



# World Without Fish

*Mark Kurlansky , Frank Stockton (Illustrations)*

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Announcing the paperback edition of *World Without Fish*, the uniquely illustrated narrative nonfiction account—for kids—of what is happening to the world’s oceans and what they can do about it. Written by Mark Kurlansky, the bestselling author of *Cod*, *Salt*, *The Big Oyster*, and many other books, *World Without Fish* has been praised as “urgent” (*Publishers Weekly*) and “a wonderfully fast-paced and engaging primer on the key questions surrounding fish and the sea” (Paul Greenberg, author of *Four Fish*). It has also been included in the New York State Expeditionary Learning English Language Arts Curriculum.

Written by a master storyteller, *World Without Fish* connects all the dots—biology, economics, evolution, politics, climate, history, culture, food, and nutrition—in a way that kids can really understand. It describes how the fish we most commonly eat, including tuna, salmon, cod, swordfish—even anchovies— could disappear within fifty years, and the domino effect it would have: the oceans teeming with jellyfish and turning pinkish orange from algal blooms, the seabirds disappearing, then reptiles, then mammals. It describes the back-and-forth dynamic of fishermen, who are the original environmentalists, and scientists, who not that long ago considered fish an endless resource. It explains why fish farming is not the answer—and why sustainable fishing is, and how to help return the oceans to their natural ecological balance.

Interwoven with the book is a twelve-page full-color graphic novel. Each beautifully illustrated chapter opener links to the next to form a larger fictional story that perfectly complements the text.

## World Without Fish Details

Date : Published November 4th 2014 by Workman Publishing Company (first published April 11th 2011)  
ISBN : 9780761185000  
Author : Mark Kurlansky , Frank Stockton (Illustrations)  
Format : Paperback 208 pages  
Genre : Nonfiction, Science, Animals, Food and Drink, Food, Environment

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# From Reader Review World Without Fish for online ebook

## Maggie Dunlap says

Fish, despite often being small and underwhelming, are vital to Earth successfully existing. World Without Fish, written by Mark Kurlansky, tells just why fish are so important to the Earth, and what it would be like without them. Using simple language and colorful pictures, Kurlansky gives the reader a glimpse into a what a world without fish would really be like. He uses choice facts and descriptions to give the reader an in-depth understanding of over-fishing, how it came to be, the effects and devolving fish populations, and what a world without fish would be like.

Thankfully, Kurlansky's light language makes the idea of over-fishing and his solution to it, sustainable fishing, easy to understand, so the age recommendation of 9+ is fitting. The pacing of World Without Fish may be slow at times, but it did not interfere with my enjoyment of it too much. Interspersed between chapters are short, one page comics about "Cram" and "Ailat," a fisherman and his daughter, as Ailat grows up in a world at first filled with fish, but eventually devoid of them. These comics are fun and spiced up an already interesting and fun book. I would recommend World Without Fish to anyone who wants to learn about the crisis of fish populations worldwide.

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## Erica says

I picked this book up because it combines a few of my interests - fisheries management and comic books! - without realizing it was written specifically for middle school / high school students. I'm not sure it really succeeds as a comic book - the illustrations didn't always feel very well integrated into what felt much more like a text book - but it was in informative explanation of the magnitude and complexity of global fisheries challenges. Reading a book like this makes me so sad, though, about the world we are leaving for our children.

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## Trung Rwo says

M?t cu?n sách nh?p môn d? ??c, ??y thú v? nói v? toàn c?nh ??i d??ng và ng? nghi?p ?ang d?n tuy?t ch?ng d??i s?c ép c?a s? nóng lên toàn c?u, ô nhi?m và s?n b?t quá m?c. Nh?ng rõ ràng, ??i t??ng giáo d?c c?a cu?n sách là dành cho ng??i tr?, ??c bi?t là tr? em - các ch? nhân t??ng lai.

