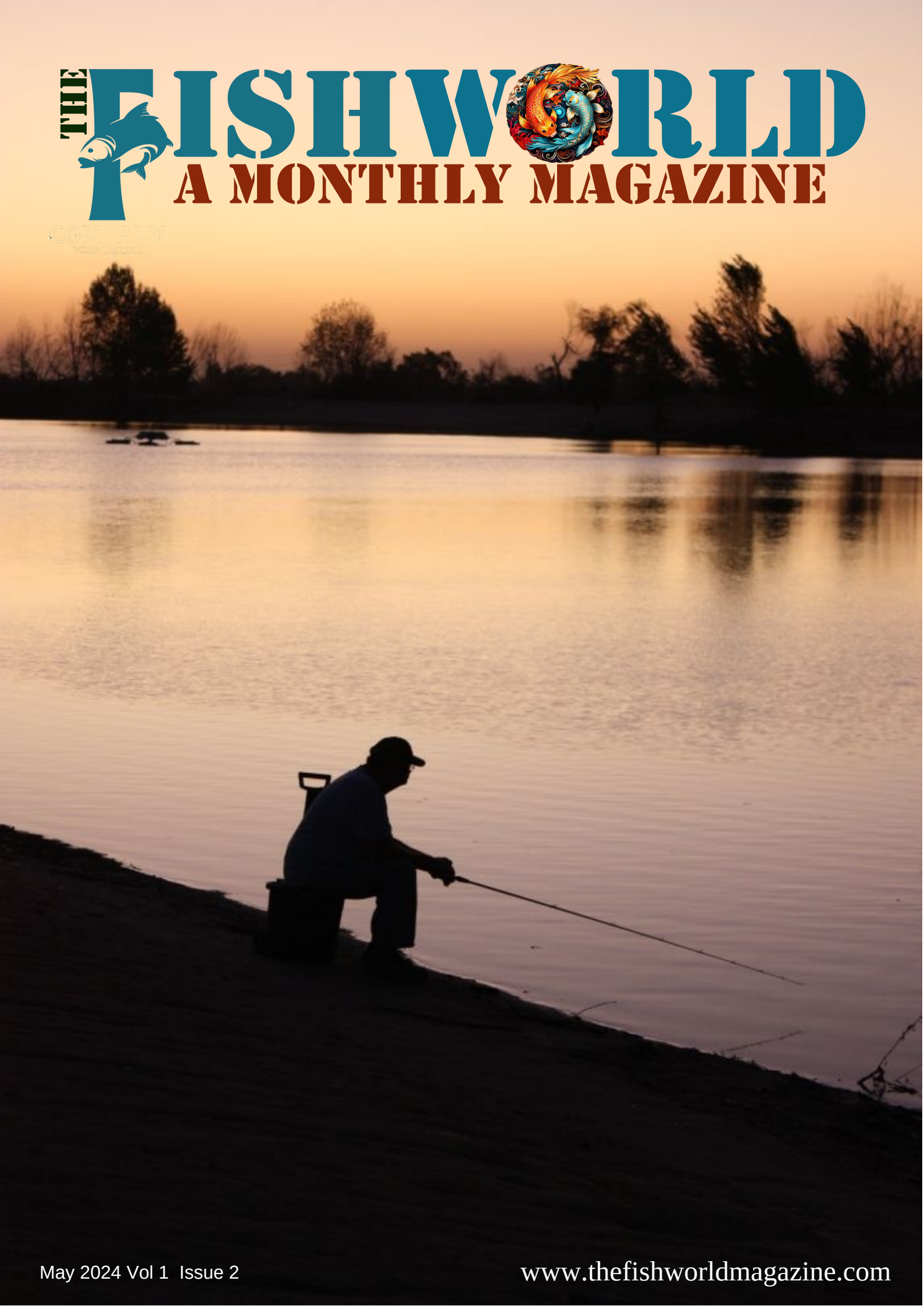
THE FISHWORLD

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE



May 2024 Vol 1 Issue 2

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The Fishworld, a monthly magazine, established in january 2024,encompasses an interdisciplinary approach to exploring fish biology,fisheries, and aquaculture. Recognized for its dissemination of high-profile studies, the publication embraces a broad perspective within the field.

Within the pages of Fishworld, readers will encounter significant synoptic papers,syntheses, and meta-analyses authored by leading experts. These contributions shed light on current research and emerging trends across various domains, including fish palaeontology, molecular biology, ecology, genetics, biochemistry, physiology, behavior,evolutionary studies, conservation, as well as the socio-economic and policy dimensions of fisheries.

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About The Editor

Dr. S. Prakash

The editor in chief of this current issue of "FishWorld," Vol. 1 Issue 2, is Dr S. Prakash: A Leading Expert in Marine Biotechnology

Dr. S. Prakash, an esteemed Assistant Professor at the Tamilnadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, brings over a decade of expertise in marine biotechnology. With a robust academic background and an impressive portfolio of over 40 research papers published in prestigious international and national journals, Dr. Prakash is dedicated to advancing the sustainable use of marine resources and innovative biotechnological applications. Join us in welcoming Dr. Prakash, a distinguished scientist and educator, as he leads this edition with his vast knowledge and insight into the fascinating world of marine biotechnology.

Environment Day special: Preserving Our Marine Environment for a Sustainable Future

As we celebrate Environment Day, it is crucial to highlight the importance of our marine environments. Covering over 70% of the Earth's surface, oceans are vital for biodiversity, climate regulation, and supporting economies. However, they face significant threats from pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Conservation efforts, such as establishing Marine Protected Areas, promoting sustainable fishing, and reducing plastic pollution, are essential. This Environment Day, let's commit to actions that protect our oceans and ensure a sustainable future for all.

Contact for more details:

Managing editor
Dr Shaikh Nasrul Islam PhD
Contact: 8264935634
thefishworldmagazineindia@gmail.com

Editor In Chief (Current Issue)
Dr. S. PRAKASH, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph. D
Institute of Fisheries Post Graduate Studies (IFPGS)
Tamilnadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University
OMR Campus, Vaniyanchavadi, Chennai

About The Editor

Durgesh Kumar Verma completed their *B.F.Sc. & M.F.Sc.* in Fisheries Resource Management from the *Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology*, Kumarganj Ayodhya UP- 224229, India. He has authored several *popular articles, booklets, leaflets, review articles, research papers, chapters, and edited books* published in several journals. He is an active member of the *Professional Fisheries Graduates Forum* (*PFGF*), ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Education is Deemed a university and institution of higher learning for fisheries science in Mumbai, India, *Aqua Star Magazine Cold-Water Fisheries Society of India*, ICAR- Directorate of Cold- W a t e r Fisheries Research, Anusandhan Bhawan, Bhimtal-263136, Nainital, Uttrakhand, India, *Journal Fisheries and Life Science* published by the Society of Fisheries and Life Sciences, College of Fisheries, Mangaloure-57500, Karnataka, *Chronicle of Aquatic Science*, *International Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Research, International Academy and Science and Research* West Bengal, *Trends in Bioscience Journal*, An Official Journal of Dheerpura Society for Advancement of Science and Rural Development, Bhopal-462001, Madhya Pradesh, *North East for Fisheries and Aquaculture (India)*, College of Fisheries, Central Agriculture University, Lembucherra, Agartala, Tripura, Pin-799210. He was awarded the *Best Poster Presentation Award*, *Young Scientist Award*, and *Young Professional Award* in the ' Seminar on " Ecology Vs Economic Development with special reference to the Ganga Basin" (NEED-2013) to be held at ICAR-CIFRI, Regional Center Prayagraj, Department of Zoology, Nehru Gram Bharti (Deemed to be University), Prayagraj, Kalash Research & Welfare Society, Prayagraj UP. from 25-26 February 2023. He was awarded the *Junior Researcher award* at the International Conference on “Aquatic Resources and Sustainable Management” on 30th August at the ICAR-CIFRI Auditorium, Barrackpore, West Bengal, in the presence of dignitaries. He is working in ICAR-CIFRI, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh (211002), as a research scholar. He has experience of more than 2 years in the field of fishery research.

