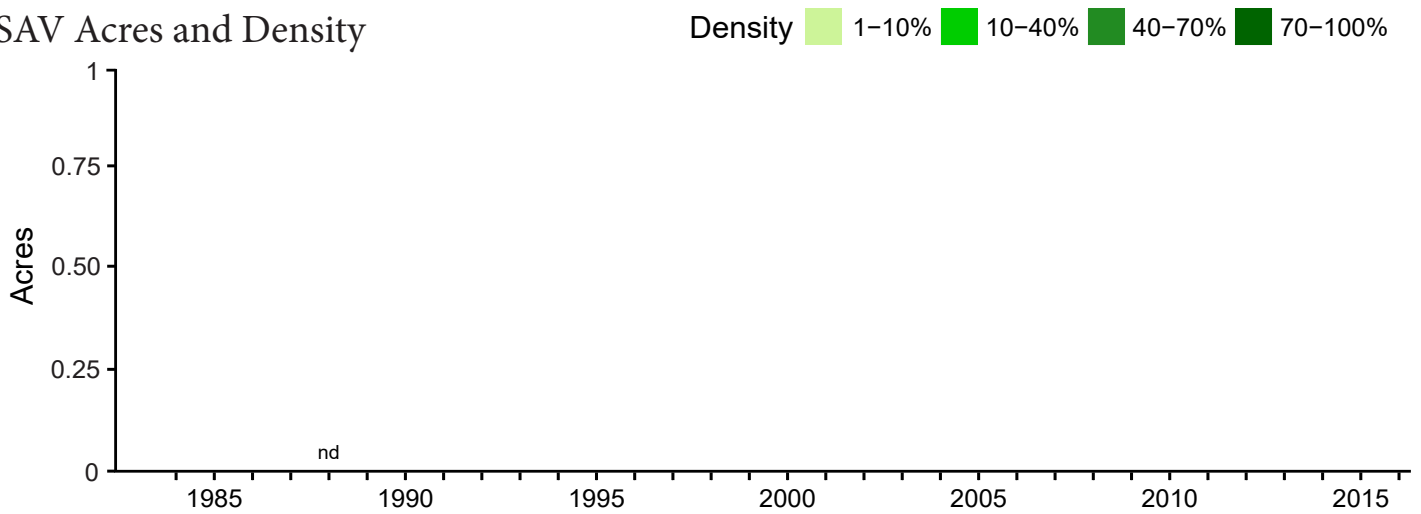


No submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds have been mapped in the Pocomoke River during the Chesapeake Bay-wide aerial survey.

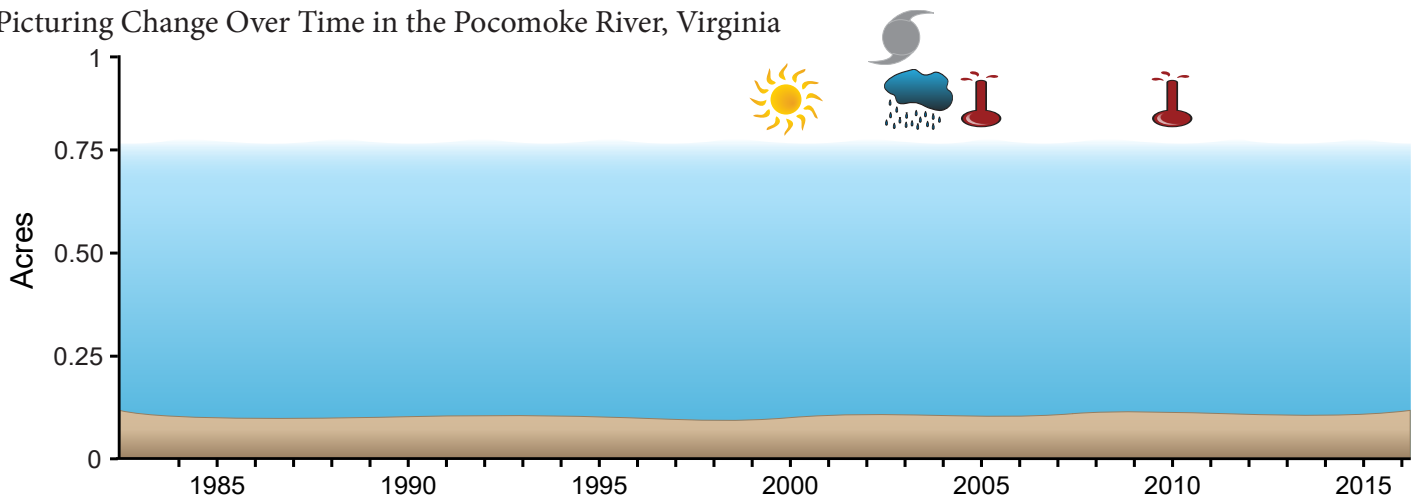
Executive Summary

SAV beds have never been reported in the middle or upper Pocomoke River either from the Bay-wide aerial survey or from any other survey. It is entirely possible, however, that small beds of SAV exist in the many small creeks that enter the river in this segment.

SAV Acres and Density



Picturing Change Over Time in the Pocomoke River, Virginia



Key

 Drought 1998-2002	 Hurricane Isabel 2003
 Wet Period 2003-2004	 Heat Events 2005, 2010

Goal - No Goal Established

There is no SAV goal for the middle or upper Pocomoke River. Segments without SAV restoration goals are considered “no grow zones” because there is no historical information upon which to set a goal. That designation does not, however, preclude the possibility that SAV exists in the river in small, undetectable populations or that SAV may eventually become established.

Historical Coverage

Historical and recent distribution not well known

SAV beds have never been reported in this segment either from the Bay-wide aerial survey or any other survey. SAV may be limited in the middle and upper Pocomoke River because much of it runs through the Great Cypress Swamp. The abundance of trees in the swamp not only shade much of the narrow river, but it is dominated by dark, tannic water which is relatively inhospitable to SAV.

Key Events

SAV never officially documented

Because SAV has never been officially documented for this segment, there is no way to determine if any historical events impacted its abundance or distribution.

Vulnerability/Resilience

Great Cypress Swamp offers protection

The Great Cypress Swamp offers protection to the middle and upper Pocomoke River and it may be possible for freshwater species to become established in small creeks and streams that receive enough sunlight. SAV is not the priority habitat in this segment, however, so no actions should be taken to assist with establishment.

Management Implications

Protection of Great Cypress Swamp

SAV is not the priority habitat in this segment, so no management actions should be taken to assist with establishment. Protection of the Great Cypress Swamp should be the priority in this system.

References

Stevenson and Confer 1978; Orth and Moore 1983, 1984; Moore et al. 2000, 2004; Orth et al. 2010a, 2017; Patrick and Weller 2015; Lefcheck et al. 2018

www.vims.edu/bio/sav/SegmentAreaChart.htm (abundance data)

www.vims.edu/bio/sav/maps.html (species information)

<http://vecos.vims.edu/> (Virginia water quality data)