

Individual
Home

- Morningstar Tools**
 Quotes and Charts
 Quickrank
 Market Movers
 Stock Strategist

- Market Resources**
 Market Overview
 Indices
 T-Bonds

- Breaking News**
 Newsstand
 Business Wire
 Market Wire
 PRNewswire

- Brokerage Services**
 Open an Account
 Account Forms

Tropical Regions to be Hardest Hit by Fisheries Shifts Caused by Climate Change

PRNewswire News Releases

Published: 10/08/09 06:00 AM EDT

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Oct. 8 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Major shifts in fisheries distribution due to climate change will affect food security in tropical regions most adversely, according to a study led by the Sea Around Us Project at The University of British Columbia.

In the first major study to examine the effects of climate change on ocean fisheries, a team of researchers from UBC and Princeton University finds that climate change will produce major shifts in productivity of the world's fisheries, affecting ocean food supply throughout the world. The study is published today in the journal *Global Change Biology*.

"Our projections show that climate change may lead to a 30 to 70 per cent increase in catch potential in high-latitude regions and a drop of up to 40 per cent in the tropics," says lead author William Cheung, a researcher at the University of East Anglia in the UK who conducted the study while at UBC.

"Many tropical island residents rely heavily on the oceans for their daily meals. These new findings suggest there's a good chance this important food source will be greatly diminished due to climate change."

Previous studies have looked at how climate change affects global food supply but were limited to land-based food sources. These studies have also predicted that tropical areas will see a decline in land productivity.

The team, led by UBC Fisheries professor Daniel Pauly, also found that regions with the highest increase in catch potential by 2055 include Norway, Greenland, Alaska and the east coast of Russia. Meanwhile, regions with the biggest loss in catch potential include Indonesia, the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii), Chile and China.

While greater catch potential in colder regions might appear beneficial, the authors caution that more research is needed to account for the multitude of dynamic factors that affect every ecosystem.

"We need to keep the big picture in mind when looking at the 'winners' and 'losers' of climate change," says Pauly. "Major shifts in fish populations will create a host of changes in ocean ecosystems likely resulting in species loss and problems for the people who now catch them."

"While warmer waters might attract new species to colder regions, the rise in temperature might make the environment inhospitable to current species in the region that cannot move to even higher latitudes. Often these species are important to the diets and culture of native subsistence fishermen."

The team's projections also show that Canada's overall catch potential will remain approximately the same. The west coast may see a decrease of almost 20 per cent from 2005 to 2055 while the east coast may get a 10 per cent boost.

With the exception of Alaska and Hawaii, the overall maximum catch potential in U.S. waters is projected to decrease by around 10 per cent by 2055.

The study analyzed 1,066 species ranging from krill to sharks that constitute roughly 70 per cent of the world's catch. The authors used models that include a large number of environmental and biological factors that affect fisheries. They ran these models through two climate change scenarios, one more conservative than the other, and measured the impact of the scenarios on fish distribution from the years 2005 to 2055. The authors did not include the highest emission level scenario considered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which would have produced even more dramatic results.

For more information, visit www.seaaroundus.org/about.

This study is a product of the Sea Around Us Project, a scientific collaboration between the Pew Environment Group and The University of British Columbia. The Sea Around Us Project assesses fisheries impacts at ecosystem, ocean basin and the global level and searches for policy solutions to the challenges they pose. The results of this work are accessible on the web, offering ecosystem data, distribution maps and catch data for more than 1,000 species, historical trends and peer-reviewed publications.

The Pew Environment Group is the conservation arm of The Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-governmental organization headquartered in the United States that applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improving public policy, informing the public and stimulating civic life.