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Durgesh Kumar Verma
ICAR- CIFRI, PRYAGRAJ
Uttar Pradesh (211002)
Mobile Number: *8004537335, 9616310405*
Email: *durgeshkumarverma4@gmail.com*

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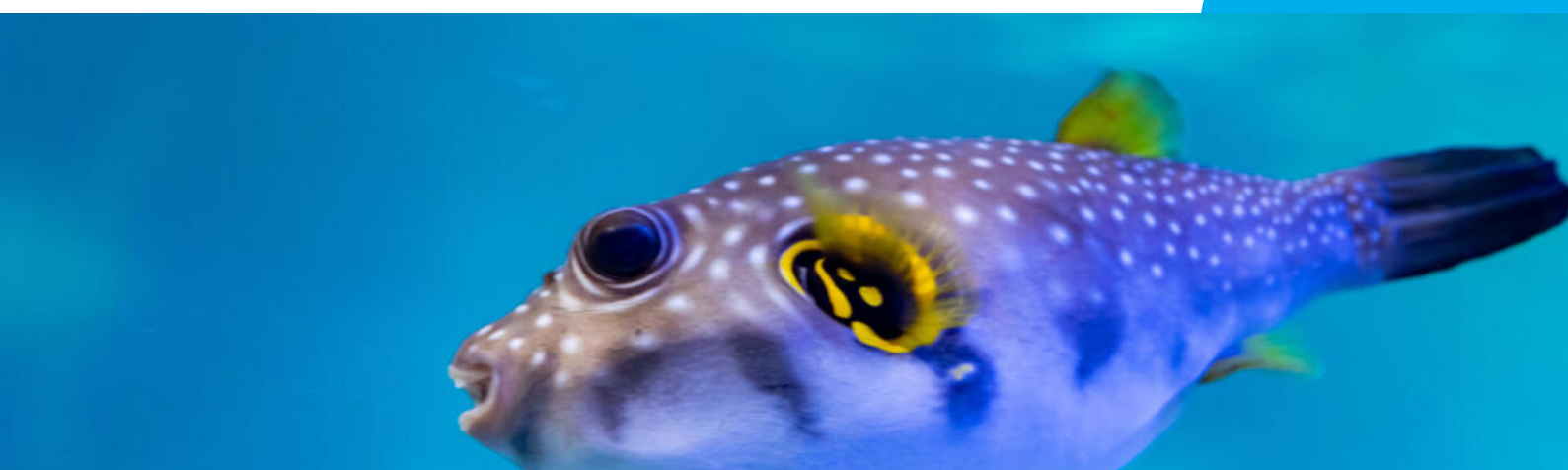

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Popular Article

Climate Change and the Marine Life

Amitava Paul[1], Deep Shikha[2*], Indica Sharma[2]
[1] Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Pathology, IIVER, Bahu Akbarpur, Haryana, LUVAS, 124001, India.
[2 & 3] Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, IIVER, Bahu Akbarpur, Haryana, LUVAS, 124001, India.
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1. INTRODUCTION

The ocean is our planet's largest ecosystem, containing somewhere from 50-80% of all life on Earth. It provides us with more than half of the world's oxygen and is home to millions of species that play critical roles in their marine ecosystems. And this is just the species we know about, as experts estimate that over 90% of the species in our oceans are yet to be classified. The ocean also plays an important role in the wider health of the planet as it is estimated that the ocean has sequestered 29% of the world's carbon emissions and holds roughly 42 times more carbon than the atmosphere, showing its importance as a carbon sink. Climate change and human caused threats like ocean noise pollution, vessel strikes, and entanglement in fishing gear are threatening the lives of marine animals, while wasting water, overuse of plastics, and irresponsible travel cause direct harm to the ocean.

Climate change is one of the serious contemporary environmental challenges in present day. Global warming is one of the serious manifestations of climate change. It has serious effects on the ecosystem. Global warming refers to the rise in the earth's normal atmospheric heat that leads to analogous alterations in climate (World Wildlife Fund). There has been a significant increase in the emission of toxic gases,

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such as carbon dioxide and methane in the twentieth century.

Thus, human activities that generate carbon dioxide are one of the main causes of global warming. Toxic gases have obliterated the ozone layer. The destruction of the ozone layer has led to the exposure of the earth to harmful radiation from the sun. Emission of toxic gases into the atmosphere also leads to the creation of a shield around the globe, which traps heat inside the earth. Accumulation of heat leads to global warming, which affects the environment and living organisms.

An increase in air temperature is harmful to ocean life. Increase in temperature reduces water density and affects the cold layer of water that contains nutrients, which living organisms consume. The heating up of the oceans affect the availability of food for marine life. Additionally, oceans are becoming more acidic due to increasing temperatures. According to new study creatures which live deep beneath the ocean surface are likely to be badly hit by climate change over the next century.

This article discusses about causes and impacts of climate change on ocean life and proposes measures to prevent the destruction of ocean life.

2. FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change refers to a considerable and long-term transformation in the numerical distribution of weather conditions. The earth's climate has been changing rapidly due to the following factors. First, the varying intensity of radiation from the sun leads to the heating and cooling of the earth's surface. This process leads to climate change. Second, oceans influence climate change since they contain carbon dioxide.

When carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere, it warms the environment. Oceans accumulate high amounts of warmth. Thus, a slight change in sea currents can greatly affect coastal climate. Therefore, the movement of ocean currents affects climate in several parts of the earth (World Wildlife Fund). For example, when the sea currents move towards the continent of America, it becomes warm since the currents contain heat.

Third, plate tectonic forces can trigger the movement of continents to various points on the earth. These movements lead to volcanic eruptions and the formation of mountains. This process can lead to a significant change in the climate. Lack of vegetation cover exposes the earth's surface to a lot of heat, thereby leading to global warming.

All these factors lead to substantial changes in weather patterns. Nonetheless, the interaction of these factors has a significant effect on climate change. For instance, "a change in one of these factors leads to more changes in others".

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3. THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON OCEAN LIFE

a. Photosynthesis

Photosynthesis is the process by which plants in the ocean access nutrients. For example, plants such as algae cannot survive in the ocean environment without photosynthesis. The process of photosynthesis eliminates carbon dioxide from the air and transforms it into natural carbon and oxygen, which plants use to process food.

Research findings suggest that phytoplankton thrives better in cool oceans. However, due to rising sea temperatures, phytoplankton is likely to reduce significantly (Center for Ocean Solutions). In addition, algae are being depleted because their production has been affected by excess heat in the oceans.

The rising temperatures in the oceans hinder the upward flow of nutrients from the seabed to the water surface. Thus, marine life cannot get enough organic gases such as carbon and oxygen. The depletion of sea plants leads to a shortage of food for aquatic animals. In addition, it reduces the supply of the aforementioned organic gases in the oceans. Consequently, depletion of food and oxygen negatively affect the survival of aquatic life.

b. Annual Growth Sequence

Plants and marine creatures require a balanced amount of temperature and light to survive. The ability of organisms such as phytoplankton to grow depends on the temperature of the ocean. An increase in temperature interferes with the growth cycle of phytoplankton by making it grow faster than usual. The life cycle of organisms, whose growth is facilitated by light, always begin at the same time.

Therefore, the rising temperatures in the oceans have affected the harmonious growth of light-driven organisms. Growth irregularities interfere with the marine food chain. For instance, some organisms that once moved to the water surface to feed are now encountering serious challenges due to deficiency of nutrients.

c. Migration of Ocean life

Some aquatic creatures have begun migrating to safer zones due to unbearable ocean temperatures. Most of the affected organisms are either moving to the east or to the west coasts depending on the conditions that they need to survive. Organisms that can withstand high temperatures such as shrimps are moving northwards. On the other hand, organisms that are vulnerable to high temperatures are receding southwards.

This relocation will result in a unique mix of creatures in new surroundings. Ultimately, the feeding patterns will change. Organisms that will not be able to adapt to the new environments will

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eventually become extinct. Death of some creatures will lead to an imbalance in the ocean bionetwork.

d. Loss of biomass

There is a direct link between climate change and the loss of life on the sea floor. The surface-dwellers will themselves be threatened by a dwindling nutrient supply, triggered by climate impacts such as the slowing of the circulation of the world's oceans and increased separation between layers of water – known as stratification – as a result of warmer and rainier weather. The changes in seafloor communities are expected despite the fact that they live on average four kilometres beneath the ocean surface.

The study, by an international research team from the UK, Canada, Australia and France, is the first to quantify future losses in deep-sea marine life, using advanced climate models. The researchers say their results show that even the most remote deep-sea ecosystems are not safe from the impacts of a warming world. They say the weight of the marine creatures that will be lost is greater than the combined weight of every person on Earth.

The scientists predict that seafloor-dwelling organisms will decline by over five per cent globally and by 38% in the North Atlantic over the next century. This is because there will be a reduction in their food source, the plants and animals living at the ocean surface which nourish deep-sea communities when they die and sink to the depths. The changes will vary across the world, but most areas will experience damage. Over 80% of all identified key habitats – such as cold-water coral reefs, seamounts and canyons – will suffer losses in total biomass.

e. Acidification

The high concentration of carbon dioxide in the sea affects the concentration of chemicals, which leads to acidity in the ocean. Increase in acidity hinders plants from consuming greenhouse gases. For instance, phytoplankton is being depleted due to high levels of acidity (Center for Ocean Solutions). Acidity in the sea also affects the survival of aquatic creatures. For example, excess carbon dioxide concentration has affected marine organisms such as shellfish and corals, which are likely to become extinct in the next few decades.

Coral reefs are arguably one of the most significant aspects of the marine ecosystem because they provide food to many organisms in the sea. Due to global warming, coral reefs have been ravaged seriously by excess accumulation of toxic gases and heat in the oceans. Generally, coral generates minute crusts of calcium carbonate to facilitate the creation of its skeleton.

