

Global warming kills fish, boat captain says

By Sammy Fretwell - McClatchy Newspapers

COLUMBIA --Posted on Sun, Aug. 26, 2007

Dan Kipnis has fished off Florida for most of his life. He has organized tournaments for anglers and taken vacationers into the ocean to cast their lines.

But to go fishing, you need fish - and Kipnis, a long-time charter boat captain from Miami Beach, says rising global temperatures threaten sea life across the globe. In fact, climate change could have a more devastating effect on the ocean than many people realize, Kipnis said during a presentation Wednesday in Columbia.

"It's easy to see an ozone haze over Columbia. But when people go to the ocean, they see something flat with a few ripples on it. And they don't see what is in it."

Off the South Atlantic Coast, certain species of grouper and snapper are among the types of fish in decline.

Kipnis spoke at the request of state environmental groups trying to raise awareness about global warming.

Kipnis, who has worked with former Vice President Al Gore on global warming, is paid \$1,000 a month by the [National Wildlife Federation](#) to get the word out.

Two major threats of global warming to fish, he said, are from increasing acid levels in the ocean and rising sea temperatures.

Higher acid, a byproduct of rising carbon dioxide emissions, "eats the shells" of crabs, certain types of plankton and krill that young fish rely on, he said.

The degree to which global warming has affected fish remains a point of scientific uncertainty and debate. While many species of fish are in decline, overfishing is believed to be a major reason.