JUNE 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SCIENCE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: While UMCES researchers have largely limited their research to what can be done while respecting social distancing and State guidelines, they are still able to produce important and accomplished research as seen in these highlights.

UMCES celebrates first virtual commencement ceremony

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's seventh annual Commencement ceremony was held virtually for the first time this year and featured Lisa Palmer, award-winning environmental and science journalist and author of the book "Hot, Hungry Planet" as keynote speaker. "There are many people out there who know exactly what they want to be. And then there are people who know what they want to do," she said. "If you catch yourself daydreaming about what you want to be, stop and think instead about what you want to change."

MORE



Outstanding faculty and research support staff honored

Each year, UMCES gives awards for outstanding faculty accomplishments at Commencement. This year, Mike Wilberg received the President's Award for Excellence in Application of Science for his work on oyster research and communication, Matt Fitzpatrick was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award by graduate students, and Janet Barnes received the first-ever President's Award for Outstanding Research Support. **MORE**

Chesapeake Bay health score decreased in 2019

For the first time, Chesapeake Bay watershed health was scored as part of the 2019 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Report Card issued by UMCES' Integration and Application Network. The overall Chesapeake watershed scored a B- grade for 2019. The Chesapeake Bay health score decreased in 2019, dropping from a grade of C to a C-.

"The Chesapeake is resilient and while the health score fell due to the intense rainfall and elevated temperatures, we are seeing trends that Bay health is still improving over time," said Bill Dennison, Vice President for Science Application. **MORE**

Large rockfish leave Chesapeake Bay to become ocean migrators; smaller fish remain

A new electronic tagging study of 100 Potomac River striped bass sheds light on rockfish migration in Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Coast. UMCES researchers found that when rockfish reach 32 inches in length they leave Chesapeake Bay and become ocean migrators. Small fish that stayed in the Bay had higher mortality rates than those that undertook ocean migrations.

"Knowing the size at which they leave, we can do improved management that is tailored better to commercial and recreational fishing sectors those related to catch and size limits," said Dave Secor. **MORE**

SCIENCE IN ACTION: Tagging and tracking striped bass

"Biotelemetry has allowed us to move beyond the question of whether Potomac River striped bass leave the Chesapeake Bay, to where do they go when they leave? All arrows point to Massachusetts," said Dave Secor. See how Secor and his lab catch, tag, and release rockfish back into the Chesapeake Bay to understand their migration patterns.

WATCH

NEXT GENERATION: Hunter Hughes on reconstructing past climate with coral skeletons

"My research looks at how we use the chemistry of coral skeletons to reconstruct past climate. We can use corals to reconstruct historical temperature data, using the chemical composition of corals and the chemistry of the sea water surrounding them. The standard practice is measuring the chemistry of the corals, but many people have assumed that the sea water chemistry has not changed over time. I am looking at the sea water chemistry to see if the water surrounding corals may also play a part in reconstructing past climate."

MORE

UMCES IN THE NEWS

In the Chesapeake Bay, saving seagrasses can fight ocean acidification (National Geographic)

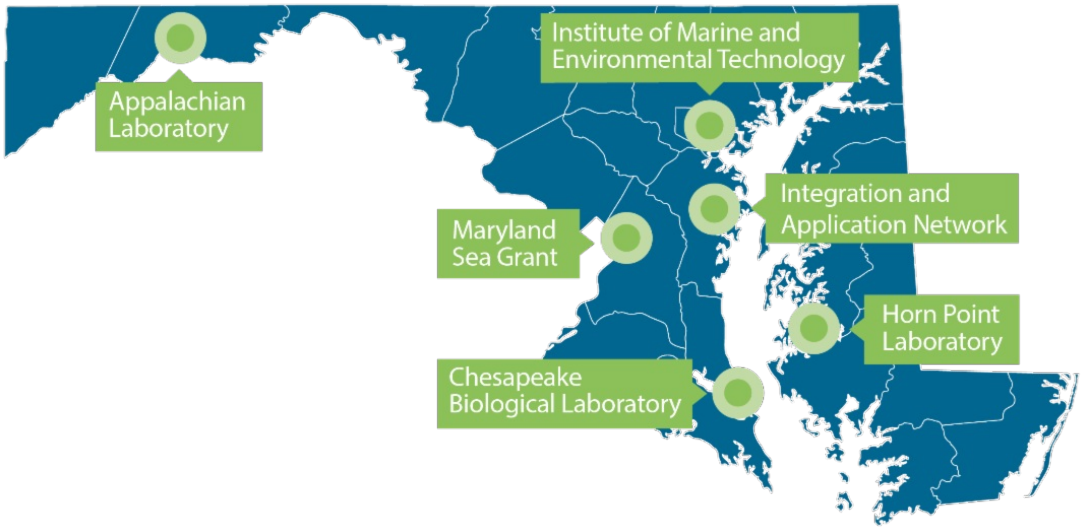
Loss of Louisiana marshes that protect New Orleans is 'probably inevitable,'

study finds (Washington Post)

Mortality rate of Bay's striped bass twice that of those in the Atlantic (Bay Journal)

Inspiring women tackle challenges of feeding the future(Aquaculture North America)

Chesapeake Bay receives C- health score in new report, long-term trends still show bay is improving (Baltimore Sun)



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