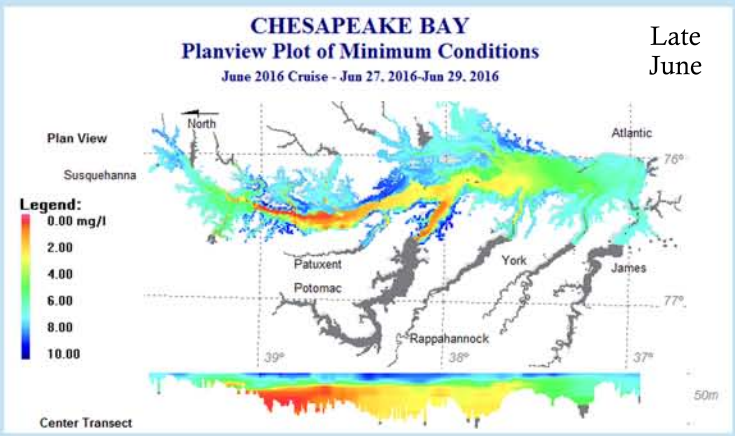
Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2016 Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia Report - Early July Update

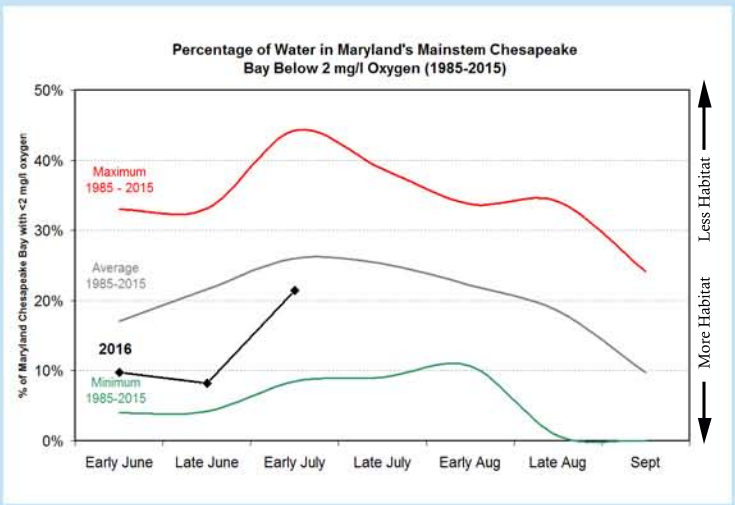
Larry Hogan, Governor

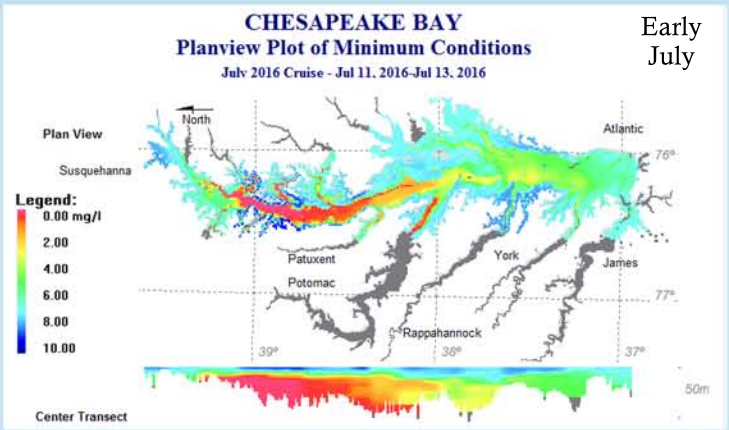
Mark J. Belton, Secretary

Dissolved oxygen conditions in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay mainstem were the tenth best since 1985 for the early July period. The hypoxic water volume (areas below 2 mg/l oxygen) was approximately 1.1 cubic miles, which is smaller than the early July 1985-2015 average of 1.33 cubic miles and on par with last year's early July result. No anoxic zones (areas below 0.2 mg/l) were detected. With warmer temperatures expected for the region, late July conditions could wane as warmer waters hold and mix less oxygen.

In the beginning of June, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminstration, 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. 1.usa.gov/28QHmEc

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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 September.

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