Fall in Fish Catch Threatens Human Health

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The World Is Running Out of Fish Faster Than We Thought

Death of coral reefs could devastate nations
As studies predict that vital coral reefs are headed for extinction worldwide, experts say hunger, poverty, and political instability could ensue.
By Brian Skoloff, AP | MARCH 26, 2010

Global warming could cause fishing to decline by millions of tons each year, study says
The San Diego Union-Tribune

Global Fisheries’ Sunken Billions
February 14, 2017
THETIS: Tracking Health and Ecosystem Transformation in the Seas
CHANGE IN MAXIMUM FISH CATCH POTENTIAL
2041-2060 relative to 1981 – 2000

Cheung et al. update of IPCC (2014) AR5 WGII
Why Is Fish Nutritionally Important?

Fish: Nature's superfood

- Vitamin A
- Omega-3 fatty acids
- Vitamin D
- Vitamin B12
- Zinc
- Iron
- Selenium
- Calcium
- Iodine
- Protein
Three Typologies

Unaffected wealthy nations

Increasing undernutrition

Acceleration of nutrition transition
Nutrition: Fall in fish catch threatens human health


In the low-latitude developing nations, human nutrition is most dependent on wild fish, and fisheries are most at risk from illegal fishing, weak governance, poor knowledge of stock status, population pressures and climate change. These countries urgently need effective strategies for marine conservation and fisheries management to rebuild stocks for nutritional security.

In Bangladesh, much farmed high-value fish is exported to wealthier nations. Smallholder systems, including fish farmed in flooded rice fields, have improved local food security.

In developing small island states of the Pacific, wild fisheries will move poleward because of a rise in sea temperature, and aquaculture in deltas and floodplains will be affected by rising sea levels.

Projected percentage change in maximum marine catch potential by 2050 relative to 2000 levels:

- <=20%
- -20% to 0%
- 0% to 20%
- >20%

Troubled Waters

Most reliant on fish and most vulnerable to micronutrient malnutrition

Reliant on fish and vulnerable to micronutrient malnutrition

Less reliant and less vulnerable

No data
Aquaculture is Insufficient
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