

# ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



## Popular dolphin tracker app is back for third year

The Chesapeake DolphinWatch app is back for the 2019 summer season with new features, including the ability to upload videos of dolphins spotted on the bay by citizen scientists. Users are invited to mark the location of dolphin sightings on a map of the Chesapeake and its tributaries so scientists can better understand where the dolphins are and where they go. Last summer, more than 1,100 sightings were reported.

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## Large dead zone forecast for Chesapeake Bay after wet winter and spring

Ecologists are forecasting a large Chesapeake Bay "dead zone" in 2019 due to well-above-average river flows associated with increased rainfall in the watershed since last fall. The predicted volumes are larger than the summer 2018 dead zone and would be among the four largest in the past 20 years.

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## Chelsea Wegner receives prestigious graduate award for Arctic research

Ph.D. candidate Chelsea Wegner has been awarded a prestigious \$25,000 graduate student research award from the North Pacific Research Board. One of only six awarded nationally, the award will allow her to continue and expand her study of the potential impact of the loss of ice algae on the Pacific Arctic food web.



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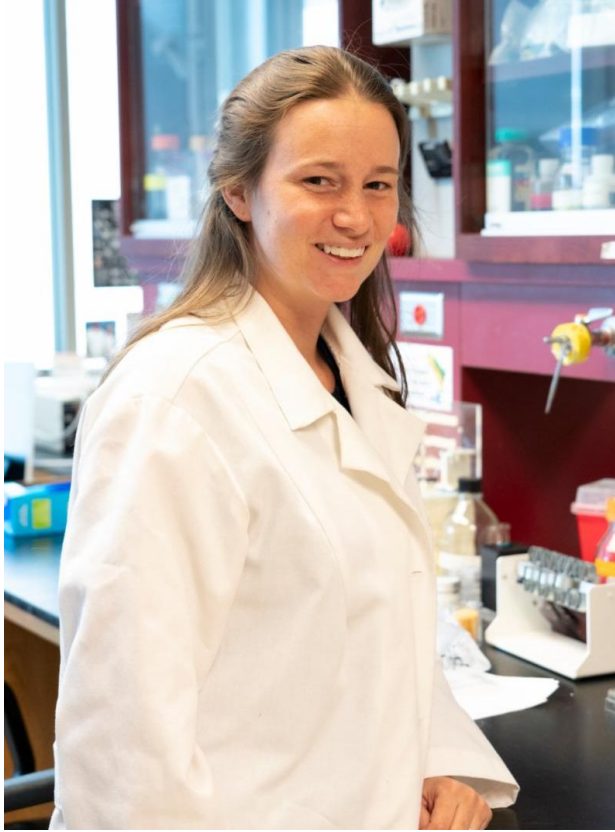
## Researchers will help DARPA detect undersea activity by analyzing behaviors of black sea bass

Black sea bass and other marine species are set to be the unlikely heroes of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Persistent Aquatic Living Sensors (PALS) program. Five teams of researchers, including UMCES' David Secor, Helen Bailey, and Vyacheslav Lyubchich, are developing new types of sensor systems that detect and record the behaviors of these marine organisms and interpret them to identify, characterize, and report on the presence of manned and unmanned underwater vehicles operating in strategic waters.

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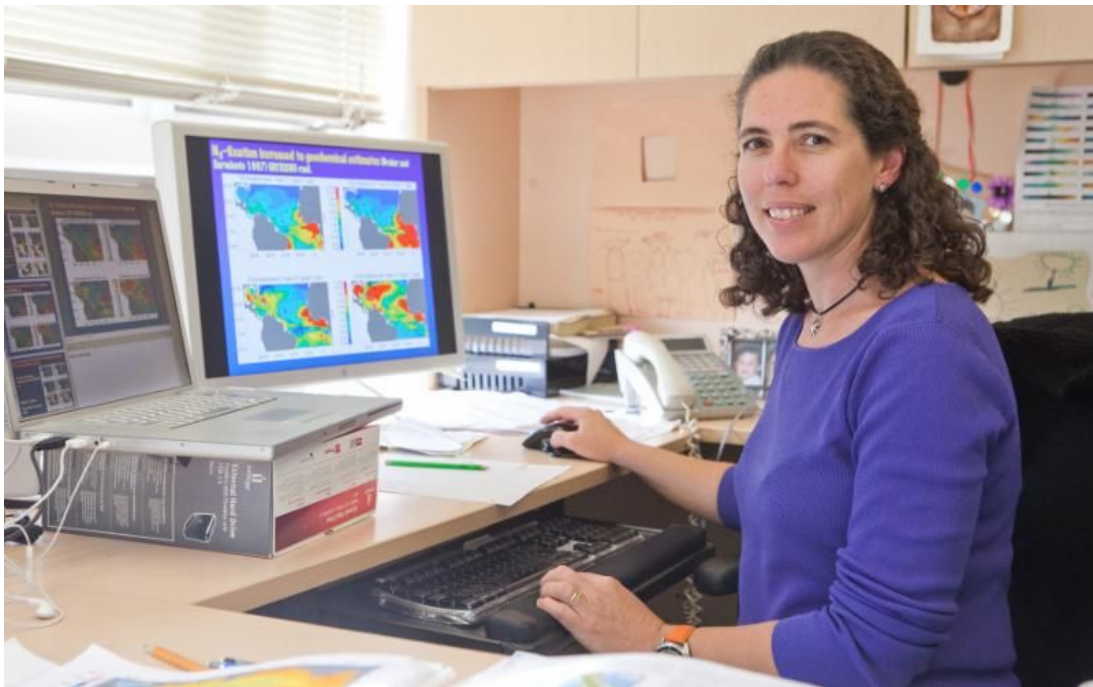
## NEXT GENERATION: Taylor Armstrong on controlling toxic algal blooms in lakes

