



Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, Ph.D.

Founder/Principal, Ayana Elizabeth Consulting, Washington, D.C.
Former Executive Director of the Waitt Institute
Co-founded and led the Blue Halo Initiative

**“The Blue Halo Blueprint for
Ocean Zoning”**

Ocean zoning is an intricate and nuanced process, which aims to organize ocean activities in time and space in order to balance social, economic and environmental benefits. For most ocean and coastal areas, there are many laws and several agencies with jurisdiction, often with overlapping authorities. Beyond legal concerns, application of social and natural science and deep engagement of stakeholders are critical to community support and successful implementation. Thus, extensive coordination and collaboration are required. The Waitt Institute’s Blue Halo Initiative (co-founded and formerly led by Dr. Johnson) endeavours to create successful case studies of comprehensive ocean management that include ocean zoning as a core element, and use a science-based, community-driven approach. This talk will provide an overview of challenges, benefits, and strategy associated with this approach – specifically in the areas of community engagement, scientific research, creation of zoning maps, and development of policies. In particular, this talk will share how stakeholders were engaged, local partnerships were formed, and technology was leveraged. The Caribbean island of Barbuda will be used as a case study showing how a final zoning map evolved based on stakeholder input, scientific data, and enforcement considerations.

Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson is a marine biologist, conservation strategist, policy wonk, and independent consultant. As Executive Director of the Waitt Institute, she co-founded and led the Blue Halo Initiative to support Caribbean islands in overhauling ocean management for sustainability. Johnson earned a BA from Harvard University in Environmental Science and Public Policy, and marine biology Ph.D. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Her work has featured in The New York Times, The Atlantic, and Nature Magazine, with op-eds in The Guardian and New York Times. Johnson’s mission is to create, implement, and amplify the best ideas in conservation.

Location: Institute for Food, Nutrition & Health, Rm 205

Cook Campus, School of Environmental & Biological Sciences

Date: Friday, April 29th, 2016

Time: 2:30 to 4:00 pm