

Announcing the newest addition to DRBC's water quality dashboard: **EPA Criteria Assessment**

WQAC • July 23, 2026

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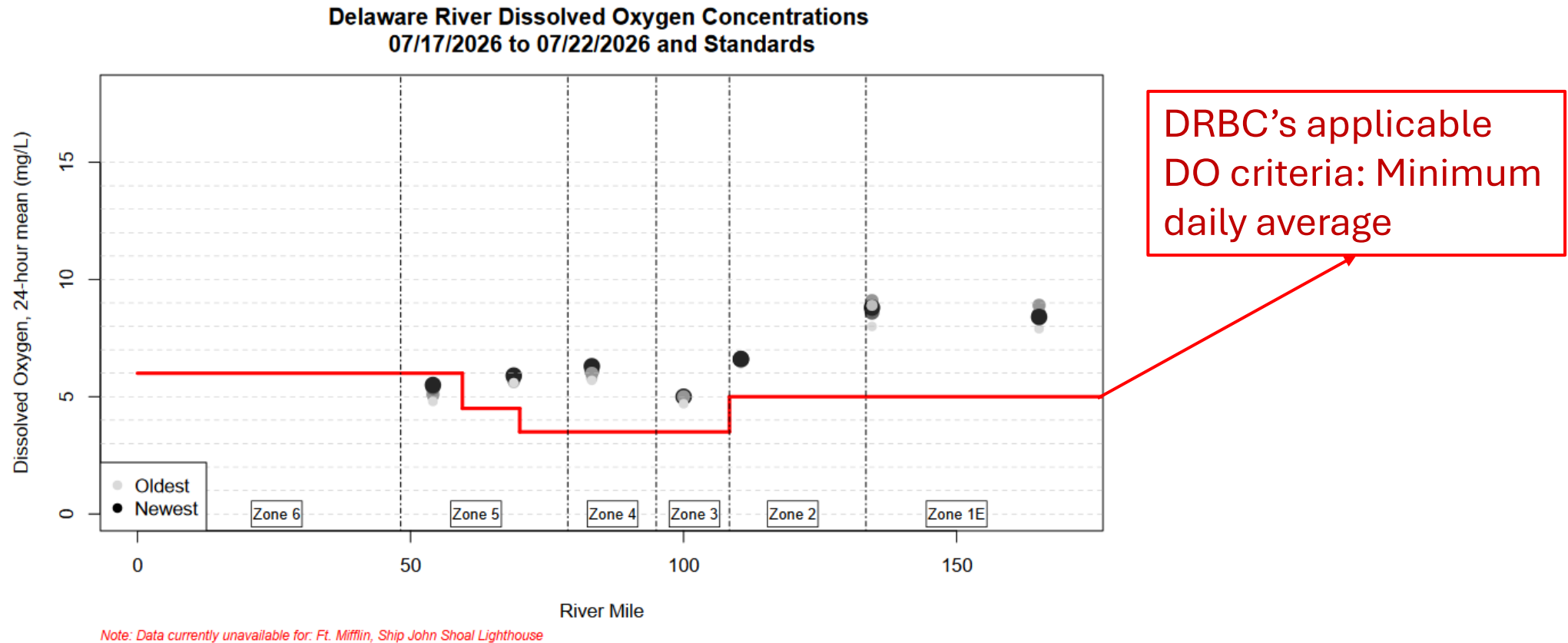


