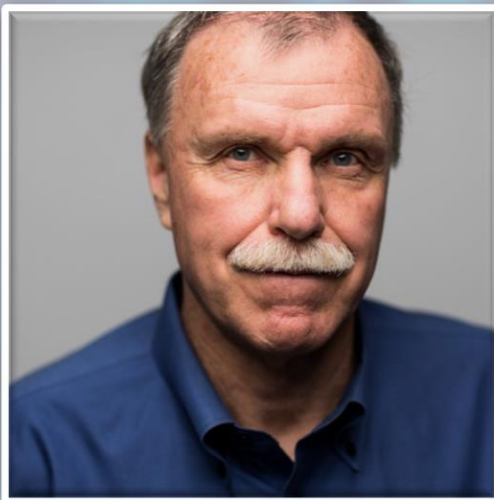


# FISH AND WILDLIFE SEMINAR SERIES

October 5, 2023 from 3 – 4 pm

Zoom link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/4432362511>

Sponsored by the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit



**Professor Ray Hilborn**

*University of Washington*

Title

Rethinking the conservation benefits of no-take MPAs

***Abstract:*** *The idea no-take MPAs became popularized in the 1990s and were rapidly adopted by the coastal marine ecology community and many NGOs as the key solution to prevent overfishing and the perceived depletion of the oceans. Since the 1990s many individual MPAs and networks have been established around the world, and many are now arguing for 30% of the oceans to be made no-take areas. However, as evidence has accumulated, and theory has advanced, it appears that (1) no-take areas do not lead to increases in fish abundance within a region unless the area is heavily overfished although they frequently lead to increased abundance within the no-take area, (2) no-take areas do not reduce by-catch but simply move it elsewhere as effort is shifted, (3) no-take areas do not significantly increase regional biodiversity, and (4) no-take areas don't seem to increase resilience to climate change. I will argue that when we look at the concerns about the impact of fishing in the ocean, there are almost always better ways to alleviate the negative impacts than no-take areas. These better ways include reducing fishing effort, closing specific areas to specific fishing gears, fishing gear modification and adaptive or rotational closures. The major exception is in places where overfishing is intense, and these other tools simply cannot be implemented.*

**Speaker Biography:** Ray Hilborn received his B.A. in Biology from Grinnell College in 1969 and his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of British Columbia in 1974. He spent one year at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in 1974-1975, then spent 5 years working for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Environment. Then for 5 years he was a research faculty member at UBC, then for 2 years a research scientist for the Tuna and Billfish Program of the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia. Since 1987 he has been a professor in the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences at U.W. His research has focused on natural resource management, fisheries stock assessment, and the integration of mathematical models and data to provide guidance to resource managers. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Washington State Academy of Sciences.