



SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2025 Autumn Seminar Series

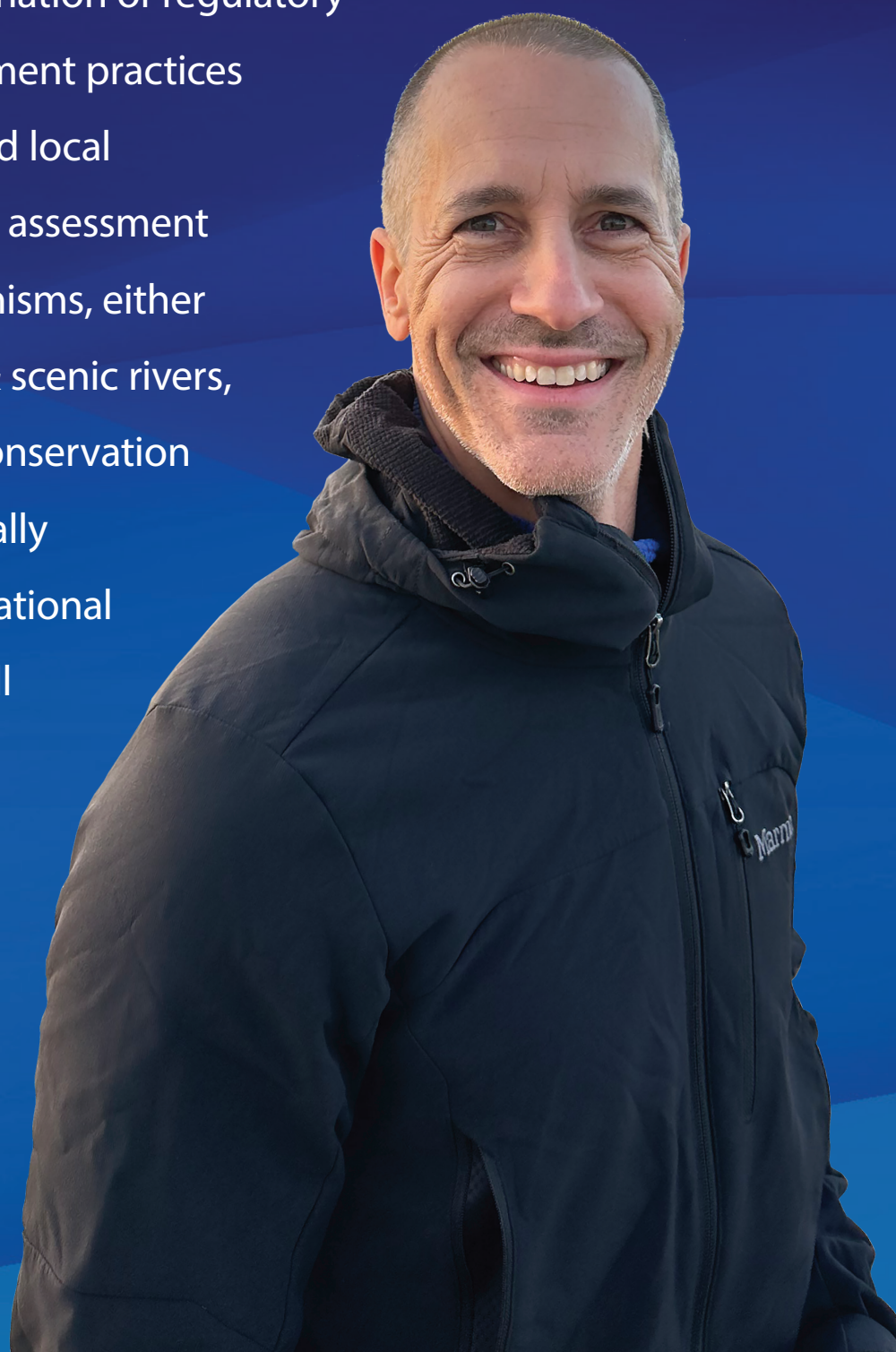
Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 4:00 pm
Fishery Sciences Building, Room 102

Just how protected are America's rivers?

Julian Olden

Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences,
University of Washington

Calls for more effective and durable river protection to secure healthy freshwater ecosystems are now commonplace. At the same time, there is a growing recognition that traditional area-based terrestrial protection will be insufficient alone to meet conservation initiatives. Here, I present the National Protected Rivers Assessment: a comprehensive evaluation of the current extent of river protection across the United States potentially offered by a combination of regulatory frameworks, conservation policies, and management practices implemented by different federal, state, tribal and local governmental agencies, and private entities. The assessment includes an extensive suite of protection mechanisms, either specifically targeting river protection (e.g., wild & scenic rivers, outstanding national resource waters, riparian conservation areas) or terrestrial protected areas that incidentally provide river protection (e.g., wilderness areas, national and state parks, conservation easements). We will discuss current patterns in protection, identify gaps, and explore opportunities to safeguard existing protections that are currently vulnerable to numerous rollbacks in environmental policies.



Accommodation requests related to a disability or health condition should be made by contacting Andy Nutzhorn, adn9@uw.edu.

Photo : Courtesy of Julian Olden