Linking the Fate of the Oceans to the Future of Food Security

Webinar Chat Transcript

April 22, 2014
**PRESENTER:**

Dr. Sylvia Earle, The National Geographic Society

**WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT:**

**USAID Microlinks:** Hello everyone and thanks for joining the seminar today! People are beginning to arrive in the room. If you can hear my audio, please go ahead and introduce yourself in this public chat. We’ll get started in about 15 min.

**Cornelia Flora:** Sorry -- I am in Spain, and came in an hour early. I will come back.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hi Cornelia, Yes, please join us at 10am EDT.

**Richard Volk:** All set here.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Fantastic. Great to have you in the room Richard.

**Richard Meyer:** Checking in. I assume there is no audio yet or is my system not working properly?

**USAID Agrilinks:** No, no audio yet, though I’ll get on and say hello shortly

**USAID Agrilinks:** Welcome all for joining us on Earth Day.

**USAID Agrilinks:** We’re going to get started just before 10 am

**USAID Agrilinks:** Please feel free to check your audio to ensure you can hear the Earth Day soundtrack we’re streaming into the room

**USAID Agrilinks:** Hope you enjoy!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Richard, Barbara just arrived and says hello!

**KDAD AV Tech:** Thanks to all for joining us online! We’re getting ready here in the presentation room and will be posting relevant updates as needed.

**Richard Meyer:** Sorry, which Barbara?

**USAID Agrilinks:** Barbara Best

**Richard Meyer:** Great, good morning.

**Ellen Mathys:** Good morning!
Sachin Gaur: Yes.

Sachin Gaur: Good morning.

Julie Hambrook Berkman: Hi Julie Hambrook Berkman from Cambridge England where I manage an NGO called Our Spaces which focuses on all the International Spaces including the High Seas, Deep Sea, Antarctica and Outer Spaces. We are delighted to have Sylvia Earle is on our board of directors.

Sachin Gaur: Sachin Gaur from Penang, Malaysia. I work as a Social Media Coordinator for World Fish, a member of the CGIAR consortium.

Ellen Mathys: I am joining the event from Atlanta, GA. I am currently working with the FANTA Project, doing national food security strategies for USAID/FFP.

Sachin Gaur: Same to you, thanks.

Tim Pfeiffer: Good morning from FL!

Osagie Aimiuwu: Osagie Aimiuwu from USAID/Bangladesh

Osagie Aimiuwu: Yes

Tim Pfeiffer: Thanks!

Althea Skinner: Is there a phone number or is audio/visual included here?

Richard Volk: Hi Althea, yes, audio/visual will be up and running a few minutes.

Althea Skinner: Thanks for confirming, Richard.

Charles Yarish: Charlie Yarish from the University of Connecticut is here. I have been working in areas of sustainable aquaculture including integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, nutrient bio extraction and seaweed aquaculture.

Richard Volk: Good morning, Charles. Our host will be with us in a couple minutes.

Ricardo Radulovich: Hi, I am Ricardo Radulovich from Costa Rica.

Richard Volk: Hola Ricardo. We will get started momentarily.

George Kegode: George Kegode joining you from Northwest Missouri State University.

Richard Meyer: Richard Meyer, Ohio State U
Tim Pfeiffer: Morning Paul!

Nwadiuto Esiobu: HI this is Diuto from Florida Atlantic

Sarah Easter: Strayer University of Minnesota

Anne Spahr: Anne Spahr from Chemonics International in DC

Brian Bartle: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Paul Wills: Good Morning Tim and all

KDAD AV Tech: As Angelina said, we're still getting settled in here in the room so we will probably be starting in about five minutes or so...

Jackie Aitken: Jackie from Partners for Development, Silver Spring, MD

Kevin Schaus: Hi, this is Kevin Schaus, Westat, Rockville, MD

KDAD AV Tech: Kindly introduce yourself and your affiliation as you come online and please take a moment to fill out the polls!

Ellen Mathys: Yes.

