

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



UMCES publishes annual report card, Chesapeake Bay the healthiest it has been in two decades

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) released its 2023/2024 annual report card recently with the overall Chesapeake Bay earning a grade of C+ (55%), its highest grade since 2002. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Health, which includes ecological, societal and economic indicators, scored 52% (C), a moderate score overall. The overall Chesapeake Bay score is significantly improving, reflecting progress in the bay's restoration efforts. Scores for Bay indicators also improved or remained steady from the previous year. "The Chesapeake Bay restoration is seen as a global model of sustainability," said UMCES President, **Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm**. "The report shows that the results are moving in the right direction but we need to pick up the pace

of these efforts particularly in light of climate change which will make meeting the targets more difficult." [MORE](#)



IMET hosts inaugural Nitrogen Summer Institute

The [Global Nitrogen Innovation Center for Clean Energy and the Environment](#) (NICCEE) held its inaugural *Nitrogen Summer Institute* conference at the UMCES Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology in Baltimore. More than 50 experts from academia, government agencies, industry, farming and non-profits gathered to explore advancements and opportunities for collaboration with a particular focus on the opportunities and challenges presented by green ammonia; a gas offering the potential to improve fertilizer accessibility and decarbonize marine transport. However, its adoption raises critical new concerns about increasing reactive nitrogen in the biosphere. "Nitrogen is essential for life in plants, animals, and humans, yet we are facing a nitrogen paradox of 'too much, too little,' where we have too much nitrogen loaded into the environment, while leaving too little nitrogen on the plate for those people who are in need," said [Xin Zhang](#), professor and NICCEE Director. [MORE](#)



Hear what our scientists say about UMCES' search for solutions

As the world changes, UMCES' role as trusted scientific advisor to state and national leaders, communities and industry is more important than ever. 100 years of research has led to groundbreaking discoveries that have changed the way we think about the environment, and UMCES scientists look ahead to the next century of scientific discovery in partnership with all those who share our passion for the Chesapeake Bay, its land and its people. [Learn more](#) about how you can support this important work!

Save the Date

Mark your fall calendars now for a lab open house near you! The [Chesapeake Biological Laboratory](#) in Solomons, Maryland will hold its annual open house on **Saturday, September 7** and across the bay, the [Horn Point Laboratory](#) in Cambridge, Maryland will open its doors on **Saturday, October 12**. Stay tuned for additional details!

UMCES in the News

[These 10 U.S. states are America's least-prepared for climate change and extreme weather](#) (CNBC)

[There are more parasites in oyster sanctuaries. Here's why that's a good sign.](#) (Baltimore Banner)

[Historic Investments and Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts in Right Direction, says EPA Mid-Atlantic Administrator](#) (Inside Climate News)

[Maryland wants invasive fish out of the water — and on your dinner table](#) (Washington Post)

Greening the brine: How we can use waste for good (Planet Forward)

If you think Boston's hot now, get ready (Boston Globe)

How the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse could impact water quality (StormWater Solutions)

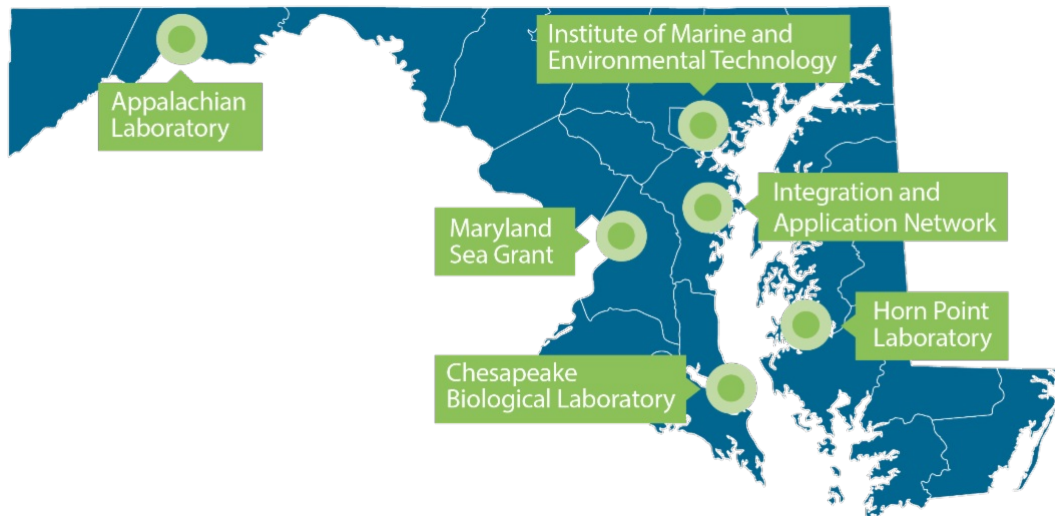
Chesapeake Bay receives C+, highest score in decades, at critical juncture for the cleanup effort (Baltimore Sun/ABC News)

DolphinWatch Researchers Uncover Offshore Wind Projects' Impact On Bay Dolphins (Chesapeake Bay Magazine)

Shedding Light on Sunscreens (Happi)

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