



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

Fall 2023 MATH Colloquium Series

A Cautionary Tale in Applied Statistics

John G. Williams

Retired Environmental Scientist and
Veteran of the Central Valley Water Wars

Applied statistics typically involves working with other people's data and often with other people's models, which can lead to trouble if not done carefully. This talk examines an example: a study of the effects of flow in the Mekong River on an important fishery in Cambodia, prominently published in *Science*. Problems with the data, the model, and the analysis demonstrate the importance of thoroughly understanding the data, the model, and the scientific context of the work. The example also illuminates the unfortunate incentive structure of academic science.



August 31, 2023
Thursday

4-5 PM
BSS#166

FOR MORE INFO GO TO [HTTPS://MATH.HUMBOLDT.EDU/GET-INVOLVED/MATHEMATICS-COLLOQUIUM](https://math.humboldt.edu/get-involved/mathematics-colloquium)

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE PRE-COLLOQUIUM TEA IN BSS#312
AT 3:30 PM