

DECEMBER 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



E.U. Ambassadors discuss climate crisis at public forum

European Union Ambassadors to the United States spoke at a public forum at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology in Baltimore on what their countries are doing to address the growing climate crisis. "We must raise the levels of our ambitions. Otherwise we might lose the battle," said Ambassador of France Philippe Étienne.

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[Greenhouse gas nitrous oxide on the rise due increased use of nitrogen-rich fertilizers in agriculture](#)

A new study from an international group of scientists finds we are releasing more of the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide into the atmosphere than previously thought. Agricultural practices and nitrogen-rich fertilizers have significantly increased the amount of emissions in the atmosphere. "The good news is that this problem can be solved, but the less good news is that it will take a global effort, and we are far from there yet," said Eric Davidson.

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[Scientists complete study Conowingo Dam impact on Chesapeake Bay](#)

UMCES scientists have completed a study to understand the potential impacts of nutrient pollution associated with sediment transported from behind the Conowingo Dam to the Chesapeake Bay. "While storm events can have major short-term impacts, the Bay is actually really resilient, which is remarkable," said Cindy Palinkas. "If we are doing all of the right things, it can handle the occasional big input of sediment."



NEXT GENERATION: Ellie Rothermel on E-ZPass for rockfish

Could the construction of offshore wind farms benefit species like striped bass and sturgeon? Graduate student Ellie Rothermel is working with Dave Secor to track their movements off the coast of Maryland with acoustic telemetry that allows scientists to create gates that act like an E-ZPass system.

"My research allows us to get a baseline for how fish are moving through that area so that we might know in the future how they are being impacted by construction or how their behaviors might change once the turbines are actually in the water," she says.

WATCH

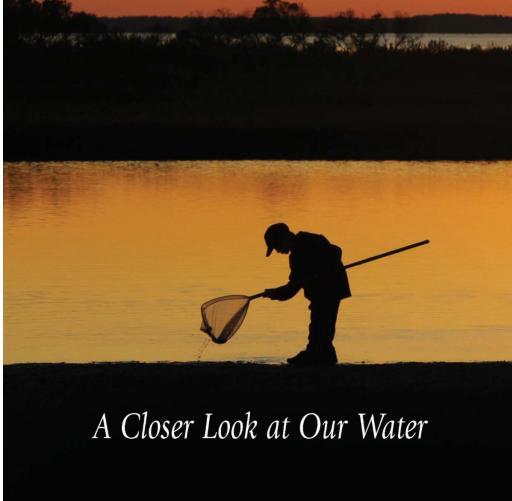
A Blooming Problem: Is it safe to swim in the Bay?

Globally the algal bloom problem is expanding. The reason is the rise of nutrients in the water, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers and human and animal waste. Climate change may be playing a contributing role, expanding the range of HAB species, many of which thrive in warmer waters. Check out this article in *Chesapeake Quarterly* about the problem in Chesapeake Bay.

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A Closer Look at Our Water

UMCES IN THE NEWS

'Culture will be eroded': climate crisis threatens to flood Harriet Tubman park
(The Guardian)

To save Everglades, guardians fight time and climate (Associated Press)

Toxic algae is ruining our lakes. The Solution: Beer (Outside)

Minnowtech raises \$6000K seed round, supported by Maryland investors
(Technical.ly)

Striped bass decline spurs new look at mycobacteria (Bay Journal)

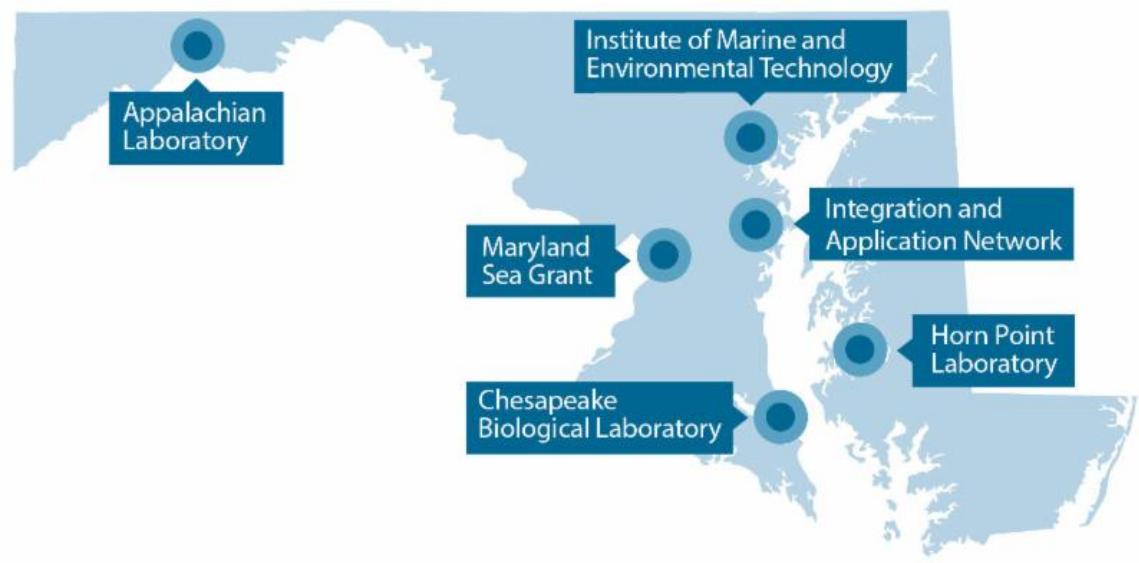
Sunlight stimulates brown algae to release organic carbon (Eos - Earth & Space Science news)

Groups still working on farm conservation credits (Lancaster Farming)

Kafue River health report wins chiefs' applause (Lusaka Times - Zambia)

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