

# Candy and Poisons: Marine Pollution Writ Large

## Seminar by Dan Rittschof, Duke University

7 March 2019, Thursday, 2pm – 3.30pm  
National University of Singapore, Bukit Timah Campus  
469 Bukit Timah Road, Seminar Room 5-4,  
Block B, Level 5, Singapore 259756

Admission is free. To register, please click [here](#).

### Abstract

Our world is about culture, technology, economics, politics, biology, finite resources, and the rule of law. Technology based on fossil fuels produces a spectrum of candies and poisons. Technology enables huge human populations, all of which directly and indirectly destroy terrestrial and marine environments. Major destructive interconnected human activities are resource extraction, habitat destruction and marine pollution. Marine pollution threatens food security, human and environmental health, and is a consequence of meeting immediate societal needs as cheaply as possible.

It is increasingly obvious that this business model is unsustainable. In the context of the modern society, technology provides the only way forward. Tweaking existing technology and developing technology that removes poisons, converts waste into clean water and recovers fertilizer are necessary next steps to meet demands for food and to begin to restore marine environments. The framers of UNCLOS provided a structure to address these concerns. Is it time to figure out how to begin implementation?

### About the Speaker



**Dan Rittschof**, N L Christensen Distinguished Professor of the Environment at Duke University, is a biochemical and behavioral ecologist and toxicologist. His biological research is routinely at the boundaries between disciplines such as materials science, polymer engineering, environmental toxicology, proteomics, genomics, technology testing and transfer, and informing policy.

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