

MARCH/APRIL 2025

UMCES



100 YEARS OF SCIENCE

NEWS FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



A Message from UMCES President, Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm

In the face of challenges on a global scale, we recognize that environmental solutions and strong economies are not mutually exclusive. Our economies, whether local, national, or international, are intricately linked to our environment and its natural resources. The water we drink, the air we breathe, the land we cultivate, and the diverse vegetation that surrounds us are all essential for our economic well-being.

At the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), we seek to

understand the environment in its broadest sense: encompassing everything from mountains to oceans, and from genes to entire ecosystems. Our laboratories extend from the Appalachian Mountains in Western Maryland to locations circling the Chesapeake Bay. Our research has led to scientific advancements that are now applied globally to improve methods of protecting the environment and enhancing the quality of life for everyone

In these economically challenging times, research universities like UMCES —designed specifically to tackle environmental issues — play a vital role as leaders in research and education. We're not just conduits of knowledge; we're also building bridges and forming partnerships with other organizations to discover meaningful solutions together. As we move into our next 100 years, we are excited to continue on our path, working towards environmental solutions for sustainable economies.



UMCES Names New CBL Director

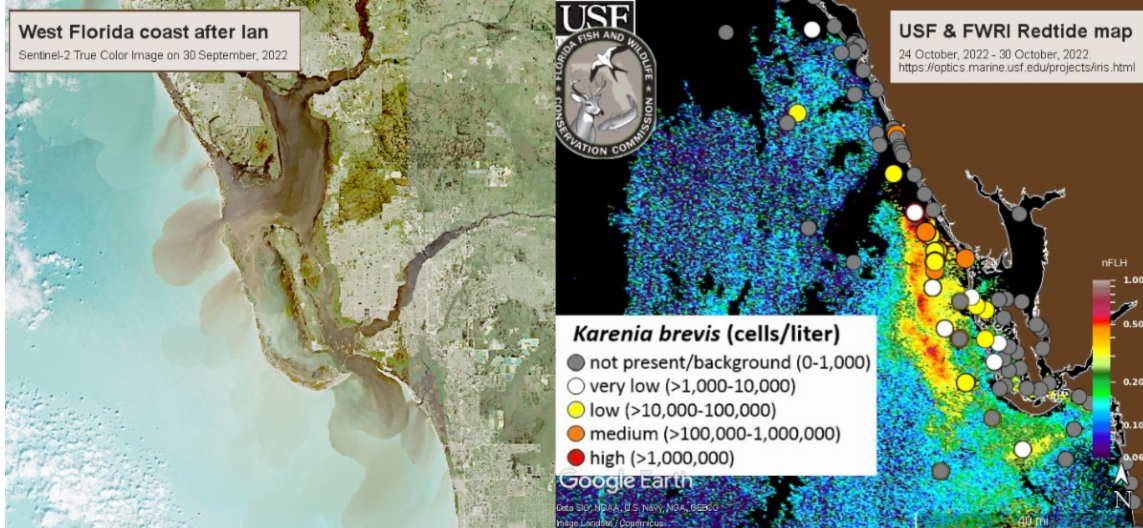
Beth Polidoro, a renowned expert in marine science and environmental chemistry, will serve as the new director of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, effective August 1, 2025. Dr. Polidoro joins UMCES from Arizona State University where she served as the deputy director of the Center for Biodiversity Outcomes and the assistant director of the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences. She also recently served as the Marine Stewardship Council Director of Research.

[MORE](#)

Grebmeier Wins Board of Regents Faculty Award

Jacqueline Grebmeier, an international leader in Arctic research, won the Board of Regents Faculty Award in the Category of Excellence in Research or Scholarship. Her career spans nearly 40 years in the area of biological oceanography with a focus on Arctic ecosystem change and the resulting connections to changes in our oceans. Grebmeier's contributions have pioneered the biological aspects of this change, which impact a wide variety of living species, communities, and economic activities. She will be honored at the Board of Regents Awards Breakfast in April.





Researchers Uncover the Connection Between Hurricanes and Harmful Algal Blooms

A recent study conducted by **Ming Li** and graduate student **Yuren Chen** found that hurricanes can stimulate toxic harmful algal blooms (HABs), which develop when algae grow in excessive levels. In 2022, Hurricane Ian pushed an excessive amount of nutrients inland, triggering a plethora of HABs; in particular, a highly concerning toxicogenic species, *Karenia brevis*, which lasted for over six months. In a new study published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, the duo conducted a computational analysis by blending physical water processes with the chemical and biological processes of the ocean, utilizing the Coupled Ocean-Atmosphere-Wave-Sediment Transport modeling system, and proving that Hurricane Ian drove the bloom. [MORE](#)



Join Us at the Poplar Island Film Screening

UMCES invites you to a special preview screening of Maryland Public Television's new documentary, *Resurrecting Poplar Island*, on **April 16 at 7:00 PM**, at the Annapolis Maritime Museum. Following the film, take part in an insightful discussion with UMCES scientists working on the ground at this remarkable habitat restoration project.

Once home to a thriving community, Poplar Island was reduced to a few wispy bars of sand by the 1990s. Its ongoing restoration is the result of an extraordinary collaboration among state and federal agencies and remains one of the most ambitious environmental engineering projects on the planet.

Resurrecting Poplar Island was produced by Maryland Public Television in cooperation with UMCES. **RSVP TODAY!**

More inspiring stories in honor of 100 years of service!



