

STATION	LATITUDE DD	LONGITUDE DD
E-12	40.8487	-73.8045
A1	40.8013	-73.8268
A2M	40.7992	-73.7913
8-403	40.7778	-73.7608
8-405	40.7888	-73.7582
A3	40.8433	-73.7590
9-409	40.8240	-73.7175
9-412	40.8200	-73.7135
9-413	40.8041	-73.7133
A4	40.8725	-73.7343
A5	40.8923	-73.6853
B1S	40.9403	-73.6667
B2	40.9343	-73.6520
B3M	40.9187	-73.6403
B4	40.9054	-73.6360
DI1	40.8883	-73.7748
DI2	40.8930	-73.7642
H-A3	40.9207	-73.7187
H-B	40.9080	-73.7090
H-C	40.8590	-73.6717
H-C1	40.8853	-73.6903
H-D	40.8402	-73.6572

As part of the Long Island Sound Study’s ongoing water quality monitoring program, IEC started its 33rd consecutive summer of weekly ambient monitoring surveys in western Long Island Sound and the upper East River on Wednesday, June 28th, 2023.

Throughout summer 2023, IEC staff will perform 12 weekly surveys to each of 22 stations in the far western Long Island Sound to assess seasonal hypoxic conditions. Hypoxia occurs when dissolved oxygen (“DO”) concentrations become low. Marine organisms need oxygen to live and low oxygen concentrations can have serious consequences for a marine ecosystem.

The 12 surveys include weekly *in situ* measurements of water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and Secchi disk depth. Measurements at each station are taken half a meter below the surface, at mid-depth, and half a meter above the bottom.

Biweekly surveys will include collection of additional samples for parameters relevant to hypoxia at 11 of the 22 stations (stations listed in

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bold on table, upper right). These samples will be analyzed for nutrients, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and chlorophyll *a*, in addition to the suite of *in situ* parameters listed above.

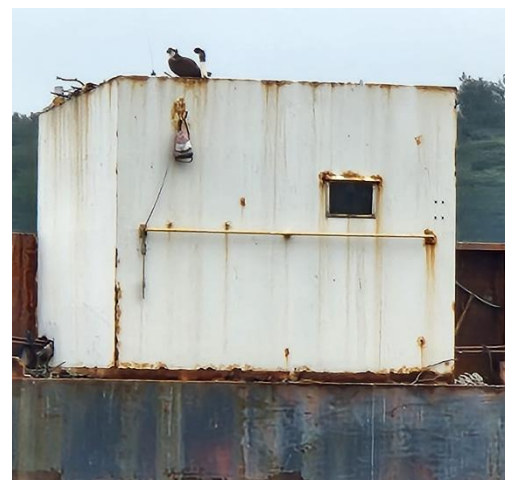
Nutrient parameters that will be analyzed include Ammonia, Nitrate+Nitrite, Particulate Nitrogen, Orthophosphate/DIP, Total Dissolved Phosphorus, Particulate Phosphorus, Dissolved Organic Carbon, Particulate Carbon, Dissolved Silica, and Biogenic Silica.

In October 2022, IEC also began collecting dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and Total Alkalinity samples to monitor coastal acidification. In aquatic ecosystems, **DIC** acts as a source of carbon for photosynthesis and has a function in controlling the pH. Increasing levels of anthropogenic CO₂ gas emissions are leading to coastal acidification, which can pose a significant threat to marine life, including calcifying organisms like corals and shellfish that make hard shells and skeletons by combining calcium and carbonate from seawater. **Total Alkalinity** is the capacity of water to resist (buffer against) a change in pH when acidity is added. As CO₂ from the atmosphere and from decay of algal blooms increases in LIS, Total Alkalinity guards against pH changes and coastal acidification.

