

# JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL DISCOVERY LAB

## CHESAPEAKE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE IN VIRGINIA

Discovery Labs are provided by the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERR-VA). These labs provide fun, family friendly opportunities to learn about the Chesapeake Bay and our local environment. Due to COVID-19 safety regulations, we are continuing to offer these engaging Discovery Labs in a virtual setting. Each virtual lab focuses on a different topic and includes demonstrations by our educators and hands-on activities for kids and adults to do at home. The virtual labs will also include a live, short presentation by an expert on that month's topic. CBNERR-VA Discovery Labs will take place from 6:00-7:30 PM over Zoom. The presentation by the speaker will be followed with a demonstration of an activity by an educator. Additional resources will be emailed to the registered participants after the virtual lab.

*While the labs are free, registration is required.*

Register at: [http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/education/public\\_programs/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/education/public_programs/index.php)

Discovery Lab  
Web page:



## 2021 SCHEDULE:



### January 19th - Skates and Rays

**Speaker: Lindsey Nelson, VIMS**

The fossil record of skates and rays date back to over 150 million years ago! Closely related to sharks, these flattened fish are abundant species all along the East Coast.



Researchers have gained a better understanding of migration patterns, fishery management, and overall species longevity. Lindsey Nelson, a VIMS graduate student, will discuss how her research on Clearnose skates has helped researchers better understand population structure.

### February 16th - Poop In The Ocean

**Speaker: Kristen Sharpe, VIMS**

Believe it or not, poop plays an important role in the ocean! The ocean acts as a carbon sink, absorbing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and poop is part of that process. Without poop from ocean animals, there would be up to 50% more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, potentially causing greater climate change effects on our planet. Kristen Sharpe, a VIMS graduate student, will discuss her research on zooplankton poop and its role in helping the planet.



### March 16th - Oysters

**Speaker: Dr. Ryan Carnegie, VIMS**

Oysters are one of the most iconic species found in the Chesapeake Bay! These filter feeders provide good water quality for local waterways. Oyster reefs also provide areas used by many species for food and protection. With proper regulation, we can prevent overharvesting of oysters and help mitigate the spread of harmful parasites and diseases that can harm oyster populations. Dr. Carnegie, a research professor at VIMS, will share about his research focusing on host-parasite interactions, aquaculture health, and shellfish restoration in the Chesapeake Bay.



### April 20th - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

**Speaker: Marta Sanderson, VIMS**

Where the land meets the sea, our coasts and estuaries are formed. The coast can be a fascinating ecosystem to explore, and also is affected by human impacts such as development and tourism. Come explore the biodiversity, geology, and physics of our coast, while learning about how we can protect these valuable habitats so that you can be more knowledgeable on your next trip to the beach.

