

How Climate Change Is Causing Ocean Acidification

WHAT IS OCEAN ACIDIFICATION?

Ocean acidification is when oceans absorb human-made carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which dissolves into the water and forms carbonic acid. This lowers the ocean water's pH, making it too acidic.

WHY IS IT BAD?

1. Ocean acidification severely harms the marine ecosystem. For example, it negatively impacts shellfish and coral and it disrupts the senses and behavior of fish.
2. Ocean acidification is resulting in multimillion-dollar losses to local economies that depend on commercial fishing.
3. The more oceans acidify, the less carbon dioxide they can absorb. This means they are less able to attenuate climate change.

ARE THERE QUICK FIXES?

No. Neutralizing acids and ocean fertilization are two possibilities. But they have both negative and unknown consequences. Further research is needed.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We must reduce fossil fuel usage and deforestation so that less carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. Join organizations advocating for a transition to renewable energy and hold fossil fuel companies accountable.

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