Proposed 2023 Summer Schedule		
Date	Survey Number	Parameters
6/28/2023	1	<i>In situ</i> parameters only
7/5/2023	2	<i>In situ</i> , nutrients, chlorophyll <i>a</i> , BOD, TSS, DIC, Total Alkalinity
7/12/2023	3	<i>In situ</i> parameters only
7/18/2023	4	<i>In situ</i> , nutrients, chlorophyll <i>a</i> , BOD, TSS, DIC, Total Alkalinity
7/25/2023	5	<i>In situ</i> parameters only
8/3/2023	6	<i>In situ</i> , nutrients, chlorophyll <i>a</i> , BOD, TSS, DIC, Total Alkalinity
8/9/2023	7	<i>In situ</i> parameters only
8/16/2023	8	<i>In situ</i> , nutrients, chlorophyll <i>a</i> , BOD, TSS, DIC, Total Alkalinity
8/24/2023	9	<i>In situ</i> parameters only
8/30/2023	10	<i>In situ</i> , nutrients, chlorophyll <i>a</i> , BOD, TSS, DIC, Total Alkalinity
9/7/2023	11	<i>In situ</i> parameters only
9/13/2023	12	<i>In situ</i> , nutrients, chlorophyll <i>a</i> , BOD, TSS, DIC, Total Alkalinity



IEC Seasonal Intern Kyra Lin caught a Bluefish in Hempstead Bay, NY with guidance from Captain Joby Vinarski.



Osprey in its nest on barge in Hempstead Harbor, NY

SURVEY # 5 AT A GLANCE 07/25/2023

Hypoxia (DO < 3.00 mg/L)	<p>1 station was hypoxic at surface depth: Manhasset Bay – 9-413</p> <p>16 stations were hypoxic at bottom depth: Manhasset Bay – 9-413 Mid-LIS Waters – A3, B1S, B2, B3M, B4, H-C1, A4, A5 Upper East River – A1, A2M Westchester Shoreline – DI2, H-A3, H-B Hempstead Harbor – H-D, H-C</p>
Lowest surface DO concentration	2.96 mg/L (Station 9-413 in Manhasset Bay)
Lowest bottom DO concentration	0.63 mg/L (Station A5 in Mid-LIS Waters)
Average surface DO concentration	6.24 mg/L
Average bottom DO concentration	2.48 mg/L
Average surface water temperature	23.81 °C
Average bottom water temperature	21.52 °C
Average water column ΔT	2.29 °C
Average surface salinity	25.09 ppt
Average bottom salinity	25.90 ppt
Lowest surface pH	6.99 (Station 9-413 in Manhasset Bay)
Lowest bottom pH	6.91 (Station 9-413 in Manhasset Bay)
Average surface pH	7.69
Average bottom pH	7.30

Survey #5 Narrative Summary

This survey began at 06:34 and ended at 10:16, with the last low tide at 04:17 and 04:33 at New Rochelle, NY and Kings Point, NY, respectively. The weather was partly cloudy with percent cloud cover ranging from approximately 5 to 40% across all stations. The air temperature ranged from 77-84 °F, wind speed was 3-7 mph, and we experienced calm waters during the survey. The weather station at LaGuardia Airport reported 0.38" of precipitation for both the 24- and 48-hour period prior to the start of the survey. Secchi disk measurements were relatively high and ranged from 4.0 ft in Manhasset Bay, Little Neck Bay, and Eastchester Bay to 9.0 ft in the upper East River and Mid-LIS waters.