Delaware River Basin Commission

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

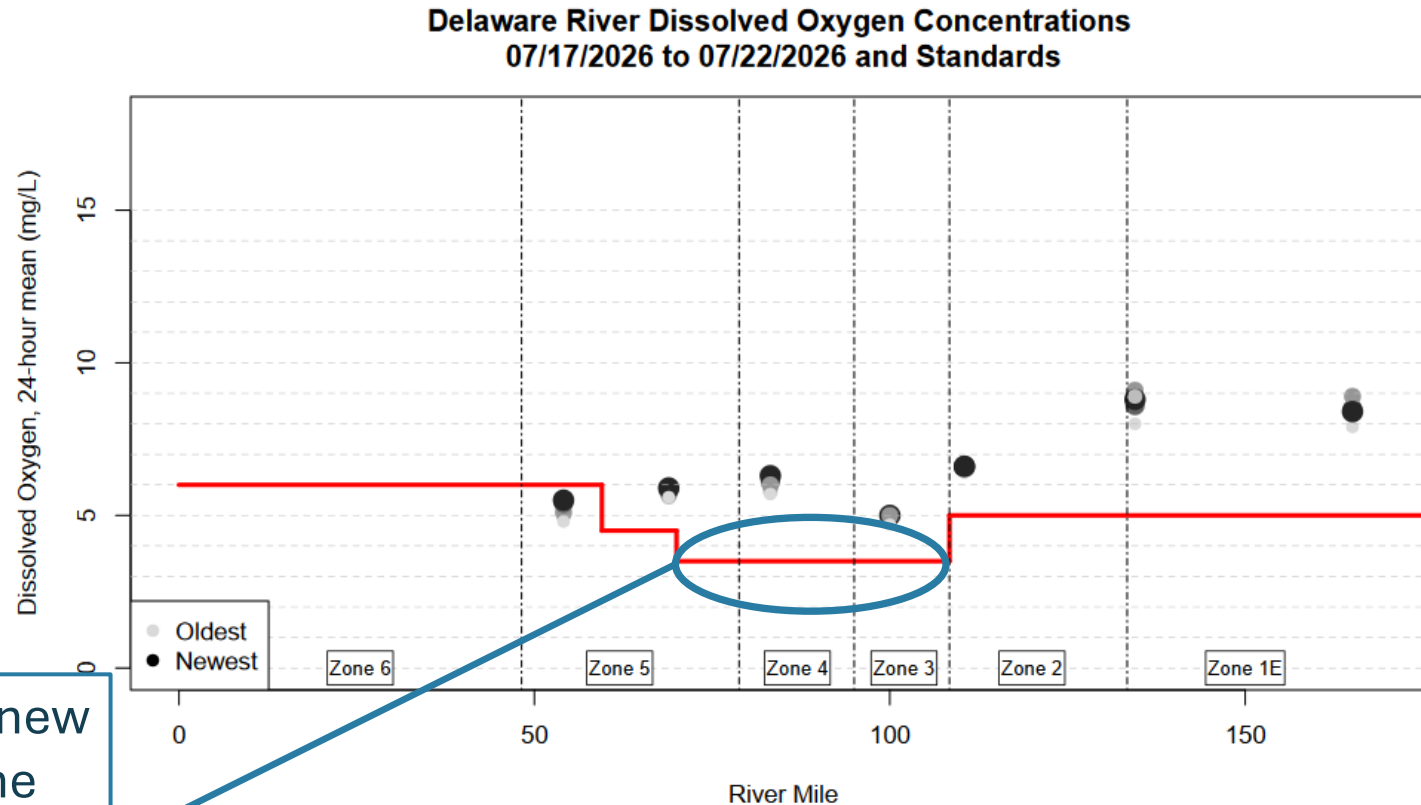
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DRBC's water quality dashboard compares recent water quality observations against criteria



<https://drbc.net/Sky/waterq.htm>

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DRBC's applicable DO criteria: Minimum daily average

EPA promulgated new DO criteria for Zone 3, Zone 4 and upper portion of Zone 5 (River Mile 70–108.4)

Note: Data currently unavailable for: Ft. Mifflin, Ship John Shoal Lighthouse

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EPA DO criteria contain several components



- The criteria are applicable during three seasons:
 - **Spawning and Larval Development:** March 1 – June 30
 - **Juvenile Development:** July 1 – October 31
 - **Overwintering:** November 1 – February 28/29
- The criteria for each season consist of three components:
 - **Magnitude:** Minimum level of dissolved oxygen (percent oxygen saturation)
 - **Duration:** Averaging period
 - **Exceedance Frequency:** How often the magnitude can be exceeded while ensuring the use is protected

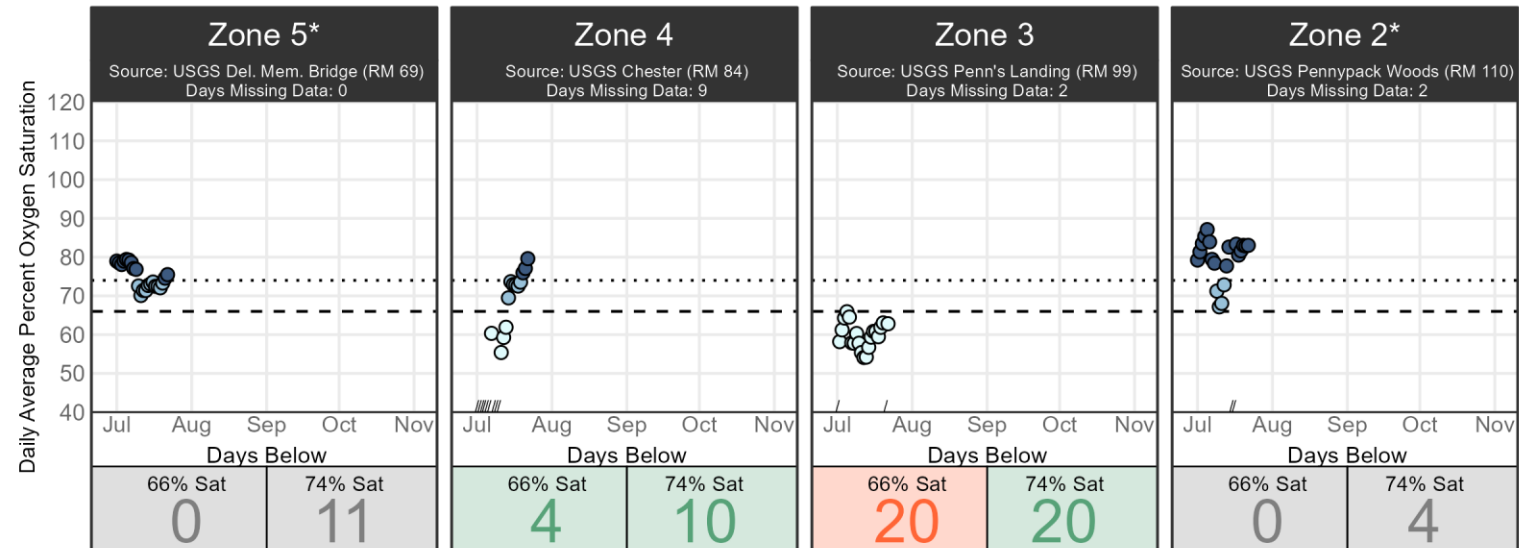
Magnitude	Duration	Exceedance Frequency	Applicable Seasons
66%	Daily	12 Days Cumulative (~10% of the season)	Spawning, Juvenile, Overwintering
74%	Average	61 Days Cumulative (~ 50% of the season)	
			Juvenile