S? d?ng các lu?n ??m trong "Ngu?n g?c các loài" c?a Darwin, tác gi? g?i l?i nh?ng m?i liên k?t gi?a con ng??i v?i v?n v?t và c?nh t?nh s? bi?n ??i c?a cá s? ?nh h??ng t?i Trái ??t ra sao. V?i nh?ng fact và opinion g?n, ?anh thép và nh?n m?nh liên ti?p, cu?n sách là m?t resource ?áng tin c?y cho ng??i l?n, ??ng th?i c?ng ??y kh?i g?i cho các ??c gi? nh?i mu?n tìm hi?u v? môi tr??ng nh? cách dàn trang, hình minh h?a và truy?n tranh lý thú.

?ây là cu?n sách mà các ph? huynh nên mua cho con em mình ??c.

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## Ph??ng ?? Tr??n says

Amazing

It is just not a book, it is like a huge research, with so much important, unbelievable and useful information about you-thought-you-knew oceans and its under life. People knew that the enviroment has been destroyed, but we are so hesitant. The book shows us what really are the problem, the point of the pollution, and recommend us what we can do, and it is just so simple.

And I just love the artwork, it is so lively.

Please check my English and tell me if you see any grammar mistake in my review so that I can improve my English. Thanks

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## Anh says

5\* cho m?c ?? ?áng ??c và thú v? c?a cu?n sách này!!!

Hình minh h?a siêu ??p + cách dàn trang + kích th??c font ch? c?ng khi?n cho ng??i ??c không c?m th?y khô khan hay nhàm chán v?i các ki?n th?c khoa h?c và nghiên c?u th?c ti?n

C? mà thích nh?t là m?y câu trích d?n nh? trong *Ngu?n g?c các loài c?a Darwin*.

B?n nào yêu thích và mu?n tìm hi?u v? ??i d??ng có th? tìm ??c :)

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## Shelli says

This was a very informative read for nearly all ages that should be shared and discussed in each and every school and home. Our very existence is tied with the oceans but little by little humans are killing off another piece of it; while the seas maybe vast they are slowly but surely all being poisoned and their inhabitants are becoming extinct. *A World Without Fish* is brutally honest, and at times hard to read, but realistic in showing how truly complex this problem is for our planet, not only its effects but also in how to solve.

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## Rachel says

Informative, easy-to-read, and just a great book for tweens. World Without Fish looks at the history, the present, and the future reality of our waters and the creatures that live within them. It explores the various reasons they are in their present dilemma, and what it would mean if they were to be depleted further. The author uses a conversational style to make the book accessible, and different fonts, colours, and sizes within the text to give it a voice, and impart the urgent nature of this predicament. Art, short comic strips, and photos are displayed on many of the pages. These enhance our understanding, and ability to relate to the denizens of the deep. The health of our oceans has a direct impact on our own well-being, so this is a good one to share.

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## India says

Good book! I learned a lot and my daughter is angrier than ever about the way we treat the planet.

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## Brendan says

I largely agree with the most liked comment, the illustrations tend to take away rather than add. Also not really enough illustration to be considered a graphic novel. Ok written content, I learned a bit but the book is more aimed at this with little knowledge on the subject. It would be best in the hands of an adolescent, contains some basic info on mainstream activism as well. I've read "Salt" and "Basque History" before, this made me want to check out "Cod."

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## Erin says

A fascinating overview of the oceans, and the far-reaching consequences of our actions. I did not find the visual formatting distracting, instead the chunks of larger font broke up otherwise unending text. I thought the comic within the text was a little heavy-handed, but certainly got its message across in a way that might not be so easy just in text.

Bits of interest:

"The government, unfortunately, never acted, but it is clear that the ensuing tragedy of the next hundred years was plainly predicted back in 1911." (34) As is so often the case.

"Along with the environmental loss, Newfoundland lost its culture. Human beings are part of the natural order, so it's not surprising to find human society follows the same natural laws as biology. Just as species need diversity in order to survive and prosper, it may be that human civilization needs a wide variety of cultures, different ways of life, in order to survive and prosper." (80)

Page 96: It's "eking" not "eeking." Seriously.