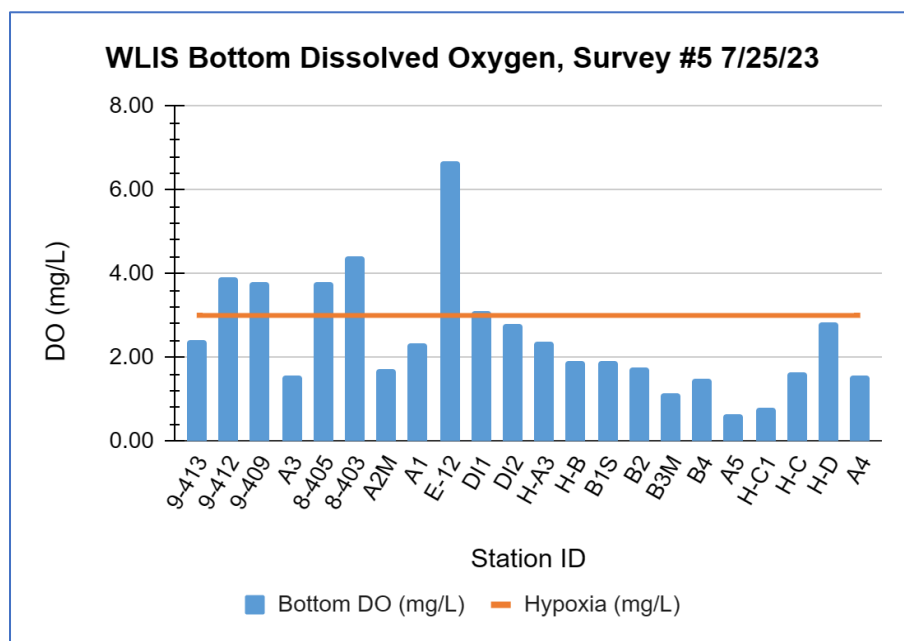
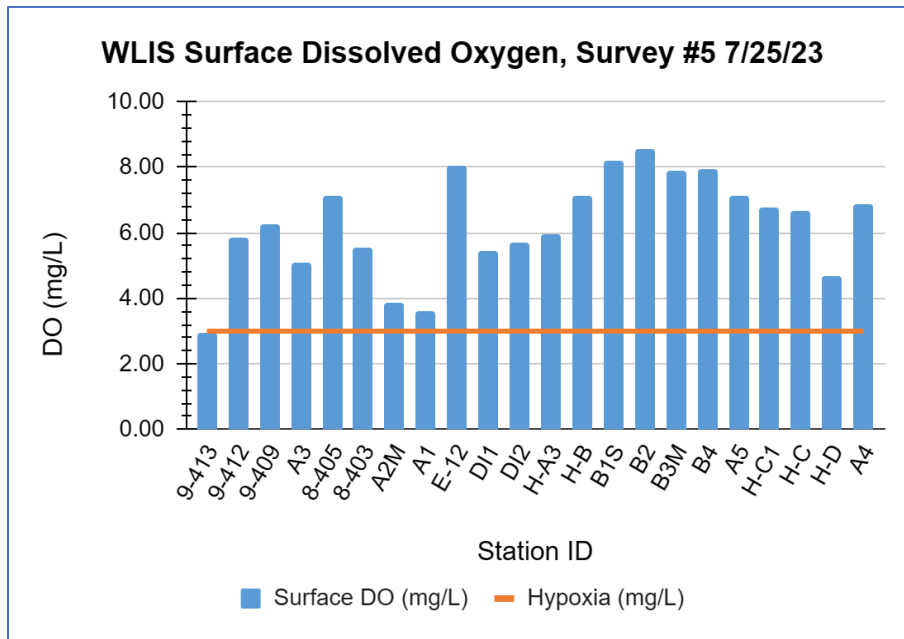
During this survey, 16 stations exhibited hypoxia at bottom depth: 5 were moderately hypoxic (2-3 mg/L DO), 9 were severely hypoxic (1-2 mg/L DO), and 2 were anoxic (0-1 mg/L DO). **One station was moderately hypoxic at surface depth.** Last year, survey #5 on 7/25/22 had the *same number of hypoxic stations at bottom and surface*, but only *one* station was anoxic at bottom depth. **Average surface DO during survey #5 was *higher* this year than last year, but average bottom DO was *slightly lower* this year than last year.** Average Surface DO: 6.24 mg/L in 2023 vs 5.19 mg/L in 2022. Average Bottom DO: 2.48 mg/L in 2023 vs 2.56 mg/L in 2022.

Average temperatures were *higher* during this survey compared to last year. Surface: 23.81 °C in 2023 vs 22.16

°C in 2022. Bottom: 21.52 °C in 2023 vs 20.19 °C in 2022. The average change in temperature through the water column also increased from last year: 2.29 °C in 2023 vs 1.97 °C in 2022.

