

A stylized, layered illustration of an underwater scene. It shows a shark's tail, several fish, and coral reefs in various shades of blue and white. The text "3 IMPORTANT WAYS CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS SEAS AND OCEANS" is overlaid on a dark blue shape in the center.

## 3 IMPORTANT WAYS CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS SEAS AND OCEANS

### 1. OCEAN CURRENTS ARE GETTING FASTER

Ocean currents form a complex web of underwater highways that move water and heat around the globe. They keep the tropics cool enough to live in and northern regions warm enough to live in.

Temperature changes in the atmosphere can alter the way air flows around the world, causing shifts in global winds.

Accelerating winds are speeding up ocean currents and faster circulation could change the way heat and nutrients are transported around the world.

### 2. HIGHER TEMPERATURES ARE BAD FOR FISH AND FOR HUMANS

Many fish species are moving towards the poles in response to oceans and sea warming, disrupting fisheries around the world.

As temperatures rise, mass coral bleaching events happen and infectious coral disease outbreaks are becoming more frequent.

### 3. CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING THE CHEMISTRY OF SEAWATER

Any extra carbon dioxide is changing the chemistry of seawater, making it more acidic and more inhospitable, threatening many important marine organisms.

More acidic water can hold less calcium carbonate, so there's less available for organisms such as oysters, clams, sea urchins, shallow water corals, deep sea corals and calcareous plankton. Moreover, the change in water chemistry encourages existing carbonate structures to dissolve.