Increased acidification neutralizes the carbonate ions. This process retards the growth of coral reefs. Consequently, reduction of coral reefs will eventually lead to depletion of food in the marine

ecosystem. Depletion of food will lead to starvation and death of some organisms.

f. Coral Bleaching

Coral bleaching refers to the breakup of the symbiotic association between coral and marine plants such as algae. This process is caused by warmth and increased the concentration of carbon dioxide, which breaks the bond between coral reefs and plants. Corals become weak once algae are detached from them. Destruction of algae and corals disrupts the marine food chain. Thus, many organisms cannot access food. Reduction in the availability of food leads to a decrease in the ocean floor biomass. Due to the limited availability of food, sea creatures reduce in size since they cannot get enough food and organic gases.

Organisms that inhabit deep waters are the most affected since they do not access food easily. Scientists have observed that in the future, there will be massive loss of biomass in the oceans if the coral reefs are destroyed. Nonetheless, "in the Southern and Arctic Oceans of the polar regions, seafloor biomass is expected to increase; however, this will not be sufficient to counterbalance the negative effects felt elsewhere" (National Geographic).

g. Holocene Climatic Optimum

"The Holocene Climatic Optimum refers to a general warming period in the history of mankind that occurred between 9000 to 5000 B.P" (Center for Ocean Solutions). Scientific evidence indicates that there was a serious climatic change during this period, which led to the extinction of many creatures and plants. For example, an important plant species called younger days was depleted gradually due to increase in temperature. The pattern of depletion of coral reefs and marine plants is similar to that of younger days. Depletion of important resources will lead to serious effects in the ecosystem.

In the Polar Regions, global warming has led to an increase in the melting of ice. The reduction of ice will affect the production of some species of algae, which thrive in cold conditions. Algae are the basic sources of food in the Arctic food chain. Therefore, thousands of organisms in the Polar Regions cannot survive without algae. The cold temperature in the Arctic is suitable for many animals, such as polar bears and narwhals.

However, an increase in temperature in the Polar Regions leads to the melting of ice in the ocean, which in turn reduces the growth of algae and creates food shortages. Moreover, "reduction of ice in the sea results in the loss of vital habitats for seals, walruses, polar bears, penguins, and whales in both the Arctic and Antarctic".

"Sea ice is a critical habitat for Antarctic krill, which is a source of food for many seabirds and

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mammals in the Southern Ocean" (Conservation International). Unfortunately, there has been a considerable reduction in the number of Antarctic krill due to an increase in the melting of ice in the sea.

h. Effects on Human beings

Although humans are not part of the marine ecosystem, a drastic change in the ocean environment affects them because they also feed on some marine organisms. "A small increase of two degrees Celsius would destroy almost all existing coral reefs". Furthermore, changes in ocean flow due to an increase in temperature would seriously affect marine fisheries.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above discussion, various factors have led to global warming. However, human activities are the main causes of high temperatures in the ocean. For instance, many people still use fossil fuels, which generate toxic gases that destroy the oceans. Therefore, the reduction of carbon emissions is the best solution to the current challenge of global warming, which has led to the obliteration of marine life. In this case, the use of clean sources of energy should be encouraged to prevent further destruction of the environment.

Second, research that is more scientific should be carried out to find out the extent to which ocean life has been destroyed by high temperatures. Research activities are important because they will help in the formulation of evidence-based solutions to the current global warming. Additionally, resources should be mobilized to facilitate rehabilitation and protection of ocean life because they are important in the ecosystem.

5. CONCLUSION

This discussion has revealed that climatic changes have led to an increase in global warming, which has seriously affected the entire ecosystem. Currently, the temperature is increasing rapidly in the oceans due to the accumulation of gases. Therefore, global warming is becoming a big challenge in the marine environment because it leads to depletion of food and organic gases. The primary sources of food for marine life such as coral reefs and algae are being destroyed at an alarming rate by the high temperatures in the sea. The destruction of primary food producers in the oceans will lead to significant changes in the marine food chain. For example, many sea creatures have started moving away from their original habitats because they are looking for better environments. Moreover, the amount of biomass in the oceans will reduce drastically in the next few years due to the depletion of food resources. Consequently, drastic measures should be taken to save the oceans from further destruction because they greatly influence changes in climate.

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Oceans cover more than 70% of the planet and are home to important species and ecosystems that we rely on for food, livelihoods, climate regulation and more. But the oceans need our help. Saving the oceans can sometimes feel like an overwhelming task, but if we all pitch in, we can make a big difference. Our actions have an impact, and together, we can build a healthier future for the ocean.

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Popular Article

Marine Ecosystem and Life-Threatening Pollutants

Deepika[1], Vaibhav Mahilang[2], Mangesh M Bhosale[3]
[1]LSPN, College of Fisheries, Kawardha, CG
[2]Wageningen, University and Research, Netherland
[3]Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha

Introduction

The marine ecosystem, the largest on Earth, covers 70% of the planet's surface and houses the majority of its living species. It contributes 50% of Earth's oxygen. According to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), approximately 242,000 marine species have been identified as of 2022, with an average of 2,332 new species discovered annually. However, human activities pose significant threats to marine life, primarily through noise pollution, various forms of contamination and climate change. Overfishing, oil spills, plastic pollution, agricultural runoff, personal care products, prescription drugs, military sonar, deep-sea mining and industrial waste are major contributors to these threats.

Major Threatening Pollutions and pollutants

Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution is a growing concern, predicted to outweigh all fish in the oceans by 2050. Annually, 19–23 million tonnes of plastic waste enter aquatic ecosystems, equivalent to 2,000 full garbage trucks daily. Marine species suffer from entanglement, ingestion, and toxic contamination, with over 100,000 marine mammals and over a million seabirds dying annually. Microplastics are found in all sea turtle species and in two-thirds out of 100 research papers on fish and plastic ingestion across 500 fish species.

Plastic Type	Description	Risks
Macroplastics	Plastics > 20 mm, such as fishing equipment, six-pack rings, and plastic bottles	Entangle and trap fish and marine mammals, causing malnutrition, injuries, and increased susceptibility to predators. Broken coral reefs hinder growth.
Mesoplastics	Plastics 5 to 10 mm, including pellets and pieces of larger polymers that have broken apart	Accumulate on the water's surface, mistaken for food by seabirds and marine life, leading to poisoning, asphyxia, and hunger.
Microplastics & Nanoplastics	Plastics < 5 mm, including microscopic	Easily ingested by wildlife, toxins

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	particles (e.g., granules in toothpaste and face washes), textile microfibers, and disintegrating larger plastics	absorbed by them can be transferred to fatty tissues of organisms. Long-term effects unknown due to recent discovery.

Agricultural Runoff

Agriculture, which uses 70% of global water, releases large amounts of organic waste, salty drainage, agrochemicals, and drug residues into water bodies. These pollutants pose risks to human health, aquatic ecosystems, and productive activities. Non-point source pollution from agricultural runoff is particularly challenging to control.

Personal Care Products

Cosmetics contain bioactive ingredients like polymers and preservatives that persist in the environment. Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) include non-biodegradable chemicals, contributing significantly to pollution. These chemicals enter treatment facilities, landfills, and the environment, causing long-term ecological harm.

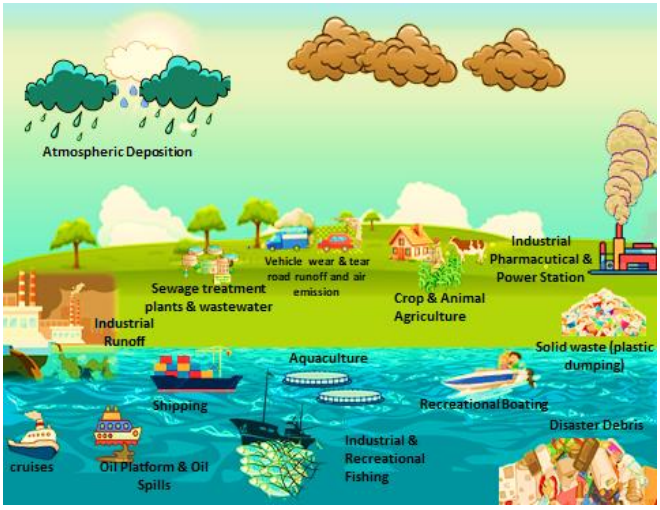
Prescription Drugs

Pharmaceuticals, essential for human health, pose rising threats to marine habitats. Contaminants from unused medications flushed or washed down drains and from pharmaceutical manufacturing plants enter waterways. These pollutants pass through water treatment facilities, affecting marine life. A recent comprehensive three-year investigation underscored the severity of pharmaceutical contamination in marine environments, revealing the presence of up to 17 different prescription medications in a single bonefish and detecting 58 distinct pharmaceuticals across a sample of 93 bonefish.

Major threats in marine system

Overfishing

Overfishing depletes breeding populations, threatening species like sharks and rays. Despite the significant employment in the fishing industry, overfishing persists due to inadequate regulation and



control. Overfishing disrupts ecosystems, such as coral reefs, and leads to issues like eutrophication. The Mediterranean Sea is a major hub for industrial fishing operations, with approximately 100,000 fishing vessels operating annually. Overfishing is a significant concern, with at least 75% of fish populations in this region being overexploited—a figure that escalates to 93% within European Union waters. Consequently, fish populations in the Mediterranean have plummeted by one-third.

