

# ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

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## UMCES partners with U.S. Wind to research effects of offshore wind farms on ecosystems

Baltimore-based US Wind, Inc. pledged \$11 million in funding to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science for three research projects aimed at understanding the potential effects of offshore wind development on marine mammals, fish, and birds.

“We look forward to working with them along with state and federal agencies to help make the best decisions to minimize impacts on the environment,” said University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science President Peter Goodwin. [MORE](#)



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## Next Generation: Lauren Rodriguez on using environmental DNA in the Chesapeake Bay



By sampling waters in the Chesapeake Bay, graduate student Lauren Rodriguez is using environmental DNA, the genetic material left behind by organisms, to track what species are making their way through the bay's waters and understand different species' interactions.

"Developing new techniques that help us find out when and where animals come into the Chesapeake Bay without actually

interacting with them helps preserve their natural behavior - and their safety!" explained Lauren Rodriguez. [MORE](#)

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## Urban oceans and waterfronts in focus in online community learning series

Urban waterfronts, including harbors and ports like Baltimore, are important areas that are particularly vulnerable to invasive species, chemical contamination, and conflicts related to intensified coastal development. The [Science for Communities](#) seminar series, hosted by UMCES' Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, will feature scientists sharing research related to the urban ocean on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Following each presentation, there will be a moderated question and answer session. No scientific background needed; everyone is welcome!

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### Metals in Urban Estuaries



**April 12, 7 p.m.**

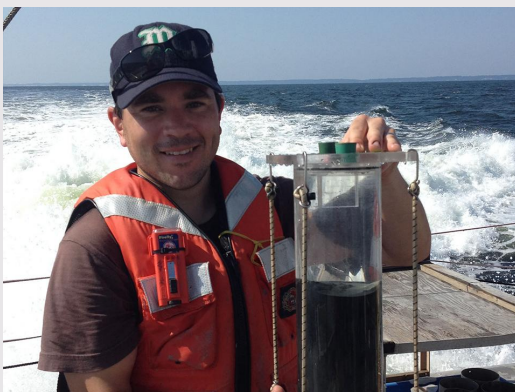
*Presented by Dr. Andrew Heyes, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory*

Contamination of the Chesapeake Bay and its waters extends beyond nutrients. Organic chemicals, “heavy metals” and trace elements once readily flowed into our urban waters unfettered, a practice clearly evident in our coastal sediments. Heavy metals continue to enter our coastal waterways, while urban expansion and climate change further compound this problem.

Dr. Andrew Heyes will explore how metals, such as mercury, chromium, copper and zinc, continue to enter our urban waters and how they may or may not impact wildlife and how we utilize this resource. [REGISTER](#)

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### The Keystone Molecule: What Oxygen and its Depletion Tells Us About Coastal Ecosystems



**April 19, 7 p.m.**

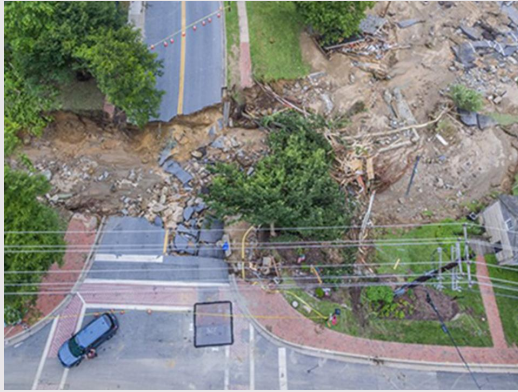
*Presented by Dr. Jeremy Testa, UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory*

Dissolved oxygen is a keystone molecule in aquatic environments. It is produced by photosynthesis to support food webs, it controls the recycling of key nutrients, and it is essential to the health and survival of most animals. Our understanding of oxygen is central to our understanding of coastal ecology. Testa explores the role of oxygen in estuaries worldwide,

and how its depletion due to pollution and climate change is expected to change in the future.

