

Eel River Watershed

Floating Down the Eel!!!!

The annual canoe float has historically been one of our most popular events, and that held true again this year. People of all walks of life, young and old, families and friends as well as solo floaters, came out this year on Saturday August 26th and joined us to float down the beautiful Eel River. Our journey began at the Liberty Mills Public Access Site and ended at the Manchester University. This is about a 3.5 mile float, Before the float we were able to learn a little something about the Eel River. Educational talks focused on fish, wildlife and mussel species, water quality monitoring, land use practices and their in-pact on water quality, and bacteria in the river. Our lunch was the renowned “Creekbank Potatoes” (a favorite with floaters of years past) prepared and provided by the Wabash and Kosciusko Counties Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. If you would like to join us next year for the annual canoe float, watch for information in the next issue of this newsletter, and sign up early, as this event usually fills up quickly! Everything is provided free of charge by the Middle Eel River Initiative and Partners, all you have to do is sign up and show up!



New Beginnings



Cassi Root was hired as the 2017—2018 Environmental Studies Scholar. Cassi graduated in the spring of 2017 and is eager to be a part of the research going on at Manchester University. Graduating with a degree in both biology and environmental studies, Cassi is open to a large assortment of research

areas. Cassi enjoys kayaking, fishing, playing with her cats and much more. During her time as the scholar position, she will continue to develop field and writing research skills, and be a key contributor to helping build a healthier environment within our ecosystem. This opportunity will provide an insight to

technologies, methods, and networking opportunities that will enhance further her future professional career. Cassi has already begun research for your graduate degree which she will start fall 2018. We are very glad that Cassi has joined our team and will help further the mission of Manchester University Projects!!

How do we affect the Gulf of Mexico

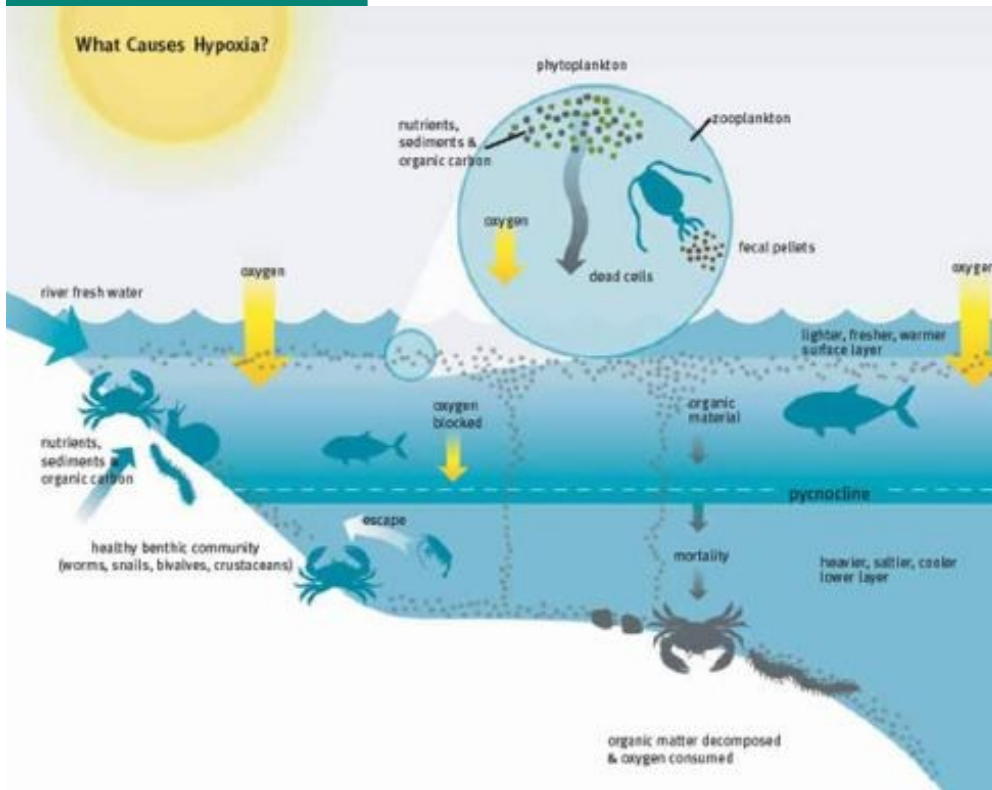
Hypoxia, or low oxygen, is an environmental phenomenon where the concentration of dissolved oxygen in the water column decreases to a level that can no longer support living aquatic organisms. Hypoxic

areas, or “Dead Zones,” have increased in duration and frequency across our planet’s oceans since first being noted in the 1970s.

The largest hypoxic zone currently affecting the United States, and the second largest hypoxic zone

“Zone” measured 22,720 square kilometers (8,776 square miles). This size is close to the forecast made in June as described below. The 2017 dead zone size is above the five-year average (15,032 sq km). It is also more than four times larger than the Hypoxia Task Force Goal of 5,000 square kilometers. Researchers suggest that the Mississippi River May discharge, which was well above average, provides an explanation for most of the large zone measurement.

According to a 2009 fact sheet created by NOAA, “seventy percent of nutrient loads that cause hypoxia are a result of this vast drainage basin which includes the heart of U.S. agribusiness, the Midwest. The discharge of treated sewage from urban areas combined with agricultural runoff deliver c. 1.7 million tons of phosphorus and nitrogen into the Gulf of Mexico every year. The 2017 “Dead





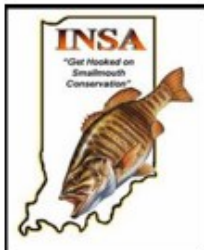
THANKS TO ALL OUR PARTNERS!!!



Local Farmers/Land Owners



Miller's Canoe Rentals



North Manchester Center for History

County Highway Departments



Contact Information

Herb Manifold
Environmental Studies Grants Coordinator
260-982-5101

hfmanifold@manchester.edu
604 East College Avenue
North Manchester, Indiana 46962