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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AQUATIC WEATHER PROPHETS

Many species of fish, molluscs, crustacea and marine mammals are popularly credited with indicating by their behavior coming weather changes. Here ^{are} a few of the beliefs on the subject:

The cod is said to "take in ballast" before a storm. In one case a number of cod were taken twelve hours before a severe gale, and it was found that each had swallowed numerous small stones, some of which weighed three or four ounces.

Porpoises are said to swim in the direction from which the wind is coming. Porpoises in a harbor are said to indicate a coming storm.

Sharks are said to go out to sea at the approach of a cold wave.

Eels are reputed to be especially lively before a thunderstorm.

On Lake Ontario bass are said to leave shoal water some hours before a thunderstorm.

Air bubbles over clam beds are said to portend rain.

The lake loach of continental Europe—*Cobitis (Misgurnus) fossilis* is known as the barometer-fish, thunder-fish, or weather-fish. It is supposed to come out of the mud, in which it habitually burrows, before a storm.

The grain of truth in some of these notions is that animals are more or less sensitive and responsive to current changes in the atmosphere, which, in turn, are more or less loosely connected with the weather of the immediate future.

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