



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) AND OTHER WATER RESOURCES UPDATES January 2019

Updates on key CBP and Water Resources activities that COG staff are monitoring or actively involved in that have critical impacts or potential implications for COG's members and the RWQM Work Program.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Bay TMDL – Phase III WIPs & Other Updates

The Maryland Department of the Environment held a series of Phase III WIP planning meetings in November and December in conjunction with the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology. Recommendations from these sessions can be found at: <http://agresearch.umd.edu/agroecol/fall-watershed-implementation-plan-wip-workshops>

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission, under a contract from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, submitted a plan in December for achieving the state's local area planning target for the reduction of nutrients and sediment within the boundaries of NVRC's membership. The plan, based on an extensive stakeholder review process, addresses how to achieve reductions from the unregulated developed load source sector, the natural sector and the septic sector. For more information, contact Norm Goulet of the NVRC, NGoulet@novaregion.org

Bay Leadership

Dana Aunkst, formerly at Pennsylvania DEP, been selected to lead the Chesapeake Bay Program.

https://www.bayjournal.com/blog/post/epa_names_new_leader_for_chesapeake_bay_program_office
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-names-dana-aunkst-director-chesapeake-bay-program>

Bay Report Card

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) issues report cards every two years. The recently released 2018 report gave the Bay a 33 out of 100 or D+ due to the extreme weather and precipitation that flushed enormous amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and debris into the Bay. In comparison, the 2016 report gave the Bay an overall score of 34 out of 100, which was the highest score in the 20-year history of that report card. The report points out that there are signs that the Bay is building resiliency. Bay grasses remain intact and recent studies indicate an improving trend in underwater dead zones over the long term.

To download the full report, visit the CPF website: <http://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-reports/2018-state-of-the-bay-report.pdf>

Bay Funding

Governor Northam proposes more money for the Bay—ag and stormwater

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/va-gov-northam-proposes-more-money-for-a-cleaner-chesapeake-bay/2018/12/12/c8df2c2a-fe2c-11e8-83c0-b06139e540e5_story.html?utm_term=.40b40b1271e3

Watershed and Water Quality Models– Activities and Issues

The Bay Program's Modeling Team is working on revisions to its preliminary efforts to quantify the effects of climate change on pollutant loads and water quality in the Bay. The updated results from the Bay Program's suite of models are expected to be completed by 2021, in time for the program as a whole to decide how to work climate change impacts into its efforts to achieve Bay TMDL goals by 2025. Gary Shenk of the modeling team briefed the members of COG's Water Resources Tech Committee on these modeling developments at the WRTC's Nov. 9 meeting.

https://www.mwcog.org/events/2018/?F_committee=205

OTHER WATER RESOURCES

Member Recognition

Alexandria Renew's CEO Karen Pallansch is Water Finance & Management's 2018 Award Winner

<https://waterfm.com/alexrenew-ceo-karen-pallansch-wfms-2018-award-winner/>

Water Quality

Scientists waiting to see if record 2018 rainfall dampens Bay recovery

Scientists are still evaluating the effects of the record rainfall of 2018 on water quality dynamics and living resources in the Bay. There are hopes that recent progress in reducing pollutant discharge and associated improvements in living resources may be resilient enough to blunt the negative impact of increased nutrient and sediment loads driven by the high flows of freshwater into the Bay.

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/scientists_waiting_to_see_if_record_2018_rainfall_dampens_bay_recovery

Summer dissolved oxygen conditions in the Bay both average and unique

Overall conditions for dissolved oxygen (DO) in the Chesapeake Bay in the summer of 2018 were in line with the long-term average, according to an annual report issued by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but the pattern of high and low values was very different from normal.

DNR gathers DO data from long-term monitoring stations in Maryland's portion of the Bay throughout the summer, combines it with similar data collected by monitoring efforts in Virginia and issues periodic summaries of the data.

Although the average volume of low-oxygen waters in the Bay – 0.97 cubic miles from June-through-September – computed by DNR was in line with the 1985-2017 average, hypoxia was higher than average in the early and late parts of the season, and at a record low in July, presumably driven by the impacts of high flows from the Bay's tributaries.