Evan Walker: Evan Walker, WWF in DC

Charles Yarish: Yes

Diana Rutherford: Diana Rutherford, FHI 360 in DC

Maxwell Mayeaux: Maxwell Mayeaux from USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Good Morning.

Diana McLean: Good morning all. Diana here from the Cornucopia Group in Ontario.

Paul Wills: Hello Paul Wills with Harbor Branch Oceanographic FAU

Charles Yarish: Will you pull down the questionnaire so that the PPT will be full screen?

Jimmie Mandima: Hello Jimmiel with the African Wildlife Foundation in DC

Cassie O'Connor: Hi. Cassie O'Connor from WWF in DC

Thomas Buck: Tom Buck, with SSG Advisors in Burlington, Vermont

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Paul Hundley: Paul Hundley - Aqua cultural Engineer - HTH engineering - paul.hundley.jr@gmail.com

Morgan Chow: Hello, Morgan Chow from AquaFish Innovation Lab


Stacey Diaz: Stacey Diaz from Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd.

KDAD AV Tech: Just a couple of last minute tweaks in room here, we’ll be starting shortly. Thanks.

Michael McGirr: Good Morning - Mike McGirr with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Rhonda Barnes-Kloth: Greetings from Rhonda Barnes-Kloth with WWF in DC.

Stephanie Ichien: Hello, Stephanie Ichien from the Aqua Fish Innovation Lab

Jake Sokol: Hello, Jake Sokol - WWF in DC

Michael Harte: Michael Harte, Oregon State University here

Sukey Stephens: Hello, Sukey Stephens from Heifer International

Ricardo Radulovich: Ricardo Radulovich, my affiliation is University of Costa Rica

Karen Douthwaite: Hi Karen Douthwaite from WWF in DC

USAID Agrilinks: All I hope you’re able to hear Julie who’s giving us a short into

USAID Agrilinks: Next we’ll have Jerry Glover with an intro to our speaker Dr. Earle

Diana McLean: Sound quality is a little spotty.

USAID Agrilinks: If you’re having trouble hearing us, please run the Audio Wizard from the Meeting tab on the toolbar

USAID Agrilinks: Welcome everyone for joining us and Happy Earth Day!

USAID Agrilinks: Speaking is our moderator Jerry Glover

USAID Agrilinks: Is everyone hearing Jerry okay?

Diana McLean: Yes

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Jimmiel Mandima: Yes

USAID Agrilinks: Additionally, please welcome Richard Volk, our guest webinar facilitator

Maxwell Mayeaux: Yes

Charles Yarish: Yes

USAID Agrilinks: He'll be on hand in the room to answer any outstanding questions, help push the conversation forward and offer great technical insights during the presentation and the panel discussion

USAID Agrilinks: Lots of clapping in the house with the lego comment!

Althea Skinner: Althea Skinner, CARE-WWF Alliance

USAID Agrilinks: Welcome Althea and everyone who's joined us in the last few minutes

USAID Agrilinks: Happy Earth Day and welcome to the presentation by the esteemed Dr. Sylvia Earle

USAID Agrilinks: We're happy to have everyone today for this Earth Day celebration

USAID Agrilinks: You'll note that I've changed my color in honor of Earth Day!

USAID Agrilinks: As the presentation moves along, please feel free to include any comments or questions you have here in the chat box

Charles Kome: "Our quality of life depends on the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe and all these depend on soil quality. (Charles E. Kome. 2007) Notre quality de vie dépend de la nourriture que nous mangeons, l'eau que nous buvons et l'air que nous respirons et toutes celles-ci dépendent de la qualité du sol. (Charles E. Kome. 2007) Nuestra calidad de vida depende de los alimentos que comemos, el agua que bebemos y el aire que respiramos y todos estos dependen de la calidad del suelo. (Charles E. Kome. 2007)"

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks Charles


USAID Agrilinks: Welcome Hans - Happy Earth Day and thanks for joining us

Marisol Pierce-Quinonez: Mari Pierce-Quinonez from the Agrilinks team joining from my desk here in DC. Nice to be on the other side of one of these webinars for once!