DRBC staff have prepared a new plot to assess DO observations against new EPA criteria

Dissolved Oxygen Saturation in the Tidal Delaware River Compared to Criteria: 2026-07-22

Juvenile Development Season (July 1 - October 31)

Criteria: No more than 12 days below 66% - - - - AND No more than 61 days below 74% ·····

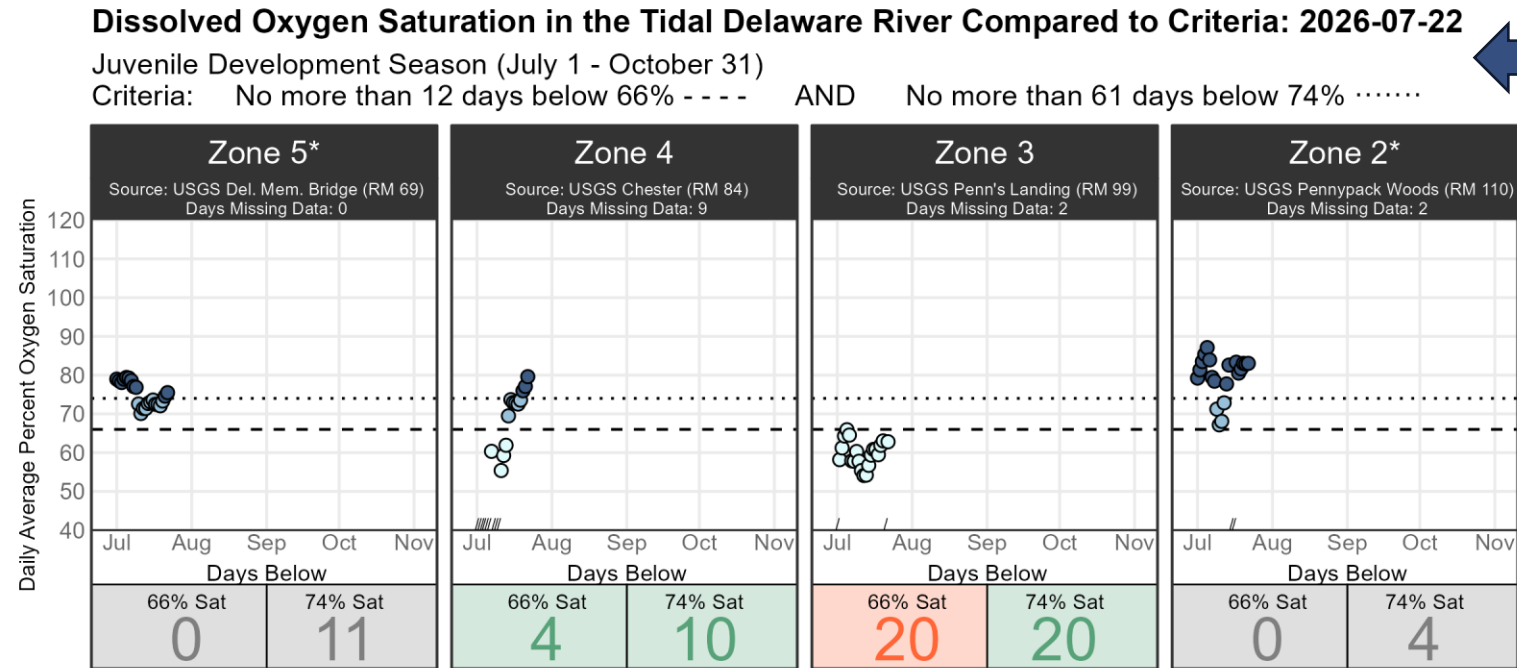


*Gages in Zones 2 and 5 fall ~2 mi upstream and ~1 mi downstream, respectively, of the upgraded portion of the river but are included for informational purposes.

Daily Average Percent Oxygen Saturation: ● ≥ 74% 74% > ● ≥ 66% ○ < 66% / = Missing Data

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- Plot title indicates:*
1. Date through which data is included
 2. Current season
 3. Criteria for this season

