



Tuesday, January 20, 2009

 Search

Page-1 [Entertain](#) [Politics](#) [Sports](#) [Tech](#) **[Science](#)** [Business](#) [World](#) [Opinion](#)

[Agri](#) [Archaeology](#) **[Bio/Chem](#)** [Earth](#) [Comp/Eng](#) [Medical](#) [Physics/Math](#) [Space](#) [Genetics](#)

News: Page (1) of 1 - 01/15/09

[email article](#) [print page](#)

Fish digestions help keep the oceans healthy

By Reuters

LONDON (Reuters) - The digestive systems of fish play a vital role in maintaining the health of the oceans and moderating climate change, researchers said on Thursday.

Computer models showed how bony fish produced a large portion of the inorganic carbon that helps maintain the oceans' acidity balance and was vital for marine life, they said.

The world's bony fish population, estimated at between 812 million and 2 billion tonnes, helped to limit the consequences of climate change through its effect on the carbon cycle, University of British Columbia researchers reported in the journal *Science*.

"This study is really the first glimpse of the huge impact fish have on our carbon cycle -- and why we need them in the ocean," researcher Villy Christensen and colleagues wrote.

Calcium carbonate is a white, chalky material that helps control the acidity balance of sea water and is essential to the health of marine ecosystems and coral reefs.

It helps regulate how much carbon dioxide oceans would be able to absorb from the atmosphere in the future, the researchers said.

Until now, scientists believed calcium carbonate came from microscopic marine plankton. The new findings suggested between 3 percent and 15 percent of the material comes from bony fish, said Rod Wilson of the University of Exeter in Britain, who worked on the study.



A school of fish swims at Isle de Madelaine off Senegal's capital Dakar July 24, 2007. REUTERS/Finbarr O'Reilly



NatureCanada.ca

Ads by Goooooogle

Bony fish, which include about 90 percent of marine species but not sharks or rays, produce calcium carbonate that forms crystals in the gut and is then excreted in chalky solids.

"Because of the impact of global climate change, fish are likely to have an even bigger influence on the chemistry of our oceans in the future," Wilson said in a statement.

(Reporting by Michael Kahn; Editing by Nick Vinocur)

2009 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved. Reuters content is the intellectual property of Thomson Reuters or its third party content providers. Any copying, republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Thomson Reuters. Thomson Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. "Reuters" and the Reuters Logo are trademarks of Thomson Reuters and its affiliated companies. For additional information on other Reuters media services please visit <http://about.reuters.com/media/>.

Use of 3D Could Change Face of E-commerce

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

All Video Channels

www.TheGodMovie.com/canada

Feedback - Ads by Google

Biology Chemistry

- UK firm to launch pioneering stem cell trial
- Scientists find way to remove lead from blood
- FDA to adopt more transparent process for GE animals
- Fish digestions help keep the oceans healthy
- Ancient bird dung gives clues to pre-human New Zealand
- As humans hunt, their prey gets smaller: study
- Extinct Tasmanian "tiger" DNA has clues to demise
- U.S. advisers back 1st drug from DNA-altered animals
- U.S. panel backs first drug from DNA-altered animals
- Dutch study sheds light on virus that causes SARS
- Scientists find a gene that makes cancer spread
- Dutch study sheds light on virus that causes SARS
- Pink iguanas unseen by Darwin offer evolution clue
- Scientists find a gene that makes cancer spread
- Infection cuts mosquitoes' lives short
- Antibiotics before infections save lives: study
- Sharks have wimpy bites, study finds
- Antibiotics before infections save lives: study
- Antibiotics before infections save lives: study
- Sharks have wimpy bites, study finds

