*What We Do*

We are involved in a number of research projects spanning complex systems science, marine ecology, resource economics, and sustainability science. Below you will find an abbrieviated list of projects we are presently working on:

**Predicting Illegal Activities at Sea**

Funded by **NASA** we are developing new data analytic methods for predicting illegal activities (i.e. really bad stuff like narcotics and slave trafficking) based on anomalous cross-scale spatial behaviors of maritime vessels. The project uses NASA nightlight and AIS data in conjunction with new mathematical methods based on collective behavior in complex systems.

**Cross-scale Properties of Complex Adaptive Systems**

Funded by **DARPA** we are developing new multi-scale data analytic methods, based on manifold learning, for characterizing, interpolating and predicting dynamics in complex adaptive systems. In particular we are focused on predicting large (catestrophic) changes in ecosystems, financial markets, housing markets, power-grids and systems exhibiting collective behavior (e.g. fish schools).

**Complex and Dynamic Socio-environmental Systems**

We are develop novel theory, mathematical models and agent-based simulations for analyzing socio-environmental systems. Some of the topics we are working on include changing spatial behaviors of fishermen, human community vulnerability and adaptive capacity in the face of natural hazards, the innovation and diffusion of conservation norms, and predicting human mobility as people respond to climate change.

**Risk Management**

We are interested in thinking outside the box in terms of what tools can be used for developing sustainable marine social-ecological systems. In particular we are designing new financial tools that incentivize best management practices by both fishers and aquaculturalists. These include new insurance policies and forwards/futures contracts, and the use of new distributed technologies like Blockchain.

**Spatial Marine Ecology**

We study marine ecosystems using mathematical models and computer simulations. We focus on marine metapopulation connectivity and its impact on coastal ecosystem resilience, as well as food-web size structure. We have studied the California Current marine ecosystem as well as the Coral Triangle. We also work on connectivity at global scales. Here, we study the routes and timescales overwhich planktonic communities are connected. We are also interested in predicting Harmful Algal Blooms.