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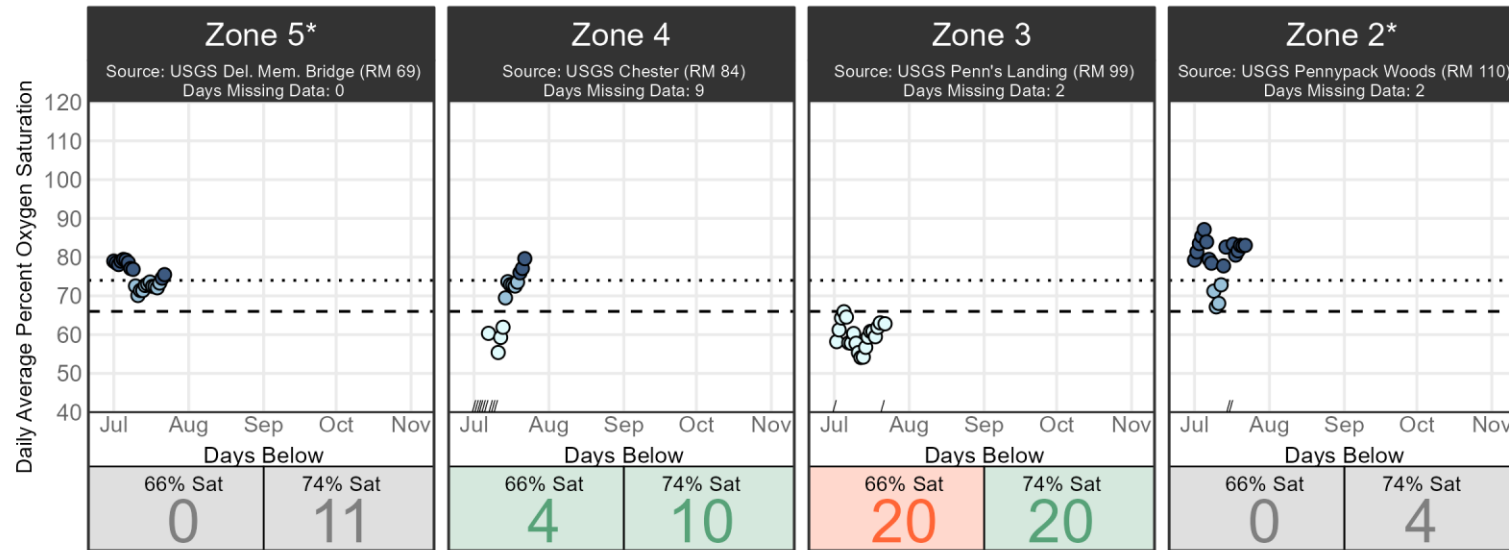
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Criteria apply to Zone 3, Zone 4, and upper Zone 5 (River Mile 70–108.4).

Zone 2 and Zone 5 gages are included for informational purposes, though both are outside the upgraded portion of the river.

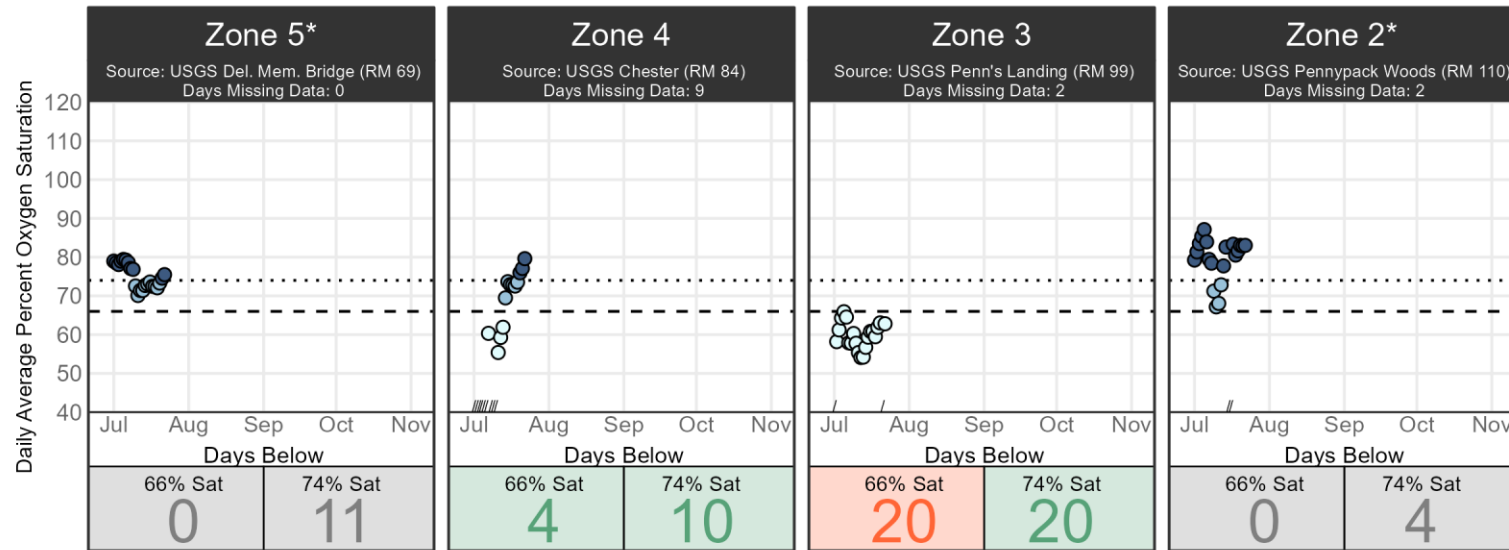
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Dashed and dotted lines indicate DO criteria magnitudes (66% and 74%)

