Written by Administrator Thursday, 06 May 2010 19:02

Science Daily <u>reports</u> that there are more cod in the Barents Sea now due to the influence that currents have on cod stocks. Research being led by Ken Drinkwater, a senior research scientist at the Institute of Marine Research in Norway, indicates that back in the 1920s and 1930s, the Barents Sea was teeming with cod. That was before its waters substantially cooled off in the decades to follow. Now, with ocean temperatures higher once again, fishermen are seeing more fish.

The entire North Atlantic warmed up during the 1920s and 1930s. More fish appeared not only in the Barents Sea but also off Iceland and Greenland. This warm period reached its peak at the end of the thirties and lasted until roughly 1960, when the waters began turning colder again -- and fisheries resources declined once more.

In recent years, the North Atlantic has shown signs of a new period of warming. According to Drinkwater, "This warming is primarily due to currents -- a greater amount of warm Atlantic water is flowing into the North Atlantic and up to the Barents Sea." Apparently that is what also happened in the first half of the 20th century. During these warmer periods in the Barents Sea more and larger fish move farther north.

Read more here

Tags: ocean warming, Barents Sea, cod, ocean currents, fisheries, sustainable

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