OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography

INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

Spring 2026 Virtual Seminar Series

"IMPACTS AND PATTERNS OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS IN THE YORK RIVER REGION OF VIRGINIA"

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Monday, March 2, 2026
3:30 PM EST

ZOOM LINK
Meeting ID: 956 0881 0085
Passcode: 144425

Abstract
Late summer blooms of harmful algal bloom species (HABs) occur many years in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Local oyster aquaculturists have reported mortalities during and immediately following these blooms. This prompted field and laboratory studies with larval and juvenile oysters to study effects of these HABs. Oysters exposed to blooms in the field experienced higher mortality and a reduced growth rate during and immediately following bloom events. Laboratory bioassays on juvenile and larval oysters demonstrated variable effects from different HAB species. Bloom patterns vary among years with differences in the extent and duration of blooms as well as species composition.

Biography
Kimberly Reece is a Professor of Marine Science at the Batten School of Coastal and Marine Sciences and VIMS of William & Mary. She was Chair of the Aquatic Health Sciences Department for 10 years. She received her BS in Microbiology from the University of Rochester and PhD in Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology from Cornell University. Kim is a molecular geneticist with a research program focused on the genetic and ecological characterization of harmful algal bloom (HAB) species and aquatic pathogens. She is particularly interested in understanding the effects that climate change and the associated environmental stressors are having on HABs and pathogens. She served on the Virginia Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force for 25 years and works closely with the VA Department of Health to monitor HABs in Virginia's coastal waters.