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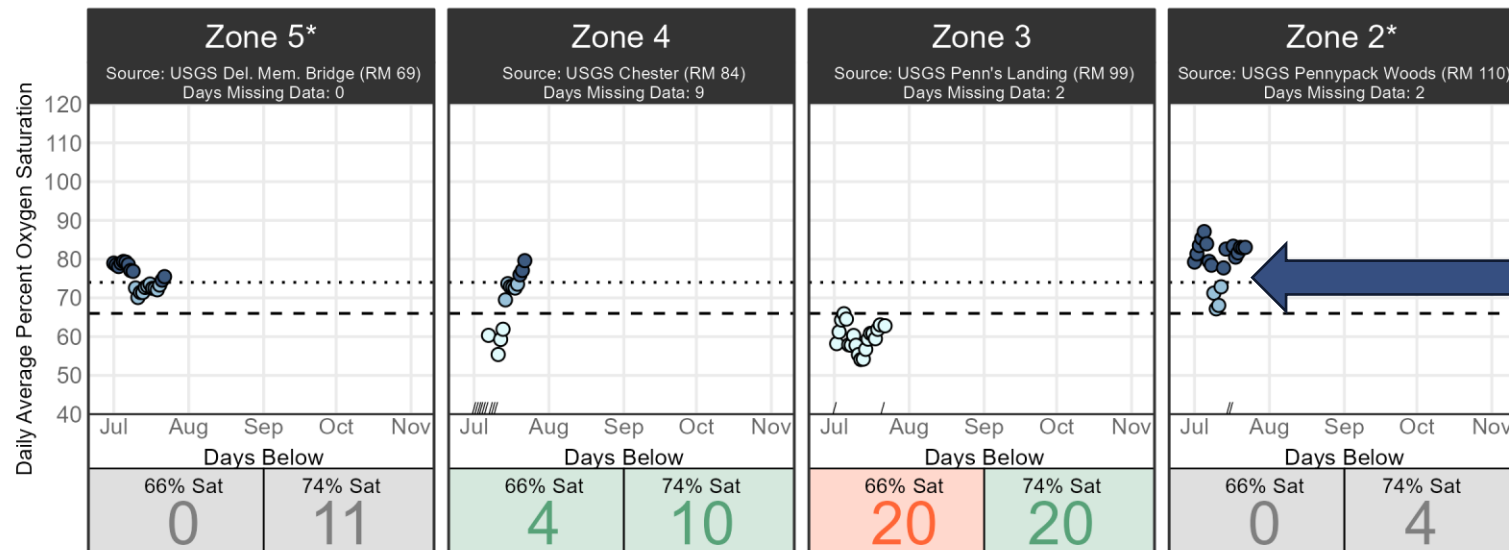
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Dots show daily average DO saturation at each gage.

*Colors indicate whether daily value is **above 74%**, **between 66% and 74%**, or **below 66%**.*

Note: USGS data are provisional!

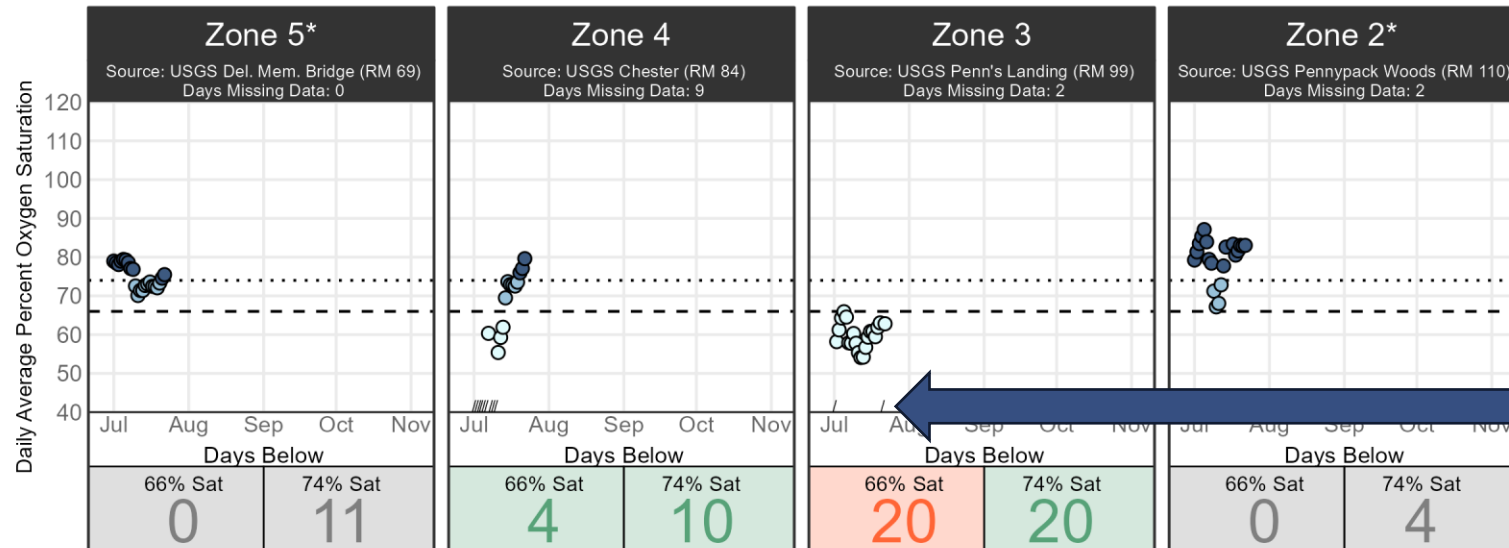
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Days with missing data are indicated with a /

