

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
July 1, 2022

Credit Where Credit Is Due

TUWaterWays tries to fill a unique role. It's not doing original reporting, but it tries to supply some analysis to the reporting of others. Hopefully, doing so in an entertaining manner that keeps readers' interest. It's a role that we think TUWaterWays fills better than anyone else, partly because no one else is trying to do so. But then along comes John Oliver, with his big premium cable budget and his team of comedy writers and news researchers at Last Week Tonight. And this guy, this freaking guy, spends [24 minutes dissecting the water scarcity issues in the American West](#), bringing analysis and entertainment. That's our job! But, to be fair, he does a really good job, and maybe we're just jealous of the over three million views on YouTube.

Welcoming the Rise of Our Robot Fish Overlords

Plastic pollution in our waters. Buddy, it sure is a problem (hence [the meeting in Lisbon this week](#)). And it's one that [hardworking dudes on a barge](#) and [conveyor belts](#) can only do so much about. Partly that's due to the scale of the problem ([hundreds of thousands of tons](#) of it are in the oceans), but it's also because so much of it breaks down into microplastics and nanoplastics – stuff so small it gets into bloodstreams and inside cells. At least researchers in China have developed [a half-inch robot fish](#) that, in a lab setting, can swim around collecting microplastics and even heal itself when damaged. Surely there are plenty of questions about how they'd be deployed (and recovered!) at scale in the real world, but given some other fun news about microplastics, maybe we give these little fishies a chance to prove we're not in the [darkest timeline](#).

What fun news about microplastics, you ask? [A new study](#) found that [viruses can hitch a ride](#) on them to survive longer in freshwater! Don't know about you, but we have had it up to here with these [monkey-fighting viruses on this Monday to Friday planet. Everybody strap in. We're about to release some freakin robot fish.](#)

Happenings on this Planet Got Ya Down? Okay, Let's Look at Mars

[More evidence that Mars had flowing water!](#) Turns out that researchers have found clay-bearing sediments in certain regions of Mars. [So what? So let's dance!](#) No, sorry. So it means that they were formed in conditions that needed water's continued presence, not just every now and then. Just another sobering reminder of just how much a planet's conditions can change. Speaking of a changing planet...

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and legal stewardship of water.

Coming Up:

[Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force Public Meeting](#); July 12

[Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force Fall Meeting and Workshop](#); October 22

Water jobs:

[Water Quality Technician](#); Pontchartrain Conservancy; Metairie, LA

[Water and Coastal Policy Fellow](#); National Wildlife Federation; Remote

[Staff Attorney](#); Virginia Coastal Policy Center, College of William and Mary; Williamsburg, VA

[Legislative Analyst, Coastal and Flood Resilience](#); Environmental Defense Fund; Washington, DC

[Associate Attorney](#); Sher Edling LLP; San Francisco, CA

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Dear Readers, We Hereby Unveil “[I’ve Got That Climate Change Anxiety and The Global Warming Blues](#)”

We now have the latest in our semi-regular series of [themed playlists](#). We tried to limit this list to songs that are intentionally about climate change or are really on point when viewed retroactively (come on down, Bananarama!) Climate change has featured in songs more and more over the past few years, but various environmental dystopian visions have fueled artists for decades. So, we tried to weed out a lot of those as well as songs conveying a general malaise that could be blamed on a romance gone wrong just as easily as climate change. A couple more things: the first song we could find that was about a changing climate? [Up From The Skies](#), by Jimi Hendrix! Talk about ahead of his time! Also, be warned, this playlist is a BUMMER. Consuming it all at once is like getting sat on by a rhinoceros. A few tears may or may not have been shed putting this together. On that note, enjoy not feeling alone worrying about this stuff, at least!