

SCIENCE BRIEF

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- *Baselines need to be established for fish and more monitoring is required, particularly in what are predicted to be the most affected areas.*
- *More ecological studies including fish should be conducted in coastal areas because of their particular sensitivity to climate change.*

There are 61 recorded fish species in the Hudson Bay marine region but information about their distribution is sparse.

Fish species in the Hudson Bay region consist of species typical of the high Arctic such as Arctic cod and species typical of lower latitudes such as capelin and shannies.

Characteristically Arctic species are more abundant in the central and eastern areas of the Hudson Bay and the Hudson Strait while characteristically sub-arctic species are common in the West and South of the Hudson Bay and James Bay.

Larval fish surveys and studies of predators' diets show that there is a shift in species composition that started between the '90s and early 2000s; capelin has become more abundant while Arctic cod populations have been declining.

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