USAID Agrilinks: Welcome Mari!
USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for joining us this morning

USAID Agrilinks: All, if you have comments to Dr. Earle’s presentation, please feel free to include them here in the chat

Karen Luz: Good morning, Karen Luz from WWF in DC

USAID Agrilinks: Hello Karen - thanks for joining us

USAID Agrilinks: We’re about 10 minutes into the presentation

USAID Agrilinks: Dr. Earle is presenting and we’ll have a panel discussion following

Becky Manning: That’s a frightening photo

USAID Agrilinks: Richard Volk, our guest web facilitator is also joining us in the room

Richard Volk: Yes, bleached coral to the max...

USAID Agrilinks: Please welcome him and feel free to chime in with any comments or questions

USAID Agrilinks: This is truly a terrifying photo

Richard Volk: A microcosm of the Pacific gyre

USAID Agrilinks: Changing the pollution of the ocean has long-lasting affects -- a powerful statement on this Earth Day

USAID Agrilinks: Shortly before the seminar began, our panelists were discussion the seeming lack of attention Earth Day gets these days

USAID Agrilinks: Do you all agree?

USAID Agrilinks: Is it different in your country or region of the States?

Becky Manning: Yes, definitely a diminished emphasis

Caye Drapcho: Yes, here in South Carolina too. Except among our students at Clemson.

USAID Agrilinks: That’s an interesting differentiation

Caye Drapcho: There is a vivid documentation of the plastics in the oceans impact - at Midwayfilm.com
USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Caye for the link

USAID Agrilinks: I’ll add it to the Links pod for the next screen

USAID Agrilinks: Are there any questions for Dr. Earle?


Richard Volk: If you haven’t seen Chris Jordan’s photos, check them out at http://www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24

USAID Agrilinks: Great, thank you Charles

USAID Agrilinks: I’ll include this in the links pod as well and add it to the resources page post-event

USAID Agrilinks: Please make sure to check out http://agrilinks.org/events/linking-fate-oceans-future-food-security for all the post-event resources

USAID Agrilinks: Sign up and create a profile to join our community

USAID Agrilinks: And continue this conversation


USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Richard and Charles for sharing these resources

USAID Agrilinks: Apologies all, we’re having a small issue with the PDF - we’ll get back up shortly

Richard Volk: For a good example of what Dr. Earle is speaking about, see the recent guardian article re Senegalese fish meal plants at http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/18/overfishing-factory-joal-senegal

USAID Agrilinks: And we’re back!

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for your patience

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**Ricardo Radulovich:** Animal production is not true food production (it takes more feed to what is produced), unless produced with feed generated in situ (like green water aquaculture). Only biosynthesis by plants and seaweeds and the like is food production.

**USAID Agrilinks:** Great point Ricardo!

**Caye Drapcho:** Yes, agreed

**USAID Agrilinks:** How do we balance respecting local cultural delicacies versus ensuring the survival of our fish?

**USAID Agrilinks:** Very profound point Dr. Earle is making now!

**USAID Agrilinks:** There are lots of nodding heads in the room here

**USAID Agrilinks:** Dr. Earle’s comments are really resonating with our in-person audience

**USAID Agrilinks:** Are there any questions in the room?

**Becky Manning:** Sound probs

**Richard Volk:** Shifting Baselines: The Past and The Future of Ocean Fisheries ... great book!

**USAID Agrilinks:** Thanks Richard

**Michael Harte:** Please see [www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org/indispensable-ocean](http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org/indispensable-ocean) for a review of critical ocean issues and human wellbeing

**Becky Manning:** Ok - that’s it for shrimp for me!

**USAID Agrilinks:** It makes me rethink my affinity for shrimp as well Becky!

**Ricardo Radulovich:** Seaweed farming

**Charles Yarish:** Yes, Ricardo!! Marine plant aquaculture production is now about 21 million tons with a value ~$5.5 billion dollars! The growth rate of this sector is over 8% per year since 1970!!

