

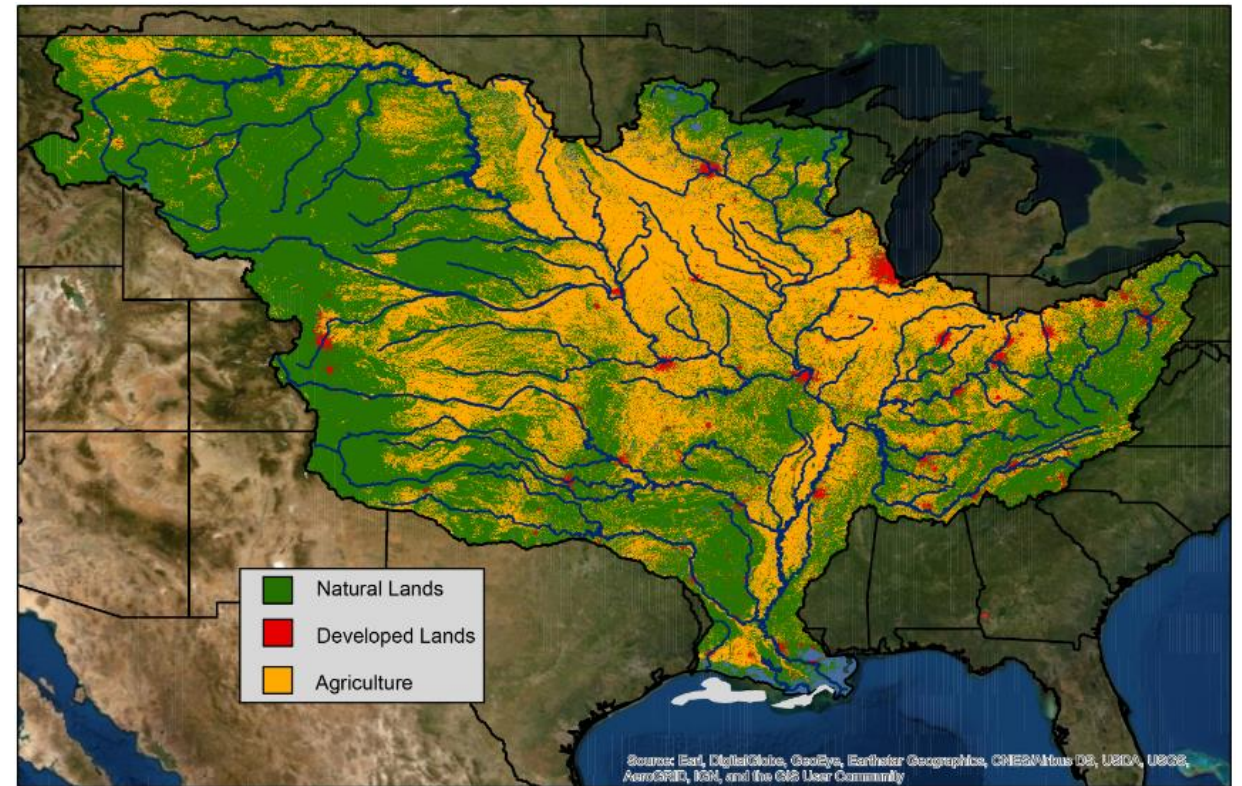
# Hypoxia Funding in IIJA

## Update to CPRA Board



# Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico

- Large area of low oxygen driven by excess nutrient pollution in Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB)
- Point and non-point source pollution, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture
- Hypoxic zone is unable to support marine life, non-mobile species largely susceptible



Pictured: Mississippi/Atchafalaya River basin encompasses over 40% of the continental U.S. and is made up of natural lands (green), cities (red), and farms (yellow). N and P pollution in runoff and discharges from agricultural and urban areas are major contributors to the annual hypoxic zone in the GOM (gray). Photo by USGS

# Mississippi River/GOM Hypoxia Task Force

- Formed in 1997 and led by EPA - partnership of five federal agencies, 12 states, tribes, and two sub-basin committees
- Produced Hypoxia Action Plan and states developed state-specific Nutrient Reduction and Management Strategy (NRMS)
- Overall goal: reduce nutrient loads and improve water quality in the Gulf and throughout the MARB
  - **Coastal goal: By 2035, reduce the five-year running average areal extent of the hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers**
  - **Interim goal: By 2025, achieve a 20% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus loading to the Gulf**

# Goal Progress

- By 2035: reduce the five-year running average areal extent of the hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers
- NOAA's 2022 hypoxic zone forecast predicted zone size of approximately 13,800 square kilometers
  - **Over 2.5 times larger than 2035 goal size**
  - Slightly smaller than the five-year average (14,000 square kilometers) from 2017-2021
  - Urgent action needed

# IJA Hypoxia Funding

- Appropriated \$60 million to improve water quality in the MARB and Gulf of Mexico to implement the Hypoxia Action Plan

	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
State Annual Total	11,580,000	8,980,000	8,980,000	8,980,000	11,580,000
<b>Each State (Total/12)</b>	<b>965,000</b>	<b>748,333</b>	<b>748,333</b>	<b>748,333</b>	<b>965,000</b>
Eligible Tribes	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-
Sub-Basin Committees	-	400,000	400,000	400,000	-
Land Grant University Consortium	-	200,000	200,000	200,000	-
EPA 3% Set Aside	360,000	360,000	360,000	360,000	360,000
EPA 0.5% Inspector General Set Aside	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000

# IJA Hypoxia Funding

- 2022 funding guidance received last week and LA has 45 days to develop year-1 work plan (due to EPA July 26, 2022)
  - GOCA coordinating with CPRA, LDEQ, LDAF, LDNR, environmental NGOs, Lower MS River Sub-basin Committee
- **Year-1 Priorities:**
  - Focus on priority watersheds and nutrient hotspots
  - Agricultural best management practices (BMPs)
  - Nutrient monitoring
  - On-farm conservation programs

# Contacts and Resources



GOVERNOR'S  
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MS River/GOM Hypoxia Task Force

<https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf>