



SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2025 Autumn Seminar Series

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Fishery Sciences Building, Room 102

Unraveling biotic interactions and physical factors in coastal wetlands

Stephanie Valdez

Postdoctoral Scholar, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington

Nearshore coastal ecosystems are threatened by global change. There are gaps in ecological understanding that could aid in conservation efforts. My research focuses on untangling and predicting the impacts of global change factors on biodiversity, ecosystem function, and resilience in coastal communities. In this talk, I provide examples across multiple projects on the influence of biotic and abiotic factors in shaping unique aspects of ecosystems such as various plant traits and at the habitat edge. My research finds that consumer and nutrient effects can depart from theory when applied to multiple plant traits and mobile consumers, while warming likely alters consumer impacts through changes in movement and recruitment. In combination, these works demonstrate an expansion of ecological understanding to these understudied areas of ecosystems.

Stephanie Valdez is an ecologist working at the interface of community, ecosystem, conservation, and restoration ecology. Her work aims to untangle and predict the impacts of global change factors, such as nutrient enrichment, invasiv species, and food web alteration, on biodiversity, ecosystem function, and resilience in coastal communities. She is interested in the ecological underpinnings and species interactions that maintain and confer resilience in coastal foundation species such as seagrasses, salt marshes, and oyster reefs and how this understanding can aid restoration practice.



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