

iFAST: The International Forum on Advanced Environmental Sciences and Technology

A series of distinguished seminars by eminent scientists

8 a.m. CST, 9 a.m. EST, 2 p.m. GMT, 10 p.m. China

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025



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Lisa A. Levin is a Distinguished Professor Emerita at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego, currently researching biodiversity, climate change and human impacts on the deep ocean. Levin works to bring deep-sea science to policy makers via science networks, global assessments, and UN negotiations. Levin is a member of the National Academy of Sciences

Deep-Sea Biodiversity Under Climate Change

Abstract The planet faces both climate change and biodiversity loss; the two crises are heavily intertwined and must be addressed together. In doing so, the deep ocean, covering half the planet, must be considered. Deep-sea species adaptations and life histories make them vulnerable to changing environments and disruption. At the same time, we continue to discover just how dependent we are on the deep ocean for a stable climate. Ocean-based geoengineering measures and deep-seabed mining, both proposed to help address climate change, pose looming but invisible threats to the deep ocean. A growing imperative to conserve both deep-sea biodiversity and the carbon services it underpins requires input to the many international negotiations, frameworks and treaties currently deciding the fate of the deep sea.



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