

IRAN'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL DAILY

Monday, March 9, 2009 | Volume: 10548

[+ Feedback](#) | [+ Make TehranTimes your home page](#)

Latest News : Mousavi will toss his hat in the ring this week: source

TODAY | **ARCHIVES** | **ADVERTISEMENT**

[About us](#) | [Membership](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Home

NEWS

Science

International

Politics

Sports

Culture

Economy


VIEWS

Opinion

View Rate : 186 #

News Code : TTime- 189379

Print Date : Sunday, February 15, 2009



Bleak forecast on fishery stocks

CHICAGO (BBC) -- The world's fish stocks will soon suffer major upheaval due to climate change, scientists have warned.

Changing ocean temperatures and currents will force thousands of species to migrate polewards, including cod, herring, plaice and prawns.

By 2050, U.S. fishermen may see a 50% reduction in Atlantic cod populations.

The predictions of "huge changes", published in the journal Fish and Fisheries, were presented at the AAAS annual meeting in Chicago.

Marine biologists used computer models to forecast the future of 1,066 commercially important species from across the globe.

"The impact of climate change on marine biodiversity and fisheries is going to be huge," said lead author Dr. William Cheung, of the University of East Anglia in the UK.

"We must act now to adapt our fisheries management and conservation policies to minimize harm to marine life and to our society.

"We can use our knowledge to improve the design of marine protected areas which are adaptable to changes in distribution of the species," he told the conference.

The world's oceans are already experiencing changes in temperature and current patterns are changing due to climate change.

To quantify the likely impact on sea life, Dr. Cheung and his team developed a new computer model that predicts what might happen under different climate scenarios.

While scientists have made projections of climate change impact on land species, this is the most comprehensive study on marine species ever published.


"We found that on average, the animals may shift their distribution towards the poles by 40km per decade," said Dr. Cheung.

"Atlantic cod on the east coast of the U.S. may see a 50% reduction in some populations by 2050."

The invasion of new species into unfamiliar environments could seriously disrupt ecosystems, the researchers warn.

Some species will face a high risk of extinction, including Striped Rock Cod in the Antarctic and St Paul Rock Lobster in the Southern Ocean.

But of course, as fish migrate polewards, fishermen in some areas will see their stocks increase.



Tehran Municipality Pursuing Sustainable Development
On the occasion of Iran's National Clean Air Day

[Click Here](#)

Search

Keyword :


Today All

www.tehrantimes.com

MOST READ

1. U.S. spills the beans on Israel nukes
2. Iranian fighter jets armed with new missiles
3. Iran prefers chess to American football: Mottaki
4. West attempting to create rift between Iran and Arabs: cleric
5. Iran deeply concerned about suppression of human rights by France
6. Iran to open Bushehr nuclear plant for tourists
7. Iran loses to Azerbaijan in World Wrestling Championship final
8. 9 MOUs to be signed at summit: ECO chief
9. Mousavi will toss his hat in the ring this week: source
10. Italian & Hungarian professors call for prosecuting Zionist regime

www.tehrantimes.com

 [Add Tehran Times RSS Feeds](#)

[About Us](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Contact Us](#)

The model predicts an increased catch in the North Sea -- benefiting fishermen from Nordic countries.

But fishermen in tropical developing countries will suffer major losses in catch.

The socio-economic impact could be devastating, according to another study published recently in the same journal.

Thirty-three nations in Africa, Asia and South America are highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change in fisheries, according to scientists from the World Fish Centre.

Of these, 19 were already classified by the United Nations as "least developed" because of their particularly poor socioeconomic conditions.

"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," said Edward Allison, director of policy, economics and social science at WorldFish.

"We believe it is urgent to start identifying these vulnerable countries, because the damage will be greatly compounded unless national governments and international institutions like the World Bank act now to include the fish sector in plans for helping the poor cope with climate change."

[Print Version](#)[Back](#)[Send To Friend](#)