

A hotter planet makes for hungry penguins

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Pelicans float near the Galapagos Islands. A new study says that the six ocean hot spots that have the biggest mix of species are among those getting hit hardest by global warming and industrial fishing. It's sort of like the targeting of the world's natural underwater super-zoos. Photo from: AP Photo/Kirsten Johnson, File.

The oceans are full of life. Some spots have more types of life than others. These are called "hot spots."

Scientists did a study. They found six big hot spots in the ocean. These spots have the most kinds of sea life in the world! They are like huge zoos underwater.

Hot Spots Are Home To Hundreds Of Creatures

Hundreds of different creatures live in the hot spots. This includes many types of fish. It includes sea birds and other sea life, too.

All six hot spots are near the equator. The equator is an imaginary line around Earth. It circles the middle of the planet.

Scientists were happy to find the hot spots. They learned something worrying, though. The hot spots are in danger. They are warming up. This is due to global warming. It puts sea life at risk.

Earth Is Heating Up

The Earth is getting hotter. Scientists say it is because of the fuels people use. People use fuel to drive cars. They also use it to light their homes.

Burning certain fuels creates greenhouse gases. These gases get trapped in the air above. They store heat. This makes the world hotter. It warms up the oceans, too. Warmer oceans can harm sea life.

Global Warming Hurts Sea Life

Andre Chiaradia is a scientist. He worked on the study. Chiaradia is also a penguin expert. He said global warming is already hurting sea life. The hot spots are starting to suffer.

Some penguins are suffering, too. The Galapagos penguin is one example. This penguin lives in the Galapagos Islands. They are near South America.



Hungry Penguins

The Galapagos penguin likes to eat krill. Krill is a small fish. It lives in cold water. The ocean carries krill to the islands. Then the penguins can gobble it up.

Now, though, the ocean is warming. Krill cannot live in warmer water. More are dying off.

That means the penguins do not have enough to eat. They are dying off, too. The Galapagos penguins are almost all gone.

Quiz

- 1 Read the summary below. Choose the answer that BEST fits into the blank to complete the summary.
- Scientists found six different 'hot spots' in the ocean. _____. The hot spots are in danger because the Earth is getting hotter.
- (A) They are like huge zoos underwater.
 - (B) Different species of fish live in the ocean.
 - (C) Andre Chiaradia is a scientist and penguin expert.
 - (D) The equator is an imaginary line around Earth.
- 2 Why are scientists worried about the Galapagos penguins?
- (A) Galapagos penguins cannot live in warm hot spots.
 - (B) Galapagos penguins are not getting enough food.
 - (C) There are too many Galapagos penguins.
 - (D) Global warming is caused by Galapagos penguins.
- 3 What is making the oceans heat up?
- (A) hot spots
 - (B) the equator
 - (C) small fish
 - (D) greenhouses gases
- 4 Choose the paragraph from the section "Hot Spots Are Home To Hundreds Of Creatures" that explains where hot spots can be found.