



SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2026 Autumn Seminar Series

October 22, 4:00PM
Thursday (Th) (FSH 102)

Climate resilience through financial risk management for fisheries and aquaculture

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Marine heatwaves and other extreme ocean conditions are risks that fishers are increasingly having to face. Whereas farmers can buy insurance against a ruined harvest driven by a drought, fishers do not have access to similar financial risk management tools. Understanding whether financial tools, like insurance, can be developed for application in fisheries requires a highly multidisciplinary approach, including expertise from the social sciences, natural sciences, fishing communities, and insurance providers. Here, I will describe an interdisciplinary project exploring how insurance can be designed to protect fisheries from climate shocks. Multiple approaches will be discussed, including data driven parametric insurance, and modeling of various kinds to explore a window of opportunity for insurance to enable climate adaptation. Ultimately, this work is highlighting an opportunity to develop new forms of financial risk management for fisheries, enabling greater resilience to climate shocks and change.

James has a background in oceanography and marine ecology, and has been contributing to the Ocean Modeling Forum Working Group #5: Risk Management in Fisheries. biogeographic, and ecological relationships of hosts and parasites.

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.

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