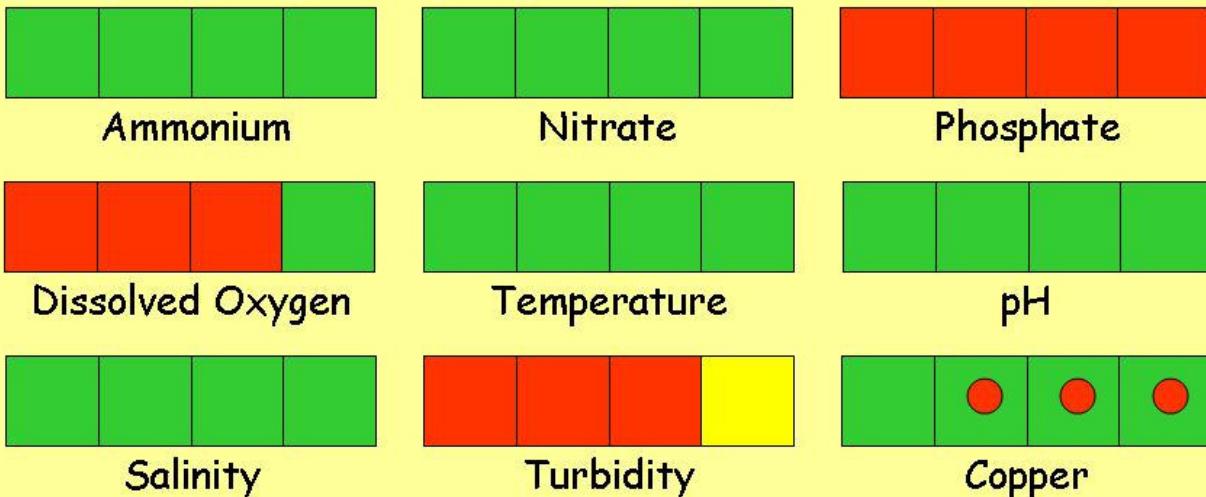


Sassafras Samplers Snapshot Oct 2008 Results 'Dashboard'



These data are based on samples taken on October 4, 2008. The boats were captained by Joe Costello, Chuck Voorhees, Jeff Russell, and Ted Carski. The crew were Jackie Reese, Capt. Ted Zang, Leo Vollmer, Elliot Fuhrman, Greg Jones, Gail Russell, Joan Zellers, Mike Ferver, Dom Dragotta, Jim Coughlin, and Janet Rühl.

The dashboard shows that Phosphate was typically bad, though this was not a bad year for algal blooms, perhaps owing to this summer's drought. There were improvements in turbidity and dissolved oxygen, perhaps for the same reason. Our phosphate findings are consistent with the data the State regularly collects and with our own experience — phosphate is the most important factor contributing to the annual summertime algae blooms on the River. High turbidity chokes off underwater grasses and blocks the sunlight they need to live.

We sample 20 sites each time we go out, so the data represent the state of the River's tidal waters from the headwaters near Route 301 to the mouth at the Chesapeake Bay. "Hotspots" indicate that while most samples were within acceptable limits, there were up to 4 locations where the levels were higher.

We again saw copper again in several sites. This time, Janet Rühl and Ted Carski checked both sites within hours but were unable to replicate the results, which came from two different crews. The source of these transient results remains to be determined.