



Image: Stratfor 2016

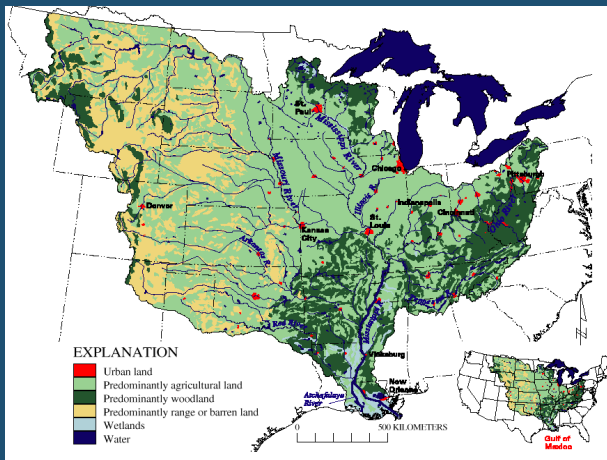
Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan Update

Doug Daigle

Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group

Louisiana Governor's
Advisory Commission on
Coastal Restoration,
Protection &
Conservation 6/4/24

Mississippi River - Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Continuum

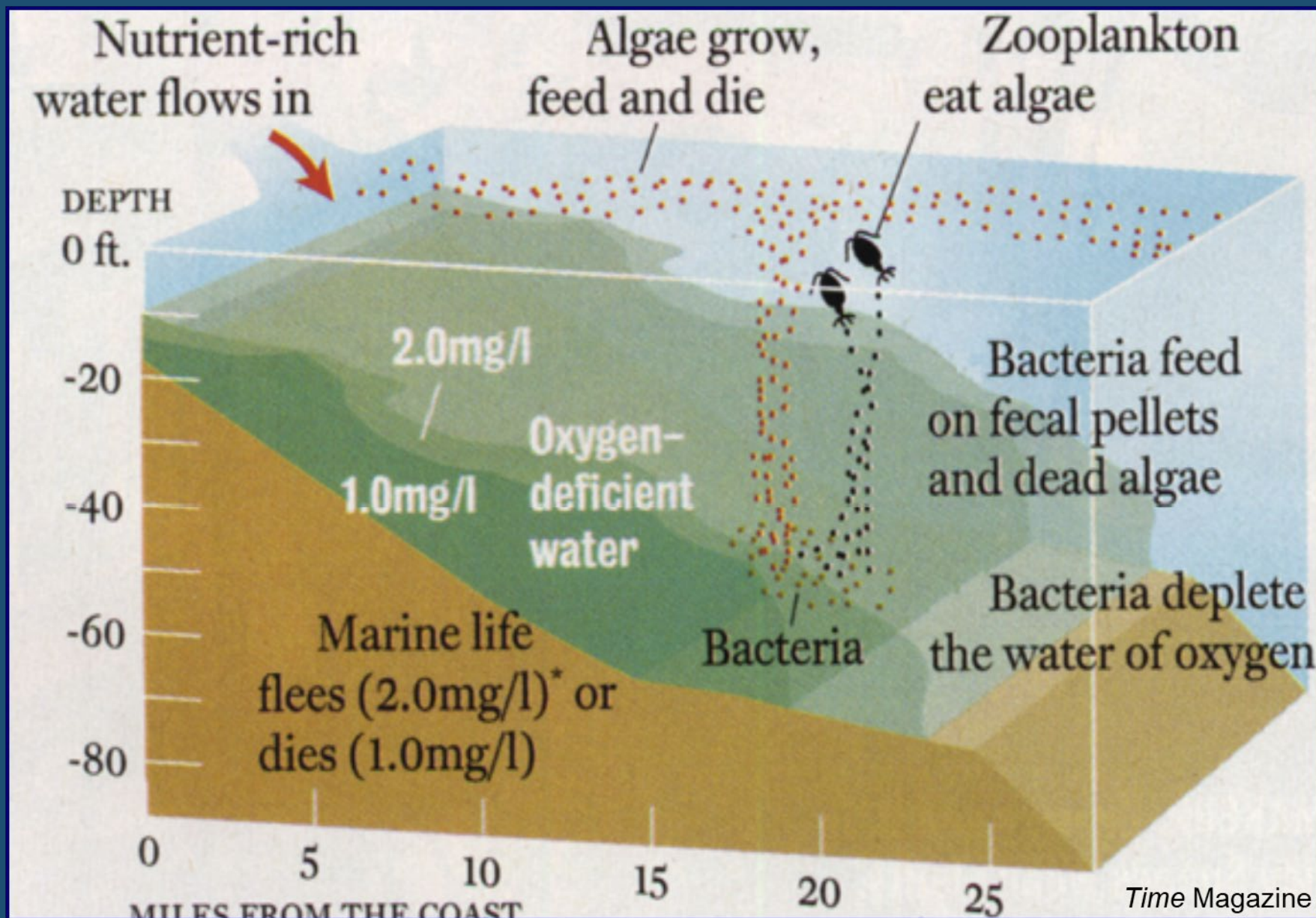


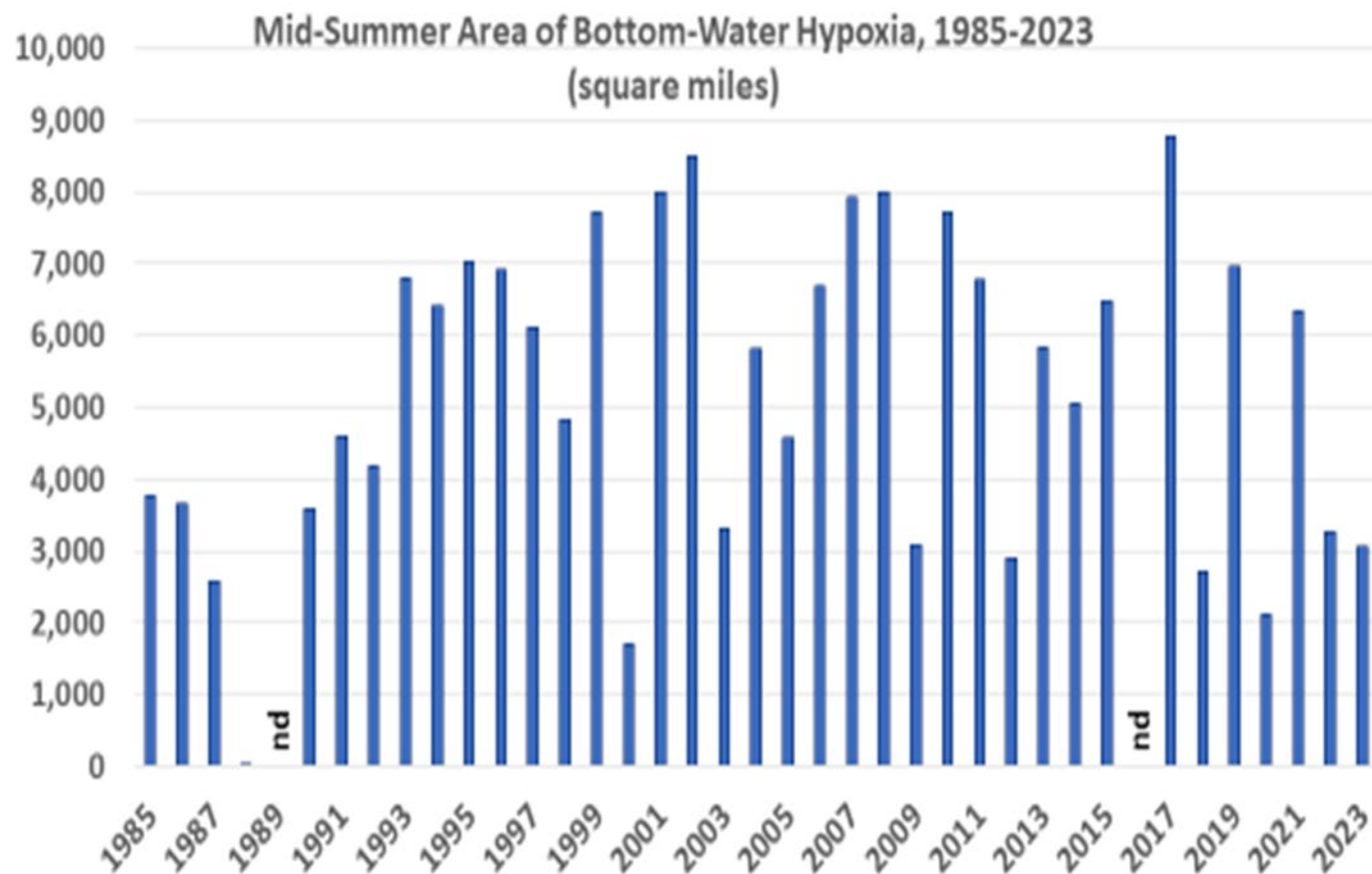
Effects are more far reaching
than suspended sediment plume,
esp. N & somewhat P

dominant wind direction



Source: N. Rabalais, LUMCON





The size of the area of bottom-water hypoxia (dissolved oxygen less than 2 mg l⁻¹) for 1985-2023, in square miles. "nd" indicates no data—a year without a completely mapped area or no mid-summer shelf wide cruise (1989 & 2016). The area for 1988 is minimal and not visible on the graph.



