



*Creation waits  
with eager  
longing: How  
will you respond?*

**Wednesday  
April 1, 2009**

In all the stories of Jesus feeding a hungry crowd of 5000, God's abundance is demonstrated when just a small quantity of food becomes a feast shared by many. Again and again, our faith teaches us that God's abundance is given for all to share, yet in our stewardship of creation we often fail to consider how our use of resources will affect other people in our world and the generations who will come after us.

The oceans' rich abundance of fish and other marine life is dwindling from over-fishing and the decline of ocean ecosystems. A study of 230 marine fish populations reveal a median 83 percent reduction in their numbers, and few of these diminished populations recover rapidly - most show little or no change in abundance up to fifteen years after a population collapse ("Marine Fish Populations Collapses: Consequences for Recovery and Extinction Risk." Hutchings and Reynolds; Bioscience, Volume 54, Issue 4, April 2004)

Scientists attribute the decline to:

- too much commercial fishing
- uncontrolled hunting of marine mammals, birds and turtles
- dumping of toxic chemicals and pollutants
- habitat destruction
- introduction of non-native species
- climate change
- shipping (commercial and tourist)

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#### **Be Aware**

Sushi, anyone? As a consumer and fish eater you can make purchasing decisions that protect fish populations. Visit [Seafood Watch](#) to learn more about ocean-friendly seafood choices and to download handy pocket-guides to use when you're shopping or dining out.

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[Click here](#) to find today's order for worship from the worship series "Creation Waits With Eager Longing."

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[Click here](#) to view back issues of the 2009 Living Earth "Joining the Hymn of All Creation".

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