

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Seminar Series

Deterring Industrial Fishing Vessels from African Inshore Exclusion Zones

Speaker: Gabriel Englander

The World Bank, Development Research Group



Date: Friday, 02/13/2026



Time: 1pm



Room: SLAB 103 (RSMAES)



Abstract: Can African countries deter industrial fishing vessels from near-shore waters reserved for artisanal fishers? Radar data released in 2024 detect industrial vessels without selection, enabling the first causal evaluation of these Inshore Exclusion Zones (IEZs). Regression discontinuity estimates reveal deterrence in 6 of 20 African countries. Next, we apply bunching estimators to obtain counterfactual vessel distributions uncontaminated by spillovers outside IEZ boundaries. We capture extensive-margin effects by calibrating a discrete choice vessel location model to our bunching estimates. Bioeconomic calculations indicate that IEZs increase artisanal fisher catch by enough to meet key micronutrient requirements for 6.3 million people.

Bio: Gabriel Englander is a research economist at the World Bank. He studies marine fisheries and terrestrial wildlife conservation. Gabriel uses large spatial data and causal inference in his research. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2022 he was a postdoctoral scholar in the Environmental Markets Lab at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 2021 he received his PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Gabriel's research papers can be found on his website [here](#).

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