



Rising ocean acidity reduces the availability of carbonate in seawater. Carbonate is used by corals, shellfish and species at the base of the ocean food web to build their shells and skeletons. This reduction in carbonate makes it increasingly difficult for these organisms to build their homes and sources of protection. By the end of the century, chemistry changes expected for the Arctic Ocean and parts of the North Pacific Ocean will be great enough that carbonate-based shells may actually begin to dissolve. This may have profound impacts on fisheries and communities worldwide that rely on marine species for food and income. For more information, please visit: www.livingoceans.org.