Action Plan

for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia
in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

January 2001

Coastal Goal: By the year **2015**, subject to the availability of additional resources, reduce the 5-year running average areal extent of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers through implementation of **specific, practical, and cost-effective voluntary actions** by all States, Tribes, and all categories of sources and removals within the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin to reduce the annual discharge of nitrogen into the Gulf.

Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008

for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia
in the Northern Gulf of Mexico and Improving
Water Quality in the Mississippi River Basin



Action Plan Goal 2015

- We strive to reduce the five-year running average areal extent of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers by the year 2035.
- An Interim Target of a 20% reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus loading [to the Gulf] by 2025 is a milestone for immediate planning and implementation actions...

Louisiana Legislature (2003-2024)
America's Wetland Foundation
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary
Program (BTNEP) Management Conference
Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and
Protection Authority
Louisiana Crab, Finfish, Oyster, and Shrimp
Task Forces
Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing
Board
Louisiana Shrimp Association
Louisiana Soil and Water Conservation
Commission
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Lafourche Parish Council
Terrebonne Parish Council
Tensas Parish Police Jury
Vermilion Parish Police Jury

The Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2000-2035

- The Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan is analogous to a treaty, with commitments and obligations for signing parties
- Core commitment: to help reach the Plan's Goals
- Baseline requirement for reaching Plan's Goals – adequate if not full funding
- 2025 Target not a priority for the Hypoxia Task Force from 2015 to present – no attempt by HTF or LA to raise implementation funds from Congress

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act – 2021 (Cassidy)

\$60 million in authorized funding
for actions under the Gulf Hypoxia
Action Plan

\$12 million annually for FY22-
26 in equal amounts for the 12
States on the Hypoxia Task Force
(AR, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MN,
MO, MS, OH, TN, WI)
[Basic framework of 2009 HTF
States/LMRSBC approps request]

Takeaways

Louisiana had a national plan to address Gulf Hypoxia handed to us, with 12 Upriver States in support.

For the past decade, Louisiana has been a passive and largely silent member of the HTF.

Years of opportunities to reduce Gulf Hypoxia have not been utilized by the State.

Opportunities for improvement

- My view: La should conduct an assessment of its Gulf Hypoxia actions, Nutrient Strategy, etc. and make appropriate changes
- Louisiana's *Nutrient Reduction & Management Strategy* is up for revision in 2024 – a total revision is needed
- HTF States are applying BIL funds, but more federal funding is needed to achieve the GHAP goal

Thank you

Doug Daigle

Coordinator

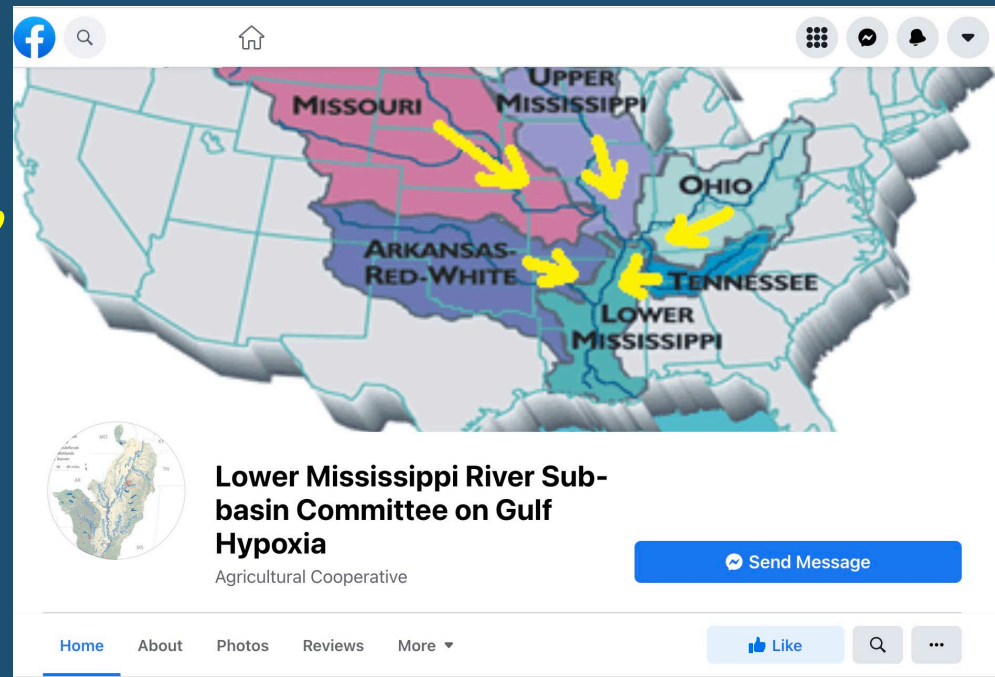
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