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## Khoa Các says

Sách cung c?p ???c nh?ng ki?n th?c b? ích v? các loài cá và ngành ng? nghi?p, gi?i thi?u m?t cái nhìn toàn di?n v? th? gi?i loài cá, lý do ngu?n th?y s?n d?n c?n ki?t và nh?ng bi?n pháp b?o v? loài cá. Tuy nhiên, có v? cách ti?p c?n khá d? hình dung ?ã khi?n cu?n sách có ph?n khá d? dãi, nh?ng ý t??ng và lý lu?n mà tác gi? ??a ra ch?a th? khi?n ng??i ??c th?a m?n và g?t gù tâm ??c. Sách phù h?p v?i nh?ng ng??i m?i nh?p môn ?? có cái nhìn bao quát v? sinh v?t bi?n nói riêng và ngành ng? nghi?p nói chung.

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## Wendi says

I love the premise of this book, and the layout. I also appreciate how Kurlansky lays out the interconnection among multiple parties, and their impacts on fish, with resulting impacts on humans. The cycle itself is so complex, I think he does a great job breaking it down into accessible chunks, although I couldn't really tell

which age group would benefit most from this book!

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### **Erin Reilly-Sanders says**

I think that Kurlansky has some really important information here to get across and makes important references to several organizations for more information. His balanced perspective between fishermen, environmentalists, and scientists is perhaps the best thing about the book, despite the gendered word "fishermen," and seems to really present an honest portrait of the situation. Unfortunately, the book has many problems with it. It does not include references for Kurlansky's research which is not to say that it seems to be made up but the reader deserves to be able to make her or his own evaluation. The biggest problem is that I think it really don't do a good job of presenting the desired information in the best way possible. The book is attractive but the text is a little dry with little excitement, making it a bit difficult for an interested adult to get through and actually understand most of it. The visuals are nice and make the book attractive, but rarely do the pictures help promote understanding rather than decorate. Somehow there is also the idea that making different parts of the text bigger and different colors will make the book exciting and more accessible. I found it to be okay but in some case obnoxious and cut down on the information flow. As a good reader, I am used to skipping the large text because it often repeats what is in the small text and found it difficult to remember to pay attention to the important sections. I like the graphic novel-like sections and enjoyed a female scientist character in Ailat but wish the author had just gone with Mark and Talia rather than trying to disguise the names. Not to harp on the visuals, but the book misses many opportunities for conveying information through diagrams and pictures and maps. It seems like it's just stuck in traditional book land and needs to break free! I'd love little sections on "getting to know" the main species of fish talked about like cod and herring that could break outside a linear text and create more personal connections with the situation. The last chapter and some appendices make a valiant attempt to turn the conversation to how kids can take action with some more accessible lists but it's unclear if a child would actually make it to the end of the book. In all, I think this is a good book with an important message but is unfortunately a rather poor children's book.

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### **Chelscrae says**

Despite being written with good intentions, it mixed up cellular respiration and photosynthesis saying that photosynthesis produced carbon dioxide when, in fact, that is just the opposite. With such a massive inaccuracy I couldn't trust the reliability of the source and had to put it down without finishing- a shame for such a vital message.

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### **Emily says**

(3.5 stars) I just (this week) included this book as a nonfiction book club option in my summer Children's Literature class. I'd read Kurlansky's Cod a number of years ago and thought this might be science/environment option that would appeal to some of my students. As it turned out, only one student chose to read it, but she and I had a GREAT conversation while everyone else in class talked about other texts.

We both felt that the information in the book was interesting, well-argued, and rich with history and

statistics, although somewhat repetitive. We also liked the mixed-media format of the book (the chapter prose narratives, the complimentary images and primary documents, the drawings of fish, the occasional full-page artwork), and we especially appreciated the pairing of the narrative chapters with installments of a fictional graphic-novel-like story about a girl and her father and their relationship with the dying ocean.

The book is pretty grim. Advanced fishing technologies, global warming, disagreements between fishermen and scientists, pollution, and unsuccessful attempts at industry regulation and fish farming all factor significantly in the ongoing devastation of ocean life. The book does end, however, by suggesting to kid readers that they can make a difference by writing to legislators, being informed, holding fish sellers accountable, and being very conscious about only eating fish that are harvested in sustainable, environmentally-friendly ways. The book ends with a list of fish readers should and should not eat -- which my student really appreciated.

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