Average salinity at surface and bottom *decreased* compared to last year: Surface: 25.09 ppt in 2023 vs 26.46 ppt in 2022. Bottom: 25.90 in 2023 vs 27.21 in 2022.

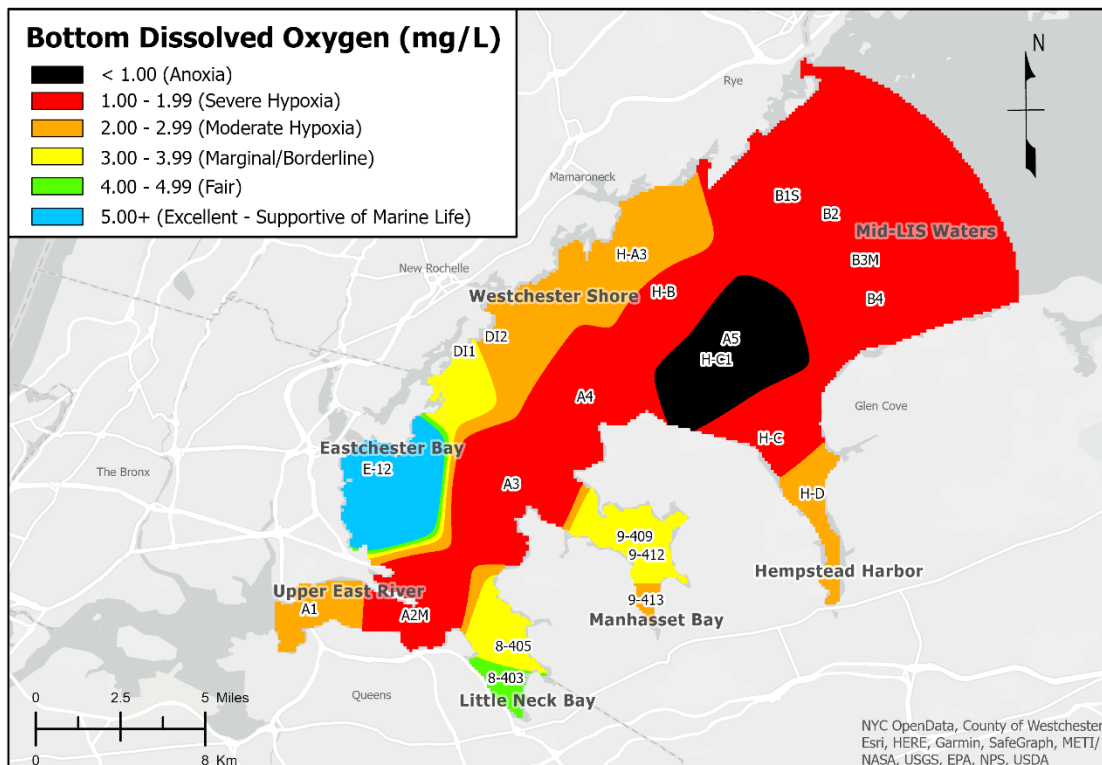
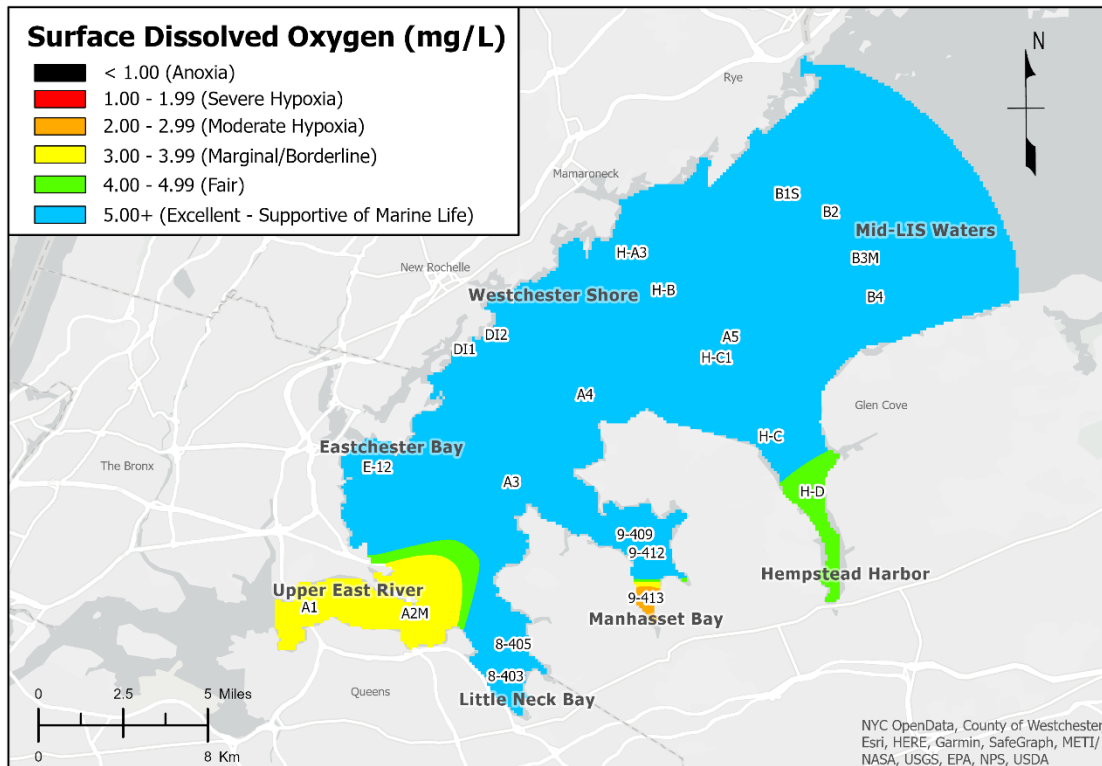
Average pH readings were *slightly higher* this year compared to last year. Average Surface pH: 7.69 in 2023 vs 7.54 in 2022. Average bottom pH: 7.30 in 2023 vs 7.29 in 2022. **However, at both surface and bottom, the lowest pH recorded was *lower* than last year.** Lowest surface pH: 6.99 in 2023 vs 7.03 in 2022. Lowest bottom pH: 6.91 in 2023 vs 7.02 in 2022.