Bluefin tuna, a highly prized species, has been particularly affected by overfishing, nearing extinction in the Mediterranean. Similar trends have been observed in the Pacific Ocean, where the bluefin tuna population has also been severely depleted.

Overfishing not only threatens individual species but also poses a grave risk to coral reef ecosystems. It disrupts the ecological balance, leading to the decline of various marine animals. For instance, overfished species like Baltic cod, which prey on sprat, create an imbalance. Sprat, a small fish that feeds on zooplankton, proliferates when cod populations dwindle. This imbalance reduces zooplankton numbers, which in turn allows algae to flourish unchecked. The resulting algae blooms lead to eutrophication, causing oxygen depletion in the water and the formation of "dead zones," areas where marine life cannot survive.

Military Sonar

Military sonar, used for testing, training, and navigation, disrupts marine life behavior, potentially causing harm or death. It can prevent whales from vocalizing and foraging, leading to starvation. Sonar

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has also been linked to widespread whale and dolphin strandings.

Deep-Sea Mining

Deep-sea mining involves dredging the ocean floor to collect minerals, destroying habitats of coral, sponge, and other marine life. It also affects unique species around hydrothermal vents and generates sediment clouds that can spread and harm marine ecosystems.

Oil Spills

Oil spills harm marine life, contaminate seafood, and spoil recreational areas. They cause physical damage and oil toxicity, leading to serious health issues for marine organisms. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill, the largest in US history, highlighted the long-term impacts of oil spills on marine environments.

Climate Change

Climate change significantly impacts marine life and ecosystems, causing warming oceans, rising sea levels, increased floods and droughts, and ocean acidification. The ocean absorbs 30% of carbon emissions and 91% of the heat from greenhouse gas emissions, leading to detrimental effects like the "deadly trio" of ocean acidification, sea warming, and deoxygenation.

Ocean Noise

Noise pollution from shipping, military activities, oil rigs, and seismic surveys threatens marine biodiversity. Noise interferes with marine species' communication, leading to behavioral changes and reduced commercial catches. It affects human food chains and increases bycatch. A 2018 study demonstrated that noise pollution can reduce commercial fish catches by up to 80%, as larger fish tend to avoid areas with elevated noise levels. Additionally, acoustic disturbances increase bycatch and reduce fish abundance. This noise pollution not only disrupts marine behavior but also affects human food chains.

Industrial Waste

Industrial waste, including chemicals, heavy metals, and sewage, alters ocean ecosystems, promoting algal blooms and causing health and reproductive issues in marine species. Radioactive waste from nuclear power plants and hazardous chemicals like DDT contribute to long-term ecological damage.

Mitigation Approaches for Pollutants

1. **Reduce Plastic Production and Waste**
   Implementing policies to limit plastic production and promoting alternatives can reduce the influx of plastic into marine ecosystems. Encouraging recycling and supporting innovations in biodegradable materials are crucial steps.
1. **Improve Wastewater Systems**
   Upgrading wastewater treatment facilities to filter out pharmaceuticals and other harmful chemicals can prevent contaminants from reaching marine environments. Implementing stricter regulations on industrial discharge is also essential.
2. **Utilize Environmentally Friendly Products**
   Promoting the use of eco-friendly personal care products and cosmetics that do not contain harmful chemicals can reduce pollution. Labels should provide information on environmentally persistent compounds, allowing consumers to make informed choices.
3. **Reduce Chemical Pollutants**
   Enforcing regulations on agricultural runoff and industrial waste can mitigate the entry of harmful chemicals into water bodies. Encouraging sustainable farming practices and proper disposal of pharmaceuticals can also help.
4. **Control Oil Spills**
   Developing better technologies and protocols for preventing and responding to oil spills can minimize their impact. Regular inspections and maintenance of oil drilling platforms and transportation systems are critical.
5. **Cleanups of Rivers and Beaches**
   Organizing and supporting community clean-up efforts for rivers, beaches, and other coastal areas can help remove accumulated waste. These initiatives raise public awareness and encourage responsible behavior.

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6. **Tracking and Evaluating Performance**
   Implementing systems to monitor pollution levels and the effectiveness of mitigation measures can guide policy adjustments. Regular assessments ensure that strategies remain effective and adapt to emerging challenges.
7. **Promoting Sustainable Fishing Practices**
   Establishing and enforcing sustainable fishing regulations can prevent overfishing. Supporting aquaculture and alternative livelihoods for fishing communities can reduce pressure on marine resources.
8. **Enhancing Industrial Pollution Control**
   Stricter regulations on industrial emissions and waste disposal can mitigate pollution. Encouraging industries to adopt cleaner technologies and practices is essential for long-term sustainability.
9. **10. Raising Public Awareness and Education**
   Educating the public about the impact of their actions on marine ecosystems can foster a culture of environmental stewardship. Campaigns and educational programs can empower individuals to contribute to conservation efforts.

Conservation Acts for Marine Systems

Numerous international and national regulations aim to protect marine ecosystems. These include the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and various international conventions like UNCLOS and CITES. Effective implementation and enforcement of these laws are critical to safeguarding marine biodiversity. The list of major Acts:

- The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, establishes a framework of laws to safeguard different kinds of wild animals and plants, manage their natural habitats, and regulate and control the trade in wild animals, plants, and products derived from them.
- The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 is a comprehensive legislation dealing with merchant shipping in India
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1976) - Governs marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters.
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972) - Protects all marine mammals within the waters of the United States.
- Endangered Species Act (1973) - Protects threatened and endangered species and their habitats.
- Clean Water Act (1972) - Regulates discharges of pollutants into U.S. waters and quality standards for surface waters.
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act (1972) - Establishes and manages marine sanctuaries to protect significant marine environments.
- Coastal Zone Management Act (1972) - Provides the framework for states to manage coastal resources, including the Great Lakes.
- Ocean Dumping Act (1972) - Regulates the dumping of material into the ocean and authorizes related research.
- Coral Reef Conservation Act (2000) - Provides for the conservation and protection of coral reefs.
- Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act (1984)- Implements international conservation measures for marine living resources in Antarctica.
- Shark Finning Prohibition Act (2000) - Prohibits the practice of shark finning in U.S. waters.
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982) - Establishes legal framework for marine and maritime activities.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992) - Aims to conserve biological diversity, including marine biodiversity.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1973) - Regulates international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants.

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- International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946)- Establishes the International Whaling Commission to regulate whaling and conserve whale populations.
- Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (1982) - Protects marine life in the Southern Ocean.
- MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) (1973/1978) - Aims to prevent pollution from ships caused by operational or accidental causes.
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) (2001) - Focuses on conserving albatross and petrel species by coordinating international action.
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (1979) - Aims to conserve migratory species across their migratory ranges.

Conclusion

Mitigating the threats to marine ecosystems is an imperative that demands a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. The complexity of marine pollution and its wide-ranging impacts on biodiversity necessitate coordinated efforts across policy-making, technological advancement, and public engagement.

1. **Policy Changes:** Enforcing stringent regulations on pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction is essential. International cooperation through treaties and conventions, such as UNCLOS and CITES, provides a framework for protecting marine biodiversity. National laws, including the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, must be rigorously implemented and periodically updated to address emerging threats.
2. **Technological Innovations:** Investing in advanced wastewater treatment facilities can significantly reduce the flow of harmful chemicals and pharmaceuticals into marine environments. The development of eco-friendly materials, such as biodegradable plastics, can mitigate the impact of plastic pollution. Technologies for early detection and rapid response to oil spills and other marine disasters can minimize long-term ecological damage.
3. **Public Engagement:** Raising awareness about the consequences of marine pollution and overfishing is crucial. Educational programs and public campaigns can foster a culture of environmental stewardship. Community involvement in clean-up efforts and sustainable practices can lead to significant positive changes.
4. **Sustainable Practices:** Promoting sustainable fishing methods and alternative livelihoods for fishing communities can alleviate the pressure on marine resources. Encouraging the use of environmentally friendly personal care products and responsible disposal of pharmaceuticals can reduce the introduction of harmful substances into the ocean.
5. **Conservation Efforts:** Protected marine areas and sanctuaries play a vital role in conserving biodiversity. Effective management of these areas, along with restoration projects for damaged ecosystems, can help maintain the ecological balance. International efforts, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, underscore the global commitment to preserving marine life.
6. **Research and Monitoring:** Continuous research is necessary to understand the long-term effects of pollutants, such as microplastics and pharmaceuticals, on marine life. Monitoring pollution levels and assessing the effectiveness of mitigation strategies can guide policy adjustments and ensure that efforts remain impactful.

By addressing the root causes of pollution, implementing sustainable practices, and fostering global cooperation, we can protect the marine ecosystem and its diverse species. This collective action is not only vital for the health of our oceans but also for the well-being of future generations who depend on the myriad benefits provided by a thriving marine environment.

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- Streptococcus iniae: Can infect humans through cuts on the skin, causing fever and lymphatic inflammation, posing a risk especially to those handling fish.