"I will be looking at how we can control and mitigate harmful algal blooms in polluted lakes. During degradation, barley straw releases a chemical into the water that inhibits algae growth, but the process of adding barley straw to a system is fairly time intensive, and it must be performed before the algal bloom begins so it has time to degrade. I want to continue that line of research and figure out what those chemicals being



released by the barley is to simplify the process of combating harmful algal blooms."

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### **UPCOMING EVENT**

## **Science Bytes - Changing Weather in Chesapeake Bay: Predicting the future using a century of data**

**July 18, 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Piazza Italian Market, Easton \$25**

Join Horn Point Laboratory researcher Victoria Coles as she shares her most recent research efforts to understand the physical and ecological impacts of changes in extreme weather events in the Chesapeake Bay. Get to know the scientist behind the science, savor wine, beer, and antipasto from Italy, and mingle with old friends and new acquaintances.

## MORE

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### People Land Water: Water quality and agriculture in the Choptank watershed

August 9, 1-5 p.m.

Caroline County Government Offices, 403 S. 4th Street, Denton

Learn about the research the **People Land Water** team has been conducting with local farmers over the past six years to test the effectiveness of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Choptank Basin. This half-day technical meeting will summarize research findings and present farmer perceptions of BMPs. We would appreciate your attendance and opinions on water quality and agricultural BMPs.



## MORE

### UMCES IN THE NEWS

Climate change alters what's possible in restoring Florida's Everglades (The Conversation)

How fish and shrimps could be recruited as underwater spies (BBC)

By summer, Chesapeake dead zone may be largest in decades (WAMU)

Microplastics are everywhere, but how do they harm the Bay? (Bay Journal)

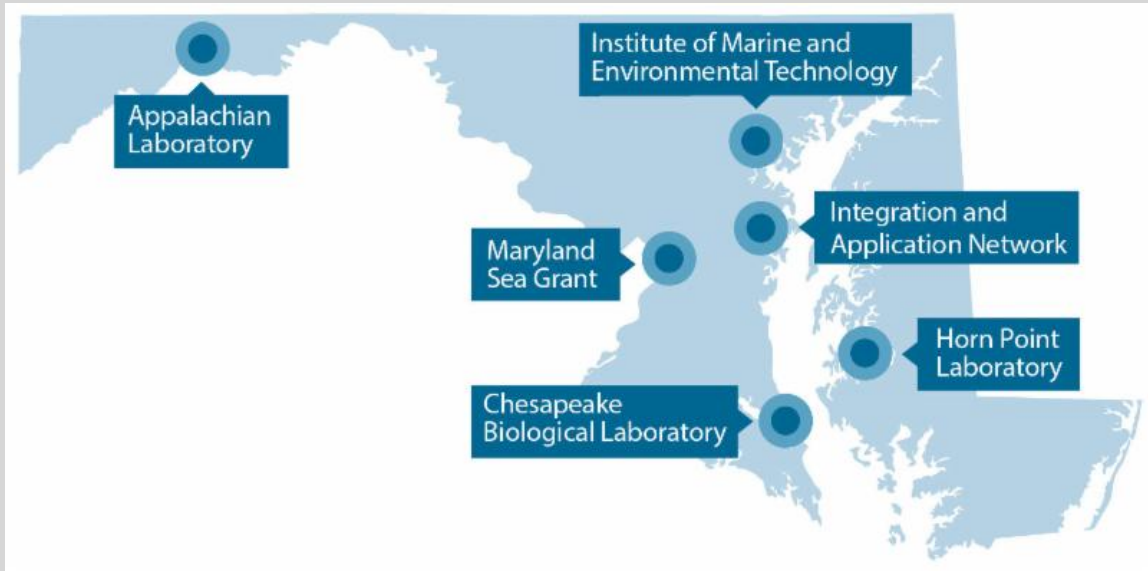
A marine chemical defense partnership (Science)

Minnowtech receives \$225K grant to bring imaging platform to shrimp farmers (Tehcnical.ly)

Proposal to aerate Bay: Breath of fresh air or pipe dream? (Bay Journal)

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