

MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series

## Regional Fisheries Management Organizations- The interplay between governance and science

Wednesday, October 19, 5:00 – 6:30pm (CEST)

Venue: Online

One of the biggest challenges in contemporary global environmental governance is the future of marine biodiversity. Over the years, increased fishing efforts in previously remote areas drove many fish stocks to scarcity. The Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) emerged to solve the international fishery crisis, on the assumption that they would provide a forum where Member States may agree and discuss binding rules for the conservation and management of fish stocks within its geographical area of responsibility. Although some agreements existed for more than 60 years, many authors agree that they have not been fully effective in promoting the maintenance and conservation of fish stocks. There are many reasons that might explain the lack of effectiveness, one of them being that science is not very often listened to in the political decision-making process. In this research, the influence of knowledge and science in shaping policy decisions will be observed and analyzed. Therefore, the theory of epistemic communities—which forms part of the constructivist turn in international relations—was used to answer the main question posed here: when does power listen to science? When it does, does it bring more effectiveness in terms input from epistemic communities? Does it induce states to change their behavior, and do these lead to policies, which can credibly improve biomass? Using process tracing, through elite interviews, and with a systematic compilation and study of meeting reports from three RFMOs: the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the final conclusion is that the science may speak louder to policy, but the strategy, allies, and the ways in which it occurs differ case-by-case.



**Leandra Gonçalves** is an assistant professor in the Institute of Marine Sciences at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). She is a biologist, has a PhD from the Institute of International Relations and a postdoctoral degree from the Oceanographic Institute of USP. She has been researching the different dimensions of coastal and marine management and governance for over 10 years, in particular the interface between science and policy and gender issues in the ocean. She is part of the group of researchers of the Brazilian Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and a co-lead of the Ocean governance taskforce of the Earth System Governance project.. She is one of the founders of the Women's League for the Ocean. And she has worked in different environmental non-governmental organizations such as Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica and Greenpeace. She was Lead Author for the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on Global Environment Outlook 6. In 2021 she had her first book published by Springer on

Regional Organizations for Fisheries Management. Its academic curriculum includes more than 30 scientific articles and other works organized in partnerships with collaborating researchers.

The monthly [MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series](#) offer a virtual space to get information and engage in exchanges on ocean governance issues, through presentations by international experts from academia, governments, international organisations and civil society. It is organised by the MARIPOLDATA project.

This Ocean Seminar is part of the [IPW lectures](#) of the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna.

**To register:** via email to [maripoldata.erc@univie.ac.at](mailto:maripoldata.erc@univie.ac.at), indicating your name and institution

**More information:** <https://www.maripoldata.eu>

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