

Climate variation also is a major problem, flooding breeding grounds and increasing the instances of El Niño-like extreme weather.

Longer trips for food during a given breeding season lessen the chances that a penguin pair will successfully reproduce, she said.

Some younger penguins move to colonies that are closer to food one year but might be farther away from food the following year.

Unfortunately they are often outside recognised conservation areas, also endangering the penguins.

Increased ocean variability means penguins often return to their breeding grounds later and are in poorer condition to breed, she added.

The problems don't just confront the Punta Tombo penguins, said Professor Boersma.

Of 17 penguin species, 12 are experiencing rapid population declines. The least concern is for the emperor, king, Adélie, little blue and chinstrap penguins, she said. All the rest are nearly threatened, threatened or endangered, she said.

"Penguins are having trouble with food on their wintering grounds and if that happens they're not going to come back to their breeding grounds," she said.

"If we continue to fish down the food chain and take smaller and smaller fish like anchovies, there won't be anything left for penguins and other wildlife that depend on these small fish for food."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/4602789/AAAS-Pollution-over-fishing-and-climate-change-turning-penguins-into-long-distance-commuters.html>

Tropical fish swimming north because of global warming

Tropical fish are heading towards the cooler waters of the North Pole, according to the results of a new study on the impact of climate change on fish.

The Telegraph (2)

By Louise Gray, Environment Correspondent

Last Updated: 8:06AM GMT 13 Feb 2009

Scientists looked at the likely impact of a warming climate on the distribution of more than 1,000 species of fish around the globe.

They found fish will shift their distribution by an average of more than 40km each decade. While some fishing grounds will become richer, many species in cooler climates will go extinct.

Developing countries in the tropics will suffer the biggest loss as their fish swim north to cooler waters with Nordic countries, such as Norway, ending up with the lion's share.

The study, published in the journal Fish and Fisheries, found by 2050 the North Sea will see a 10 per cent increase in the number of plaice from Southern Europe – but will lose 20 per cent of the current Atlantic cod population.

Dr William Cheung, of the University of East Anglia, based the model on the predictions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for temperature rises over the next century.



Tropical fish: Fish will shift their distribution by an average of more than 40km each decade Photo: GETTY

"Our research shows that the impact of climate change on marine biodiversity and fisheries is going to be huge," he said.

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

"For example, we can use our knowledge to improve the design of marine protected areas which are adaptable to changes in distribution of the species."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/4604439/Tropical-fish-swimming-north-because-of-global-warming.html>

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