

OCTOBER 11:

MIGRATORY FISH ARE DECLINING

Recent studies of global fish populations are showing huge declines in migratory fish species that occupy freshwater habitats during some or all of their life cycles. These species are becoming the most endangered animals on earth, as global populations are estimated to have declined by 76% from 1970 to 2016. The largest known declines are in Europe at 90%, followed by the Caribbean at 84% and 25% in N. America, the locations where adequate historical data exist. In fact, the situation may be much more severe because few historical data are available for populations in some of the largest river systems in Asia and Eurasia. The major causes of these declines are human activities, such as habitat destruction, barriers to migration (e.g. dams), pollution, invasive species and climate change. Overfishing may be the major factor in these declines, esp. where humans depend on migratory fishes for food, and in international waters of the oceans where regulations are often ignored or non-existent.

OCTOBER 25:

CLIMATE PREDICTIONS

An international team of 25 climate scientists recently announced that the earlier climate change models that were the basis of the Paris Climate Accord significantly underestimated the rate of global warming that is occurring today, and they now predict that global average temperatures will rise at least 4 degrees F, and possible 8 F by the time concentrations of greenhouse gases double from preindustrial levels. The previous models used for the Paris Accord predicted a maximum rise of 3.6 F and a much slower rate of temperature rise. A temperature rise of 4 F or greater would be disastrous for the world's oceans and coastlines, causing coral reef destruction, extinction of many marine species and ocean acidification. Humans would suffer greatly too, from extreme coastal and inland flooding, much greater storm frequency and intensity, intolerable heat waves and forced migration from coastal areas. It is no exaggeration to say that global warming and climate change are existential threats to ecological and human survival, and our time window for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is closing rapidly. PLEASE VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO TRUST IN SCIENCE AND VALUE CREATION AND HUMAN WELFARE ABOVE ECONOMIC GROWTH!