The Long Island Sound Study defines hypoxia as DO values which are below a concentration of 3.00 mg/L.

Interstate Environmental Commission Ambient Water Quality Monitoring of the Western Long Island Sound

Weekly Survey #5: July 25, 2023



IDW Interpolation, Power 10

Map by: Kimarie Yap

Map made: 08/17/23

SURVEY # 6 AT A GLANCE 08/03/2023

Hypoxia (DO < 3.00 mg/L)	<p>1 station were hypoxic at surface depth: Manhasset Bay – 9-413</p> <p>9 stations were hypoxic at bottom depth: Manhasset Bay – 9-413 Mid-LIS Waters – A3, A4, B1S, B2, B3M Westchester Shoreline – H-B Hempstead Harbor – H-D, H-C</p>
Lowest surface DO concentration	1.67 mg/L (Station 9-413 in Manhasset Bay)
Lowest bottom DO concentration	0.98 mg/L (Station H-D in Hempstead Harbor)
Average surface DO concentration	4.91 mg/L
Average bottom DO concentration	3.39 mg/L
Average surface water temperature	22.46 °C
Average bottom water temperature	21.83 °C
Average water column ΔT	0.63 °C
Average surface salinity	25.81 ppt
Average bottom salinity	26.30 ppt
Lowest surface pH	6.83 (Station 9-413 in Manhasset Bay)
Lowest bottom pH	6.83 (Station 9-413 in Manhasset Bay)
Average surface pH	7.39
Average bottom pH	7.27

Survey #6 Narrative Summary

The survey began at 06:19 and ended at 10:26, with the last low tide at 07:22 and 07:40 at New Rochelle, NY and Kings Point, NY, respectively. The weather was cloudy, average air temperature was 74 °F, wind speed averaged 10-20 mph. The percent cloud cover measured approximately 20-80% across all stations. The weather station at LaGuardia Airport reported 0.0" and 0.004" of precipitation for the 24- and 48-hour period prior to the start of the survey, respectively. Secchi disk measurements ranged from 2.0 ft in Little Neck Bay to 8.0 ft in the Upper East River and Mid-LIS waters.