Pat Glibert released a game-changing new book, *Phytoplankton Whispering: An Introduction to the Physiology and Ecology of Microalgae*, the first on microplankton to be published in a while, and one of the few works authored by an UMCES faculty member. Glibert addresses how the amount of nutrients in our water are changing in line with current land-use and fertilizer-use practices, climate change and resulting eutrophication, and how/why different species of microalgae respond to such changes. Her contributions are relevant beyond the academic community and compelling for women in science.



UMCES' Horn Point Laboratory (HPL) partnered with the nonprofit organization **PCs for People** to reuse and recycle electronic equipment. HPL's Facilities and IT departments collected ready-to-recycle electronics and donated them to PCs for People, an organization that collects and refurbishes electronics from businesses, schools and other organizations across the country. Once data is removed from all devices, the refurbished gear is made available to lower-income households, nonprofits and community organizations to provide critical access to technology.

SUPPORT SCIENCE

As never before, you can ensure that decisions about the preservation and management of our natural world are based on credible science. When you invest philanthropic support in UMCES research, you are investing in solutions to the urgent environmental challenges we face. **DONATE TODAY**

Upcoming Events

Donald Boesch, professor and president emeritus, will give two talks on his recently published book, which are open to the public:

1- Predictive Ecology: The History of UMCES and Chesapeake Biological Lab

April 8, 7:00 PM EST at CBL, or virtual; open to the public
(first of the [Science for Communities Seminar Series](#))

2- Predictive Ecology: The History of UMCES and IMET

May 6, 12:00 PM EST at IMET; open to the public
A light pizza lunch will be served

Science for Communities Seminar Series

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM EST (on site), April 8-May 6
CBL's Bernie Fowler Lab, 142 Williams Street, Solomons, Md.

Visiting Scholar Seminar Series

Fridays at 11:00 AM EST (on site), March 28-May 16

ASPIRE Program Virtual Discussion Series

Tuesdays at 3:00 PM EST (virtual), April 1-May 20

SAVE THE DATE! Commencement: *Friday, May 30 at 1:00 PM*
at UMCES' Horn Point Laboratory

UMCES in the News

Horn Point Laboratory Has Been Protecting Our Ecosystem For 100 Years(WBOC Delmarva Life)

Trump administration upends Chesapeake Bay cleanup work (Bay Journal)

Environmental Youth Summit Inspires Eastern Shore Students To Protect The Bay
(Chesapeake Bay Magazine)

Trump's DOGE came for NOAA. Fired staff fear the worst is still to come.(Baltimore Banner)

Women In The Workplace(Maryland Athletics)

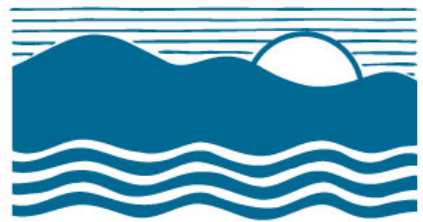
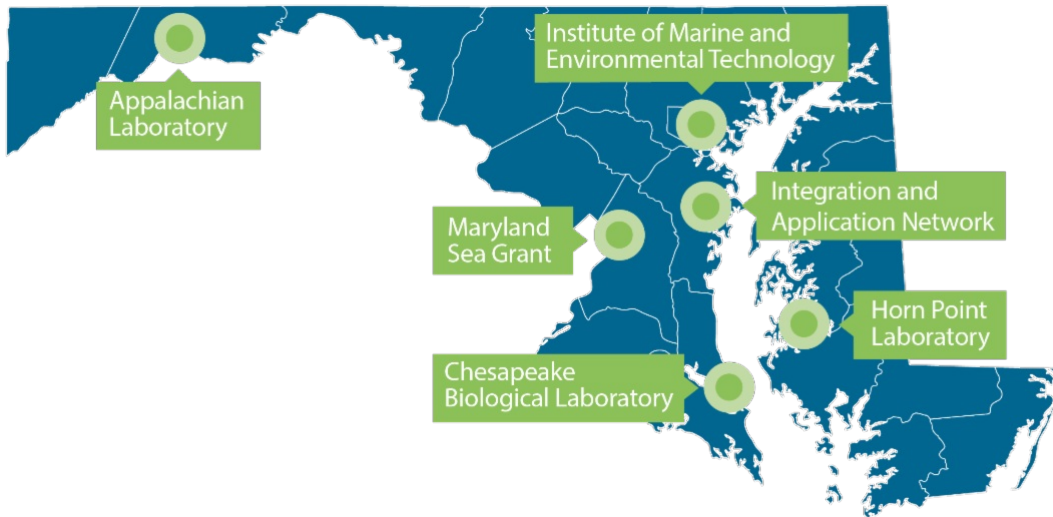
Facing threats, the Chesapeake economy in Annapolis could tumble(Baltimore Banner)

Seagrass Gardening (Good Men Project)

Pennsylvania Wildlife Corridors: How reconnecting habitats is protecting Pennsylvania's native species (Environment America)

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the *Environmental Insights* newsletter [HERE](#)



University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Appalachian Laboratory - Chesapeake Biological Laboratory

Horn Point Laboratory - Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology

Integration and Application Network - Maryland Sea Grant

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University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science | 2020 Horns Point Road |
Cambridge, MD 21613 US

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