

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



Report dolphin sightings and help our scientists with Chesapeake Bay research

Dolphin-watching season is just around the corner, and you can be a part of it! In 2017, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's (UMCES) Chesapeake Biological Laboratory launched the [Chesapeake DolphinWatch app](#) to allow people who enjoy the Chesapeake Bay to report sightings of dolphins, including the time, date, GPS location, number of animals observed, and pictures and video of the animals, creating an unprecedented observation network. After launching the app and listening underwater for dolphins, UMCES researchers discovered there were more consistent sightings and detections over a much broader area than they expected. [MORE](#)



Maryland's university for the environment honors U.S. Senator Cardin for leadership and impact

For the seventh time in its 100-year history, UMCES bestowed the Reginald V. Truitt Environmental Award on a noted Marylander whose dedication and achievements resulted in a better understanding and stewardship of the environment. On April 19, the award was given to **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin** at a special event at the William Paca House and Garden in Annapolis. Senator Cardin has served Maryland in the U.S. Senate, and before that in the House of Representatives, as a leading advocate in protecting the Chesapeake Bay—the environmental, economic, historical and cultural heart of Maryland—and a national champion of protecting our clean air and clean water. [MORE](#)

Xin Zhang and Jens Wira win Board of Regents Awards



Xin Zhang, an associate professor at UMCES' Appalachian Laboratory, is the recipient of the University



The USM Board of Regents has also awarded a Student Excellence Scholarship to UMCES Ph.D.

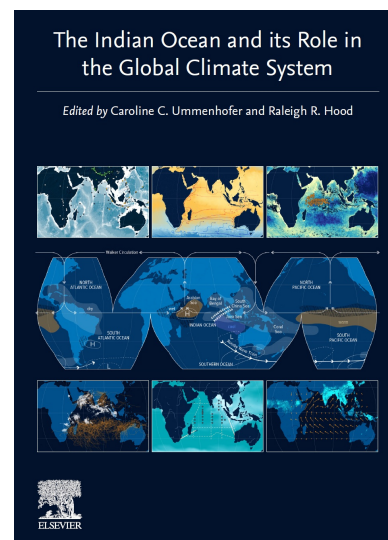
System of Maryland (USM) Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship or Research Award. Zhang is recognized for her highly cited research in sustainability and nutrient management, helping governments and nonprofits around the world respond to climate change, create water security, and improve nutrient management in agriculture. [MORE](#)

candidate **Jens Wira** for his innovative approach to science and artistic collaboration that bridges the gap between complex scientific concepts and public understanding, making science accessible and engaging to all. Of particular note is Wira's work to quantify the swimming behavior of dinoflagellates, a type of algae primarily responsible for harmful algal blooms, such as red tides. [MORE](#)

Research News



As fallen foliage begins to decompose, insects and microorganisms consume it. What's left over—millions of molecules with largely unknown structures—is eventually washed into rivers, lakes and oceans. In a new study published in *Nature*, UMCES Professor **Michael Gonsior** and his team discovered a specific type of reaction, oxidative dearomatization, is behind the mystery. [MORE](#)



The Indian Ocean is particularly susceptible to human-induced climate change. Robust warming trends and pronounced changes in heat and freshwater are being observed there, more now than ever, which is why a team of researchers including UMCES Professor **Raleigh Hood** took a deeper dive into current trends and recently published a book on their findings. [MORE](#)

2024 Commencement

UMCES will hold its 2024 Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 31 at 1 p.m. at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology in Baltimore. The event will confer master's and doctorate degrees, and feature university awards and keynote speaker Dr. Rick Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. [MORE](#)

UMCES in the News

[Forecasting future with climate twins](#) (Scripps News)

[Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology hosts open house in Baltimore](#) (WJZ)

[Maryland has renamed an invasive fish. Will it matter?](#) (Washingtonian)

[Neither plants nor animals, these ocean organisms protect their ecosystems against heat waves](#) (Scientific American)

[Get ready for a wet, hot Maryland summer](#) (Baltimore Banner)

[Key Bridge salvage raises concerns about stirring toxic sludge](#) (Bay Journal)

[Poplar Island marshes showing resilience, study shows](#) (Bay Journal)

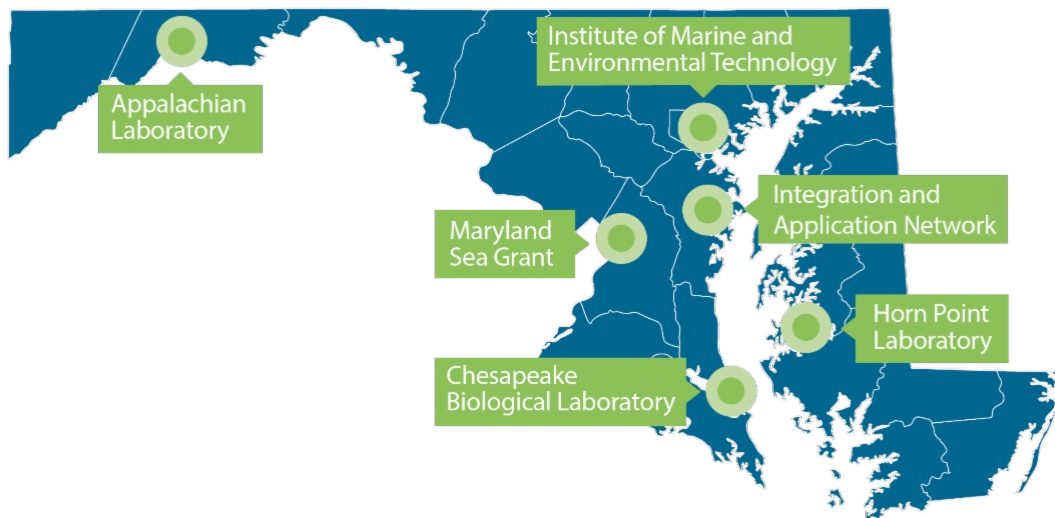
[Eric A. Davidson: The environment's better, and worse, this Earth Day](#) (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

[We know how to prevent the next Deepwater Horizon spill: stop fast-tracking approval for drilling](#) (The Hill)

[Southeast Michigan's rivers, watersheds struggle in ecosystem report card](#) (AOL)

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