

# ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



## "We can't fight our environmental crisis without more environmental scientists"

As Maryland's university for the environment, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) has a key role in engaging the next generation of environmental scientists. The community is charged with understanding and protecting Maryland's ecosystems, conducting and explaining the research that shapes the policies that steward the state's natural resources, and training the next generation. However, learners need exposure to environmental education and research long before they reach university-level. Elementary and secondary students must be engaged and prepared for the work early on. We must build a continuum of education and experiences that draw

students in and then create opportunities that cultivate next-gen leaders. Read on about what the University System of Maryland says about engaging young learners and how UMCES is uniquely positioned to produce such graduates. [MORE](#)

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### **Research supported by the NSF will consolidate tools to manage salt water contamination of fresh water supplies**

UMCES Professor, [Ming Li](#), along with a national collaboration of researchers, received a \$650K grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator to develop and prototype tools to help monitor and manage decision-making regarding salt-water contamination of fresh water supplies. Roughly 70% of the U.S. drinking water supply comes from surface waters, including tidal rivers, which are the tidal fresh region of estuaries. As drought and sea levels rise, and changes in land-use increase, billions of people in countries around the globe are increasingly at risk. Li's new tools will be applicable in numerous systems, including developing countries, helping to bolster human health. [MORE](#)

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## Novel biomanufacturing process, supported by the NSF, will capture carbon and improve air quality

In an effort to reduce environmental impacts and bolster human health, a research group led by UMCES Professor **Elizabeth North** has been awarded \$650K by the U.S. National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator to develop and prototype a new biomanufacturing process for making precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC) and plant-based compounds that support human health. PCC – an inexpensive and versatile product used in construction materials, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, plastics, paper and food – is also a contributor to carbon dioxide emissions that plague Earth’s atmosphere.

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## **NEXT GENERATION: UMCES Graduate Student, Imani Black, reflects on her industry and her contributions**

The Chesapeake Bay's oyster population plummeted in the later half of the 20th century, however, there are signs these creatures are making a comeback. **Imani Black**, an oyster farmer who is pursuing a master's degree at UMCES' Horn Point Laboratory, sat down with *WYPR Morning Edition* recently to discuss her research. Black is also the CEO and founder of [Minorities in Aquaculture](#), a non-profit group dedicated to increasing diversity in the cultivation and study of marine life. In the interview, she discussed the region's oysters, diversity within her industry and her connection the bay's waters. **MORE**

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## **UMCES IN THE NEWS**

**Landmark report details how human activities can disrupt animal migrations**(PBS News Hour)

**Six spongy sea creatures suggest warming might be worse than thought**(New York Times)

Right whales lead to extension of the slow zone off the O.C. Coast(Coast TV)

How two scientists have advanced marine ecosystems research in the arctic(NOAA)

How much does your name influence your future? The data may surprise you(National Geographic)

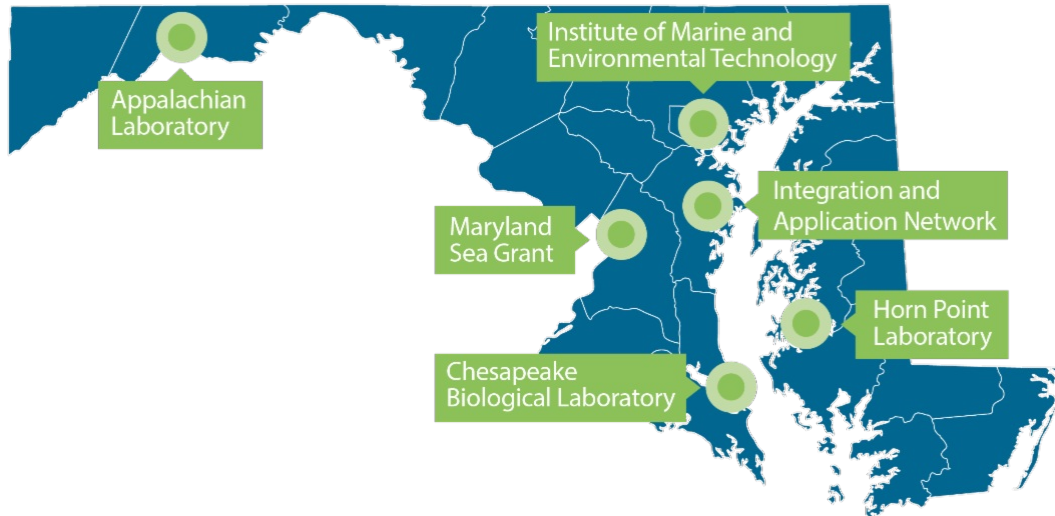
Maryland hails 'remarkable' year for young oysters in the Chesapeake Bay(Washington Post)

Scientists ponder: How well are ag practices helping the Chesapeake Bay?(Bay Journal)

Maryland Sea Grant welcome two State Science Policy Fellows (Maryland Sea Grant)

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