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ABSTRACT:

MEPS Marine Ecology Progress Series Contact the journal Facebook Twitter RSS Mailing List Subscribe to our mailing list via Mailchimp HomeLatest VolumeAbout the JournalEditorsTheme Sections MEPS 575:217-227 (2017) - DOI: https://doi.org/10.3354/meps12192 OPINION PIECENo future for Euro-Arctic ocean fishes? Jørgen S. Christiansen* Department of Arctic and Marine Biology, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, 9037 Tromsø, Norway *Corresponding author: jorgen.s.christiansen@uit.no ABSTRACT: In this essay, I outline how vanishing sea ice may unveil costs and benefits for fishes native to the Euro-Arctic seas. Most arctic fishes are not directly associated with the sea ice, but constitute an integral part of the seafloor biota. Arctic seafloor fishes may temporarily benefit from improved feeding conditions but may also lose to novel predators such as invading southern fishes and emerging industrial enterprises on the Arctic shelves. Polar cod Boreogadus saida, on the other hand, an abundant and prominent member of the ice-associated biota, uses sea ice as spawning substrate, shelter and feeding ground. Thus loss of sea ice likely has severe and explicit costs for this focal species with profound ecological consequences. Time series and biological baselines for arctic fishes are fragmentary at best. As I see it, we need to diagnose our ignorance and put the precautionary principle into full effect while awaiting for knowledge gaps to be filled. Here I offer a sneak peek into the future of ocean fishes in the Nordic Seas, primarily in the Arctic sector, with my opinion based on recent studies in Arctic marine ecology and climatology. KEY WORDS: Arctic fisheries · Boreogadus saida · Climate change · Euro-Arctic ocean fishes · Sea-ice loss Full text in pdf format PreviousCite this article as: Christiansen JS (2017) No future for Euro-Arctic ocean fishes?. Mar Ecol Prog Ser 575:217-227. https://doi.org/10.3354/meps12192 Export citation RSS - Facebook - Tweet - linkedIn Cited by Published in MEPS Vol. 575. Online publication date: July 20, 2017 Print ISSN: 0171-8630; Online ISSN: 1616-1599 Copyright © 2017 Inter-Research.

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