



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES NOVEMBER 2019

Chesapeake Bay Program

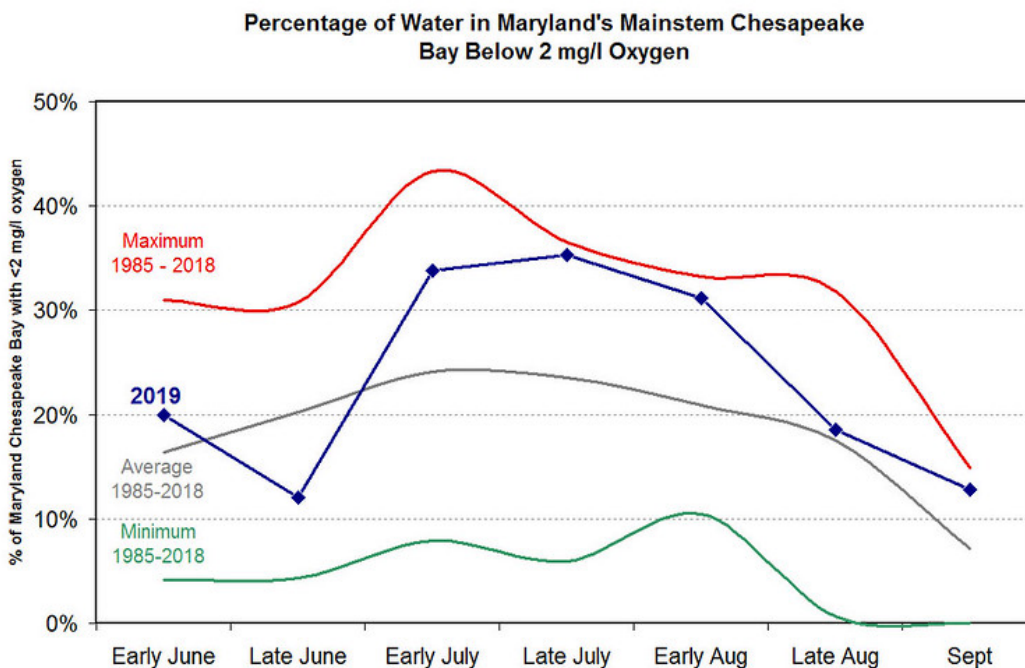
- **Chesapeake Bay Program Gets at \$5 Million Increase in Senate Appropriations.**
On October 31, the Senate passed appropriations for the Chesapeake Bay Program in the amount of \$78.28 million, which is an increase of \$5.28 million from Fiscal Year 2019.
<https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/news/press-releases/van-hollen-cardin-secure-senate-passage-of-increased-funds-for-chesapeake-bay-program->
- **Exelon has reached a \$200 million-over-fifty-years Settlement with Maryland Over Conowingo Dam**
https://www.bayjournal.com/article/exelon-agrees-to-200-million-settlement-for-impact-of-conowingo-dam?utm_source=Bay+Journal+Weekly+News&utm_campaign=e40e71a5ba-Newsltr_2019_Nov4&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bde9036159-e40e71a5ba-69487765
- **Background Article on the Role of the Conowingo WIP in the Bay Cleanup**
https://www.bayjournal.com/article/coalition-to-think-beyond-state-borders-to-offset-conowingo-flows?utm_source=Bay+Journal+Weekly+News&utm_campaign=e40e71a5ba-Newsltr_2019_Nov4&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bde9036159-e40e71a5ba-69487765
- **Site Specific Best Management Practices in Bay Watershed Can Be More Cost Effective**
https://phys.org/news/2019-11-cost-effective-sites-bay-cleanup.html?mc_cid=5afd74d23d&mc_eid=518c35391f

Watershed Models and Water Quality Results

- **Climate Change, Bay Model Updates**
The Bay Program is on track to finalize updates to its suite of models to account for the impact of climate change on achieving the TMDL restoration goals. The Bay Program's Modeling Workgroup expects to finalize the updates in December, giving the Program partners a year to review results before deciding how to address climate change quantitatively in their Phase III watershed implementation plans. Preliminary modeling estimates had indicated that accounting for climate change would require the reduction of an additional 9 million pounds of nitrogen by 2025.
- **Maryland's Bay "Dead Zone" Estimates Higher than Average**
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' monitoring data from its summer cruises of the Bay mainstem showed that the volume of low oxygen waters was higher than normal this past summer. The hypoxic water volume – waters with less than 2 milligrams/liter oxygen – was 0.73 cubic miles in September, down from the 1.06 cubic miles seen in late August, but greater than the historical 0.41 cubic mile average for September.

According to MDDNR:

“Overall, summer 2019 ranked as the third-worst average Maryland hypoxia volume calculated from monitoring data. Only 1998 and 2005 ranked above it, and 2003 was a close fourth. Monitoring results match the forecast prediction from early summer by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Geological Survey, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and University of Michigan scientists. Their forecasting predicted 2019 would have the fourth-worst hypoxia seen in the past 20 years for the Chesapeake Bay. Predictions were based on higher flows last fall and this spring, which produce higher nitrogen loading from the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers that in part determines the extent and duration of hypoxia.”



Source: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2019/10/03/september-hypoxia-report/>

Local Water Quality

- **COG's Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) to Launch Protect Your Pipes Fats, Oils, Grease Campaign for Thanksgiving**

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving the CEC will make fats, oils, grease public service announcements on WTOP radio and will be posting information on COG's social media reminding residents to avoid time with their plumber by always throw fats, oils, and grease in the trash. Please spread the word, and refer residents to www.ProtectYourPipes.org for

information on disposal of grease and also how to winterize pipes to protect them from freezing.

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Offers Field Liaison Support for Grants
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/39729/field_liaison_flyer.pdf

Other Water Resources – Drinking Water and Storm Water

- **Water Supply and Drought – November 2019**

Conditions continue to improve as the region recovers from dry and unusually hot conditions during the month of September. Streamflows have continued to stay above the monitoring threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second at the Point of Rocks USGS streamflow gage and as a result, [the CO-OP](#) has suspended daily monitoring activities. The statewide drought watch advisory in Virginia (issued by VADEQ) has been lifted and all COG jurisdictions in Maryland are under a normal status

Potomac streamflow levels are currently above median levels and local reservoirs remain full. Most of the regional groundwater wells monitored are near normal levels. The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates that drought removal is likely in the COG region over the next three months. NOAA's Winter 2019 U.S. Precipitation Outlook states that we have up to a 40% chance of more snow our wetter conditions than normal. To learn more: [COG's Regional Drought and Water Supply Status](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Priorities Workshop – November 18, 2019
Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee—January 17, 2020

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