**Humans Have Tripled Mercury Levels in the Ocean**

Pollution may soon overwhelm deep seas' ability to sequester mercury, which builds up in tuna and other predatory fish

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<http://ogoapes.weebly.com/uploads/3/2/3/9/3239894/humans_have_tripled_mercury_levels_in_the_ocean_-_scientific_american.pdf>

The article is about mercury level in the ocean being increased due to human practices and how it impacts toxicity in the food chain. Researchers found out that mercury level in the upper surface of the ocean have tripled since the beginning of the industrial revolution. The research also suggested that a mercury emission comes largely from burning of fossils and including mining. The level of mercury in the upper ocean is increased by 3.4 since the industrial revolution and the total amount of mercury in the world’s seas is now 290 million moles with the highest level in the Arctic and North Ocean. Circulation pattern has an important factor in sequestering mercury to the deep and cold ocean which prevents more toxic in the food chain and protects marine life in the shallower water. But more and more mercury emission in the next 50 years would lose the ability of deep ocean to hold mercury as Carl Lamborg, a marine geochemist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, says that “deep water’s ability to sequester mercury may soon be exhausted” which would increase the mercury level in the shallower ocean.

I chose this article because mercury is an interesting topic to me and I really don’t know much about it. I wanted to know how mercury level affects marine life and where it comes from. The most interesting to me was the top predator ending up becoming very toxic because mercury’s toxic effect magnify with every step in the food chain. When this happen, human who eats tuna and some other top predators in the ocean will have higher toxic level them. I also learned that five to ten percent of women of childbearing age already have blood mercury levels that increase the risk of neurodevelopmental in their children. I found that this is scary because mercury effect could affect as much children which is very sad. I would also be very sad when my child will be affected with this mercury problem. And it is sad that mercury compromise reproductive health and fertility of some fish and birds.

This article is very significant because it explains how mercury swelling is very dangerous especially that humans are on track to emit as much mercury in the next 50 years like they did in the last 150 years. This article will encourage people to seek ways on how to decrease mercury emissions in the oceans. It may scared them and make them in action.