

Press Release



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Remember Darwin!

Evolutionary adaptation might alter species' reactions to ocean acidification

January 28, 2014/Kiel. Evolutionary adaptation to ocean acidification has to be taken into account when projecting the future of marine ecosystems, says a team of scientists from Canada, Australia, the United States, Great Britain, Sweden and Germany in a review published this week in the international journal "Trends in Ecology and Evolution" (TREE). The scientists revise studies published to date and give recommendations for exploring ocean life's capacity to adapt in response to ocean acidification. They point out the importance of this long-neglected aspect of projected changes in our ocean ecosystems, and suggest that future work should

pH environment, we need to know how efficiently that ability can be passed on offspring and how quickly this trait will spread in the population , explains Dr. Jennifer Sunday, Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of British Columbia in Canada. The study summarizes recent findings that ample genetic variation exists for tolerating future acidity levels and that many fish and invertebrate species may adapt by natural selection. In future, more systematic studies might show which species may adapt fastest and if this rate of adaptation is fast enough to prevent the species extinction