

# Impact of fisheries allocation policies on projected climate change impacts

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## Introduction

Fishing communities often demonstrate strong social cohesion and a sense of camaraderie. Working together to harvest and process fish fosters a collective spirit and a shared responsibility for sustainable practices. These communities often participate in mutual aid and support during difficult times, fostering resilience in the face of challenges like natural disasters or market fluctuations. Additionally, fisheries can act as a catalyst for community development, attracting investment in infrastructure and social services, leading to improved living conditions and overall well-being. Marine ecosystems, including fisheries, have an essential role to play in climate change mitigation. Oceans act as significant carbon sinks, absorbing a considerable amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Restoring and protecting marine habitats, such as mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, can enhance this capacity, contributing to global efforts to combat climate change. Sustainable fisheries management that prioritizes ecosystem health is an essential aspect of this approach, ensuring the continued carbon sequestration potential of marine environments. In conclusion, securing the future of fisheries requires a collaborative effort. Policymakers, fishermen, scientists, and consumers must unite to strike a delicate balance that ensures both the health of marine ecosystems and the prosperity of coastal communities. By implementing sustainable practices, we can safeguard these precious resources and protect the rich biodiversity that sustains life in our oceans.

## Description

Unsustainable aquaculture practices can lead to environmental degradation, water pollution, and the spread of diseases among farmed fish populations. Furthermore, the reliance on wild-caught fish as feed for farmed fish perpetuates the pressure on global fish stocks, undermining the potential sustainability benefits of aquaculture. The drawbacks of fisheries extend beyond environmental concerns and also have profound social implications. Overfishing and mismanagement of

fisheries can lead to job losses and economic hardships for fishing communities heavily reliant on the industry. This can result in poverty, social unrest, and a decline in the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge associated with fishing. Moreover, in some regions, Illegal, Unreported, And Unregulated (IUU) fishing exacerbates these social issues by undermining legal fishing operations, evading regulations, and depriving legitimate fishermen of their livelihoods. IUU fishing often involves exploitative labour practices and contributes to food insecurity in vulnerable communities. While fisheries contribute significantly to global food security, unsustainable fishing practices can also jeopardize this crucial aspect. Overfishing and habitat destruction reduce fish populations, making it difficult for communities that rely heavily on seafood as their primary source of protein to access nutritious food. These challenges are particularly acute in developing countries where fish is a dietary staple, and fishing communities depend heavily on marine resources for sustenance.

## Conclusion

The drawbacks of fisheries highlight the urgent need for sustainable fishing practices and responsible resource management. Overfishing, bycatch, habitat destruction, climate change, and the social implications of unsustainable fishing practices require immediate attention and concerted efforts from governments, fishing industries, scientists, and consumers. By adopting ecosystem-based management, selective fishing gear, and stricter regulations, we can begin to address these challenges and pave the way for a future where fisheries and marine resources thrive in harmony with the natural world.

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