

# ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



## Tracking leatherback turtles to help protect them

A new model can forecast the location of Eastern Pacific leatherback turtles along the coast of Central and South America to help protect this endangered and ecologically important species. Scientists have developed a unique model that can predict on a monthly basis where leatherbacks are most likely to be residing to help decrease their accidental capture by fisheries, a threat that is partially responsible for the species' significant decline since the 1980s.

"A lot of managers and government agencies in Central and South America have been asking for something. They have been thirsty for some information about what they can do so leatherbacks don't disappear," said study author Aimee Hoover.

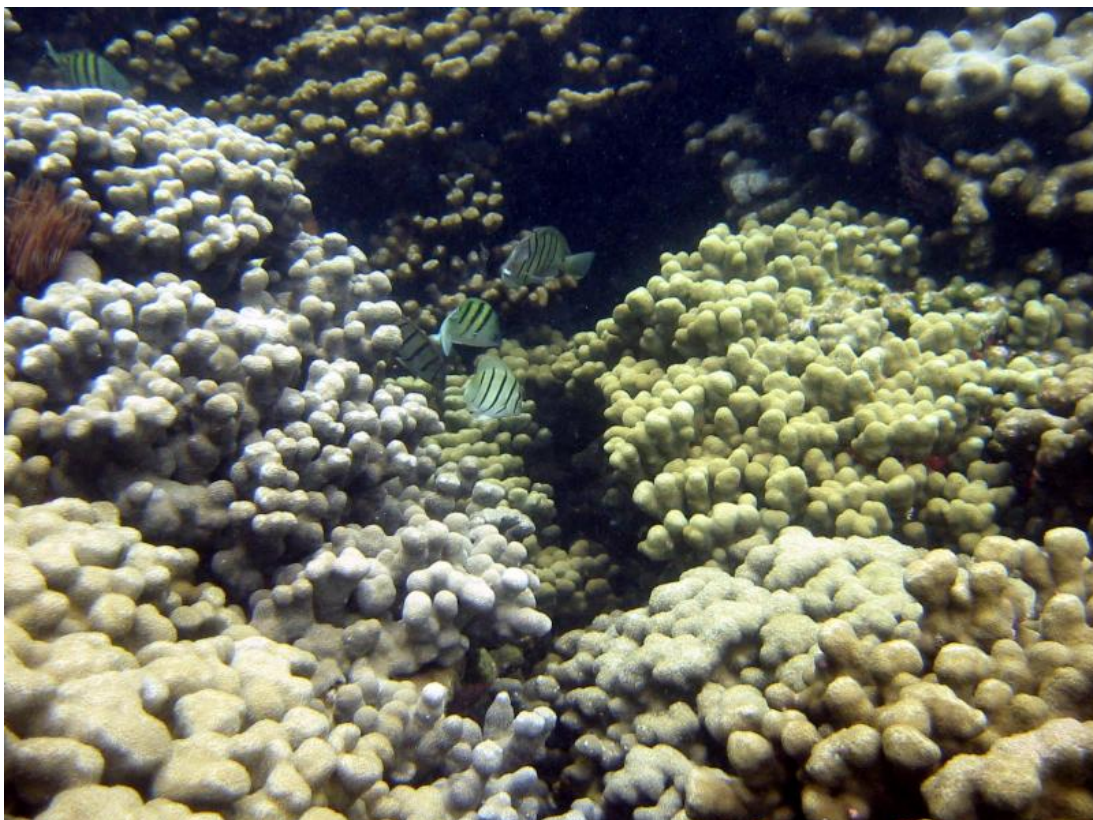
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### **How high? Sea-level rise impacts on coastal communities**

UMCES President Emeritus Don Boesch illustrates the threat of climate change and rising sea levels on the Chesapeake Bay and Washington, D.C., and talks about what can be done about it in an interview with reporter John Henry of WUSA-TV.

**WATCH**



**Scientists assess UV-filter contaminants in waters off Hawaii to understand impact on threatened corals**

Globally corals are in serious decline due to increasing temperatures from climate change and disease. New threats from chemical contaminants in seawater are an emerging area of concern, particularly near areas with high-density populations and tourism. Scientists have completed the first comprehensive assessment of UV-filters in surface seawater, sediment, and coral tissue from multiple coral reefs around the island of Oahu, Hawaii. UV-filters are active ingredients in sunscreens but are also added to many other products to prevent photo degradation

"Our study vastly expands the current body of scientific data needed to assess the environmental risk of these chemicals to corals," said study lead Carys Mitchelmore.

