

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES JANUARY 2020

Chesapeake Bay Program

- **Maryland Gov. Hogan Seeks to Sue PA and EPA Over Lagging Bay Efforts**
<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/01/08/to-protect-chesapeake-bay-governor-hogan-directs-attorney-general-to-pursue-legal-actions-against-pennsylvania-and-epa/>
- **Microplastics are a Huge Problem**
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/small_plastics_are_a_big_problem?mc_cid=5bc33f8b97&mc_eid=518c35391f

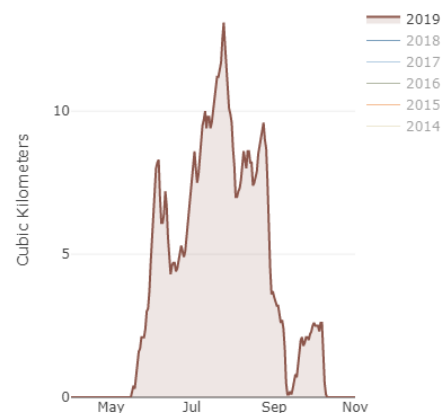
Watershed Models and Water Quality Results

- A Virginia estimate of the Bay's dead zone in 2019 is "on the high end of the normal range for 1985 to 2018," according to the dead zone report card of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. VIMS use some of the same data that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources uses in its report on dissolved oxygen conditions in the Bay, a key measure of water quality and one of the end points of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. However, VIMS plugs this data from the biweekly sampling of tidal water conditions in summer into a hypoxia model that estimates the volume of water in the Bay's mainstem whose oxygen content is below the amount needed for living resources. Driven by very high levels of freshwater entering the Bay from tributaries in the spring of 2019, the volume of hypoxia was predicted to be among the highest in the 33-year record of Bay water quality. However, the total hypoxic volume was less than predicted, although it was higher than the levels of the last five years.

VIMS scientists suggest that this difference between the predicted and actual volumes of hypoxia reflects the beneficial impact of efforts to reduce nutrients under the Bay restoration effort.

To view the full VIMS dead zone report:

Chesapeake Bay Daily Hypoxic Volume



Source: VIMS 2019 Dead Zone Report Card

https://www.vims.edu/newsandevents/topstories/2019/deadzone_rcard_19.php

Local Water Quality

- DOEE Proposed Plan for Anacostia River's Toxic Sediments
The District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) has released the Proposed Plan for the Anacostia River Sediment Project (ARSP) part of a process that will make the river and two other bodies of water safer for the public and environmental health. The Proposed Plan, and more information can be found on: anacostiasedimentproject.com. The Plan is open for public comment through January 26.

Other Water Resources – Drinking Water and Storm Water

- The Potomac is Three Times Saltier Than 25 years Ago
https://potomac.org/blog/2019/2/11/potomac-river-salt-salinity-study-2019-n6hl4?mc_cid=5bc33f8b97&mc_eid=518c35391f
- Heavy Salt Use is a Growing Problem
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/12/24/winter-weather-road-salt-use-problems/2741286001/>
- Top Weather Events in 2019 in DC and beyond
[When it comes to weather, 2019 saw it all: From tornadoes and hurricanes to floods and wildfires, look back on the year's top weather events in the D.C. region and beyond.](#)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

WRTC Meeting – January 27, 2020

CBPC Forum with EPA and the states – March 20, 2020

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