Viruses:

- Noroviruses: Lead to acute gastroenteritis when people consume contaminated fish and shellfish.
- Hepatitis A virus: Causes liver inflammation through consumption of contaminated fish, leading to symptoms like jaundice, fever, and abdominal pain.
- Fungi: While less studied, zoonotic fungal transmission from fish poses a growing concern due to its potential public health impact.

Parasites:

- Metacercariae: Found in fish muscles, these parasites can cause severe health problems like pancreatitis, chronic liver disease, and cholangitis in humans who consume them.

Zoonotically Infected Fish

Healthy-looking fish do not guarantee they are disease-free. Signs to watch for in fish potentially harboring zoonotic pathogens include:

- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Bulging eyes
- Enlarged abdomen
- Skin discoloration or ulcers
- Difficulty swimming

Climate Change and Foodborne Zoonotic Diseases

Climate change disrupts ecosystems and alters food production practices, potentially increasing the risk of fish-borne zoonosis. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events can impact the virulence, distribution, and prevalence of pathogens in food.

Foodborne Zoonotic Diseases and Food Security

Foodborne zoonotic diseases threaten global food security and safety. Factors like poverty, unstable food supplies, and increased human-wildlife interaction can contribute to the emergence and spread of these diseases.

Food System Approaches to Control

Implementing robust food system controls is crucial for mitigating the risk of fish-borne zoonosis. These measures include:

- Maintaining hygiene practices and separating healthy from diseased animals at farms and processing facilities.
- Implementing biosecurity measures like vaccinations and proper animal housing.
- Proper handling and storage of fish after slaughter.
- Educating producers and consumers about safe food handling practices.

Biosafety and Biosecurity Measures

Effective risk assessment, surveillance programs, and rapid response protocols are essential for managing fish zoonosis threats. These measures involve:

- Scientifically based risk assessments.
- Comprehensive surveillance throughout the food chain.
- Utilizing risk-based control strategies, with stricter measures in high-risk areas.

Route of Transmission

Fishborne zoonosis can occur through various routes, with the most common being:

- Oral: Consumption of contaminated fish (64% of transmission cases).
- Skin contact: Through cuts or abrasions exposed to infected fish (23%).
- Water: Contact with contaminated water (19%).

Organizations Monitoring Fish Zoonosis

Several international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), recognize the importance of addressing fish zoonosis. The WHO's One Health program established the Zoonoses Technical Working Group (ZTWG) to manage zoonotic diseases.

Conclusion

Fish zoonosis presents a multifaceted and growing public health concern that demands immediate and coordinated action. The rising incidence of zoonotic diseases from fish underscores the critical need to integrate human, animal, and environmental health approaches, encapsulated in the One Health framework. This

approach is essential for effectively preventing, detecting, and responding to zoonotic diseases that traverse the human-animal-environment interface. The variety of pathogens harbored by fish—including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites—pose significant health risks to humans, especially those involved in handling, processing, or consuming fish. Notably, pathogens such as Mycobacterium species, Brucella spp., Aeromonas sp., and Salmonella spp. have demonstrated the potential to cause severe health conditions ranging from skin infections and gastroenteritis to systemic and potentially life-threatening illnesses. The silent nature of these infections in apparently healthy fish exacerbates the challenge, necessitating vigilant monitoring and control measures.

Climate change further complicates this scenario by altering the dynamics of ecosystems and food production systems. The resultant increase in the virulence, distribution, and prevalence of pathogens due to rising temperatures and extreme weather events calls for adaptive and resilient strategies in food safety and public health practices.

The impact of fishborne zoonotic diseases on global food security and safety is profound. Economic instability, poverty, and increased human-wildlife interaction amplify the risk of disease emergence and spread. To mitigate these risks, robust food system controls must be established, including stringent hygiene practices, biosecurity measures, proper handling and storage protocols, and comprehensive education for producers and consumers on safe food handling practices.

Biosafety and biosecurity measures are indispensable for managing fish zoonosis threats. Effective risk assessments, continuous and extensive surveillance programs, and rapid response protocols form the backbone of a proactive defense against zoonotic outbreaks. These measures should be based on scientific evidence and tailored to address the specific risks identified through thorough monitoring of the food chain.

Transmission pathways of fishborne zoonosis highlight the need for multiple preventive strategies. The predominance of oral transmission through the consumption of contaminated fish, along with significant risks from skin contact and exposure to contaminated water, underscores the importance of comprehensive safety measures across all stages of the food supply chain.

International collaboration and coordination are crucial in addressing fish zoonosis. Organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) play a pivotal role in recognizing and managing these threats through initiatives such as the One Health program and the Zoonoses Technical Working Group (ZTWG). These entities provide a platform for sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices to tackle zoonotic diseases effectively.

In conclusion, addressing fish zoonosis requires a multifaceted approach that combines robust food system controls, enhanced biosafety and biosecurity measures, and improved public awareness. By fostering international collaboration and leveraging scientific advancements, we can mitigate the risks associated with fishborne pathogens, ensuring a safer food supply and protecting public health. Continued research and investment in understanding the zoonotic potential of fish and developing effective prevention strategies are imperative for a sustainable and health-secure future.

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Popular Article

The Coral Reef: A Vital Element of Marine Ecosystems

Damini Sharma[1], Yamini Baghel[1], Gunjan Patil[2], Amit Dixit[1], Sagar Tiwari[1]
[1]College of Forestry and Research Station, MGUVV, Sankara, Patan, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India, 491111
[2]Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India, 495001
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Abstract

A vital part of marine life, coral reefs are responsible for the beauty of the rich and varied marine ecosystem. Photosynthetic algae and shallow water corals, which form reefs, have a mutually beneficial relationship. In addition to their stunning aesthetic value, coral reefs also protect coastlines, support commercial fisheries, and create habitats for a diverse range of marine organisms. The current worldwide challenges of climate change and global warming make conservation measures urgently necessary since they put organisms in danger of being exploited. An overview of the significance of coral reefs for marine life is given by the study.

Introduction

The vibrant and diverse marine ecosystem owes its beauty to the presence of Coral Reefs, a crucial component of marine life. Coral reefs are intricate ecosystems that flourish in marine environments, but their existence is jeopardised by several reasons. Shallow water corals that produce reefs have a mutually beneficial connection with photosynthetic algae known as zooxanthellae, which reside inside their tissues. The coral offers a sheltered habitat and the necessary components for the zooxanthellae to carry out photosynthesis. The algae reciprocally generate carbohydrates that the coral use as nourishment, along with oxygen. The algae also help the coral in eliminating waste. Because both partners get advantages from their interaction, this kind of symbiosis is referred to as mutualism.

In order to thrive, coral reefs need pure and unpolluted water. This is because corals rely on sunlight for photosynthesis, making clear water a crucial requirement. Corals may be adversely affected by pollutants and silt. Optimal temperature range: Corals have evolved to thrive within a stable temperature range of 64-82°F/18-28°C. Elevated temperatures may induce bleaching and mortality. Salinity: Corals need a consistent salinity level of 35-37 parts per thousand (ppt). Corals may experience stress due to fluctuations in salinity. Water circulation: Corals need a mild water flow to facilitate the transport of nutrients and oxygen. Corals need a well-balanced nutritional intake, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and iron. Restricted sedimentation: An overabundance of silt may suffocate corals. Corals depend on a

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wide variety of marine organisms, such as fish, crabs, and mollusks, to preserve the equilibrium of the ecosystem. Minimal pollution: Corals are susceptible to pollutants, including plastics, chemicals, and heavy metals. Nevertheless, the actions of humans and the impacts of climate change are progressively jeopardizing the life of coral reefs, hence necessitating the implementation of conservation measures.

Corals possess some intriguing characteristics that make them fascinating. Coral polyps consume plankton and small fish by using stinging cells in their tentacles. Coral cells have a symbiotic interaction with algae, which is characterized by reciprocal benefits. The microscopic algae reside inside the coral's cells and use sunlight to provide nourishment for the coral, serving as an additional energy source. Certain corals possess the inherent ability to produce fluorescent pigments, which can manifest in a diverse range of colors. It is believed that the fluorescent molecules could serve a protective role in safeguarding coral from UV and intense light. Corals exhibit limited mobility. While adult corals are often sessile, meaning they are permanently connected to the ocean bottom, coral larvae have the ability to swim. During coral reproduction, they expel both sperm and eggs into the surrounding water. Upon the union of eggs and sperm, fertilization occurs, resulting in the formation of minuscule coral larvae capable of swimming. The larvae have the ability to use ocean currents for transportation. Once they locate a suitable habitat, they will descend and affix themselves to the seabed, where they will develop into a new coral colony.

Coral reefs provide a multitude of advantages to people, such as: Shoreline protection: Reefs serve as innate obstacles, safeguarding coasts from erosion and the destructive effects of storms. Coral reefs have a crucial role in supporting commercial fisheries, serving as an essential source of sustenance and financial resources for millions of people. Leisure: Coral reefs provide prospects for engaging in snorkeling, diving, and several other leisure pursuits. Cultural importance: Reefs possess a profound spiritual and cultural value for several populations, serving as a foundation for cultural legacy and identity. Coral reefs provide substantial economic advantages by generating billions of dollars each year via activities such as tourism, fishing, and other sectors. In general, coral reefs provide important ecological services and economic advantages, making it crucial to conserve them for the well-being of humans and the promotion of sustainable development.

