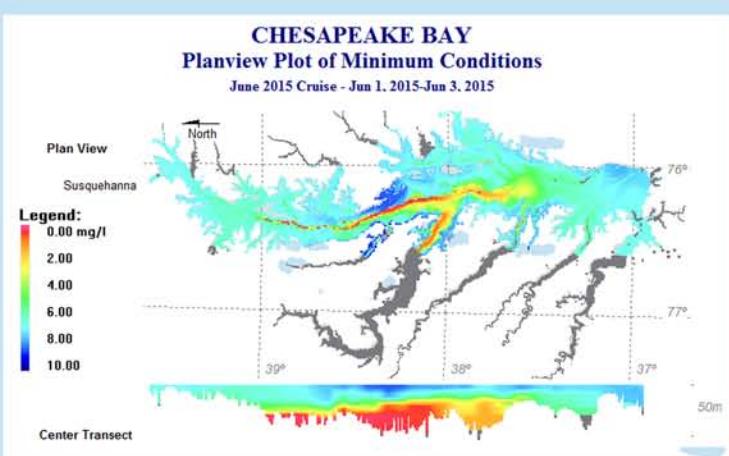
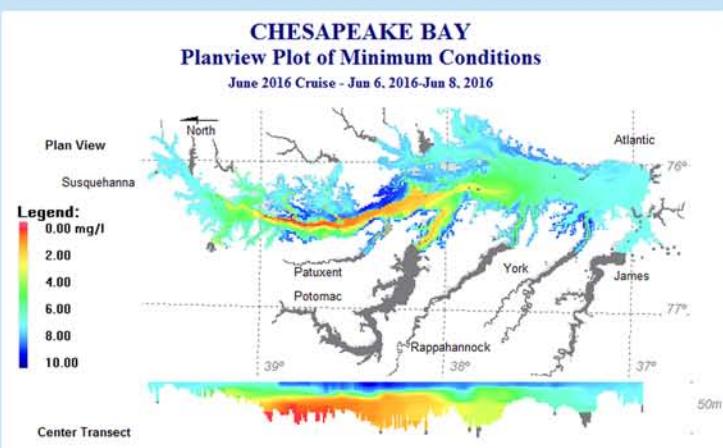
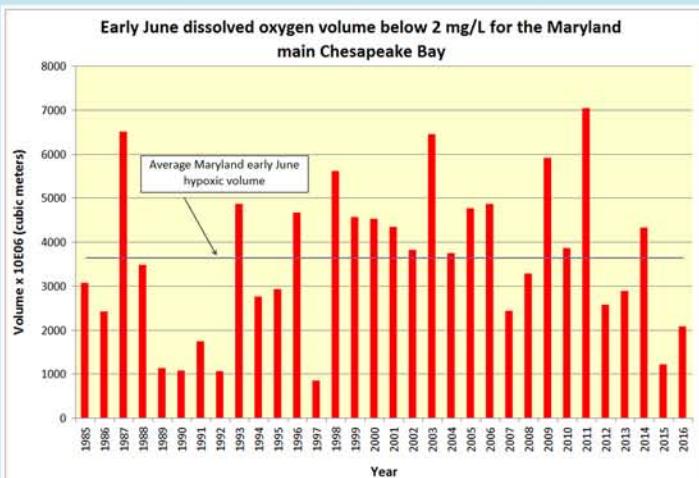
Larry Hogan, Governor



Mark J. Belton, Secretary

Dissolved oxygen conditions in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay mainstem were the seventh best since 1985 for the early June period. The hypoxic water volume (areas below 2 mg/l oxygen) was approximately 0.5 cubic miles, which is much smaller than the early June 1985-2015 average of 0.87 cubic miles. No anoxic zones (areas below 0.2 mg/l) were detected. The maps to the right show the extent of hypoxia in early June 2016 and 2015. The chart below shows early June volumes since 1985.

In the beginning of June, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Geological Survey, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and University of Michigan scientists predicted a close to average sized hypoxic volume for the bay due to lower spring flows (January -May) and nitrogen loading from the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers.



For more information:

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Our Waters Page. dnr.maryland.gov/waters
- Press Release for the 2016 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxic Zone Forecast. <http://1.usa.gov/28QHmEc>

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability.

This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with disability.

Crabs, fish, oysters and other creatures in the Chesapeake Bay require oxygen to survive. Scientists and natural resource managers study the volume and duration of bay hypoxia to determine possible impacts to bay life.

Each year (June-September), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources computes these volumes from data collected by Maryland and Virginia monitoring teams. Data collection is funded by these states and the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program. Bay hypoxia monitoring and reporting will continue through the summer.

Posted: June 29, 2016