Contact:

Brian Lin, University of British Columbia Public Affairs, 604.822.2234, brian.lin@ubc.ca

Jo Knight, Pew Environment Group, 202.552.2070, jknight@pewtrusts.org

SOURCE University of British Columbia

Released By:
University of British Columbia

Rating:


Print

Email

Share

PRNEWswire NEWS RELEASES



Today

06:06 PM  [Detroit-Area Physical Therapist Pleads Guilty in Medicare Fraud Scheme](#)

- 06:03 PM  [Oxygen Biotherapeutics, Inc. Shareholders Approve Reverse Stock Split](#)
- 06:01 PM  [Pampa Energia Enters Into Agreement to Sell Electricity from the Expansion Project at Central Termica Loma de la Lata](#)
- 05:58 PM  [Final Great Park Fall Natural History Lecture](#)
- 05:57 PM  [Enterprise Risk Management Professional Appointed by P&C Carrier, Completed by IPS Search, Inc.](#)
- 05:56 PM  [Pumping Up the Volume in the Face to Reduce Signs of Aging](#)
- 05:54 PM  [Coalition Calls for NJ State Commission of Ethics to Investigate Abuse of Power, Funding & Conflicts of Interest by the NJ Civil Union Review Commission](#)
- 05:51 PM  [DCP Midstream Partners to Release Third Quarter 2009 Results on November 5](#)
- 05:50 PM  [Sudan is Committed to Peace and Welcomes Honest Assistance](#)
- 05:48 PM  [Sunrise Enters into 13th Amendment to Credit Agreement Extending Maturity Date to December 2, 2010](#)
- 05:46 PM  [WSFS Announces 3rd Quarter 2009 Earnings Release Date and Conference Call](#)
- 05:35 PM  [Storefront Summit To Bring Together 100 Retailers To Spotlight Opportunities Of DC's Capitol Riverfront Neighborhood](#)
- 05:33 PM  [Boston Scientific Announces Results for Third Quarter Ended September 30, 2009](#)
- 05:30 PM  [VisionChina Media Announces Contract Renewal and Extension of Exclusive Network Coverage in City of Hangzhou](#)
- 05:30 PM  ['Stunningly Beautiful' ONG BAK 2: THE BEGINNING to Premiere as a Sneak Preview on HDNet Movies](#)
- 05:29 PM  ['COMEDY CENTRAL LIVE: GABRIEL IGLESIAS THE FLUFFY SHOP' Tour Kicks Off on Thursday, January 14 and Travels to Over 50 Cities Nationwide](#)
- 05:27 PM  [NASA, Hampton and NOAA Host Earthfest 2009 at Nature Park](#)
- 05:26 PM  [Third Annual GLBT Economic Development Summit to Connect Business and Creative Leaders](#)
- 05:25 PM  [Arizona Medical Marijuana Policy Project, Sponsors of 2010 Medical Marijuana Ballot Initiative in Arizona, Cheer Obama Administration Action](#)
- 05:23 PM  [Maryland Scientist Charged With Attempted Espionage](#)
- 05:21 PM  [NASA Updates Shuttle Atlantis Target Launch Date, Crew Rehearsal](#)
- 05:21 PM  [FDA Approves Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Fluarix for Pediatric Use](#)
- 05:21 PM  [Ford Searches For Outstanding Individuals Within the Community; Set to Award 2010 Taurus](#)
- 05:21 PM  [Harris Executives Among The Business Ledger's 2009 Influential Women in Business](#)
- 05:20 PM  [OriGene Technologies Acquires Marfgen Biosciences](#)
- 05:18 PM  [Abraham Energy Report: House Coast Guard Reauthorization Bill May Limit New LNG Construction](#)
- 05:17 PM  [The Regence Foundation Announces Debut of Sojourns Award for Innovation and Leadership in Palliative Care](#)
- 05:13 PM  [Affinion Group, Inc. to Hold Informational Call to Discuss Results for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2009](#)
- 05:13 PM  [The Prince of Wales Delivers Videotaped Address on Sustainability to AICPA Governing Council](#)
- 05:12 PM  [New 'Black Box' Will Help Save Lives and Solve In-Flight Mysteries.](#)

[MORE PRESS RELEASES FROM PRNEWswire NEWS RELEASES](#)

Powered By: **FinancialContent Services, Inc.**

Nasdaq quotes delayed at least 15 minutes.

All other data is delayed at least 20 minutes.

By accessing this page, you agree to the following terms and conditions.

Daily Market Updates provided by MarketMinute.com

Stock Analysis provided by SocialPicks Conference calls info supplied by OpenCompany

Fundamental data supplied by Mergent, Inc.

Stock quote data supplied by Telekurs