



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES September 2019

Chesapeake Bay Program

- **Final Phase III WIPs issued**

Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and the other Bay partner jurisdictions issued their finalized Phase III Watershed Implementation plans (WIPs) on Aug. 23. The partners made changes between the draft and the final WIPs in response to comments by EPA and other stakeholders. COG staff has prepared a separate document detailing the response to COG's comments on the draft WIPs. To access the plans and supporting documentation:

Maryland: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/Phase3WIP.aspx>.

Virginia: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ChesapeakeBay/ChesapeakeBayTMDL/PhaseIIIWatershedImplementationPlanning.aspx>

District of

Columbia: https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/d DOE/service_content/attachments/FINAL%20DC%20PHASE%20III%20WIP%20-S_0.pdf

- **The Chesapeake Bay Program's Executive Council met on September 5th**

Governor Hogan was elected to a third term as chair, and the heads of state all shared their visions for meeting the Bay goals. Highlights are in the Bay Program's blog.

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/chesapeake_executive_council_looks_to_the_future

- **Ahead of the Executive Council Meeting, Governor Hogan Sent a Letter to Pennsylvania, Putting Governor and EPA on Watch for Stated Budget Shortfalls in PA WIP**

<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Letter-to-Governor-Wolf-and-Administrator-Wheeler.pdf>

- **DEA Drug Take Back Day is October 26 (10 A.M.-2 P.M.) at Various Locations in Metropolitan Washington**

Please support COG's campaign by directing people to COG's Protect Your Pipes for more information. You can protect public safety and water quality by encouraging residents to properly dispose of unwanted medications on the take back day, at permanent drop boxes, or in the trash. More information on medications disposal is on the Protect Your Pipes and DEA websites.

- **Conowingo WIP**

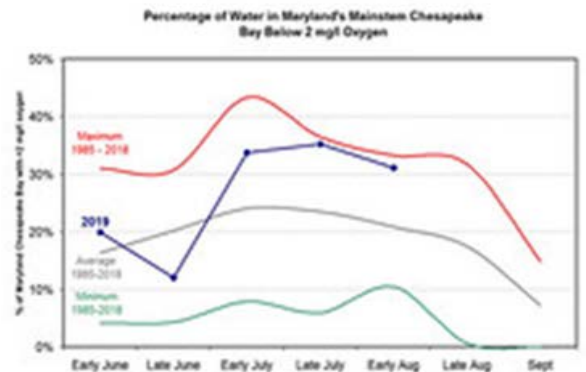
The Bay Program has selected three contractors to develop the Conowingo WIP and subsequent milestones and tracking. EPA has stated that the Bay Partners will need to contribute additional funding in subsequent years to cover the costs of the WIP. The Conowingo WIP schedule has shifted back, so that now the draft Conowingo WIP for public comment is slated for March 13, 2020 and the final Conowingo WIP is due June 19, 2020.

Local Water Quality

- **Montgomery County Passes Bill to Further Restrict PAH Concentrations in Sealants**
https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/bill_details.aspx?doc=2604&hl=7192
- **Festival del Rio will be October 12**
This is a family-fun educational event to celebrate the Anacostia River and learn about water quality. Please help spread the word on social media:
<https://www.facebook.com/AnacostiaRioFest/>
- **High Flows Lead to Higher Anoxic Volumes in Tidal Waters**

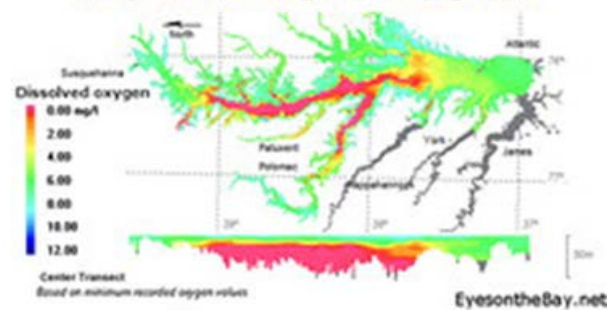
Maryland Department of Natural Resources monitoring data show that dissolved oxygen conditions in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay mainstem were larger than average in early August. The hypoxic water volume (areas with less than 2 mg/l oxygen) was 1.77 cubic miles in early August, down from the 2.01 cubic miles seen in late July, but significantly higher than the 1985-2018 early August average of 1.19 cubic miles. The hypoxic volumes ranked third-largest since 1985 for the early August time period.

The data is in line with what scientists have been predicting based on the high flows from last summer through this spring. Other weather factors, such as lower sustained wind levels and high surface water temperatures, also have contributed to the anoxia.



Chesapeake Bay Dissolved Oxygen

First August Cruise - Tributaries August 7-15 / Main Bay August 5-7, 2019



Source: MDDNR

To read more: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2019/08/26/early-august-2019-hypoxia-report/>

Other Water Resources – Drinking Water and Storm Water

- **COG's Regional Drought and Water Supply Status Outlook**
The COG region is currently free of drought. In [Maryland \(MDE\)](#) and [Virginia \(VADEQ\)](#) all COG regions are under a normal status. Potomac streamflow, groundwater, and precipitation levels are near normal, and local reservoirs are full. There is a [below normal probability of releases](#) from the metropolitan Washington area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2019 summer and fall seasons. For additional information: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>

- **Stormwater to be Included in ASCE Report Card**

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has announced that stormwater infrastructure will be evaluated and graded in the next ASCE 2021 Infrastructure Report Card. This is the first time stormwater infrastructure will be included in the assessment. For more information: <https://waterfm.com/asce-to-grade-stormwater-for-first-time-on-2021-report-card/>

- **Del. Bulova (VA) is Serving on EPA's Stormwater Funding Work Group**

In February the CBPC wrote a letter recommending that Del. Bulova be nominated to EPA's Stormwater Funding Task Force. He was chosen to serve, and the Work Group convened this summer. COG will track the process and outcomes and let members know of opportunities to engage. For full Work Group membership see: <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/efab#stormwater>

- **Northern Virginia Will Issue a Salt Survey This Fall**

As part of the northern Virginia Salt Management Strategy, northern Virginia jurisdictions and utilities have partnered to develop a survey this fall to gauge public perceptions and attitudes toward winter salt usage. The survey results will help to inform Virginia's Salt Management Strategy's education and outreach about achieving salt balance, protective of public safety and our waterways. COG will share survey results when they become available.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee – September 20

COG Staff Contacts:

Steve Bieber, sbieber@mwkog.org, 202.962.3219

Karl Berber, kberger@mwccog.org, 202.962.3350

Heidi Bonnafon, hbonnafon@mwkog.org, 202.962.3216

Christine Howard, cdhoward@mwkog.org, 202.962.3366

Lisa Ragain, lragain@mwkog.org, 202.962.3322

Lisa Reynolds, lreynolds@mwkog.org, 202.962.3776