

Mississippi River Basin / Gulf of Mexico Nutrient Runoff Network Info Bulletin

Sharing information and making connections from the headwaters to the gulf.

May 21, 2020

Welcome!

This bulletin is designed as a way to share information and updates related to nutrient runoff issues and impacts. ***We hope that you find this a valuable resource and encourage you to be a part of the exchange!*** You can join the distribution list, or share relevant news, resources, or information for inclusion in future bulletins by sending an email to noaa.centralregion@noaa.gov.

Outlooks and Forecasts

2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

NOAA released the 2020 Outlook on May 21. The outlook predicts an above-normal season is most likely. To find more details on the outlook, along with the list of this year's storm names, upgrades to forecast tools, and updated models, read the [media release](#).

2020 Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Forecast Coming the first week of June

NOAA will release the forecast for the 2020 Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone in early June. Stay tuned to [NOAA's Latest News and Features](#) as well as [NCCOS News Explorer](#) site for the announcement - as well as a lot of great information!

North Central U.S. Monthly Climate and Drought Summary and Outlook

NOAA and climate partners provide a monthly briefing that covers the region from the Rockies to the Great Lakes. Subject matter includes a summary of past and present conditions and the most recent outlook information from two weeks to the next few months/seasons. In addition, potential and current impacts from climate phenomena are discussed across sectors (agriculture, water resources, ecosystems, etc.). Upcoming webinars: Thursday, Jun 18, 2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CDT
Thursday, Jul 16, 2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CDT.
[Register here](#)

Hypoxia Related Highlights



Spotlight: Upper Basin

The Upper Mississippi was designated one of [America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2020](#) by [American Rivers](#), a non-profit organization which combines national advocacy with field work in key river basins. In addition to identifying challenges, they provide additional resources, including [weekly newsletters](#), [blogs](#), [restoration efforts](#), [clean-up volunteer opportunities](#), and [community outreach](#).



Spotlight: Lower Basin

[A Decade Later: Advances in Oil Spill Science Since Deepwater Horizon as Shared by the Experts](#)

[The Hypoxia Task Force Newsletter](#)

is a quarterly publication produced by EPA's Office of Water in partnership with the Hypoxia Task Force. The newsletter highlights current information about the task force, providing a snapshot of recent state activities, federal agency activities, publications, and resources. [Sign up for the newsletter and check out the archive.](#)

[The Hypoxia Task Force Public Meeting](#)

with a live webcast and a networking session was held in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Each of the 12 member states presented on one topic from their nutrient reduction strategies and federal partners provided updates on varied programs and HTF workgroup advancements.

[Meeting materials are available.](#)

[EPA Completed Awards for \\$1.2 Million](#)

to the 12 state members of the Hypoxia Task Force to help implement state plans to reduce excess nutrients in the Mississippi River/Atchafalaya River Basin. Through this funding, EPA is promoting tailored and effective nutrient reduction efforts that are developed through state leadership in coordination with EPA. [Previous press release for more info.](#)

[USDA Investing \\$56 Million in 2020 to Help Farmers Improve Water Quality](#)

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will make \$17.5 million available in 2020 to support conservation investments by agriculture producers through its Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative, and more than \$38 million to support producers in 300 small watersheds across the nation, including many watersheds in the Mississippi River Basin. [Read more...](#)

[Upper Mississippi River Basin Association \(UMRBA\) Joins the Hypoxia Task Force Coordinating Committee](#)

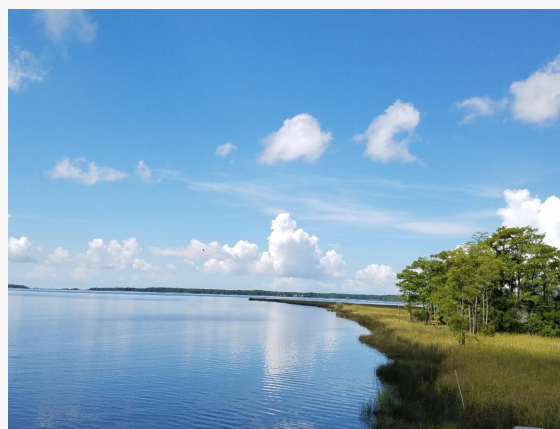
In March, UMRBA accepted an invitation from the Hypoxia Task Force Co-Chairs to join the Coordinating Committee (CC). UMRBA is a regional interstate organization formed by the Governors of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin to coordinate the states' river-related programs and policies and work with federal agencies that have river responsibilities. [Read more...](#)

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Related Resources

On April 20, 2020, NOAA joined state and federal partners in observing 10 years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which resulted in the tragic loss of human life and an unprecedented impact to the Gulf's coastal resources and the people who depend on them. NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration staff share their experiences during the Deepwater Horizon disaster and look back on what has been learned and how we are better prepared for future spills.