**USAID Agrilinks:** It seems the point Dr. Earle is making is - what is the real question here: food choice or food security?


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Becky Manning: "Put them on the balance sheet, as something more than pounds of meat"

USAID Agrilinks: What are the consequences of the industrial-scale extraction of wildlife from aquatic systems? Consider the real costs in terms of habitat destruction, disturbed nutrient cycles, declining populations & biodiversity.

Ricardo Radulovich: But all these concerns are losing relevance as reality shows that irreversible damage has been made. How do we manage this from now on? What are the options for the future. One of them is to boldly use the oceans for eco-friendly food production. Seaweed farming moreover bio remediates waters and promote biodiversity. A whole new approach: managing the pelagic environment.

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Ricardo - I'm happy to pose this to the panel during Q&A. From where are you joining us?

Ricardo Radulovich: Costa Rica. Please see www.maricultura.net for a booklet (in Spanish) on tropical seaweed cultivation and use as food.

USAID Agrilinks: Great, thanks!

USAID Agrilinks: Are there any other questions or comments?

USAID Agrilinks: Dr. Earle’s presentation is quite provocative and garnering a few whispers here in the audience

Charles Yarish: I suggest you all take a look what is happening in Northeast America and seaweed farming that my team has developed. We have had farms from the coastal waters of New York City throughout the Gulf of Maine! See -). See the http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/08/from-the-lab-to-the-dinner-table-kelp/ and "New Handbook for Growing New England Seaweeds: Nursery Culture" published by CT Sea Grant. The handbook is a new 92-page handbook for growing four species of economically and ecologically valuable native seaweeds. Available for free, the handbook may be accessed for download in PDF format at http://s.uconn.edu/handbook or through UConn's Digital Commons collection http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/seagrant_weedcult/1. A companion product, a 6-part close-captioned video playlist, “Seaweed Culture in New England” can be found on YouTube at http://s.uconn.edu/seaweedplaylist. Since I am also working with local communities in the US and in Mexico, the videos are very useful in introducing seaweed aquacult

USAID Agrilinks: We're moving on the panel discussion after a short intro from Jerry Glover

USAID Agrilinks: We will run over a bit later than the advertised end time of 11:30am
Becky Manning: What does she think about the recent trucking of young salmon in CA to the ocean since the drought has dried up their river access? Futile?

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks Becky

USAID Agrilinks: We'll have a short panel and then Q&A

USAID Agrilinks: I'll include this

Becky Manning: Or not

USAID Agrilinks: Shout out to Richard Volk!

Richard Volk: Thanks!

USAID Agrilinks: Our panelists are taking the stage

USAID Agrilinks: Please post your questions to the chat box and we'll get them in the queue

USAID Agrilinks: Robert Winterbottom is speaking

USAID Agrilinks: Soon we'll have Barbara Best from USAID

USAID Agrilinks: As Jerry mentioned, Robert is from World Resources Institute (WRI)

Julie Hambrook Berkman: As a way of considering how we as a civilization can deal with managing the 64% beyond national boundaries... Has there been progress on Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major contributor to declining fish stocks and marine habitat destruction.

USAID Agrilinks: Becky, kindly remind me from where you're joining us

USAID Agrilinks: Great question Julie

USAID Agrilinks: From where are you joining us?

Julie Hambrook Berkman: Cambridge, UK

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks Julie

Richard Volk: Just as we have so much "sunk capital" in the oil and gas industry (and thus opposition to taking on the global climate change challenges), we have immense sunk capital in the global fishing industry. Is anyone working on the question of how we (as a global community) begin to solve the overcapacity problem given its strong economic roots in already invested capital? Do we adequately consider "political economy" in our fisheries reform programs/efforts?
Ricardo Radulovich: Fishermen and much of their equipment and facilities are evolving towards aquaculture, or should be encouraged to do so, once we clarify what type of aquaculture we want.

