

Tangier/Pocomoke Sounds

SUMMARY

While parts of Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds have improved other areas have worsened, leading to a moderate eutrophic expression with no change in overall conditions since 1999. The sounds are mainly affected by nutrient runoff from animal and agricultural sources. While low dissolved oxygen events are minimal, there have been moderate losses of SAV.

Influencing Factors

Nutrient load is unknown and influencing factors cannot be calculated.



Eutrophic Conditions **

Primary symptoms high and substantial secondary symptoms becoming more expressed, indicating potentially serious problems.



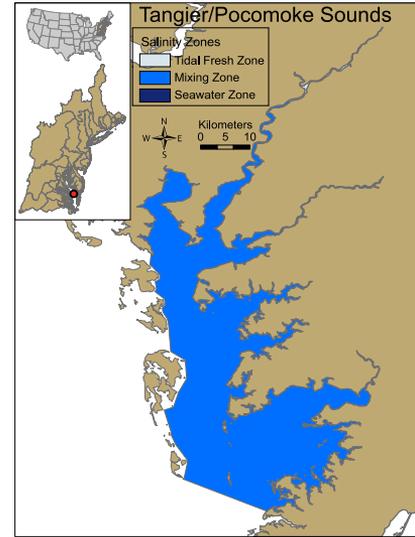
Future Outlook

Nutrient related symptoms observed in the estuary are likely to substantially worsen.

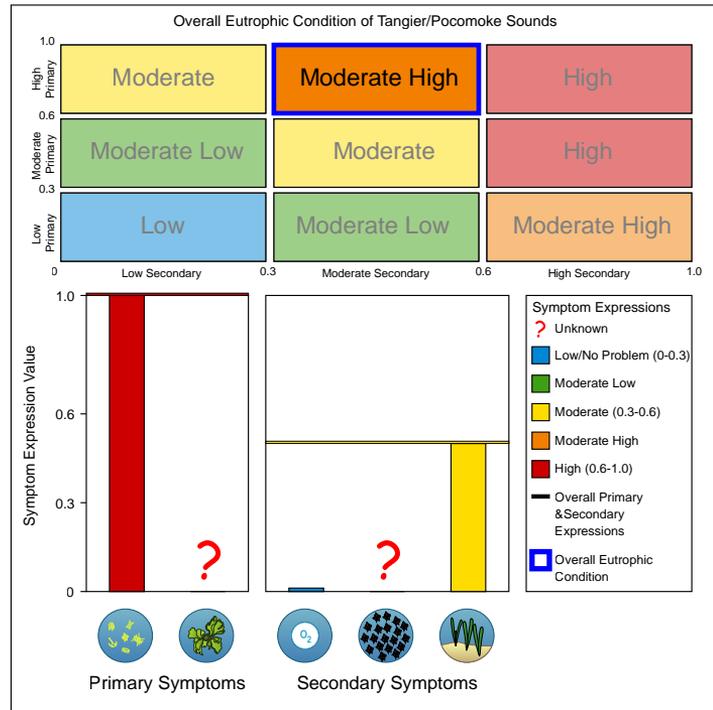
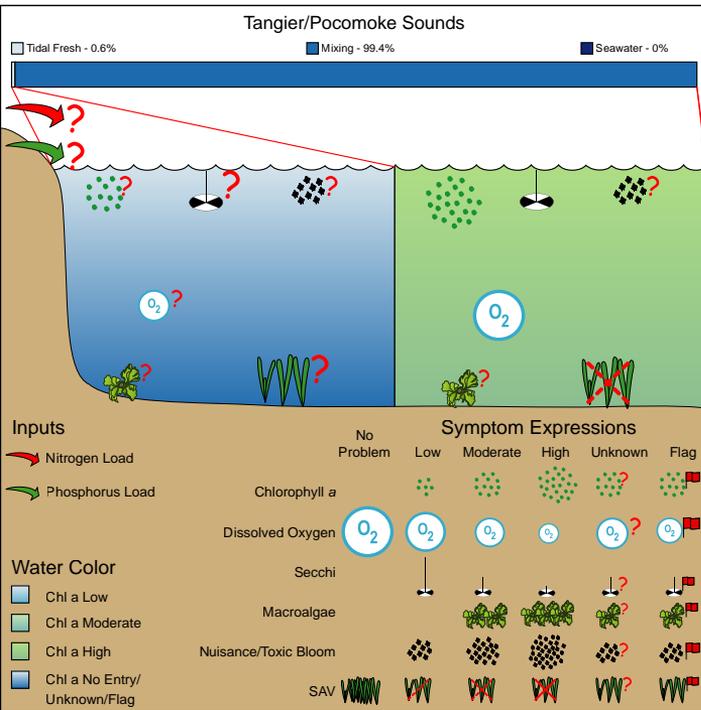


ASSETS Rating

Assessment of Estuarine Trophic Status based on the three factors evaluated in NEEA.



EUTROPHIC CONDITION



WATERSHED AND ESTUARY CHARACTERISTICS

Estuary	Landuse / Population		Watershed Details / Input Loads		
Area (km ²)	1,057	Urban (km ²)	249 (4.2%)	Area (km ²)	5,532
Tidal fresh zone area (km ²)	6	Agriculture (km ²)	2,359 (40%)	Mean elevation (m)	8
Mixing zone area (km ²)	1,051	Forest (km ²)	2,484 (42.1%)	Max. elevation (m)	30
Saltwater zone area (km ²)	0	Wetland (km ²)	803 (13.6%)	Watershed: estuary ratio	5.2
Volume (1,000 x m ³)	3,477,530	Range (km ²)	0 (0%)	TSS (tonne y ⁻¹)	58,400
Depth (m)	3.29	Barren (km ²)	0 (0%)	DIN (kg y ⁻¹)	Unknown
Tide Height (m)	0.67	Total (km ²)	5,895 (0%)	DIP (kg y ⁻¹)	Unknown
Residence Time (d)	12	Population	183,170	TSS/est. area (tonne km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	55
		Popn: est. area ratio	173	DIN/est. area (kg km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	Unknown
				DIP/est. area (kg km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	Unknown