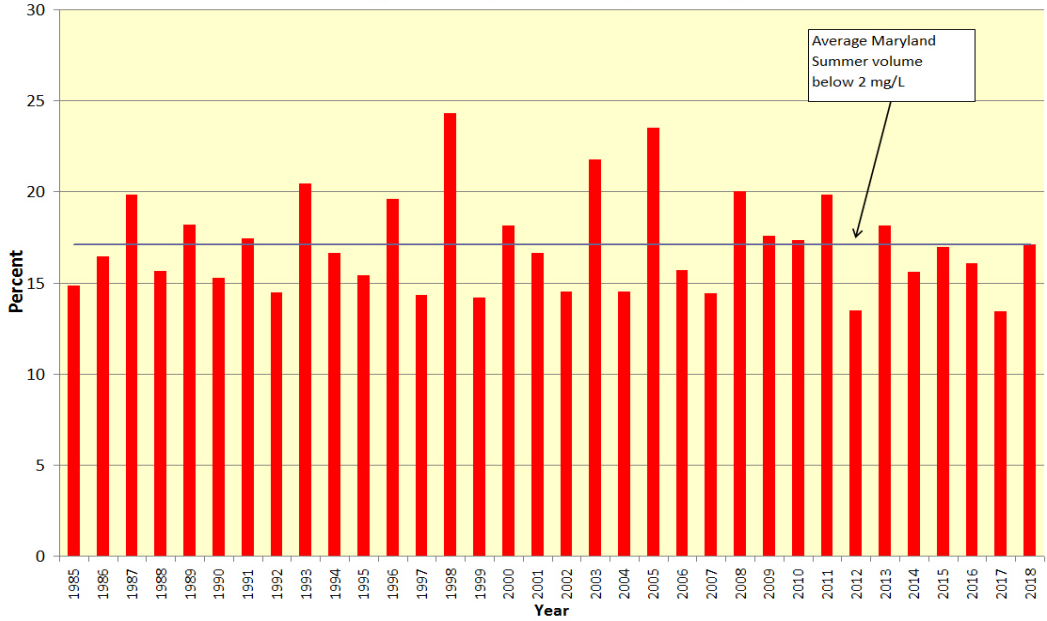
<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2018/10/23/summer-2018-hypoxia-report/>

The Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences runs a separate DO model for the Bay and issues its own hypoxia report card, which generally matches the findings of the MDE report.

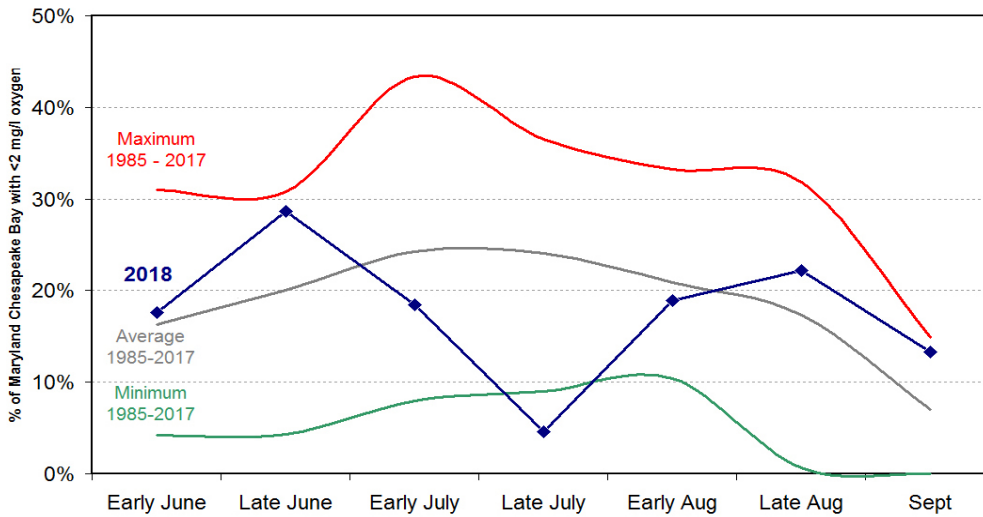
http://www.vims.edu/research/topics/dead_zones/forecasts/report_card/index.php



Summer 2018 - Average Volume of Dissolved Oxygen below 2 mg/L as a Percentage of Maryland Chesapeake Bay Volume



Percentage of Water in Maryland's Mainstem Chesapeake Bay Below 2 mg/l Oxygen



DC Water's Clean Rivers Project Anacostia Tunnel Performed Better Than Expected in 2018, Even with Record Rainfall

<https://www.dwater.com/whats-going-on/news/dc-water%E2%80%99s-anacostia-river-tunnel-saves-river-45-billion-gallons-sewage-overflow>



Drinking Water

The 2018 Drought Exercise was held on November 30, 2018 at the Fairfax Water's Griffith Water Treatment Plant. The objectives of the exercise were to test the mechanisms in the Low Flow Allocation Agreement for allocating water during an extreme drought and to explore the interactions between the various regional drought plans. A summary and meetings materials will be posted to the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin's (ICPRB) website soon: <https://www.potomacriver.org/>

Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related

NOAA's [Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences Assessment](https://www.midatlanticrisa.org/) (MARISA) has developed a **Climate Information Summary Climate Data Portal** for the Mid-Atlantic region that summarizes recent weather patterns and includes historic and future projections in precipitation and temperature in a wide array of map products, available here: <https://www.midatlanticrisa.org/resources.html>.

If you have a few minutes, check out these resources and complete the [survey](#) (link available on the webpages) so that MARISA can continue to refine their work to meet our climate planning needs. Or you can send a note to Amanda Campbell, Acampbell@mwkog.org, and we will pass along your feedback.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next WRTC meeting– March 8, 2019

Next CBPC meeting - March 15, 2019

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