Falmouth Estuary Report for 08/24/15

Estuary	Temp °F		Salinity (ppt)		DO (%)		Water Clarity (ft.)	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Waquoit Bay	80.2	72.9	30.5	30.7	10	71	4.1	5.7
Childs River	80.4	74.3	29.0	27.3	15	56	4.9	3.2
Bournes Pond	81.3	74.1	30.0	29.5	33	46	5.5	4.4
Eel River	78.4	73.0	28.9	29.8	53	75	4.8	6.5
Green Pond	77.7	72.7	27.8	28.5	58	91	4.8	4.9
Great Pond	80.1	75.4	28.1	27.6	35	89	3.9	6.0
Perch Pond	79.0	74.1	24.1	27.5	27	90	4.5	4.7
Little Pond	79.7	73.2	28.2	28.2	88	87	3.7	4.6
Falmouth Harbor	77.9	72.1	30.8	30.2	46	84	5.9	2.1
Siders Pond	79.2	73.0	4.7	7.4	90	97	3.9	6.2
Woods Hole	76.6	71.8	31.7	32.0	79	87	9.1	7.0
Quissett Harbor	75.9	70.7	32.1	32.0	58	84	7.9	6.6
West Falmouth	75.7	70.7	29.9	31.2	53	79	7.2	6.3
Wild Harbor	76.1	69.8	31.9	31.1	28	75	6.1	8.2
Megansett	76.5	71.2	30.1	31.0	54	89	8.3	8.8
AVERAGE	78.3	72.6	27.9	28.3	48	80	5.6	5.7

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The two notable differences between this week's data and last year's data at this time are in the categories of temperature and dissolved oxygen. This week's average temperature is more than 6° higher than last year's. The average dissolved oxygen for this week is dramatically lower than the average from last year, being more than 30% lower than last year's average. This week, seven out of fifteen of the sites had DO levels below the threshold considered safe for fish survival (50%) and an additional five sites showed DO levels hovering just above that limit. The low dissolved oxygen levels followed a fairly cloudy and rainy weekend. The low sunlight prevented plants from restoring oxygen to the water column through photosynthesis.