



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES

SAFS Autumn Newsletter September 2025



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Normally I spend much of this "From the Director" celebrating the various successes, innovations, and discoveries by our School's talented faculty, students and staff. This time, I also want to acknowledge the difficult circumstances we face.

[READ MORE](#)



Aquatic Conservation and Ecology: New major launched at SAFS

We're excited to announce a new undergraduate degree, starting this quarter: Aquatic Conservation and Ecology (ACE). The degree is about the



ecology of aquatic organisms, the rivers, lakes, and oceans in which they live, and how we conserve them for the benefit of people and the planet. [Learn more](#)

Welcome Andrea Burton, newest faculty member

Andrea Burton joins Marine Biology and SAFS as an Assistant Teaching Professor. She is a specialist in climate change biology, using molecular and ecological approaches to examine adaptive response to changing conditions. She brings her expertise in Discipline Based Education Research (DBER), as a means of applying inclusive teaching practices. [Learn more](#)



A sweet surprise

Research led by SAFS doctoral student Sarah



Pacific oysters in a shifting ocean

In collaborative research



Drones, AI, and sharks

Drones and machine learning help swimmers

Temam found that polar bear glucose reveals new insights into their reproduction and conservation.

[Read the story.](#)

with NOAA and the oyster industry, Craig Norrie from SAFS explores the impacts of environmental stressors on Pacific oysters.

[Read the story.](#)

stay safe from sharks, in work conducted by Dr. Corey Garza and his Marine Landscape Ecology Lab.

[Read the story.](#)

SAFS in the news

The research conducted at SAFS spans the globe in more ways than one. Not only do our faculty, researchers, and students work on science all around the globe, but media outlets — from local and national to international — cover their work, too. See below for some stories featuring SAFS.



Seattle's new waterfront is alive — if you know where to look.

[The Seattle Times](#)



Whales have developed an impressive strategy to evade predators.

[Earth.com](#)



Scientists identify bacterium behind devastating wasting disease in sea stars.

[The Guardian](#)



Polar bears live on ice — but new conditions are injuring them.

[National Geographic](#)

MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE VISIT OPEN HOUSE

Returning for another successful year on Saturday, May 17, the UW Aquatic Sciences Open House welcomed children of all ages plus their families. The event showcases the breadth of aquatic science underway at UW, with collaboration between departments, researchers, students, and faculty.



WATCH THE 2025 OPEN HOUSE VIDEO



Graduating Class of 2025

We'd like to congratulate the SAFS Class of 2025, who celebrated graduation on June 13 with their fellow students, professors, families, and friends.

[Learn more](#)

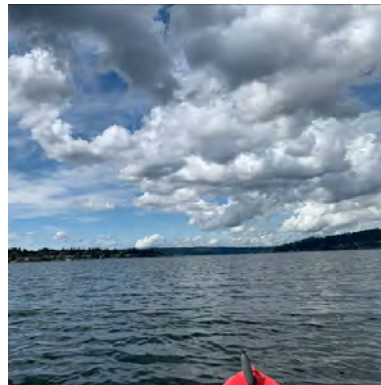


Undergraduate spotlight



Science from the air

Michael Han spent the summer of 2025 with NOAA's Hurricane Hunters, based in Florida, as part of



Turning up the heat

We look forward to warm lake days during the "Big Dark" in Washington. Iris Haley explored the link



Streaming birdsong

How is urbanization and insect health affecting King County's riparian-obligate bird species? Stevan Pekich

his NOAA Hollings Scholarship. What did he work on during his internship?

[Learn more](#)

between lake visitation and its relationship with heatwaves using cellphone data.

[Learn more](#)

set out to investigate this topic for his undergraduate capstone project.

[Learn more](#)

Collaboration in action

From corals to crabs, mentoring to moviemaking, one of the unique strengths of our School is the collaborative nature of our research. Explore some of these stories below, featuring work with internal UW groups such as UW Medicine and the UW Program on the Environment, to external organizations like the National Judicial College, SeaDoc Society, and local high schools.

Check out our stories below:

- Why study diet? A new research video features the Southern Resident Killer Whales. [Watch the video](#)
- Educating judges on water resource science. [Find out more](#)
- High schoolers design a lesson on Pacific salmon and chemicals. [Read the story](#)
- A crab network connects communities and generates crucial data for Salish Sea fisheries. [Find out more](#)
- Evidence-based program helps students see themselves as scientists. [Learn about the IBIS program](#)
- New molecular tools for reef conservation and climate resilience. [Read the story](#)

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