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PRESENTS

Regional Biotic Responses to Climate Change

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The New York region has been inexorably warming over recent decades. No longer can people cross the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn on ice. Although physical measurements of temperatures demonstrate the precise degrees of warming, they do not tell of its biotic effects. However, animals and plants must adapt or endure changing conditions and, as such, they serve as indicators of the stresses and opportunities presented by a changing climate.

Data on annual events, such as buddings or migrations are invaluable in assessing biotic responses, as are the appearance or disappearance of individual species. For example, one useful source of information is Thoreau's records on annually recurring events in his native Concord, Massachusetts.

Researchers at Queens College delved into warming effects on the fishes in New York's Jamaica Bay. Using a database of almost one-million fishes captured over 20 years, the authors showed shifts in the community consistent with warming. It is likely that the fish communities in New York will soon resemble that of Chesapeake Bay to the south.



JOHN WALDMAN joined the faculty of Queens College as a tenured professor of Biology in 2004. For the previous 20 years he was employed by the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research. He received his PhD in 1986 from the Joint Program in Evolutionary Biology between the American Museum of Natural History and the City University of New York, and a MS in Marine and Environmental Sciences from Long Island University. His research interests focus on the ecology and evolution of fishes, the historical ecology of rivers and urban waterways, and estuarine biology. Waldman has authored more than 100 scientific articles; numerous essays in the *New York Times*, *Yale Environment 360*, and elsewhere; and several popular books, including the award-winning *Heartbeats in the Muck: the History, Sea Life, and Environment of New York Harbor*; *Still the Same Hawk: Reflections on Nature in New York*; and most recently *Running Silver: Restoring Atlantic Rivers and their Great Fish Migrations*. He lives with his family within walking distance of the Long Island Sound in Sea Cliff, NY.

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