

Few fishy facts found in climate report

How much of the Netherlands lies below sea level? It seems an innocuous question — but it sparked a major review of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The investigation, commissioned by the Dutch government, focused on the contribution of Working Group II — on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability — to the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report¹. The Dutch report's conclusions², released on 5 July, highlight a number of mistakes — some trivial, others more egregious — and suggest ways to minimize errors in the future. But they also confirm the IPCC report's core message: that global warming poses substantial risks to societies and ecosystems on all continents.

“By and large, the IPCC has delivered a formidable summary of the current state of knowledge,” says Maarten Hajer, director of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment of