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UMBI's Brad Peganoff Awarded Legislative Citation for Blue Crab Efforts



Pictured Left to Right: Brad Peganoff and Maryland Delegate Jon Cardin

Baltimore, MD— Brad Peganoff, Director of Government and External Affairs at UMBI, has been awarded an official citation from Maryland Delegate Jon S. Cardin of Baltimore County, for his tireless efforts to help restore the blue crab population in the Chesapeake Bay. This is Mr. Peganoff's third legislative citation for policy efforts.

Blue crabs in the Chesapeake have dramatically declined due to a combination of overfishing and degradation of the environment of the bay, threatening complete population collapse. Mr. Peganoff has actively rallied legislators to the cause of saving the blue crabs, helping to improve restoration programs and to secure vital funding for these programs.

Efforts by UMBI and several collaborators have provided critical information about the life cycle and migration patterns of the blue crabs, as well as a successful hatchery program which can directly replenish the population through massive releases of juveniles, raised under controlled conditions. Mr. Peganoff has been quite active in gathering support from both Maryland and federal legislators for these critical programs.

Collaborators in these efforts include the [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center \(SERC\)](#) in Edgewater, Maryland, the [University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory \(GCRL\)](#), the [Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences \(VIMS\)](#), the [North Carolina State University \(NCSU\)](#), the [Maryland Watermen's Association](#), and the seafood industry (Phillips Food, Inc.).

Due to recent cuts in federal funding, Mr. Peganoff continues to seek legislative support for alternative funding sources that are essential to the continuation of the blue crab restoration programs.

With research centers in Baltimore, Rockville, and College Park, UMBI, the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, is the newest of 13 institutions forming the University System of Maryland. UMBI has more than 60 ladder-ranked faculty and a mandate to advance the biotechnology economy while preparing a well-equipped workforce. Celebrating more than 20 years of service to Maryland and the world, UMBI is led by microbiologist and former biotechnology executive Dr. Jennie C. Hunter-Cevera. For more information visit www.umbi.umd.edu.

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