Human activities have a substantial influence on coral reefs, resulting in: Habitat loss occurs as a result of coastal development, dredging, and building activities, which cause damage or complete destruction of coral ecosystems. Overfishing: The act of fishing with too much intensity and using methods that cause harm, leads to the depletion of fish populations and

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damages coral reefs. Pollution: Terrestrial pollutants, such as fertilizers and sewage, harm coral reefs and marine organisms. Climate change leads to elevated temperatures, resulting in coral bleaching, ocean acidification, and heightened disease occurrence. Sedimentation: Activities occurring on land contribute to the accumulation of sediment, which covers corals and decreases the amount of light they get. Over-tourism has detrimental effects on coral due to careless snorkeling and diving practices, as well as habitat loss caused by the growth of tourist infrastructure. Coral mining is the extraction of coral for the sake of building and decoration, resulting in the devastation of coral habitats. Shipping and transportation: Groundings of ships and oil spills have a detrimental impact on coral reefs. Coastal pollution, such as plastic waste, oil spills, and other forms of pollution, have detrimental effects on coral reefs and marine organisms. Insufficient preservation: Insufficient safeguarding and administration of coral reefs impede conservation efforts. The actions of humans have caused substantial deterioration of coral reefs, resulting in the destruction of around 30% of existing reefs and posing a danger to an additional 60%. It is essential to mitigate these effects in order to save coral reefs for future generations. Over the last four decades, the amount of coral in the Caribbean has declined by over 80%, as reported by Gardner et al. in 2003. Similarly, in the Indo-Pacific area, the coral cover has been decreasing at a rate of one to two percent per year between 1997 and 2003, according to the same study. According to Van Hooidonk et al. (2013), it is expected that these patterns of losses would rise. Nevertheless, it is projected that global temperatures will increase by 2–4.5 °C by the year 2100. This indicates that by 2050, there will likely be a significant increase in the occurrence of yearly coral bleaching occurrences (Mulhall, 2004). Habitat degradation has a direct impact on the abundance and diversity of coral reef fish and animals (Jennifer et al, 2024).

What would be the consequences of the absence of coral reefs? Presumably, you have already surmised that this "what if" inquiry is not only an exaggerated situation. The dangers posed to our coral reefs are undeniably genuine. Here is a potential depiction of a world in their absence: A quarter of marine organisms would lose their home. Coral reefs are often referred to be the 'rainforests of the sea' for a specific reason. Although they occupy less than 1% of the ocean, they serve as crucial habitats for 25% (equivalent to one fourth) of the whole marine ecosystem. There are more than 1 million species that inhabit and rely on coral reefs worldwide. The reef is crucial for the survival of these critters since it offers vital nourishment, protection, and a suitable environment for their species to reproduce. The disappearance of their habitats would have a profound negative impact on marine biodiversity. Furthermore, in a cascading manner, many fish, turtles, and other organisms would vanish.

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In order to prevent the loss of coral reefs, one effective approach is to establish and enforce marine protected areas (MPAs) with the aim of minimizing human activities that have a negative influence on these ecosystems. Enforce sustainable fishing methods and establish regulations for fishing limits. Minimize terrestrial contamination by using effective waste management and farming techniques. Contribute to the restoration of coral reefs by providing assistance to coral nurseries and participating in reef rehabilitation projects. Advocate for eco-tourism strategies that uphold conservation efforts and minimize harm to coral reefs. Promote knowledge and awareness on the significance and perils facing coral reefs. Provide assistance to research and monitoring initiatives aimed at enhancing understanding and effective management of coral reefs. Minimize carbon emissions to alleviate the effects of climate change on coral reefs. Implement coastal management strategies aimed at mitigating sedimentation and pollution. Provide assistance to conservation organizations and programmes that are dedicated to preserving coral reefs. Utilize mineral sunscreen- over 14,000 tonnes of sunscreen are introduced into the ocean each year? Moreover, a significant portion of the sunscreen contains detrimental compounds that have adverse effects on the reproductive cycle of corals, cause DNA damage, and exacerbate the consequences of coral bleaching. To maintain the health of reefs, it is advisable to use mineral sunscreen with non-nano Titanium Dioxide or Zinc Oxide as the primary active component. Furthermore, it is important to note that sunscreen has the potential to disperse into our water systems and ultimately reach the seas, regardless of one's proximity to the water. Therefore, it is crucial to not just use sunscreen at the beach, but also in other settings. By implementing these measures, we may mitigate the devastation of coral reefs and save these crucial ecosystems for future progeny. Keep in mind that even the smallest actions have an impact, and when people work together, they can make a substantial contribution to the preservation of coral reefs.

Conclusion

Coral reefs serve a crucial function in marine ecosystems by providing protection to coasts from storms and erosion. Furthermore, it generates employment for the surrounding community and provides avenues for recreational activities. When discussing ethical worth, it is important to recognize that every creature have the right to exist on the planet. Humans are responsible for the degradation and potential extinction of coral reefs due to their disregard for the values that sustain them. The exquisite ingenuity of nature is gradually being marred and undermined by significant problems caused by human activities. Therefore, it is imperative to prioritize the conservation and preservation of the magnificent creatures of the natural world, since we cannot disregard the vibrant diversity of marine life.

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Popular Article

Turtles And Tourism: Threats And Opportunities

Yamini Baghel[1], Damini Sharma[1], Amit Dixit[1], and Sagar Tiwari[1]
[1] College of Forestry and Research Station, Mahatma Gandhi University of Horticulture and Forestry, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India
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Abstract

Tourism has a detrimental effect on the hatching of turtles, particularly in coastal areas. Hatchling loss may occur due to noise, pollution, and habitat modification. Anthropogenic activities, such as the emission of excessive noise and artificial light, may harm the reproductive success of some sea turtle species. Turtles may be discouraged from nesting on the coast due to excessive noise and bright lighting, which might disturb their normal behaviour and have possible long-term effects on their population by confusing and potentially disastrous outcomes for hatchlings. Conservation initiatives include strategies such as beach management, promoting ecotourism, establishing protected areas, and reducing artificial lights. Implementing beach management plans and educating visitors about nesting places and proper behaviour is essential to save these fragile species. Conducting research and engaging in community involvement is crucial for implementing sustainable practices and conserving habitats. Monitoring programs and studies are essential for comprehending turtle populations and adopting measures to reduce their impact.

Keywords: Turtle nesting, Anthropogenic disturbance, conservation activities

Introduction

Tourism and turtles are closely connected, especially in coastal regions where sea turtles are a significant attraction. However, the relationship between tourism and turtles can be beneficial and detrimental, depending on how it is managed. Tourism may substantially affect turtle hatching, often causing harm, particularly for sea turtles that rely on beaches for nesting. Tourism may disturb the delicate process of turtle nesting and hatching due to the presence of visitors, infrastructure development, and different tourism-related activities. The influence of tourism on turtle hatching is substantial and complex, including both immediate and indirect consequences on the nesting and hatching processes. This extensive investigation incorporates citations to scientific research and conservation initiatives to provide a thorough comprehension.

Several significant factors directly impact the phenomena of turtle hatching, including the presence of visitors on beaches, particularly at night, which might disrupt nesting females,

leading to the abandonment of nesting efforts or the selection of less-than-ideal nesting locations. The noise and lights generated by resorts, beach parties, and other human activity might cause nesting females to get disoriented and discourage them from coming ashore. Engaging in beach activities like sunbathing, strolling, and leisure activities might unintentionally damage nests or compress the sand, creating obstacles for hatchlings to come out. Utilising mechanical beach cleaning methods to preserve tourist sites might result in the destruction of nests or the vulnerability of eggs to predators and environmental conditions. Maloriented hatchlings are at a higher risk of perishing due to desiccation, predation, or vehicular collision. Pollution, trash, and debris scattered on beaches may impede hatchlings' journey to the sea and raise the probability of them being entangled or ingesting dangerous substances. Discharge from coastal resorts may introduce detrimental chemicals into the sand and water, impacting the well-being of eggs and hatchlings.

In addition to the direct effects on turtle hatching, several indirect influences also substantially influence this phenomenon. One such impact is habitat alteration due to coastal development, which encompasses building hotels, restaurants, and other services. This may result in the loss and deterioration of turtle habitats. Dune systems and vegetation that serve as natural barriers to safeguard nesting locations may be annihilated. Urbanisation often expedites the process of beach erosion, diminishing the nesting environment and heightening the vulnerability of nests to being carried away.

Moreover, dogs, raccoons, and birds on the beach increase predation, resulting in higher egg and hatchling predation rates. Tourism's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions exacerbates global warming and fuels climate change. Elevated temperatures may impact the proportion of male and female hatchlings (known as temperature-dependent sex determination) and raise the chances of nests being too hot.

