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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 94  
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

December 30, 2020

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## Tires Dumped in River Culprits could face 5 years jail time

Happy  
New  
Year!

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

>>Info on PFAS in St. Mary's  
County is now on our  
website

>>Hundreds of Tires  
Dumped in Local Rivers

>>[Annual Report available](#)



Sometime this past  
Sunday or Monday roughly  
200 tires were dumped  
over the guardrail along  
Hermanville Road many  
going into the St. Mary's  
River. County workers  
responded to the call from



the property owners and were on site within about an hour. At the scene SMRWA spoke with a Department of Public Works and Transportation employee who stated that a similar dumping had occurred the week before on Whitaker Road at its crossing over Jutland Creek, a tributary to Smith Creek. Needless to say, the county workers at the scene were not happy as they had to haul the tires away last week. Both SMRWA and the property owner are pushing for a criminal investigation. The county has said they will launch an investigation.

While on site at about  
11 am Tuesday (December  
29), a passing motorist  
stopped and told us that  
they had just seen a truck  
with long trailer piled high  
with tires heading south on



Point Lookout Road.

Anyone seeing a vehicle fitting this description is encouraged to call 911 and report it as suspicious activity.

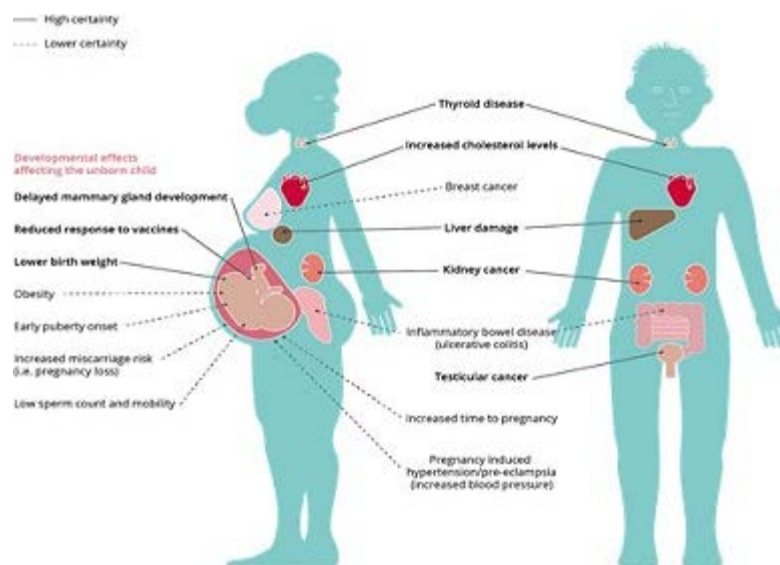


The intentional dumping of waste into waters of the State is a criminal activity and could result in up to five years jail time.

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## SMRWA Publishes Basic Information on PFAS Toxins in St. Mary's

Today we are launching a webpage containing information on PFAS chemical toxins here in St. Mary's County along with dozens of links to other resources. We provide some answers to important questions such as what are PFAS, what are your risks, and where can I get my water tested. [Click here to view our PFAS webpage.](#)



PFAS effect on human health published by the European Environment Agency. Retrieved from: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/human/chemicals/emerging-chemical-risks-in-europe>

Recent testing of an oyster and a crab both taken from the mouth of St. Inigoes Creek confirm the presence of minute amounts of PFAS in these animals. The State has already stated that these levels are not a concern for human health. Not all agree with that assessment. Linda Birnbaum, the former director of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, argues that even minute amounts of PFAS are health concerns and that newer compounds act very similarly on lab rats. She suggests that extremely low levels are toxic. Birnbaum is featured in this November 16 panel discussion: [Maryland Public Interest Research Group's panel discussion on PFAS in Maryland.](#)

More alarming was a small rockfish caught nearby in Cornfield Harbor this fall that contained 23,000 ppt (parts per trillion) PFAS. In this same panel discussion, MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles reflects on these finding with a different message for the public, "we are very concerned."

## and Plan of Action for 2019

Our annual report was mailed to members last week. [Click here to view it online.](#)

# Happy New Year!



### OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the sustainability of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

We're on the web!  
[www.smrwa.org](http://www.smrwa.org)



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