USAID Agrilinks: Powerful question Richard

USAID Agrilinks: Can everyone hear okay?

Caye Drapcho: Will the recording for the presentations today be sent out later?

USAID Agrilinks: This is Barbara Best from USAID

USAID Agrilinks: Yes, Caye, we'll have the recording and resources up on the event page on Agrilinks

Caye Drapcho: Thank you!

USAID Agrilinks: No, thank you for joining us

Richard Volk: For a look at the USAID biodiversity policy see: http://www.usaid.gov/biodiversity/policy

Charles Yarish: How do the panelists view integrated multi-trophic aquaculture is developing an ecosystem approach for food production?


USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Michael

Richard Meyer: We have a very long way to go in educating John Q Public. There is an incredible amount of new climate change, food security and ecological sustainability info. It is going to be a huge task for institutions to play a careful role in sorting through the flood of info and objectively identify what is correct from what is junk science and propaganda. Hard to see who will really play that role in an era in which there is so much suspicion of government. Who has an opinion?

USAID Agrilinks: Great comment Richard

Michael Harte: Can anyone comment on the eight Pacific island countries that make up the Parties to the Nauru Agreement. They have received over $100 million in fees per year for access to a well-managed skipjack tuna fishery. This income is supporting health and education spending in Pacific Island Countries - reducing the need for foreign aid.

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Jorge Maldonado: And Colombia

USAID Agrilinks: Hello Jorge!

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you for joining us from Columbia!

USAID Agrilinks: Kindly continue to post your comments and questions here

USAID Agrilinks: We’ll be wrapping up shortly

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you to everyone who has stayed on with us a bit past our advertised end time

Richard Volk: Can Dr. Earle comment on her observations of the growing number of marine dead zones in the world over the past few decades, and to what extent these are correlated with poor agricultural practice?

Richard Volk: Great comment Barbara!

Charles Yarish: Most of the Chinese kelp (Saccharina japonica) is actually for food production!

Maxwell Mayeaux: What are the panel's views on utilizing microalgae for biofuel production and using co-products for other uses such as a protein source for fish feeds?

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for your question Maxwell. From where are you joining us?

Maxwell Mayeaux: Washington, DC

USAID Agrilinks: We’ll going to wrap up shortly, but do stay tuned for post-event resources on the event page. Additionally, we’ll circulate your questions to our panel

USAID Agrilinks: This is the last question

USAID Agrilinks: Great, thanks Maxwell!

USAID Agrilinks: For those of you still with us, please kindly take a minute to fill out our end poll

USAID Agrilinks: We would particularly we interested in your suggestion for future seminars with the Bureau for Food Security or E3

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you for those who are adding your comments to the poll!

Charles Yarish: Along with carbon credits, should be nitrogen credits to deal with the increases of nutrients in coastal waters! So how does one bring the private sector into such ventures?

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USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Charles

USAID Agrilinks: Are there any final questions or comments?

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you all for joining our thought-provoking presentation and panel today. I hope you all join us on the Agrilinks.org website to continue the conversation and comment on the resources posted. Happy Earth Day!

Richard Volk: Just a big thank you to all for your inputs!!

USAID Agrilinks: A special thank you to Richard Volk as well!

Sarah Easter Strayer: Thanks for a very interesting talk.

USAID Agrilinks: Take care all!

Richard Meyer: Great program. Thanks to all.

Tim Pfeiffer: Thank you for the agro-link event

Charles Yarish: Thank you all too!

KDAD AV Tech: Thanks to everyone for joining us, we’ll leave this room open for about another five minutes and then will end the meeting.

KDAD AV Tech: Have a great Earth Day!

KDAD AV Tech: Thanks again everyone, please turn in tomorrow for our Agrilinks webinar: http://agrilinks.org/events/agricultural-research-impact-partnering-feed-future-innovation-labs