Department of Environmental Science and Policy
Seminar Series

State of the Science of Marine Protected Areas: Designing and Evaluating of a Growing Global Network of MPAs

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Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

DATE: Friday, 10/25/2024 TIME: 1:00pm ROOM: SLAB103

Zoom: https://miami.zoom.us/s/92964807674

Abstract: Recent years have seen a dramatic increase in interest in area-based management strategies such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across the world's oceans. Most prominently, the 30x30 movement to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030 has gained widespread adoption, and the recently adopted "Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction" (BBNJ) international agreement paves the way for increased use of MPAs in oceanic areas beyond national jurisdiction. MPAs have been used and studied by many cultures for many purposes throughout history, but the scale of the proposed expansion in protection presents a major change in the management of the global seas that will create a range of potential benefits, costs, and tradeoffs. This talk will explore the state of the science of MPAs, with a focus on how to design and evaluate spatial policies in marine social-ecological systems whose dynamics are often spread over vast distances and many years. We will discuss how these challenges play out in the specific context of pelagic ecosystems, and the role of Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) in the science of high-seas MPAs.

Bio: Dr. Dan Ovando is the Senior Quantitative Scientist in the Ecosystems and Bycatch Program of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. Dan began his career in marine science studying sharks and copepods in South Florida at the University of Miami (BSC 2007) before expanding his interests to quantitative marine resource management during his graduate and professional work at the University of California Santa Barbara (MESM 2010, PhD 2018) and at the University of Washington's School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Dan integrates ideas and tools from ecology, economics, and data science to help understand and manage marine social-ecological systems. His research focuses on assessing and managing data-limited fisheries, evaluating the impacts of marine conservation policies, protected areas, and reducing fisheries bycatch.

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