



Ochre sea star, *Pisaster ochraceus*  
(NOAA photo)

By now it is widely recognized that ocean warming and acidification caused by rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels will adversely affect many organisms, especially those that depend on calcium carbonate shells. But there may be winners as well. Rebecca Gooding and a group from the University of British Columbia report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that the sea star, *Pisaster ochraceus*, a keystone species for rocky intertidal communities, grows faster and feeds more at elevated temperatures and CO<sub>2</sub> levels.

As usual, though, there's a catch. Sea stars feed on species like mussels which are heavily calcified and therefore likely to decline as the oceans acidify. That makes the real-world impacts of climate change on sea stars and their ecosystems difficult to predict.