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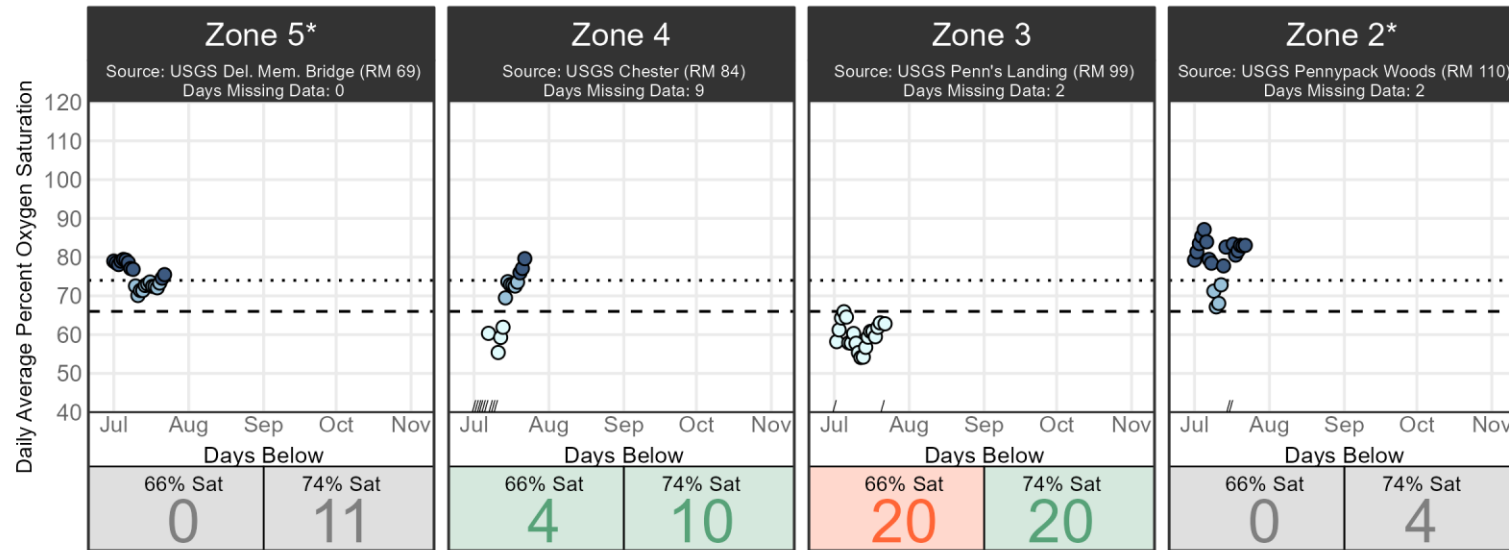
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Counters at the bottom show how many days so far have exceeded the criteria magnitudes.

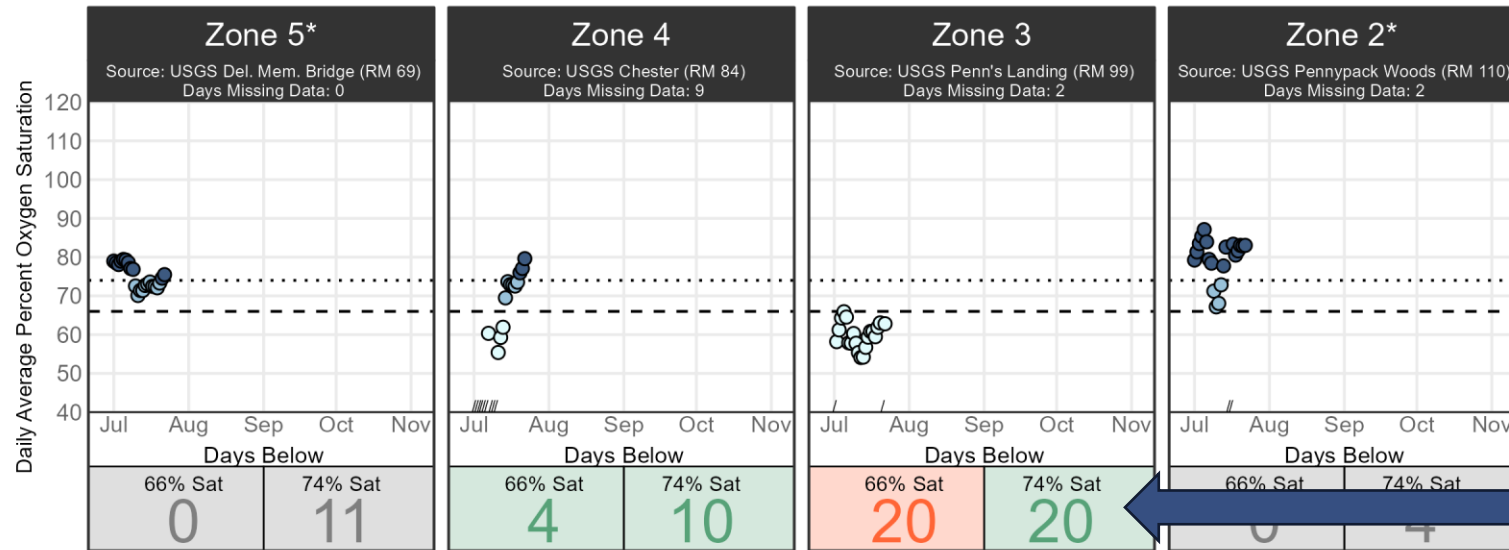
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For Zone 3 and 4 gages, red indicates that the count exceeds the frequency allowed for this season.

