

# TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy  
December 7, 2018

## You Scream, I Scream, We All Scream Atrazine

There are many things [we like to add to our drinking water](#), but weed killer is not one of them. But that does not mean it isn't in there! A [study](#) from the Environmental Working Group found the herbicide atrazine to be present in the drinking water of some 30 million people in 28 states, sometimes well in excess of EPA's prescribed limits, and it's [hardly the only source](#) on the matter. Atrazine and similar products have gotten great scrutiny due to evidence that they can disrupt reproductive, nerve and hormone systems. While still widely used in American agriculture, atrazine has been phased out in Europe due to concern about those impacts. Atrazine gets into drinking water mostly from water that runs off from farm fields or by percolating into ground water. There are [best management practices](#) for using atrazine and [systems and filters](#) that are supposed to remove it, but apparently something is spilling between the rim and the lip. If only someone at the EPA was getting the agency [back to the basics it's core mission](#) of protecting human health! Maybe they need some help remembering what it is?

## And Here's to You Dr. Augustine

Despite the way it sometimes seems, science matters. That is certainly the case of the Gulf of Mexico eco-metropolitan. So it is with pleasure that we note the [appointment of Dr. Lauren Alexander Augustine](#) as the Executive Director of the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. She previously directed the Academies' Resilient America Program. [Welcome aboard](#), Dr. Augustine.

## Under Pressure

The global plastics and petrochemical industry is now considered to be under a [potentially serious threat](#) in light of the expanding number of [anti-plastic movements around the world](#). Most recently, the [UN launched a global campaign against plastic waste](#), encouraging consumers to reject single-use plastics and promoting outright bans on single-use plastics in some instances. The campaign hopes to reduce the amount of [plastic waste that ends up in the world's oceans](#). It will be spearheaded in part by the UN Environment Programme and National Geographic Society. The UN and other sources now estimate that some 8 million to 12 million tons of plastic ends up in the oceans each year. This rate of input suggests that the volume by weight of plastic could outweigh the volume of fish in the oceans by 2050. If those numbers aren't disturbing enough, check out the [Deep-sea Debris Database](#) by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth

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 stewardship of water.

## Coming up:

[Coastal Law CLE](#)

March 14 & 15, 2019

New Orleans, LA

Tulane Environmental Law Summit

March 22 & 23, 2019

New Orleans, LA

## Water jobs:

[Senior Program Officer,](#)

[Groundwater/Agriculture](#)

WWF

Washington, DC

[Researcher – Legal and Policy Analyst](#)

Conflict and Environment Observatory

West Yorkshire, UK

[Climate Advisor](#)

Natural Resources Defense Council

Multiple Positions, US

[Water Infrastructure Project Manager](#)

Great Lakes Commission

Ann Arbor, MI

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Science and Technology (JAMSTEC). And if THAT wasn't disturbing enough, check out [Ben Lecomte](#) who ([until recently](#)) was trying to swim through all the Pacific's garbage.

### **Colorado River Management Negotiations are Hotter than [a Devil's Hole Pupfish](#)**

The Bureau of Reclamation is pushing the seven signatory states to the Colorado River Compact to have in place a Drought Contingency Plan by the end of the year. However, just within [Arizona](#), that might be too much to ask, as many irrigation districts, projects, tribes and others all jostle to minimize the pain diminished water supply will bring, though parties do seem to be [making a good faith effort](#) at reaching a deal. Of course, lawsuits like the one [filed by a California farmer](#) might jam it all up before any of the Plan might be put in place. These plans will end up determining [how the entire river is managed](#), so let's hope they figure something out and aren't left with a bunch of [empty reservoirs](#) looking like [stained toilet bowls](#).

### **Coastal Law: We Few, We Happy Few**

No matter where one goes or who one is with, there is one thing that commands attention and respect like nothing else: Coastal Law. True you say, but where can a body learn it or burnish their existing skills and rub shoulders with fellow travelers? Relax, *mes amis*, for the [answer is at hand](#). Actually it is several inches up and to the right. On March 14 and 15, 2019, this Institute, the Tulane ByWater Institute, and the Seminar Group are hosting exactly the [Coastal Law program](#) you have been dreaming about. Great speakers? Check. Continuing education credits for lawyers, engineers and planners? You bet. Coffee breaks, chairs and tables? You know it. Seating is limited, [so act now](#). Like the English on [St. Crispin's Day](#), those who miss this will view themselves accursed. Well, maybe.