The significance of turtles in the marine ecosystem has led to an increased need for conservation efforts. This can be achieved by implementing and enforcing beach management plans that regulate beach activities. One crucial step is to restrict access to nesting sites during critical periods. In addition, nocturnal restrictions limit beach access and reduce the use of artificial illumination at night during the nesting and hatching seasons. Following that, there is a focus on promoting environmentally friendly tourism through educational initiatives and raising awareness. This includes educating tourists about the significance of nesting sites and encouraging responsible behavior. These efforts promote ecotourism practices with minimal adverse effects on natural habitats, such as organising guided turtle watches led by trained professionals. Designing nesting beaches as protected areas and implementing controls or

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prohibitions on human activity is crucial for protecting habitats in protected areas. In addition to these restoration initiatives, we are actively involved in habitat restoration projects aimed at reconstructing and preserving natural dune systems and vegetation. Implement measures to decrease the use of artificial illumination, such as enforcing lighting regulations that mandate the installation of turtle-friendly lights on premises located along the shore. Employing shielded lighting fixtures positioned away from the beach reduces the likelihood of hatchlings being disoriented. Participation in community activities, such as engaging with local initiatives and engaging local people in conservation endeavors, helps guarantee the implementation of sustainable tourist practices and the safeguarding of habitats through volunteer programs aimed at the surveillance and preservation of nesting locations. In addition, conducting research and monitoring efforts are necessary to comprehensively comprehend the effects of tourism on turtle populations and evaluate the efficacy of mitigation measures. Furthermore, it is crucial to establish monitoring programs to accurately track the success of nesting and survival rates of hatchlings.

The Impact of Human Presence on Nesting Sea Turtles According to research conducted by Weishampel et al. in 2003, it has been found that human activities can have a negative impact on the nesting success of certain species. How Noise and Lights Affect Nesting Sea Turtles Bright lights and loud noises can significantly impact female sea turtles' nesting habits. Resorts, beach parties, and other human activities that generate excessive noise and bright lights can deter these turtles from coming ashore to nest. This disturbance disrupts their natural nesting behavior and can have long-term consequences for their population. Artificial lighting has been found to have a negative impact on nesting turtles and hatchlings, causing them to become disoriented and stray from their intended path towards the ocean. This issue was highlighted in a study by Witherington and Martin in 2003. The Impact of Recreational Activities on Nesting Sea Turtles A groundbreaking study conducted by Bagarinao in 1998 shed light on the unintended consequences of tourist activities on the destruction of nests.

Artificial lighting significantly threatens hatchlings, leading to disorientation and potentially fatal consequences. The bright lights emanating from beachfront properties can confuse these young turtles, causing them to veer off course and head towards the light instead of their natural destination - the sea. This phenomenon disrupts their instinctual behavior and puts them at risk of becoming disoriented and vulnerable to predators. It is crucial to address this issue and find ways to mitigate the negative impact of artificial lighting on these delicate creatures. According to a study conducted by Salmon in 2003, certain factors can significantly increase the vulnerability of specific individuals to predation, dehydration, and mortality.

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Hatchlings that become disoriented due to the presence of artificial lights frequently meet unfortunate fates, such as succumbing to dehydration, falling victim to vehicular accidents, or becoming easy targets for predators. Research has revealed a concerning rise in hatchlings that do not survive due to light pollution, as indicated by a study conducted by Witherington and Bjorndal in 1991.

Trash and debris on beaches can pose a severe threat to hatchlings. It can block their path to the sea and increase the chances of them getting entangled or ingesting harmful materials. This pollution issue is a cause for concern and needs to be addressed. Plastic waste is a significant danger to turtles of all ages, from hatchlings to fully grown adults, according to a study conducted by Schuyler et al. in 2014. Beachfront resorts and their environmental impact have been a cause for concern in recent years. One of the significant issues is the introduction of harmful chemicals into the sand and water through runoff. This chemical pollution has been found to have a negative effect on the health of eggs and hatchlings, as highlighted in a study by Ramos et al. in 2002.

The surprising effects of turtle hatching are that the construction of hotels, restaurants, and other facilities negatively impacts the natural habitats in coastal areas, leading to the loss and degradation of these critical ecosystems. According to a study by Klein et al. in 2007, the destruction of natural dune systems and vegetation can harm nesting sites and reduce the availability of habitats for nesting. The impact of development on our beloved beaches cannot be ignored. Unfortunately, the presence of development tends to speed up the process of beach erosion. This diminishes the nesting habitat for various species and puts their nests at a higher risk of being washed away. It is a concerning issue that demands our attention. Research has extensively examined the effects of coastal armoring and erosion on nesting habitats, as highlighted in a study conducted by Fish et al. in 2005. Engaging in tourist activities can draw predators like dogs, raccoons, and birds to the beach, resulting in higher predation rates on eggs and hatchlings (Engeman et al., 2003).

Also, the rise in tourism has been linked to the release of greenhouse gases, which are significant contributors to the ongoing climate change crisis. A study conducted by Fuentes et al. in 2009 revealed an interesting phenomenon - the impact of rising temperatures on the sex ratio of hatchlings and the increased risk of nest overheating. This temperature-dependent sex determination has significant implications for the survival and reproduction of various species.

Implementing and enforcing beach management plans can play a crucial role in safeguarding turtle nests during critical periods, as Patino-Martinez et al. (2012) suggested. Protecting Beach Wildlife: Restricting beach access and reducing artificial lighting at night

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cannot be overstated during nesting and hatching seasons. Research has revealed the impressive impact of these measures in decreasing the confusion experienced by young hatchlings (Tuxbury & Salmon, 2005).

Educating tourists about the significance of nesting sites and fostering responsible behavior is crucial. According to a study conducted by Campbell and Smith in 2006, campaigns and guided tours can raise awareness and garner support for conservation efforts. These initiatives have proven effective in engaging the public and educating them about protecting our environment. By organizing campaigns and offering guided tours, organisations can effectively communicate their message and inspire individuals to take action toward conservation. This research highlights the potential impact of such initiatives and emphasises the need for continued efforts in this direction. Uncover the incredible world of ecotourism and its positive impact on our natural habitats. Join expert guides on thrilling turtle watches that provide economic benefits and ensure the protection of these magnificent creatures (Garrod & Wilson, 2003).

By designating specific nesting beaches as protected areas where human activities are carefully regulated or even prohibited, we can ensure the preservation of these crucial habitats. Marine-protected areas (MPAs) have proven to be successful in certain areas, according to a study conducted by Gerber et al. in 2003. Engaging in habitat restoration projects can have a positive impact on nesting habitats. These projects enhance these habitats by rebuilding and maintaining natural dune systems and vegetation (Mazaris et al., 2009).

One effective way to reduce the negative impact of artificial lighting is by implementing lighting ordinances. These ordinances can require beachfront properties to use turtle-friendly lighting, which has been shown to reduce significantly disorientation among turtles (Witherington & Martin, 2003). Discover the effective technique of using shielded lights directed away from the beach to protect nesting turtles and hatchlings, as Salmon (2003) suggested.

By actively involving the local communities in conservation efforts, we can foster sustainable tourism practices and safeguard precious habitats. Community-based conservation has been proven to yield positive results in various regions, as demonstrated by Frazier's research in 2005. Establishing volunteer programs for monitoring and protecting nesting sites can provide valuable support for conservation efforts, according to a study by Campbell and Smith (2006). These programs offer a way for individuals to get involved and make a difference in preserving these crucial habitats. Organisations can tap into a passionate and dedicated workforce to help monitor and protect nesting sites by engaging volunteers. This collaborative

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approach enhances conservation efforts and raises awareness about the importance of these sites and the need to protect them. Volunteer programs have the potential to significantly impact the conservation of nesting sites and contribute to the overall preservation of biodiversity.

Research and monitoring play a vital role in understanding the effects of tourism on turtle populations and evaluating the success of mitigation strategies. Ongoing studies are essential for adaptive management, allowing us to make informed decisions based on scientific research (Mazaris et al., 2009). Implementing monitoring programs to track nesting success and hatchling survival rates can provide valuable insights for conservation strategies, according to a study by Eckert and Hemphill (2005)

Visakhapatnam, a coastal city in Andhra Pradesh, is renowned for its picturesque beaches, which serve as vital breeding habitats for Olive Ridley turtles. Nevertheless, tourism in Vizag has substantial effects on the hatching of turtles. Direct consequences include the disruption of nesting females, physical harm to nests, and pollution. Indirect consequences include habitat modification, depletion, beach degradation, heightened predation, and climate change. Some mitigation techniques are the regulation of beach activities, the promotion of eco-friendly tourism, the establishment of protected zones, and the reduction of artificial lights.

Eco-friendly tourism includes activities promoting knowledge and consciousness about the significance of nesting sites, eco-tourist projects, and the preservation of habitats. Preserving natural habitats via protected areas and restoration initiatives may effectively maintain crucial ecosystems. Additionally, implementing lighting laws that mandate the use of turtle-friendly lights will significantly decrease the occurrence of turtle disorientation. Active participation of the community in conservation initiatives, including local engagement and volunteer programs, may guarantee the implementation of sustainable tourism practices and the preservation of habitats.

