



The Fish on Your Plate: Why We Eat - What We Eat From the Sea, by Paul Greenberg (Penguin, £9.99)

Using four fish - salmon, sea bass, cod and tuna - as “footprints, marking four discrete steps humanity has taken in its attempts to master the sea”, journalist Greenberg explores our relationship with seafood. He asks whether we can establish a balance between human needs and preserving the wildness of the oceans. Most people see fish as a crop that can be harvested each year, one that magically grows back without planting. But thanks to industrial fishing (the global fishing fleet is twice as big as the oceans can sustain) and our insatiable hunger for fish (in the last 50 years the amount we ate nearly doubled), many species, including salmon and bluefin tuna, have been fished to the brink of extinction. Greenberg travels the world, from Alaska’s Yukon river to Vietnam’s Mekong delta, in search of solutions. The ocean is the last great wilderness, and we need to overcome our “primitive greed” in order to preserve its creatures: “The future of human growth depends largely on how we manage our ocean.” An eloquent account of the environmental price we are paying for the fish on our plates. **PDS**