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### Science for Citizens Lecture Series

Join us at the oldest state-supported marine lab on the East Coast to learn about environmental research from faculty experts. Free at 7 p.m., at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons.

**APRIL 9**

#### Sea Level Rise in Maryland: Preparing for future and current changes

Hali Kilbourne discusses the latest sea level rise projections for Maryland and the importance of informed citizens in preparing for near- and long-term environmental changes.

**APRIL 16**

#### Embracing Uncertainty: From scientist to entrepreneur

Taking science innovation to the global market can be highly rewarding but also incredibly challenging. Recent graduate Suzan Shahrestani will discuss her journey from student to Minnowtech start-up founder.

**APRIL 23**

### PlasticWatch: Reducing plastic waste on Solomons Island

Scientists are partnering with restaurants to work together to reduce plastic waste. Helen Bailey explains how businesses are switching from common single-use straws and take-out containers to biodegradable products.

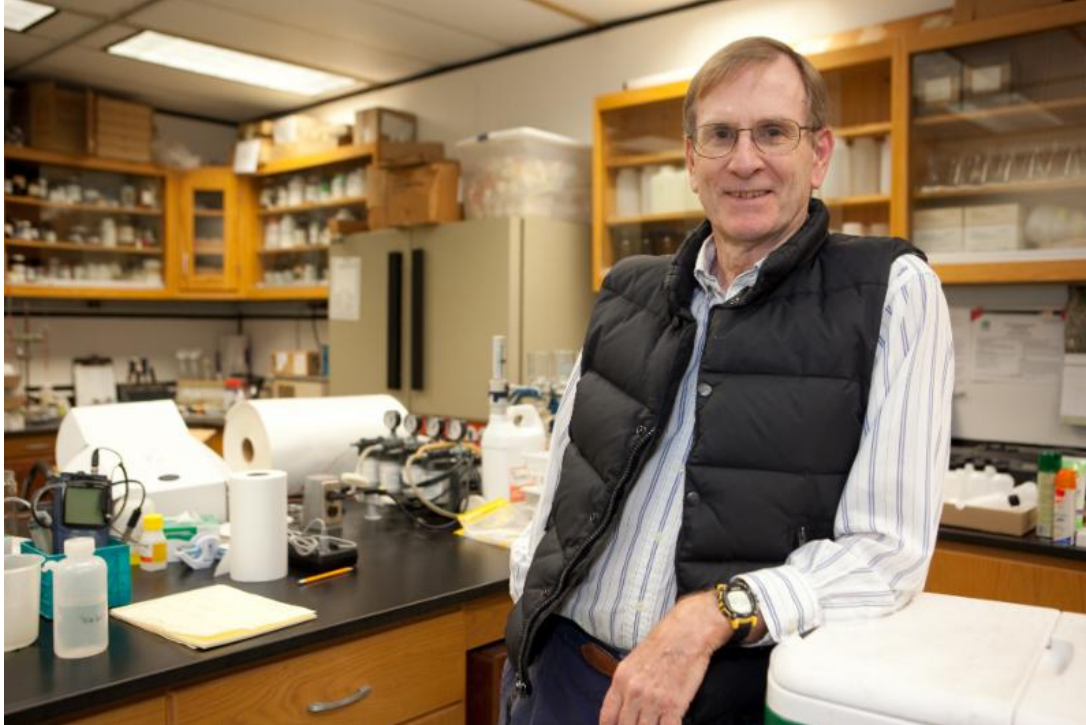
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### Next Generation: Katie Hornick on the genetics of oyster restoration

"My research examines the genetic impact of hatchery-based oyster restoration in Maryland. Using molecular tools, I measure genetic diversity metrics of both hatchery-produced and wild oysters. I am specifically looking at the diversity in restored reefs in Harris Creek and comparing them to other wild populations in the Chesapeake Bay that have not experienced large-scale hatchery-based restoration. I am also building a computer model to forecast the genetic impacts of hatchery-based restoration and potentially inform responsible restoration strategies."