[10 Things a Non-Scientist Has Learned in the Decade Since Deepwater Horizon](#)

This blog post, originally published by NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, was written by Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium's Tara Skelton to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Deepwater Horizon.



Spotlight: Resources to Know

The current COVID-19 situation has resulted in an opportunity for NOAA and many partners to create many new learning opportunities for folks of all ages.

Selected examples include:

[NOAA Live! Webinar Series](#)

Each webinar features a different NOAA expert/topic and a moderated question and

Cyanobacteria Assessment Network Mobile Application (CyAN app)

is an easy-to-use and customizable app that provides access to algal bloom satellite data for over 2,000 of the largest lakes and reservoirs across the United States. EPA scientists developed the CyAN app to help local and state water quality managers make faster and better-informed management decisions related to cyanobacterial blooms

NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory Weekly HABs Bulletins

provide analysis of the location of cyanobacteria blooms, as well as 3-day forecasts of transport, mixing, scum formation, and bloom decline. During the Lake Erie HAB season, which typically begins in July, bulletins are emailed to subscribers twice weekly during a bloom.

Items of Interest

Northeast - Midwest Institute Report on Natural Infrastructure and Flooding in Upper Mississippi Region

examines the major flooding risks and flooding impacts experienced by communities in the Upper Mississippi Region, presents projections for how flooding will increase in the future, and examines the use and effectiveness of both traditional flood infrastructure and natural infrastructure in mitigating flooding. The report examines two cities as case studies. Davenport, IA is used as a great example of a city using natural infrastructure to reduce flooding impacts from the Mississippi River and La Crosse, WI shows how natural infrastructure can be used effectively to prevent inner-city flooding caused by intense or prolonged precipitation. [Read the full report](#) or [view presentation](#).

Lower Missouri River Flood Prevention Program Act (S.3403)

was introduced by Senate Republicans on March 5, which would require the Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate flood risks and current methods of protection along the Missouri and to develop a more comprehensive program of improving flood resilience. The bill authorizes a budget of \$500 million for executing these programs but requires congressional approval for any projects that cost more than \$75 million. While the bill directs the Army Corps to construct water resources development projects to increase flood resilience, the bill does not specify what kinds of projects the Army Corps should focus on with the funding.

Soil Health, Climate, and Water Resources for Remote Professional Development

is a site created by The North Central Region Water Network to share soil health and water-related professional development and

answers session throughout so that you can get a peek at what our NOAA scientists do in all the various NOAA offices. Webinars are streamed as well as rerecorded.

Virtual Aquarium Events

Missing your favorite aquariums? Don't worry! NOAA's Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) Network has put together a list of fun virtual educational activities for all ages to enjoy at home.

Sea Grant Educational Opportunities

Check out this collection of sites dedicated to providing educational resources for teachers, parents and students. This is an extensive list of learning ideas and activities from many Sea Grant programs across the country.

NOAA Planet Stewards Education Program (PSEP)

The PSEP provides formal and informal educators working with elementary through college aged students the knowledge and resources to build scientifically-literate individuals and communities who are prepared to respond to environmental challenges monitored by NOAA. Work includes events, webinars (live and archived), book club, hands-on activity book and ideas, and more! Visit the PSEP website for more information and be sure to sign up for their newsletter as well.

Serious Games for Coastal and Marine Conservation, Management and Adaptation

Recognizing a recent movement revitalizing the idea that games can do a lot more than just entertain - they can engage stakeholders, educate students and the general public, and conduct research - a collection of over 25 "serious games" has been created by [The Skimmer on Marine](#)

independent learning opportunities.

Sea Grant Connections

The Current: Water Updates from the National Water Extension Program, is a new communication designed to provide a regular update on a diversity of water issues and efforts .

Learn more about the [National Water Extension Program](#) and receive the next installment of *The Current*, by contacting Karen.Bareford@noaa.gov

Ecosystems and Management. This is a monthly information service on ocean planning and ecosystem-based management, serving over 10,000 members of the global resource management community with news, views, analysis, and tips gathered from experts around the world.

Brought to you by...



**NOAA Regional
Collaboration
NETWORK**

This bulletin is compiled by the NOAA Central Region and Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Teams nutrient runoff working group.

Members represent Minnesota, Louisiana, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Programs, National Water Extension Program, Northern Gulf Institute, NOAA National Center for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Offices and River Forecast Centers.

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NOAA Regional Collaboration: Improving NOAA's service to the Nation