

## **“Fishermen told to keep a watchful eye on the fishery”**

EAC releases brochure on fisheries and climate change

Cheticamp - The Ecology Action Centre has released a brochure for fishermen and fishery workers in Atlantic Canada to initiate discussion on climate change, its effects on the fishery and options for adaptation.

The brochure demystifies the scientific literature on climate change and its potential effects on the fishery. In particular how expected stressors will affect marine species and the fishing industry: increasing temperature, reduced salinity, a decrease in oxygen, increased acidity (ocean acidification), less sea ice and snow cover and rising sea level and storm surges. The brochure also touches on other stressors on the industry more or less directly connected to climate change (bait shortages, increasing fuel prices, decreasing profits and government cutbacks).

The fishing industry has a history of adapting to change and, examples of adaptation measures, taken by organizations such as the Gulf Nova Scotia Fishermen’s Coalition, are featured. “Start your adaptation research on what measures we’ve applied so far” was the advice given by Leonard LeBlanc on first meeting the research team over a year ago. “Harvesters need to start adapting to environmental changes. This does not require a massive change but rather continual monitoring and research programs” says LeBlanc.

What can fishermen do? A few recommendations are set out but first and foremost, conservation is essential – reducing stress on resources will ensure their survival through this period of change. Also important is to note changes and get involved in science: “Fishermen know their resources and their environment intimately, they are in the best position to observe changes”, says Brzeski.

The Centre has also started a blog at [www.climatefishblog.com](http://www.climatefishblog.com) to foster discussion on climate change and fisheries between fishermen and scientists.

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The resource booklet is available at:

[http://www.ecologyaction.ca/files/images/file/Coastal/CCCheticamp/Fisheries\\_Adaptation2013.pdf](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/files/images/file/Coastal/CCCheticamp/Fisheries_Adaptation2013.pdf)