

# ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



## Longtime Arctic researchers reach the North Pole

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science researchers Lee Cooper and Jackie Grebmeier have been visiting the Arctic on research expeditions for more than 30 years, but they have never visited the North Pole. Until now. Five scientists from the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory embarked on a two-month journey as part of the internationally coordinated Synoptic Arctic Survey this fall. Through this research program, scientists are assessing the state of the Arctic Ocean as climate change warms the waters and reduces the extent of sea ice in the northernmost ocean on Earth.

“One of the unexpected things, for me, was that while the sun had gone down for the year by the time we reached the North Pole, there was still twilight 24 hours a day,”

said Cooper. [MORE](#)



## Scientists track how microplastics move through watershed

Scientists at our Horn Point Laboratory have embarked on a research project that will lay the foundation for plastic research in the Chesapeake Bay. The two-year project co-lead by Jamie Pierson and William Nardin and funded by NOAA's Marine Debris Program will track how microplastics move through the Choptank River watershed on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Thanks to a \$30,000 matching grant from the Mid-Shore Community Foundation and a group of generous donors, a short-wave infrared microscope will be purchased to tell not only how much microplastic is in their samples but what kinds of plastic are in different parts of the river. [MORE](#)

## Where do we go when the seas rise?

Matt Fitzpatrick spoke with BBC's Crowd Science to help answer the question "Where we should retreat to when sea levels rise?" [LISTEN](#) (starts at 21:15)

## William A. Shorter Jr. joins UMCES Board of Visitors

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science has appointed William A. Shorter Jr. to its Board of Visitors.

“Will is passionate about Maryland's higher



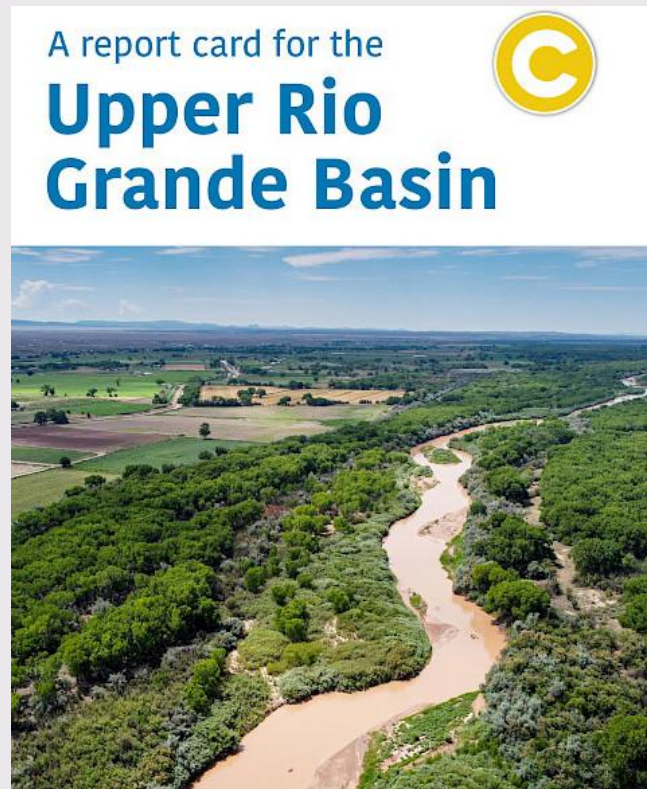
education and environment. While a student member of the USM Board of Regents, he developed a deep understanding of the unique mission of UMCES through several visits to our laboratories and proved a strong ally of our work. We know he will continue to provide support and good counsel to our efforts.” said UMCES President Peter Goodwin.

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## First report card on health of Rio Grande basin rates a 'C'

A group of leading ecosystem scientists and local advocates led by UMCES' Integration and Application Network and the World Wildlife Fund released the first report card on the Upper Rio Grande basin in New Mexico. The area earned “C” warning that there is not enough water to sustain the needs of all users while also maintaining a healthy river ecosystem. The basin suffers from limited water availability due to climate change, interstate water management issues, infrastructure, and increased water demand from a growing population. UMCES' Integration and Application Network assesses ecosystem health around the world. [MORE](#)





## UMCES IN THE NEWS

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory researchers reach the North Pole (The Bay Net)

Snowy and cold or dry and warm? Here's what we are predicting for winter this year (WUSA9)

Everything you need to know about 'reef-safe' sunscreen (Good Housekeeping)

Striped bass no longer threatened by overfishing, study concludes (Bay Journal)

Rise and rise of fertiliser industry (The National - Nigeria)

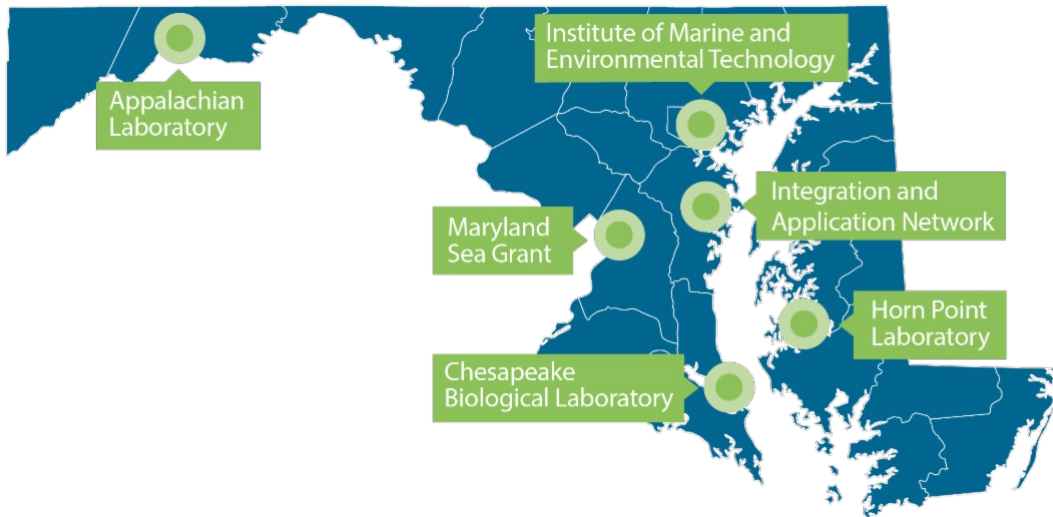
Upper Rio Grande Basin earns a "C" in first-ever report card (Yahoo! Finance)

Bay dolphins venture further north, DolphinWatch researchers find (Chesapeake Bay Magazine)

SAM consortium workshop discusses stakeholder inputs from eight countries (Krishak Jagat - India)

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