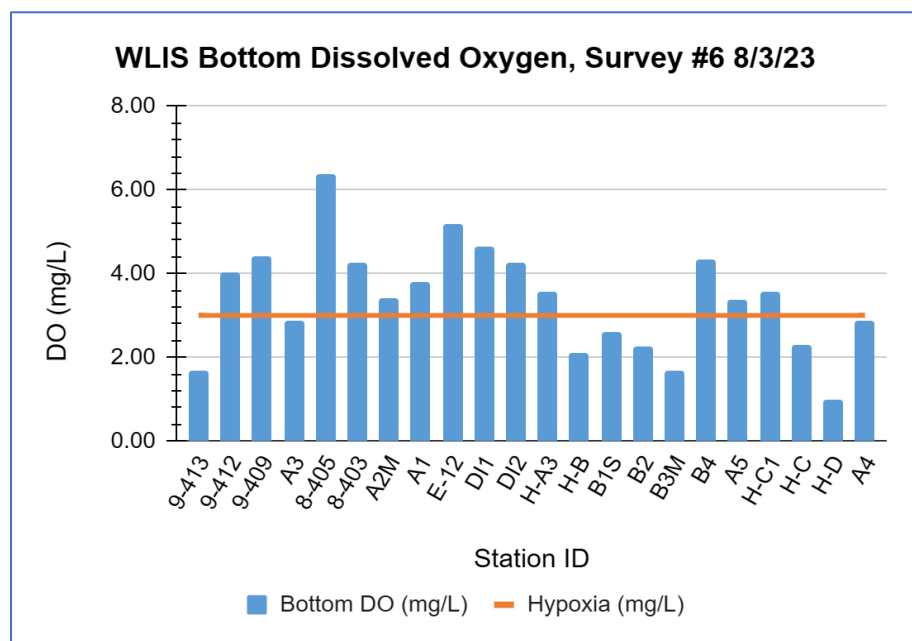
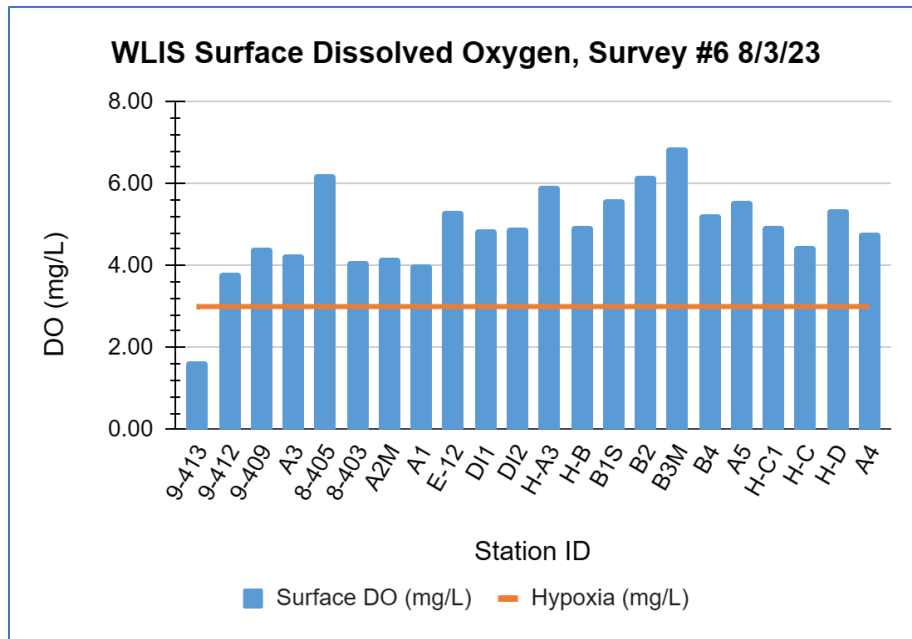
During this survey, 9 stations exhibited hypoxia at bottom depth: 6 were moderately hypoxic (2-3 mg/L DO), 2 were severely hypoxic (1-2 mg/L DO), and 1 was anoxic (0-1 mg/L DO). **One station was severely hypoxic at surface depth.** In comparison, 13 stations at bottom depth and 2 stations at surface exhibited hypoxia last year (Survey #6 on 8/2/22). **Average DO during survey #6 was higher this year than last year at both bottom and surface compared to last year.** Average Surface DO: 4.91 mg/L in 2023 vs 4.66 mg/L in 2022. Average Bottom DO: 3.39 mg/L in 2023 vs 2.64 mg/L in 2022.

