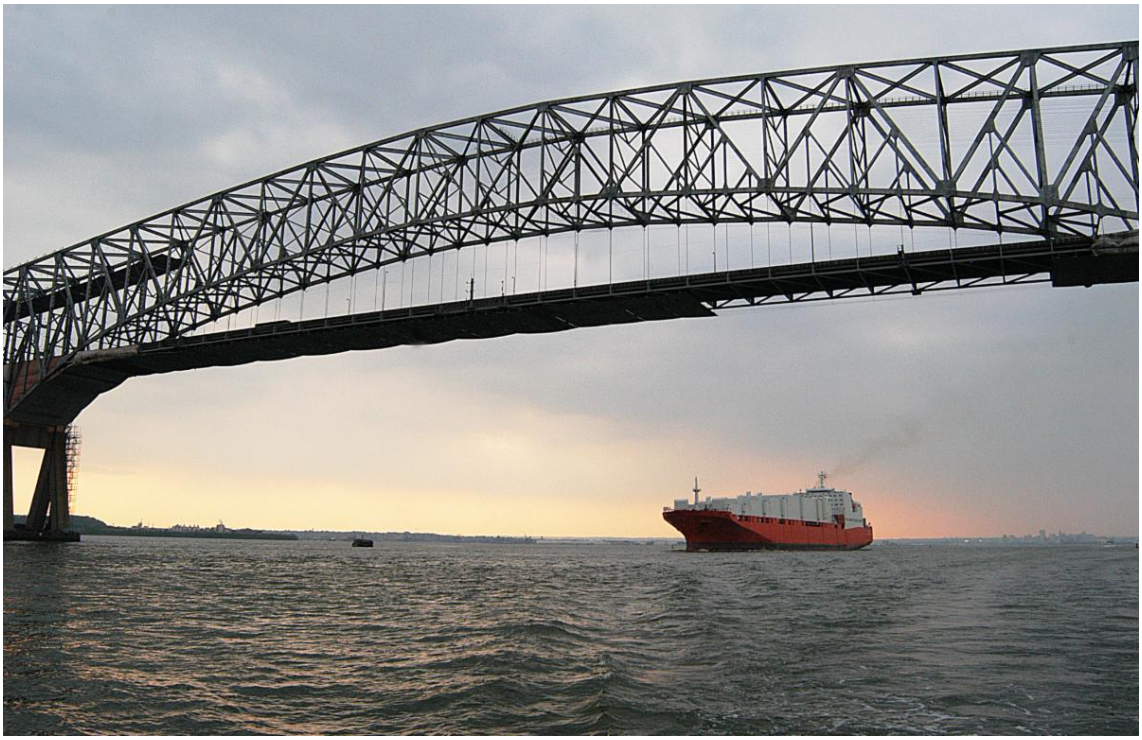
April 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



UMCES weighs in on ecological impact of Key Bridge collapse

On March 27, the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed after being struck by a tanker. The 1.6-mile structure lies in the Patapsco River, closing the Port of Baltimore, one of the nation's busiest ports. What is the environmental impact of this disaster? How will cleanup and rebuilding impact the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay?

"Our scientists are united in our desire to aid the massive effort underway to restore the Port of Baltimore," said UMCES Interim President **Bill Dennison**. "We have reached out to our various partners to offer our assistance and advice and we are poised to offer our expertise to support efforts throughout the entire process of reconstruction."

UMCES scientists are experts on what happens to heavy metals when polluted mud is disturbed, how water quality is impacted by dredging the channel to deepen it for large ships, how that material can be used to rebuild marsh and habitat, and how fish and crab breeding grounds may be impacted.

Overview: The immediate ecological impacts of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge will likely be minimal. The ecological effects of the salvage operation and subsequent reconstruction may be more substantial and will require the same environmental safeguards that currently guide harbor activities. Impacts of the collapse of the bridge itself can be separated into two areas: direct impacts on Bay life, and disturbance of sediment-bound chemicals.

Click to see UMCES' assessment on the ecological impacts of the bridge collapse on contaminants, fisheries, air quality, and dredging. **MORE**

Photo courtesy of Michael Fincham/Maryland Sea Grant

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
Science for Community
Free public seminar series Spring 2024

Lecture Series: Science for Community
Every Tuesday in April hear from an UMCES scientist about their research at **Chesapeake Biological Laboratory** in Solomons, in-person and online. 7:00-8:00 PM, free.

