

ESPP and Fisheries and Wildlife presents
a Distinguished Lecture by

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“Governing Fisheries for Food Security”

3 p.m. Tuesday
Oct. 6
Centennial Room,
Kellogg Center



ABSTRACT: Fisheries management is usually justified in terms of broad sustainability goals (‘maximum sustainable yield’) or to highlight the economic potential of the sector (‘maximum economic yield’). However, there is increasing interest in the contribution of fisheries to food and nutrition security as, after all, fish is ultimately caught or farmed mostly to be eaten, with sustainability and economic profitability being simply the necessary conditions to ensure supply continues to meet demand. Is it possible to organize the governance of fisheries and aquaculture to provide ‘maximum sustainable nutritional good’? How could this be achieved in current global economic and political context? This presentation will review the ways in which fisheries and aquaculture contribute to food security, both directly and indirectly. I examine the drivers of this relationship, such as global environmental change, the globalization of the fish trade, and changing uses and management of ocean, coastal and inland water spaces and resources. In the context of persistent malnutrition and new sustainable development goals, I argue that meeting human nutrition goals is a more important social function for fisheries and aquaculture than the relatively inconsequential role they play in macroeconomic development. Nevertheless, it is the role that fish play in the ‘blue economy’ that both justifies and informs the current wave of global fisheries governance reform, including the drive to privatize access to capture fisheries and to restructure local fish value chains in developing countries to ensure they better serve the demands of markets in developed economies. This presentation concludes with a vision for ‘nutrition-sensitive fisheries’ that parallels the current drive for ‘nutrition-sensitive agriculture’ in international agricultural development programs.

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