

Habitat Destruction

OCEANS

Fish are like money in the bank. If you overspend, soon you will have no money. If we overfish, soon we will have no more fish. Fishermen now have bigger boats than in the past and they can catch more fish, so the number of fish is going down. Many scientists want to reduce or stop fishing completely in many parts of our oceans so the number of fish can **recover**.

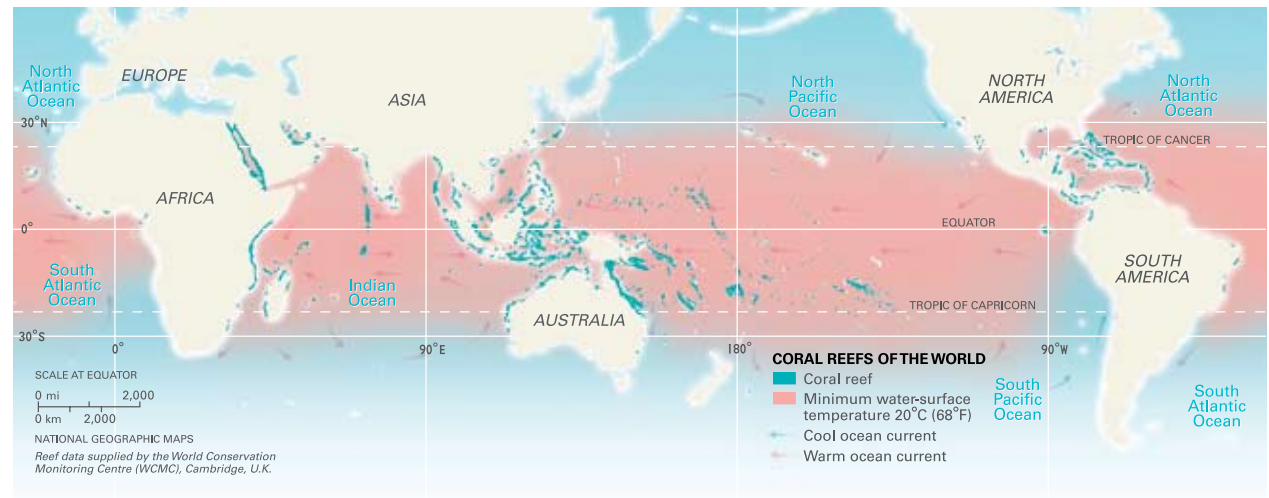


WETLANDS

Freshwater and saltwater wetlands remove pollutants and provide habitat for fish, birds, and other animals. Many people, especially in Southeast Asia, depend on wetlands for food.



One hundred thirty-two nations have signed the Convention on Wetlands. However, the results have been **disappointing**. From the Amazon Basin to Iraq, we are **draining** wetlands for agriculture, dams, and development. Scientists estimate that we have lost 50 percent of our wetlands in the last 100 years. If we continue, there will be no wetlands left in 100 years.



▲ coral reefs of the world

CORAL REEFS

A quarter of all animals that live in the sea live in coral reefs. They are the rainforests of the sea. However, we have lost 27 percent of our coral reefs in the past 50 years according to the Coral Reef Alliance. Why are they dying? Man—sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly—is the problem. Fishermen use **explosives** and **poison** to kill fish. They kill the fish but they also kill the coral. Ocean temperatures have increased due to climate change. Coral needs water to be at exactly the right temperature. If the water is too hot, the coral will die. So man's activities are indirectly killing the coral reefs.



▲ endangered coral reefs