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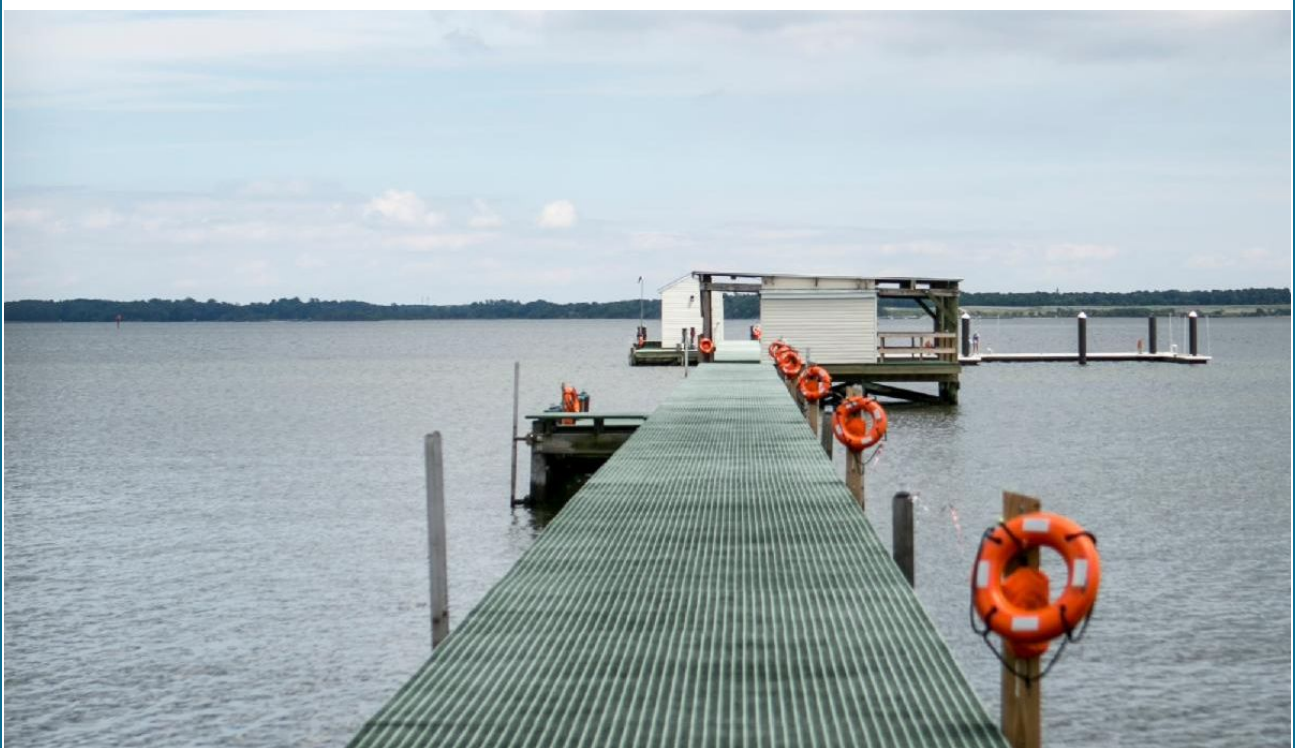
**April 26, 2022**

*Presented by Dr. Samia Rab Kirchner, Morgan State University*

Climate adaptation science focuses on the assessment of sea force versus community values. Dr. Kirchner will present indigenous practices of managing land for water and heritage conservation from the Pacific Ocean, Arabia, and Persia and discuss the need to widen the approach taken by resource managers and scientists beyond individual discipline and expertise to work collaboratively in the nexus between climate,

culture, and civics. [REGISTER](#)

For a complete list of our seminars, visit  
UMCES' online [COMMUNITY LEARNING](#) page.



## UMCES IN THE NEWS

Maryland has hundreds of properties that have repeatedly suffered damaging floods. Few are prepared for the next deluge. (Baltimore Sun)

Yes, climate change is making Texas wildfires worse (WFAA)

Russia's War on Ukraine Upends Arctic Climate-Change Research (Wall Street Journal)

Cherry Blossoms and Climate Change: How warming temperatures and rising sea levels are threatening the iconic blooms (WUSA 9)

Report: Maryland's Water Pollution Enforcement Is on the Decline (Maryland Matters)

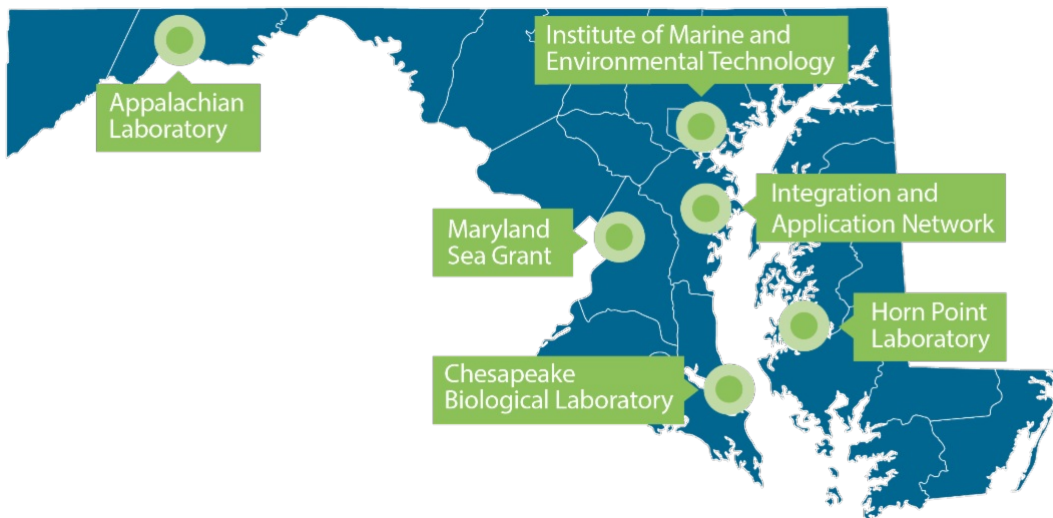
EZ-Pass for fish: High-tech tracking sees early success (Chesapeake Bay Magazine)

US Wind pledges \$11 million for research into effect offshore wind has on marine life (Baltimore Sun)

When waters keep rising and rising in Maryland (Washington Post)

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