



SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2026 Spring Seminar Series

April 2, 4:00PM

Thursday (Th) (FSH 102)

EcoTrace Project: mapping environmental pollution and community awareness in Placencia, Belize

Xochitl Clare

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

The EcoTrace Project investigates the ecological and social impacts of heavy metal contamination in Placencia, Belize. Xochitl's work integrates analysis of metals in megafauna, invertebrates, finfish, and sediment with community surveys assessing awareness and attitudes toward local seafood safety. The project provides a holistic view of biological and social aspects of environmental contamination to inform education and promote sustainable fish consumption.

Xochitl is an Afro-Latina marine biologist, interdisciplinary artist, and eco-performance scholar. She is a Washington Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the UW, where her research explores environmental stress, fisheries resilience, and community engagement. Her work merges social-ecological science, ecophysiology, and environmental arts-media to advance coastal stewardship and ocean literacy.



Accommodation requests related to a disability or health condition should be made before the event by contacting Jon Wittouck, Assistant Director, Facilities for SAFS: 206-616-8552/wittouck@uw.edu.

Photos: Courtesy of Xochitl Clare, iStockphoto.com: t:Chris Horne