Conducting research and monitoring is crucial for comprehending the effects of tourism on turtle populations and the efficacy of actions taken to reduce these effects. By adopting sustainable tourist practices, enhancing public awareness, and implementing specific conservation methods, it is feasible to reduce these adverse effects and save crucial nesting areas for future generations of sea turtles.

Conclusion

The effects of tourism on turtle hatching are far-reaching, with both direct and indirect consequences. With the adoption and promotion of sustainable tourism practices, increased public awareness, and the implementation of focused conservation strategies, we can

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effectively reduce these impacts and safeguard crucial nesting habitats for the future of sea turtles. Collaboration is key for successful conservation efforts, bringing together tourists, local communities, researchers, and policymakers. While tourism can pose challenges to turtle conservation, strategic and responsible tourism practices can mitigate these impacts and even support conservation efforts. Tourists, local authorities, and conservation organizations must work together to ensure that tourism activities do not harm these vulnerable marine creatures.

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Popular Article

Inland Fisheries: Balancing Environmental, Economic, and Social Impacts

[1]Vivek Chauhan, [2]Arya Singh, [1]Shyni K
[1]Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi, 682506, Kerala
[2]ICAR – Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, 400061, Maharashtra

Introduction

The Lakes, streams, rivers, reservoirs, canals, and other land-locked waterways are all considered inland waters by the Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nation (UN). Although the term "inland" is typically associated with freshwater, landlocked saltwater bodies like the Caspian Sea are included in the category of inland waterways (FAO, 2014a). Roughly 0.01% of all the water on Earth is contained in inland waterways (Stiassny, 1996). Fish that live in these waters are inland. They include around 20% of all vertebrate species and 40% of all fish species (Helfman et al. 2009). The capture and aquaculture of inland fish species for consumption, profit, or leisure are also considered forms of inland fisheries. Because maritime fisheries record harvests that are around seven times greater than inland catches, marine fisheries sometimes overshadow interior fisheries in assessments of global fishing operations (FAO 2014b). However, a wide range of data points (consumption studies, for example) indicate that inland fisheries harvests are often either completely unreported or wildly underreported, particularly when one takes into account the high level of craft or small-scale fisheries (i.e., existence and native enterprise) in inland waters (Hortle, 2007). Including both capture and aquaculture fisheries, inland fisheries provide more than 40% of the world's total production for both types of finfish fisheries (excluding those involving vegetation wildlife, crustaceans such as snails, and mussels; FAO-FIGIS 2014). Just a third of the inland fishing economies even report catch data, according to (FAO, 2010).

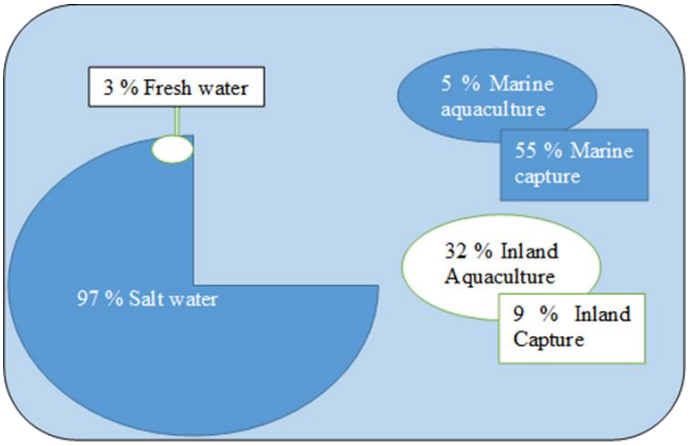

Fig. 1. Contribution of each of the four types of finfish production to global finfish production in 2012 (FAO-FIGIS 2014).

Why Inland Fisheries is Important?

Importance of Inland Fisheries to the Individual

Worldwide, inland fisheries support millions of people while offering food for billions of people (FAO 2014b). The significance of inland fisheries to a country's economic and nutritional security depends on that country's level of economic and social growth, which is frequently greater in developing and rising countries. Inland

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fisheries are important for both nutritional and financial stability since they are the primary source of animal protein, essential nutrients, and revenue (Welcomme et al. 2010). When possibilities in other industries are few, inland aquaculture and capture fisheries can provide individuals with possibilities for empowerment via food and cash.

Importance of Inland Fisheries to the Society

Worldwide, inland fish and fisheries play a significant role in communities. Inland fish have special significance and play a role in defining communal identities in many cultures (Weeratunge et al. 2014). Furthermore, they support worthy entertainment endeavors worldwide as well (Cook and Cowx 2004). Advances in preventing illnesses and medical studies that enhance human health and well-being are made possible by the development of inland fish species, like larvivorous fishes and pharmacological model organisms. Furthermore, inland fishery management offers chances for capacity building and information transfer between democratic jurisdictions (UNU-INWEH 2011).

Importance of Inland Fisheries to the Environment

Nearly every inland environment on the planet is home to inland fish species (Dudgeon et al. 2006). These inland fishes are additionally used as indicators of changes in ecological function (Allan, 2004).Furthermore, many inland aquaculture and capture fisheries operations might be acknowledged as significant to the "green food" movement because to their low environmental effect.

Table. 1. The value of inland fisheries to the individual, society, and the environment by the numbers.

The significant role of inland fisheries	**Relevant data**
Value to the Individual	
Food Safety	• Low-income countries with food shortages account for 80% of the total estimated harvest through inland capture fisheries (Kapetsky, 2003). • For instance, 50% of Bangladesh's animal protein intake comes from fish (Thilsted et al 1997).
	• Protein, omega-3 fatty acids, calcium, vitamin A, B, & D, zinc, iron, and lysine are all found in inland fish (Roos et al. 2007; Youn et al. 2014).
Financial Stability	• Inland capture fisheries employ a minimum of twenty-one million fishermen (or 36 percent of all fishermen worldwide), while more than 36 million more depend on post-harvest activities for a living (FAO 2014b).
Development	• More than 60 million individuals in low-income countries depend on inland fisheries for their livelihoods, with women making up over fifty percent of those participating in inland fisheries transportation networks (FAO 2014b).
Value to the Society	
Ethnic activities	• Some kinds of fish may develop symbolic meaning beyond their nutritional value, such as the lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) in the Laurentian Great Lakes or the koi (*Cyprinus carpio*) in eastern Asian culture (Harris et al. 1989).
Services for Pleasure	• According to Poe et al. (2013), fishing for pleasure in the Laurentian Great Lakes has a yearly net worth of up to US$1.47 billion.
Human welfare and health	• Long-lived fish, such as the Arabian killifish (*Aphanius dispar*) and the western species of mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*), are frequently used to treat illnesses like malaria, dengue fever, and yellow fever. • After rats, zebrafish are perhaps the second most popular model in medicine and pharmacology (Lieschke and Currie 2007).
Information sharing and capability development	• Most among the worldwide 662 000 km2 of rivers and 5 000 000 km2 of inland lakes, as well as reservoirs, are home to inland fisheries (Verpoorter et al. 2014).
Value to the environment	
The purpose of ecosystems and	• About 20% of all species of vertebrates and 40% of all fish

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biodiversity	species are inland fishes, which inhabit all major inland aquatic environments (Helfman et al. 2009).
"Canaries" in the water	• According to Vörösmarty et al. (2010), inland fish serve as indicators of the consequences that climate change could have on individuals both currently and in the future, as human-made stressors account for 65% of the loss of habitat of these species.
"Green food"	• If inland fish are properly harvested or farmed, they can be considered as part of the "green agricultural" movement, which advocates for more environmentally friendly food supplies (Brown, 2002).

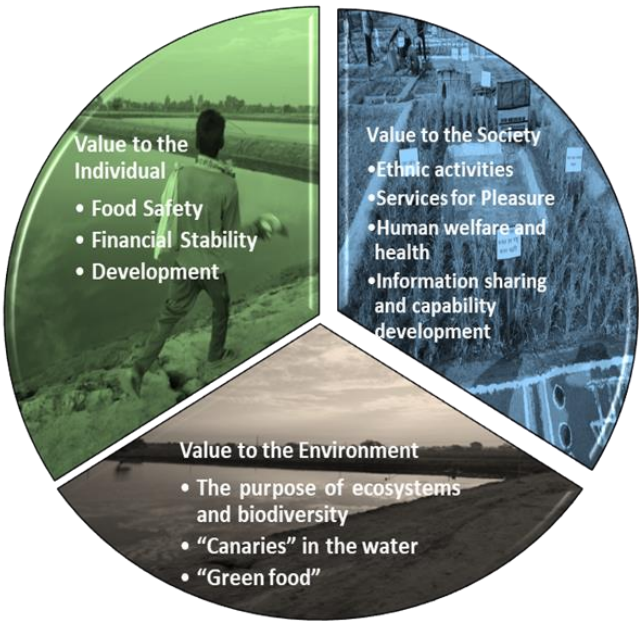

Fig. 1. Schematic visual showing the value of inland fisheries to people, the environment, and society.

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