



SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2026 Autumn Seminar Series

October 8, 4:00PM
Thursday (Th) (FSH 107)

Fisheries science in a changing ocean: looking back, looking forward

Cisco Werner

*Sant Chair in Marine Science, Smithsonian Institution,
National Museum of Natural History*

U.S. fisheries science and management have achieved major successes over the past several decades, supported by advances in observing systems, modeling, technology, and governance. At the same time, changing environmental, ecological, and socioeconomic conditions are increasingly challenging assumptions based on the past. This seminar will reflect on those achievements, consider the emerging challenges facing fisheries science and management, and discuss new and evolving approaches—including climate-informed and ecosystem-based science, eDNA, artificial intelligence, uncrewed systems, and expanded cooperative research with fishing communities and other stakeholders—aimed at sustaining those successes in the decades ahead.

Before his current position at the Smithsonian Institution, Francisco “Cisco” Werner served as Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor for NOAA Fisheries, where he led national programs in fisheries, ecosystem, and climate science. Prior to joining NOAA, he was a professor and department chair at UNC Chapel Hill and Director of Rutgers University’s Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences.

His research focused on physical oceanography, ecosystem dynamics, climate impacts, and coupled physical-biological modeling, with an emphasis on linking research, operational science, and decision support. He earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics and completed his graduate work in oceanography at the University of Washington.

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.

Photo: Courtesy of Cisco Werner