April 2 - Striped bass: The most Important fish in the Chesapeake Bay with Michael Wilberg
Hear about the past and present status of striped bass (rockfish) in the Chesapeake Bay and how they have influenced fisheries management.

April 9 - Finding forage in winter: Atlantic menhaden in the Mid-Atlantic with Genny Nesslage
An in-depth look at the latest discoveries about the winter behavior of this famous forage fish.

April 16 - Anthropogenic changes in estuarine systems with Michael Gonsior and Andrew Heyes
Explore the impacts of contaminants of emerging concern in our waterways and how the new Center for the Study of Anthropogenic Changes in Estuarine Systems with help tackle the challenges ahead.

April 23 - Biodiversity in the human era with Chris Rowe
An exploration of the historical and recent trends in the decline in the number and diversity of plants and animals over the past 50 years.

REGISTER

IMET Open House: Science happens here!

Saturday, May 4, 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, Baltimore

Join us to enjoy hands-on science activities for all ages and discover important marine research happening at the edge of Baltimore's harbor.

- See fish and crabs in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Aquaculture Research Center.
- Experience the collision of theater and science with mesmerizing performances by the IMET artist-in-residence.
- Discover the hidden marine life wonders of the harbor through powerful microscopes.
- Unveil the secrets of DNA with hands-on experience using research tools like microscopes and pipettes.
- Meet IMET scientists, the heroes of local marine discoveries.

Activities will take place indoors and out.**REGISTER**

UMCES remembers retired entomology professor Dan Harman

UMCES mourns the loss of retired professor and forest entomologist Dan Harman. He was known for his work on the locust borer, a serious pest on eastern black locust timber tree, and for his teaching and collaboration with colleagues in fisheries and wildlife at UMCES' Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg, Maryland. **MORE**

UMCES IN THE NEWS

'Get the port up and running': Clearing out the tangled mess of Baltimore's Key Bridge (Baltimore Sun/Yahoo News)

Environmental concerns loom in aftermath of the Key Bridge collapse(Baltimore Banner)

Why is it so hard to keep cats indoors?(Audubon magazine)

Sea levels are rising. Will Harborplace end up underwater?(Baltimore Banner)

New research to consolidate tools to manage salt contamination of freshwater supplies (Smartwater Magazine)

Ocean City slow zone extended due to right whale presence(Coast TV)

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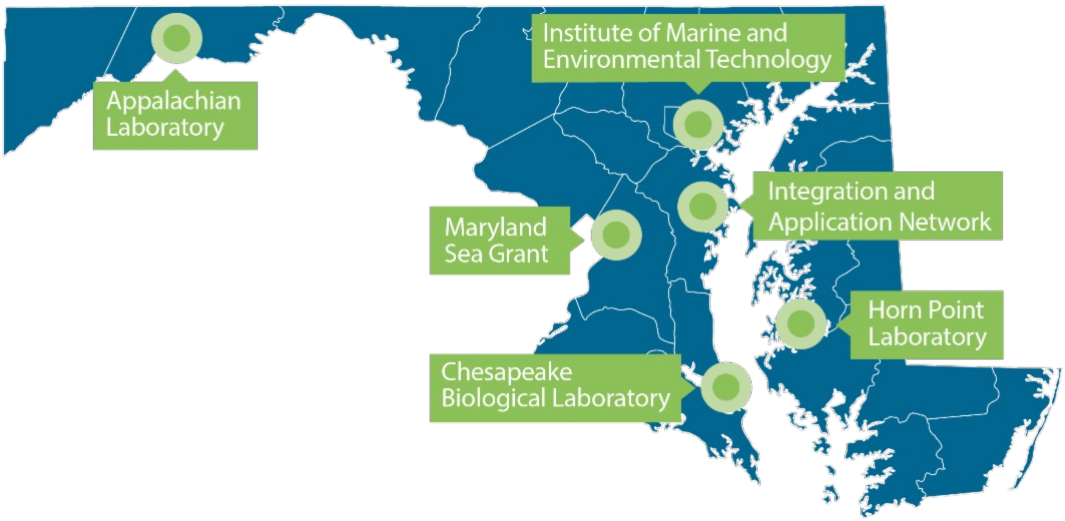

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