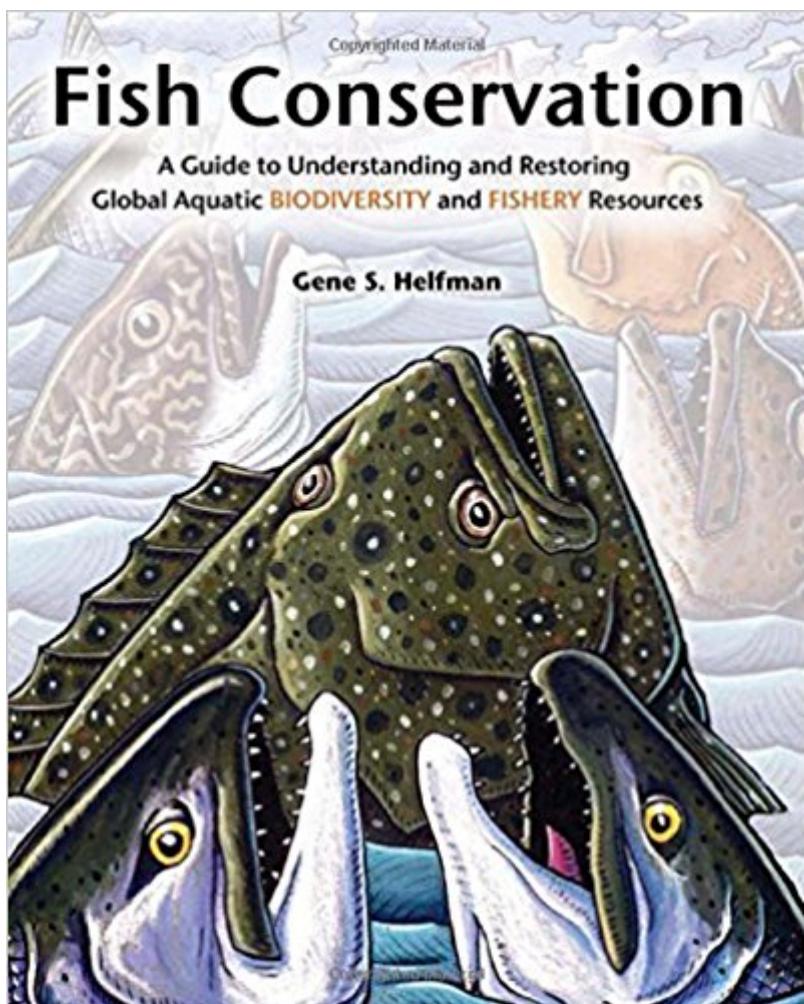


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Fish Conservation: A Guide To Understanding And Restoring Global Aquatic Biodiversity And Fishery Resources



Synopsis

Fish Conservation offers, for the first time in a single volume, a readable reference with a global approach to marine and freshwater fish diversity and fishery resource issues. Gene Helfman brings together available knowledge on the decline and restoration of freshwater and marine fishes, providing ecologically sound answers to biodiversity declines as well as to fishery management problems at the subsistence, recreational, and commercial levels. Written in an engaging and accessible style, the book: considers the value of preserving aquatic biodiversity offers an overview of imperiled fishes on a taxonomic and geographic basis presents a synthesis of common characteristics of imperiled fishes and their habitats details anthropogenic causes of decline examines human exploitation issues addresses ethical questions surrounding exploitation of fishes The final chapter integrates topics and evaluates prospects for arresting declines, emphasizing the application of evolutionary and ecological principles in light of projected trends. Throughout, Helfman provides examples, explores case studies, and synthesizes available information from a broad taxonomic, habitat, and geographic range. A Fish Conservation summarizes the current state of knowledge about the degradation and restoration of diversity among fishes and the productivity of fishery resources, pointing out areas where progress has been made and where more needs to be done. Solutions focus on the application of ecological knowledge to solving practical problems, recognizing that effective biodiversity conservation depends on meeting human needs through management that focuses on long term sustainability and an ecosystem perspective.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This work is unique because it deals globally with fish, rather than fisheries conservation ... Helfman writes in a disarmingly candid and often colorful style, and provides many case examples and vignettes." (F.T. Manheim CHOICE)"Thorough, thought-provoking, factually deep, and conceptually wide, this is an awesome, excellent book. Fish Conservation will be one of those rare, special books constantly called upon to furnish facts and settle arguments. The author's touches and flourishes give a sense of personal warmth unusual in a reference book. Destined to be a classic." (Carl Safina author of *Song for the Blue Ocean* and *Voyage of the Turtle*)"Professor Helfman has produced a monumental treatment of a critical endeavor "to halt the global decline of fish diversity and conserve the rich array of species and assemblages that populate our freshwater and marine ecosystems. Packed with fascinating details, conservation success stories and tragedies, practical advice, and personal perspectives, this book will be indispensable for scientists, fisherfolk, water managers, and conservationists. Thank you, Gene, for this splendid culmination of your lifelong efforts to "give something back to the fishes." (Angela Arthington Professor, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia)"In Fish Conservation, Helfman provides a clear analysis of the state of the world's fish fauna and fisheries, and he takes away our excuse of ignorance for not engaging in major efforts to conserve fish abundance and diversity. This book is a benchmark for the status of fishes worldwide and should be within arm's reach of every aquatic and fisheries biologist. In years to come, it will help us answer the question, "How well are we doing?" in fish conservation." (Peter B. Moyle Center for Watershed Sciences, University of California, Davis)"As an ichthyologist, Helfman blends conservation with the science that must underlie any meaningful conservation effort. A truly excellent book and a valuable contribution to our understanding of biodiversity issues." (Phil Pister executive secretary, Desert Fishes Council)"The work is lively, with references to popular works by famous marine environmentalists and writers who have focused on oceanic issues....This well-written textbook, with its occasional signs of flair, is comprehensive, modest, and alarming." (Electronic Green Journal)"This is truly a wonderful, well-written, coherently organized book... this book belongs in the hands of not only fishery managers and fish conservation professionals, but anyone with a love for fishes. Moreover, it belongs in the hands of anyone who would ask "Why should I care about fish?" (Natural Areas Journal)"This college level text is designed to give the reader a reasonable base of knowledge on fish conservation from which to continue study in more detail ...