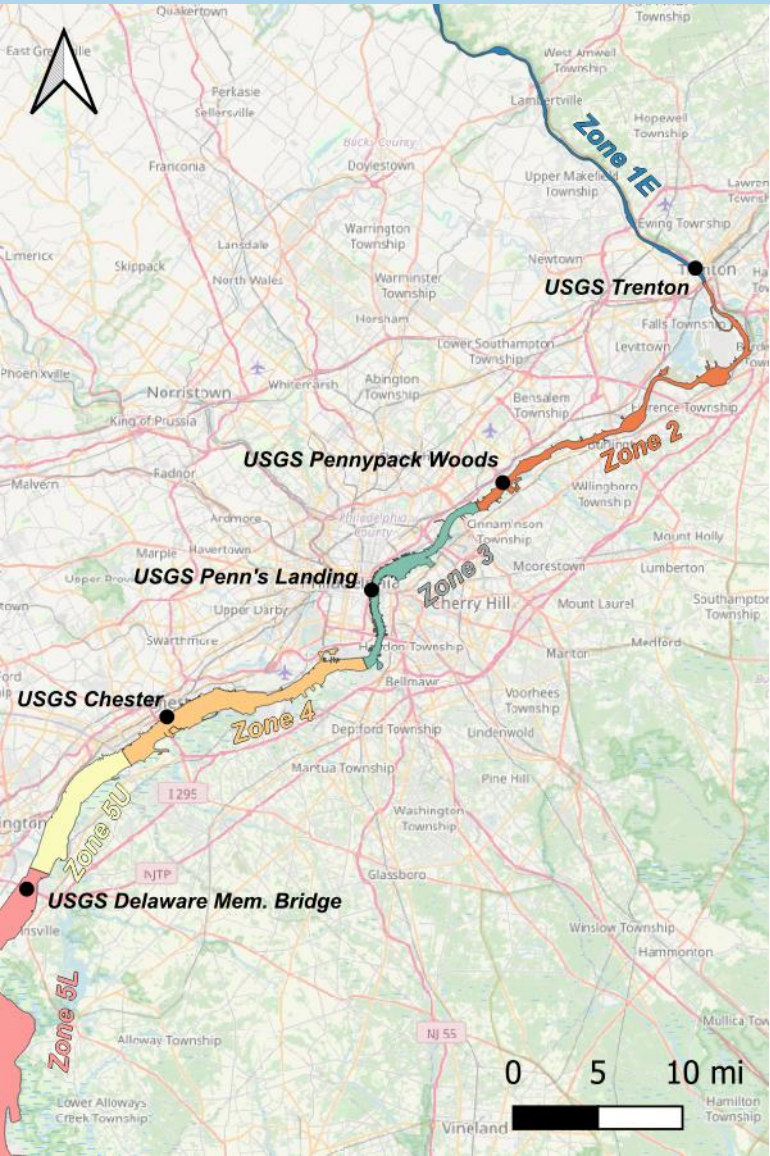
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Evaluating historical DO against new EPA criteria