**MORE**



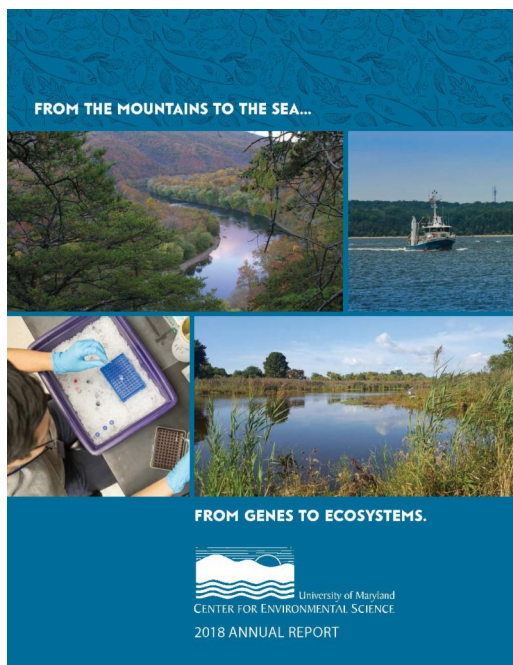
## Science After Hours

Good news for the Choptank: Improving water quality in the estuary

April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for free talks from Horn Point Laboratory scientists on current environmental topics presented at the Easton Branch of Talbot County Free Library. This month features Tom Fisher, who will explore the many factors impacting improvements in water quality in the Choptank estuary.

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## UMCES Annual Report

Find out how the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science provides the science for policymakers to address the pressing environmental issues in our communities in our latest annual report.

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New study predicts what climate your city could resemble In 2080 (Here and Now-National Public Radio)

What happens when the Bering Sea's ice disappears? (ScienceNews)pens when the Bering Sea's ice disappears? (ScienceNews)

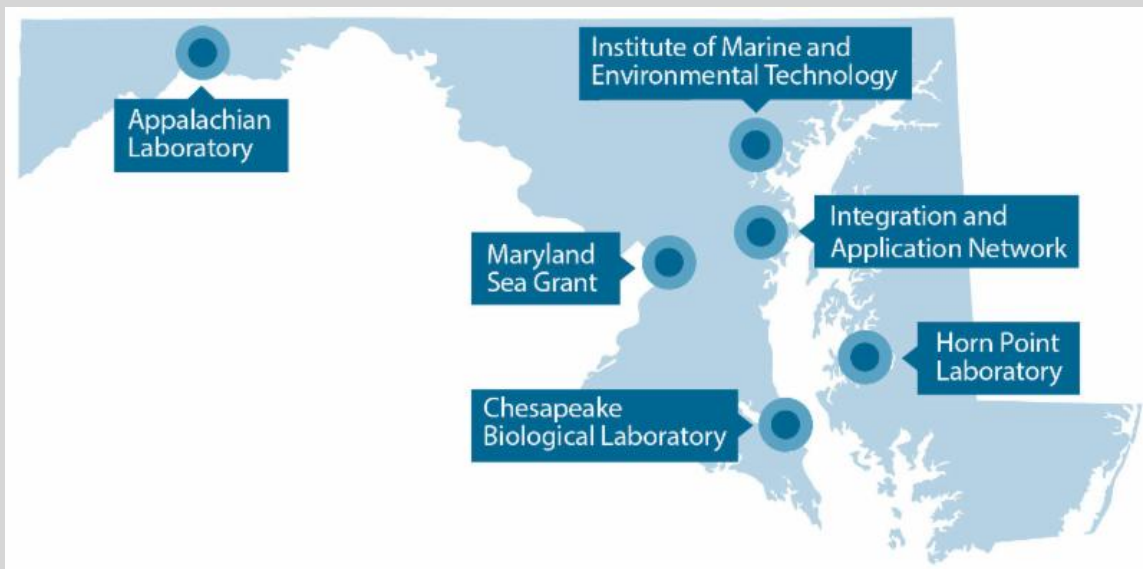
Experts say Chesapeake Bay water quality is the best since monitoring began (Daily Press)

Seismic surveying proposal in Atlantic raises Bay concerns (Bay Journal)

Harry Hughes remembered as humble and honest, 'exactly the governor Maryland needed' (Baltimore Sun)

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