

# Unhappy Feet?

by Brooke Ross

**Life is good for penguins in Antarctica at the end of the movie *Happy Feet*. Is this the case in real life?**

Overfishing and melting ice spell trouble for penguins. Twelve of the world's 19 penguin species face major threats, according to wildlife experts. They are in danger of becoming **extinct**, or dying out completely. This list includes emperor penguins. Real-life penguins have little to celebrate.

Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_

"Many of the world's penguin species are in big trouble," penguin expert Kassie Siegel told *WR News*. Her wildlife group is asking the U.S. government to protect the 12 threatened species of penguins.

Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_

Overfishing is partly to blame for the problem. Penguins eat small fish and tiny shrimp like animals called **krill**. Fishing boats catch large amounts of krill. That leaves less food for penguins to eat.

Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_

Another reason for the decline in the number of penguins is global warming. **Global warming** is the slow increase in average temperature around the world. It is causing sea ice to melt. Penguins need the floating sea ice as a place to rest while they search for krill.

Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_

Scientists say people contribute to global warming when they drive cars or use electricity that burns **fossil fuels**, such as coal, oil, and natural gas. The burning of fossil fuels gives off gases that add to the overheating of Earth. "We can and must reduce gas emissions to keep penguins safe in the future," says Siegel.

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