Average temperatures were higher during this survey compared to last year. Surface: 22.46 °C in 2023 vs 22.20

°C in 2022. Bottom: 21.83 °C in 2023 vs 20.87 °C in 2022. The average change in temperature through the water column decreased from last year: 0.63 °C in 2023 vs 1.33 °C in 2022.

Average salinity at surface and bottom *decreased* compared to last year: Surface: 25.81 ppt in 2023 vs 27.07 ppt in 2022. Bottom: 26.30 in 2023 vs 27.50 in 2022.

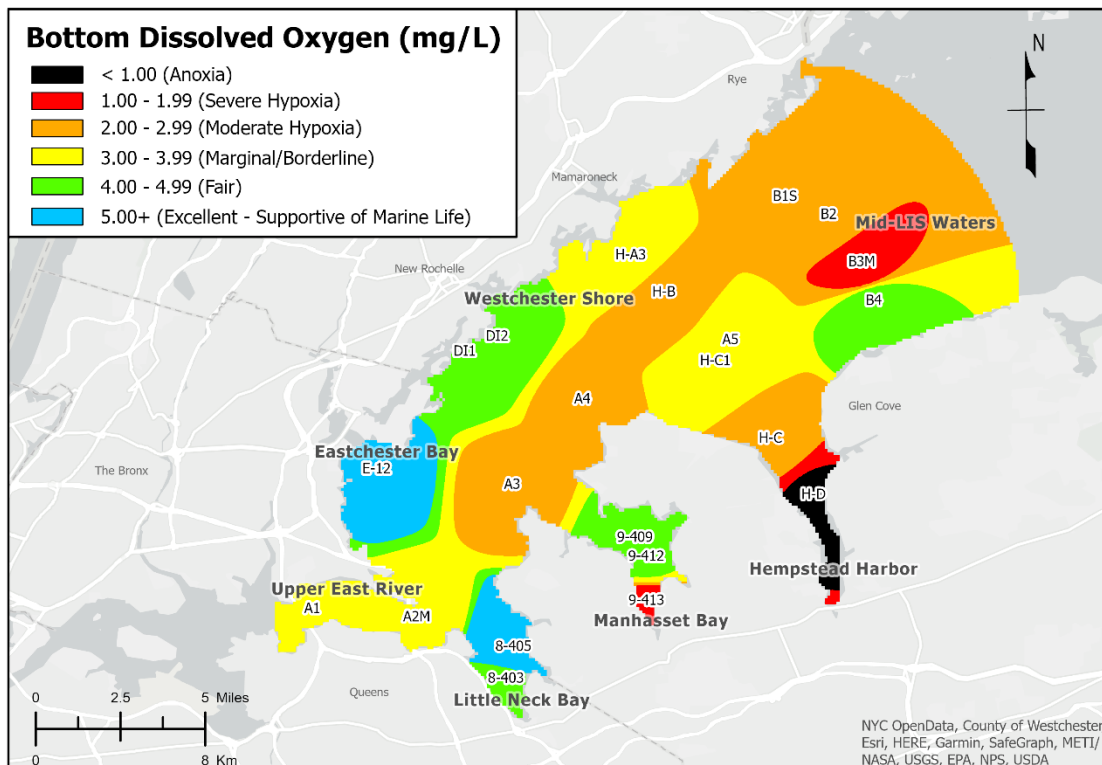
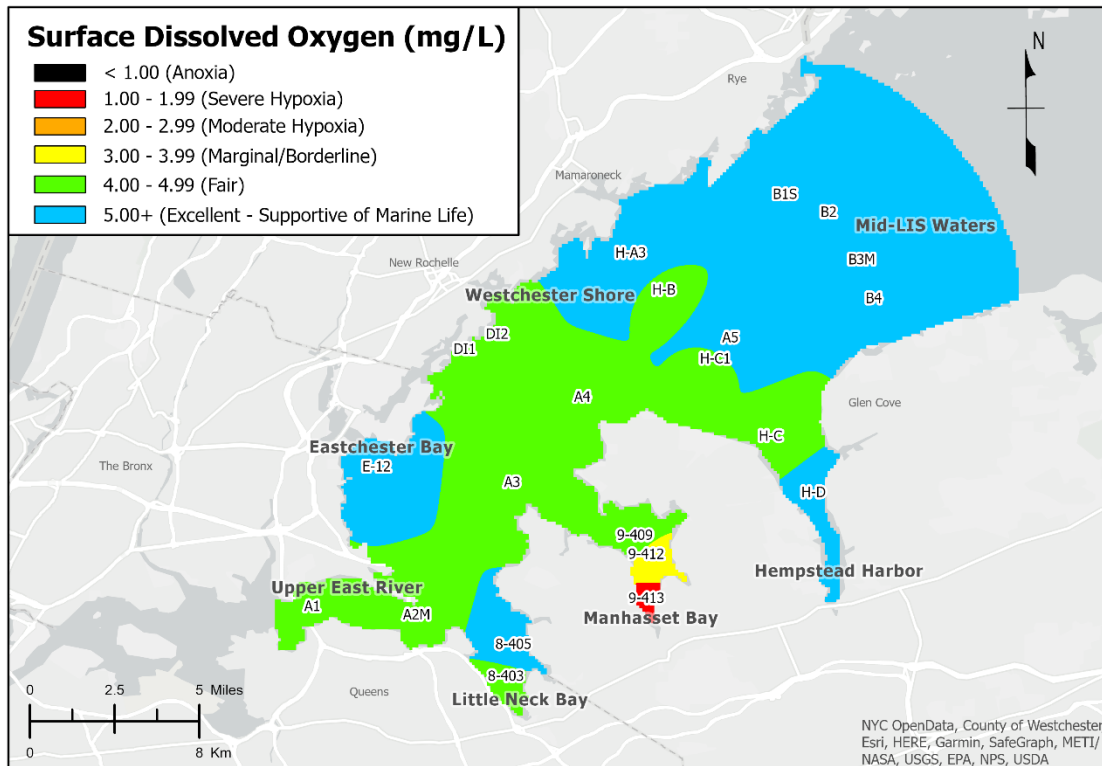
Average pH readings did not vary much this year compared to last year. Average Surface pH: 7.39 in 2023 vs 7.42 in 2022. Average bottom pH: 7.27 in 2023 vs 7.25 in 2022. **However, at both surface and bottom, the lowest pH recorded was slightly acidic at station 9-413 and *lower* than last year.** Lowest surface pH: 6.83 in 2023 vs 7.00 in 2022. Lowest bottom pH: 6.83 in 2023 vs 7.04 in 2022.



The Long Island Sound Study defines hypoxia as DO values which are below a concentration of 3.00 mg/L.

Interstate Environmental Commission Ambient Water Quality Monitoring of the Western Long Island Sound

Weekly Survey #6: August 3, 2023



IDW Interpolation, Power 10

Map by: Kimarie Yap

Map made: 08/17/23