

Fisheries

Climate change amplifies existing threats to the Ocean. In the tropics and temperate regions fishing yield is expected to decrease by 40% to 60%. This is alarming as the Fisheries sector provides three billion people with around 20% of their average intake of animal protein while 400 million depend solely on fish for food.



Why do corals bleach

Healthy coral
Tiny plants called zooxanthellae feed animal polyps through photosynthesis on the coral. Interactions between the two generate corals' brilliant colours

Bleached coral
If high water temperatures persist for a week or more the polyps reject their plant partners and the coral appears 'bleached'. If the heat persists for too long the coral will die

Dead coral
As corals die, stocks of fish species that rely on them for food and shelter also fall



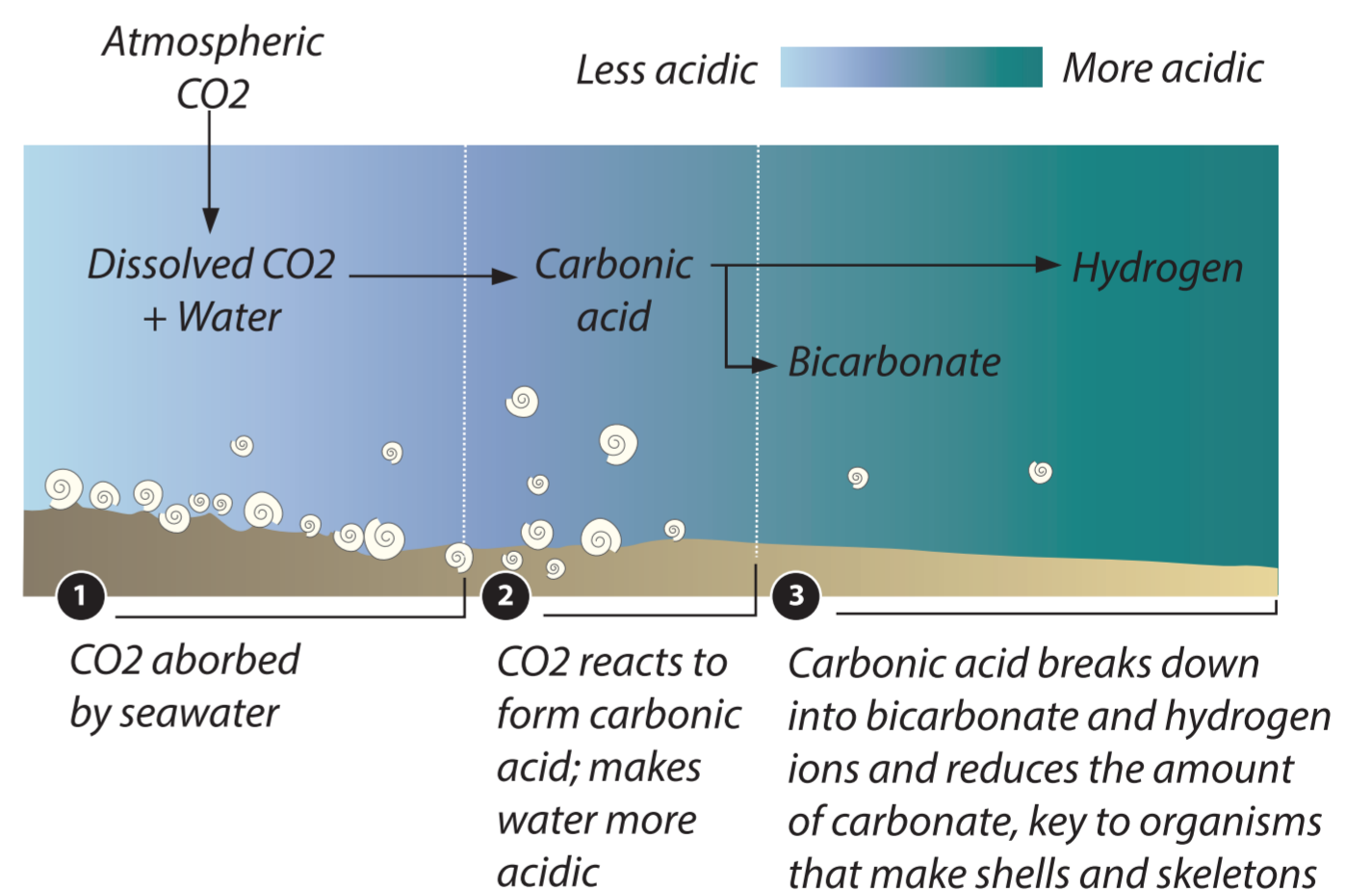
Factors affecting fisheries sector

- Increased sea surface temperature
- Sea level rise
- Drastic change in weather patterns
- Ocean Acidification

Impacts on Marine Ecosystem

- Climate change impedes the health of the mangroves, seagrasses and corals ecosystems which subsequently hinders their ability to nurture our marine resources
- There is a marine species distribution shift with warm-water species migration towards the poles while the induced change in seasonality of biological processes further hinders food webs
- The sustainability of the fisheries sector, including aquaculture, is at stake threatening the livelihoods of the communities and global food security
- Coral bleaching as a result of ocean acidification and increase in sea surface temperature

Ocean Acidification



Adaptation Options

- Use Smart Fishing Practices
- Avoid overfishing and promote Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM): Sustainable exploitation of natural resources by balancing the social and economic needs of human communities with the maintenance of ecosystems
- Promote aquaculture
- Improve the capacity of institutions and fishers in understanding and managing the marine ecosystems