Helfman summarizes the current body of knowledge on fish diversity, species degradation and restoration, and long-term sustainability via an ecosystem perspective." (Wildlife Activist)

Gene S. Helfman is emeritus professor in the Institute of Ecology and the program in conservation ecology and sustainable development at the University of Georgia in Athens.

A refreshingly easy-to-read text book. Gene Helfman's writing style challenges the reader to form their own opinion. The wealth of examples illustrate the major challenges facing fish conservation today. This was the prescribed text for an undergraduate fish conservation course at Colorado State University (FW400). I present this review from a student's perspective, supported by survey results from my classmates. I posed 4 questions and students rated the book on a 1 to 5 scale (1 = 'not at all' to 5 = 'very'). Average responses are presented. 1. Did you find the book easy to read and follow? 4.62. Did the book increase your understanding of fish conservation? 4.43. Do you consider the content up to date? 4.64. Was the book complementary to our course? 4.6 Overall rating 4.6. Helfman does an excellent job of tackling issues such as habitat loss, flow regulation, water quality and introduced species (Part III). The statistics are fascinating and compelling. "For freshwater fish, the principle cause of declines and extinction is habitat degradation". "[R]ates of imperilment of North American fishes, crayfish and mussels are three to eight times those for birds and mammals". These numbers are not thrown about without due consideration. Helfman provides a thought provoking review of how we classify imperilment at regional to global scales (Part II). Fisheries management, particularly harvest of marine fishes, is also dealt with in detail (Part IV). The book is written from a North American perspective, but includes a wealth of case studies from across the globe. Chapter 3 reviews conservation policy of Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Russian Federation, South America, South America, British Isles. The book focuses on conservation of fish species - it is not a general guide to resource management. Some chapters focus heavily on freshwater fish and others on marine. Mostly, these reflect the relative importance of each issue in different environments. I managed to find one or two holes or oversights in areas where I have in-depth knowledge, but these were far outweighed by chapters that vastly expanded my understanding of a topic. Our class did not rely on the book as the sole source of course material. Having said that, the range of issues dealt with by Helfman is probably beyond what could be covered in any one course. After course work is finished, the book provides excellent review material for unfamiliar topics. I'll be holding on to my copy.

So far so good. College class book.

Very well-written and easy to read, with enough of the basics for someone who has never even seen a fish and plenty of real examples to engage a more learned person as well. Not as dry and full of jargon as most scientific articles, much more like reading an interesting book.

Very interesting book. A must read

The Quarterly Review of Biology called Fish Conservation "a much needed and timely book . . . an excellent melding of scientific rigor and scope, with readability and usefulness to nonspecialists." Biological Conservation says the book "tackles large and complex issues with ease but . . . has the rare gift of being simultaneously hugely informative, scientifically robust, easy to read and filled with conservation suggestions and hope." A review that will appear in the Journal of Fish Biology calls the book "an extremely competent scientific text" and recommends it "unreservedly for anyone with an interest in fish conservation whether they are scientists, administrators or students." A review in The Journal of the North Carolina Academy of Sciences said, "This is an exciting book written in a clear easy reading style. . . . Helfman has taken us where few have dared to go, because of the immensity of the biodiversity problems, yet has given us a book that will be of use . . . for years to come."

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