2020 Chesapeake Bay Summer Hypoxia Summary

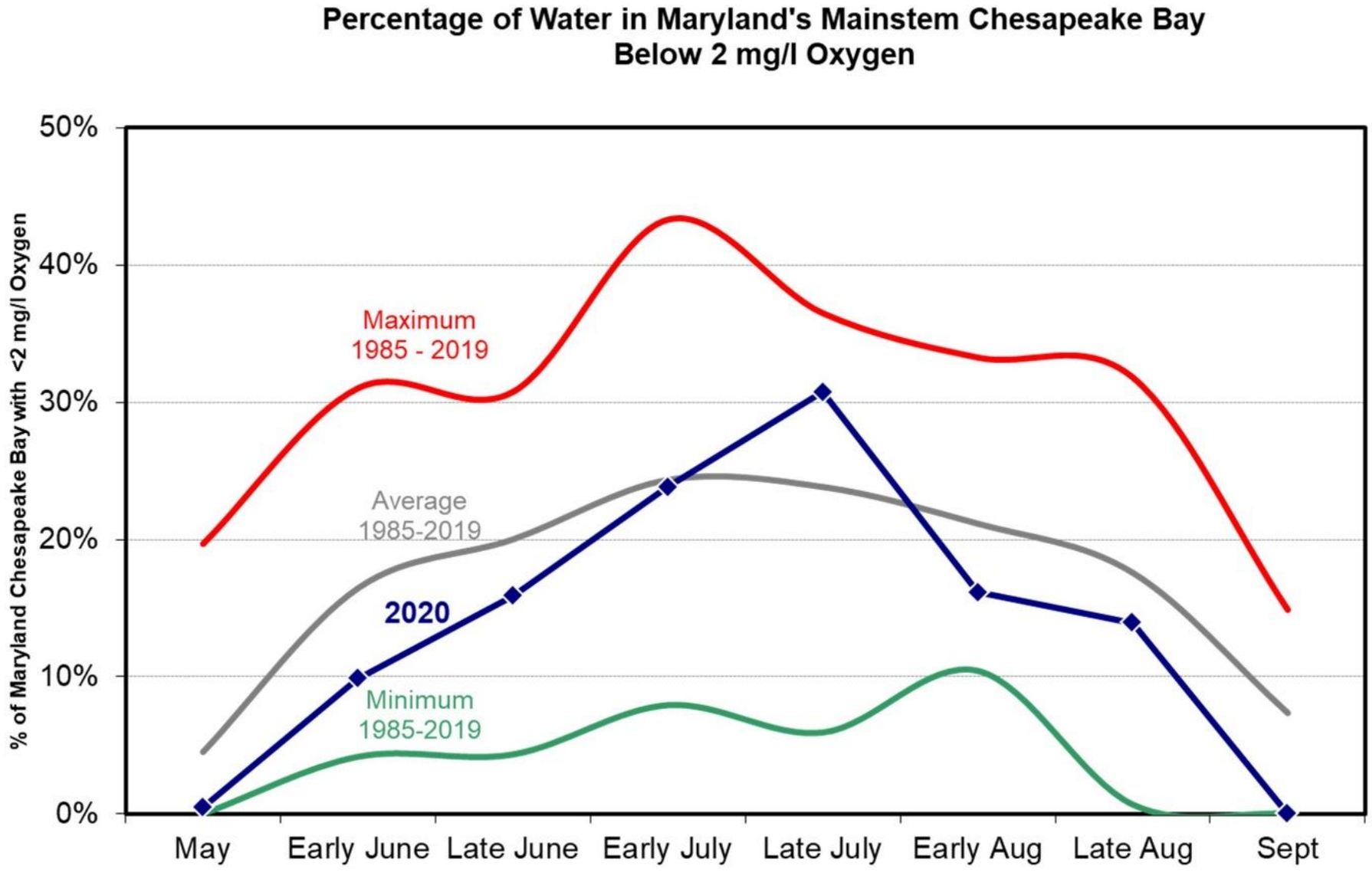
Data Integrity Work Group

December 2, 2020

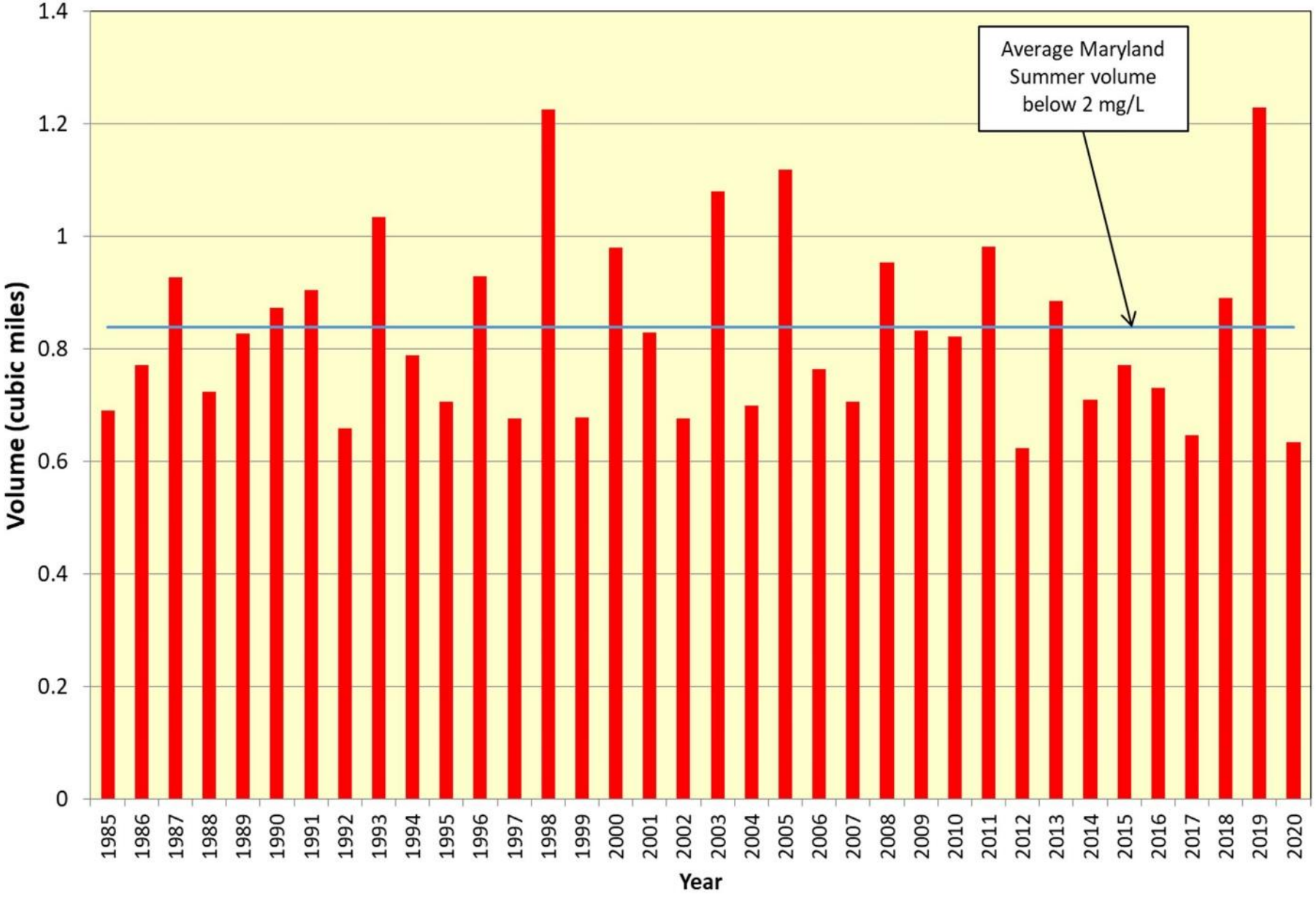
2020 Hypoxia Forecast

- Slightly less hypoxia than the long-term average (1985-2019)
- 4 out of 5 months (January – May) had less than average N loads for the 9 major River Input Monitoring sites.

- Thanks to USGS, CBP, UMCES, UM and State agencies


Percentage of Water in Maryland's Mainstem Chesapeake Bay
Below 2 mg/l Oxygen
% of Maryland Chesapeake Bay with <2 mg/l Oxygen
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Maximum
1985 - 2019
Average
1985-2019
2020
Minimum
1985-2019
May
Early June
Late June
Early July
Late July
Early Aug
Late Aug
Sept

Summer (May - September) Average Dissolved Oxygen Volume Below 2 mg/L for the Maryland Mainstem Chesapeake Bay



2020 Hypoxia Summary

- Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay mainstem was the second best on record since 1985.
- During 2020, every cruise (with the exception of late July) had better than average oxygen conditions for its time period.
- No anoxic zones were observed in the mainstem Bay in either Maryland or Virginia for the year.
- Better oxygen conditions recorded during the summer of 2020 are in agreement with forecasted results and VIMS hypoxia model.
- Many factors contributing to the much better summer bottom oxygen levels in the Maryland mainstem of the Bay, one of which is the continued implementation of nutrient reduction strategies conducted by Bay watershed jurisdictions.