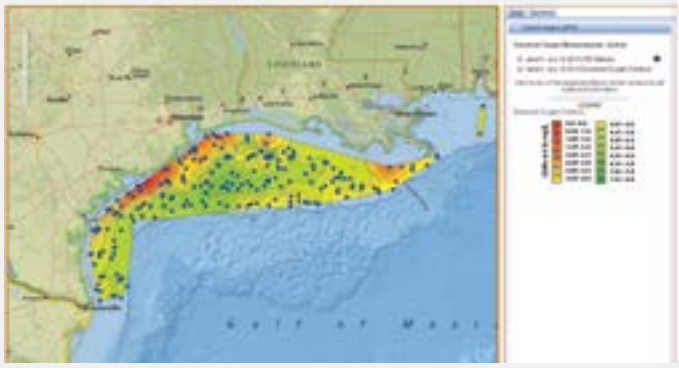
Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Watch

Gathering the Data

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is a partner in the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Watch. This cooperative project develops near real-time data and map products during the annual Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) summer shipboard survey of fish in the Gulf of Mexico. During the six week SEAMAP cruise, scientists process the measurements from electronic dissolved oxygen sensors, verify the measurements, and send the data electronically to NCEI. Staff then transforms the measurements into maps that identify areas of hypoxia. As NCEI generates new maps during the cruise, they are immediately published on the Internet for the public to view. The environmental data gathered during the annual cruises helps scientists understand the effects of the physical environment on fish and other marine organisms.

NOAA and its partners are leading efforts to understand, predict, and ultimately reduce hypoxic events and their effects on ecosystems and coastal communities. The Center for Coasts, Oceans, and Geophysics supports these efforts and works with NOAA's Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research's Gulf of Mexico Ecosystems & Hypoxia Assessment Program, the Gulf of Mexico Monitoring Stakeholder Committee, and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Nutrients & Nutrient Impacts Priority Issue Team.



HYPOXIA WATCH INTERACTIVE MAP

The Hypoxia Watch Interactive Map Service provides near real-time data on potential hypoxic conditions in the Gulf of Mexico during June and July.

www.ncddc.noaa.gov/hypoxia/products

What is Hypoxia?

Hypoxia in aquatic systems refers to waters where the dissolved oxygen concentration is below 2 mg/L. Most organisms avoid, or become physiologically stressed, in waters with oxygen below this concentration. Also known as a dead zone, hypoxia can also kill marine organisms which cannot escape the low-oxygen water, affecting commercial harvests and the health of impacted ecosystems.