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The causes and consequences of biodiversity change in aquatic food systems

Aquatic food systems nourish billions of people but are transitioning due to cultural shifts and global change factors, including biodiversity loss and climate change. In this talk, I will draw from global and regional studies in the Amazon and Mekong—two of Earth’s largest freshwater systems—to discuss how expanding aquaculture and other farmed animal-sourced foods could mitigate changes in capture fisheries production and diversity. I will also explore the potential for biodiversity-based solutions to advance nutritious, sustainable, and climate-resilient diets centered on aquatic foods.

Sebastian Heilpern is an ecologist and sustainability scientist focusing on understanding the causes and consequences of biodiversity change. He is particularly interested in the intersection between aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and food security. He received a PhD from Columbia University and an MS from the University of Chicago.

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