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Webinar: A global spatial analysis reveals where marine aquaculture can benefit nature and people

Title:

A global spatial analysis reveals where marine aquaculture can benefit nature and people

Speaker:

Seth Theuerkauf, PhD, Aquaculture Scientist, The Nature Conservancy

Sponsor:

NOAA's National Ocean Service Science Seminar; coordinator is Tracy.Gill@noaa.gov

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Abstract:

Aquaculture of bivalve shellfish and seaweed represents a global opportunity to simultaneously advance coastal ecosystem recovery and provide substantive benefits to humanity. To identify marine ecoregions with the greatest potential for development of shellfish and seaweed aquaculture to meet this opportunity, we conducted a global spatial analysis using key environmental (e.g., nutrient pollution status), socioeconomic (e.g., governance quality), and human health factors (e.g., wastewater treatment prevalence). We identify a substantial opportunity for strategic sector development, with the highest opportunity marine ecoregions for shellfish aquaculture centered on Oceania, North America, and portions of Asia, and the highest opportunity for seaweed aquaculture distributed throughout Europe, Asia, Oceania, and North and South America. This study provides insights into specific areas where governments, international development organizations, and investors should prioritize new efforts to drive changes in public policy, capacity-building, and business planning to realize the ecosystem and societal benefits of shellfish and seaweed aquaculture.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Seth Theuerkauf is an Aquaculture Scientist with The Nature Conservancy where he leads global-scale synthesis science efforts to better understand and optimize aquaculture's ecosystem services, as well as multiple efforts around the world to support national governments in improving capacity for aquaculture siting and management. Before joining The Nature Conservancy in April 2019, Seth worked in a joint position with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy where he supported efforts to improve siting of aquaculture operations. Seth has over a decade of marine science research experience, holds a Ph.D. in marine conservation ecology from North Carolina State University, and a B.S. in biology and environmental policy from the College of William and Mary.

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(Seth Theuerkauf, PhD, Aquaculture Scientist, The Nature Conservancy)

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