

# The Black Seadevil and the Homeless Man That Lives On My Street

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Last week, a crew aboard a research vessel in the Canary Islands spotted floating to the surface of the ocean a black seadevil. Known for its hideous, almost comically monstrous, appearance, this black anglerfish typically lives out its life in the depths of the ocean - somewhere between (Lorenzo, 2025) 650 and 6500 feet, among the darkest places on Earth. Shortly after appearing toward the surface, captured by photographers as the fish readied itself to die basked in sunlight, images and video went viral on the Internet with many left in awe, while others romanticized the event. Some even went so far as to signify this was a personal choice the seadevil made: that after a life in darkness, she became sentient and made the conscious choice - *decided* - to rise to the surface for one glimpse at the sun before meeting her ultimate end. While this anthropomorphizing fairy tale may - against all reasonable understandings of nature and how it functions - be the case, more likely is that the appearance of the fish (along with many other species surfacing as of late) signifies a less romantic, more horrifying reality.

That being that our planet is dying. At least the planet that is hospitable to those currently inhabiting it (including us).

In 2023, scientists revealed (Cooper, 2023) the stark reality that the ocean current is dying. Slowly, but surely, our ocean systems have (Lee, Song, Choi, Y. *et al.*, 2025) been losing their capacity to store energy, to convert carbon into oxygen, and that the results to our weather and ecosystem could be cataclysmic. Coined the AMOC, this current slowing would (Cooper 2023) result in deeply consequential changes to our weather patterns, the ways in which precipitation is distributed, and the heating, cooling, and balance of our planet. In other words: it would make the changes to our climate we are observing in real time even worse.

Of course scientists remain nuanced on the issue of global climate change, most agreeing (Stoknes, 2015) there is much we know, much we don't know, and that the planet's changes are caused by not a single problem, rather (Stoknes, 2015) a variety of complexities we simply cannot fully know or accurately predict anymore. Philosophically, the reason for this is

evident: when - in the history of man - has mankind had dominion over nature? The answer to that is truly: never. The idea that we could accurately predict, and therefore control, what is going on is laughable.

And at this stage anyway, determining why is irrelevant. Our global climate is making exceedingly shocking changes, and we are ill prepared.

But what does the black seadevil rising to the surface, and the collapse of the AMOC, have to do with the homeless man that lives on my street? It has been well established that (Ramin & Svoboda, 2009) the unhoused in both developed and undeveloped nations will feel the impacts of the changing climate the greatest, in the same way creatures of the sea will. Irrespective of the causes of the specific changes and subsequent disasters. As heat and health impacts of our changing ecosystem intensify, (Ramen & Svoboda, 2009) the homeless are exposed to the most extreme degree, second only to the millions of species that exist within the planet's water systems. Lacking adequate infrastructure to heat, cool, house, treat, and protect them, these vulnerable individuals have become the canary in the coal mine of our rapidly disintegrating situation. For years, it has been observed first (Good, 2024) in instances of increasing heat waves across the globe. As temperatures rise, and the planet itself (the ground) warms and consequential disease and disasters result, the homeless are beginning to die from exposure at (Good, 2024) greater levels than any other vulnerable group - in both developed and underdeveloped nations.

Perhaps the greatest correlation between the black seadevil and the homeless man that lives on my street is in the increased prevalence of both appearing in every day life. The seadevil is not alone in rare creatures appearing to us more frequently in places they are typically not seen. Multiple "doomsday" oarfish have surfaced in Mexico, as well as other sea creatures rising closer to the surface as the ocean's floor warms. Birds and mosquitos are increasingly migrating in confused and odd patterns, appearing in more populated places and in regions previously unfamiliar to them; and while homelessness has certainly grown in severity over recent years, as weather patterns have changed and heat waves have lengthened and intensified, (Kaufman, 2024) the homeless have had to seek public shelter in more populated areas, as less populated ones have become inhospitable.

Two recent studies have now evidenced (King & Cassidy, 2025) that the globe has surpassed the previous target of 1.5 degrees warming, with new projections reaching 2 degrees

by as early as 2029. This once-unimaginable pace of warming will displace, force the migration of, or kill potentially billions of people and species. Some scientists - in fact - suggest (King & Cassidy, 2025) as much as 33% of the planet's biodiversity will be extinct in a matter of decades. This could include mankind, who - again - has yet to accept our place as a part of nature, rather than some removed entity who holds dominion over it.

As we see more anomalies like the black seadevil and the migration of groups of humans and animals and insects to places more hospitable, including the homeless seeking shelter in larger groups and more populated areas, the evidence is now incontrovertible. These are not just anomalies or social issues irrelevant to the broader landscape of our environment and climate change. They are a warning sign, again the canary in the coal mine. The thing about the canary, of course, is that when it begins to chirp, when it becomes agitated and even dies, it is usually too late.

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