

Think Spatial

The Center for Spatial Studies' brown-bag forum on spatial thinking

Presents

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Mapping Global Hotspots of Ocean Aquaculture



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ABSTRACT:

The human population is expected to reach nearly 10 billion people by 2050, and its appetite for protein is predicted to exceed that growth. With wild fish catch plateauing or declining, one of the few and most sustainable ways to meet that demand is marine offshore aquaculture. I will present results from an ongoing SNAPP (Science for Nature and People Partnership) initiative focused on offshore aquaculture in which we explored and mapped the potential for aquaculture growth, highlighting hotspot locations for both finfish and shellfish. This work highlights the prospects for science to actively help determine and communicate the most sound conservation and sustainable expansion of this food resource.

BIO: Ben Halpern is the Director of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and Professor in the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara. He is also Chair in Marine Conservation at Imperial College London and serves as the Director of the Center for Marine Assessment and Planning (CMAP) at UC Santa Barbara. He received his Ph.D. in marine ecology in 2003 from UC Santa Barbara and then held a joint post-doctoral fellowship at NCEAS and the Smith Fellowship Program. He was a Research Associate at NCEAS for the decade following that until joining the faculty at the Bren School.

Halpern focuses his research at the interface between marine ecology and conservation planning. He has led and participated in several key synthetic research projects that have advanced our understanding of the state of the world's oceans and the potential for marine reserves to improve ocean condition. In particular, he has led the development and mapping of cumulative impact assessments at global and regional scales in marine and freshwater systems and has been the lead scientist for the Ocean Health Index project. He also leads the SNAPP working group on Sustainable Offshore Aquaculture. In the past 15 years Halpern has published nearly 150 peer-reviewed articles and was recently named one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds by Thompson-Reuters and awarded the A.G Huntsman Award for Excellence in Marine Science by the Royal Society of Canada.

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