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Times Online

From The Times

February 13, 2009

## Ocean atlas shows how climate change is making the fish we eat harder to find

Mark Henderson, Science Editor, in Chicago

Fish stocks Cod numbers in the North Sea will fall by 20 per cent in the next 40 years as its waters warm, according to the first atlas showing how climate change will affect fisheries.

The warming will cause the natural range of the Atlantic cod to move north, piling pressure on a fishery already in decline. However, while cod will become significantly less common, plaice stocks are expected to increase by 10 per cent as the species also moves north to reach waters of the right temperature.

The Sea Around Us atlas was prepared by teams from the University of East Anglia (UEA), the University of British Columbia and Princeton University examines how the range of 1,000 marine species will be affected by climate change. It is published in the journal Fish and Fisheries.

William Cheung, of UEA, who led the study, said: "The impact of climate change on marine biodiversity is going to be huge. We must adapt our fisheries management and conservation policies to minimise harm to marine life and society. We can use our knowledge to improve the design of marine protected areas which are adaptable to changes in distribution of the species."

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The research indicates that many fish species will move towards the north or south pole, depending on their hemisphere, to find cooler waters. This means that countries such as Norway and Iceland can expect to see a greater abundance of fish in their waters, while tropical countries will lose out.

On average, fish species will shift in distribution by more than 40 kilometres each decade. Many will be placed at risk of extinction, including the striped rock cod in the Antarctic and the St Paul rock lobster in the Southern Ocean.

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We have to stop teh climate change!!!!

Kurti, Vienna, Austria

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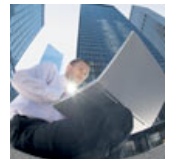
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