SEPTEMBER 2020



NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SCIENCE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: While UMCES researchers have had to limit what can be done to respect social distancing and State guidelines, they continue to produce important work, as seen in these highlights.



IMET summer internship program aims to increase diversity in marine sciences

Over the past 19 summers, more than 220 students from across the country have had the chance to work with some of the world's leading scientists at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET). Through the IMET Summer Undergraduate Internship Program, students who are from historically underrepresented backgrounds in marine and environmental science have the opportunity to conduct their own research projects. This summer the immersive internship went virtual, enabling interns to pursue research remotely from New Mexico to Maryland.

"There are so few people of color in marine and environmental sciences, and that's something we need to work towards fixing. It really is making a

difference in the field, and we have alumni who have done incredibly well following the program," said program director Rose Jagus.

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Rapid expansion of industrial farming in U.S. contributes to increased pollution and harmful algal blooms

A recent paper by phytoplankton ecologist Pat Glibert sheds light on the impacts of both crop and animal industrial farming in the United States on nutrient pollution. The sharp increase in number and concentration of animals farming operations may lead to further human health and environmental issues, including increased nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms.

"In both fresh and marine systems nutrient pollution is increasing, harmful algal blooms are increasing, hypoxic zones around the world are now found, all related to nutrient sources," said Glibert.

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Coastal pollution is causing significant increase in dead zones in oceans around the world

A new study by Professor Emeritus Tom Malone spotlights the current global occurrence of "dead zones" within the coastal ocean, where eutrophication has caused significant oxygen depletion resulting in mass mortalities of marine animals. Conservative estimates indicate that there are now over 700 such areas worldwide, including Chesapeake Bay.

"The threats posed by eutrophication include reduced water clarity, oxygen depletion, and toxic algal events that result the loss of critical habitats including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and mangrove forests," said Tom Malone, a world leader in assessing the health of the Earth's oceans.

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UMCES IN THE NEWS

Global Warming Could Unlock Carbon From Tropical Soil (New York Times)

'Electric mud' teems with new, mysterious bacteria (Science)

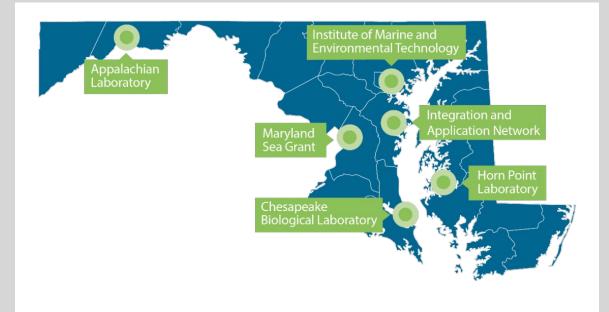
Climate change worsens effects of nutrient pollution on marine ecosystems (UPI)

Could beer help Florida raise a glass to the end of Red Tide? (Tampa Bay Times)

The key to fighting coastal land loss is in Antarctica. And the voting booth (The Times-Picayune)

Western Lake Erie Report Card shows the watershed, lake basin receive

moderate scores (WTOL-11)



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