

The Use and Utility of Science in a Policy Context: Case Studies in Practical Ocean Policy

Lunchtime Seminar

Noon-1pm, Fri Nov 13, 2015
Y2E2 Room 299, Stanford University

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Whit Saumweber
Visiting Fellow, Center for Ocean Solutions

The last two decades have seen a sea change in the relationship between science and policy with a broad shift towards marine resource management models that increasingly rely on applied science in both direct and indirect ways. These models range from comprehensive policies and legislation, such as the National Ocean Policy and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, to more fine scale efforts, such as marine protected area management plans, and the recent efforts to consider the relationship between ecosystem services and coastal resiliency in local planning and zoning. The degree to which these models successfully incorporate science into decision-making is dependent on multiple factors including funding, politics, and the linkages between resource managers and scientists. An important factor that is rarely considered, however, is the degree to which potential specific policy levers (e.g. regulatory, statutory, or executive action) are incorporated into the design of the requisite scientific research program. The way in which these factors are included often determine the success of potential management models in moving beyond the pilot or program review phase to the point where they may be adopted as new operational modes for government. Case studies from the National Ocean Policy, Fisheries Management, and Ecosystem Based Management efforts will be considered.

Please join us in welcoming Whit to the the Center. Seminar includes lunch.

[RSVP here](#) by Nov 10, 2015. Spaces are limited.

Please contact Laura Good, lhgood@stanford.edu, with any questions.



Whit Saumweber has sailed the Atlantic Ocean as a science educator on tall ships, studied the ecology and physiology of zooplankton, and rubbed elbows with key politicians in D.C. where he helped develop innovative ocean policy. Now, he joins the Center for Ocean Solutions as a visiting fellow, where he will collaborate with COS staff on research relating to the National Ocean Policy and regional level ocean planning. He has also been named a Consulting Professor at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. [More about Whit](#)