

# What is Nature Worth?

**From Practice to Theory and Back:  
Ecosystem Service Models for Marine Spatial Planning**

**Date & Time:** Friday, February 18, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

**Location:** 143AB Washington Convention Center

A new software tool is available that can change the way we manage the ocean and coasts. Marine InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs) allows decision-makers to evaluate how alternative management choices are likely to impact different things that people value, such as seafood, renewable energy, storm protection and recreation opportunities. This session will introduce the Marine InVEST tool, describe early results and explore implications for real decisions.

**Discussant:** Margaret Spring, *Chief of Staff, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*

**Moderator:** Steve Polasky, *Professor of Ecological/Environmental Economics, University of Minnesota*

**Speakers:** Anne Guerry, *Lead Scientist, Natural Capital Project*

The Blueprint: Building Ecosystem Services into Marine Spatial Planning

Choong-Ki Kim, *Post-doctoral associate, Stanford University*

Getting Under the Hood: Models for Sound Science and Effective Decision-Making

Paul Sandifer, *Senior Science Adviser to the NOAA Administrator*

Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Using Ecosystem Services in Marine Decision-Making

## Synopsis:

People expect a lot from marine and coastal environments – abundant seafood from fisheries and aquaculture, beautiful places for recreation, renewable energy, and protection from storms. In a marine spatial plan, a wide range of uses of the marine environment are put on one map. But are these plans likely to yield changes in the delivery of services people care about and expect to derive from the ocean?

This session will present cutting-edge advances in the modeling and mapping of marine ecosystem services, and how this work is actually being used to inform policy. We will give special attention to how services are likely to change under alternative management scenarios and the trade-offs that result. We will then focus on how these advances are being incorporated into decision-making by entities such as the White House Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. We will conclude with a discussion about the two-way flow of information between management and science, highlighting the most effective way to do science that matters.

## Media Resources:

AAAS Session Information: <http://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2011/webprogram/Session3003.html>

Natural Capital Project: [www.naturalcapitalproject.org](http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org)

“What is Nature Worth” video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TartoYpK1yI>