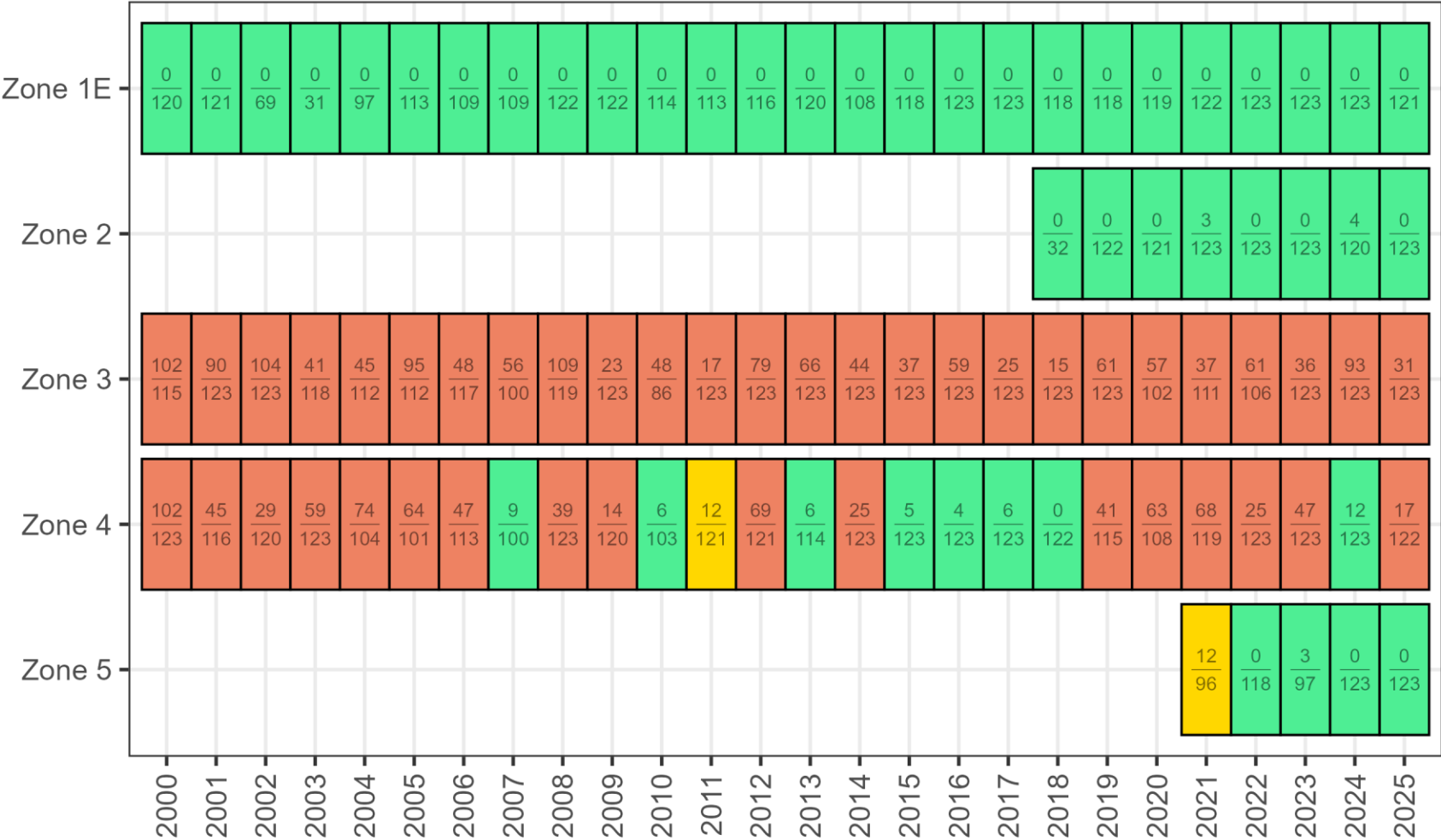
Season:
Juvenile
Jul-Oct

Magnitude:
66% Saturation

Frequency:
12 Days



Meeting New EPA Criteria ■ Yes ■ No ■ Assessment Dependent

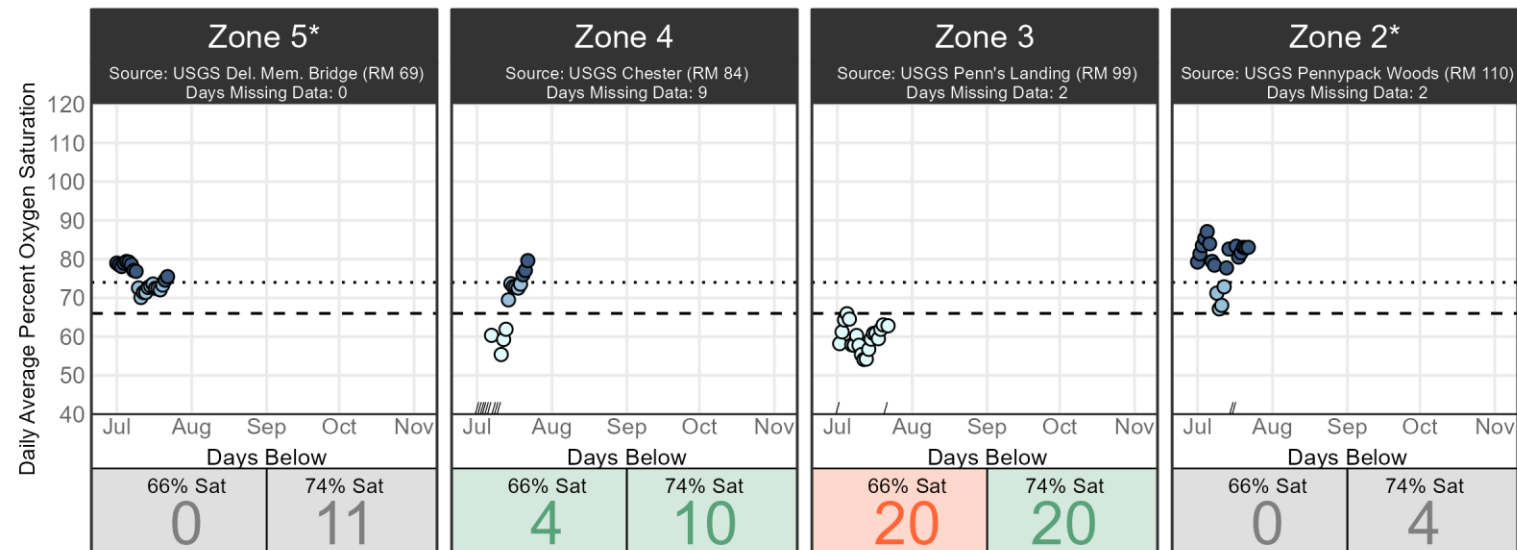


What questions do you have?

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Contact info

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sarah.beganskas@drbc.gov

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