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World Fish Stocks Face Upheaval Due To Climate Change

By: [VeganVerve](#) in [Climate Change](#), [Environment](#)

Posted on Mon Feb 16 2009

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A new study published in the recent edition of the Fish and Fisheries journal revolved around the impact of climate change on fish populations in current fish stocks. Dr. William Cheung, lead author of the study, stated: "The impact of climate change on marine biodiversity and fisheries is going to be huge."

Due to climate change, fish are expected to migrate north towards the North Pole (akin to [current findings on bird migrations](#)). Dr. Cheung and his fellow

scientists predict that the fish could shift north 40km per decade. The scientists used computer models to predict climate change's impact on economically important species. Overall, 1,066 species were used in the study.

Not only will species be moving north, such as cod, plaice, prawns and herring, but the migrations will disrupt already in place ecosystems. Ecosystems the fish are leaving will be disrupted along with the ecosystems being "invaded" by the migrating species.

Some areas, by obvious extension, will see increased fish populations. Nordic countries and those fishing commercially (and for subsistence) in the North Sea will see stocks rise. However, countries and peoples farther south could see debilitating losses. In the United States' Atlantic, for example, there could be a decrease in cod populations upwards of 50% by 2050.

Tropical areas will suffer the most losses due to fish migrations. According to the World Fish Centre, 33 nations in African, Asia and South America are in jeopardy due to fish stock losses. Poor socio-economic conditions in these countries will make it difficult for peoples in the countries to adjust to the losses of fish. Edward Allison, representative of WorldFish, states: "Economically, people in the tropics and subtropics likely will suffer most, because fish are so important in their diets and because they have limited capacity to develop other sources of income and food."

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2 COMMENTS SO FAR!!

Pontoon Says:

So some people will notice a increase in fish sales at some super markets, and I would guess that the countries or regions that have increased fish will stay the same to maintain a greater profit margin.

[Reply](#)

Stavy Says:

I'm not sure that is the point Pontoon.. If Fish move away from tropical areas, then the islands in the pacific for instance, where the main food staple is fish, will find themselves starving, and unable to replace their staple with food crops on land...

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