

**ESA News The Great Global Experiment**

Ecological Society of America: grants, jobs, news  
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Harvard Magazine: The Great Global Experiment

"If you took all the peat in Canada and Russia and turned it into CO2" by burning, Wofsy says, "you would double the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. It took 5,000 years to make it, but it doesn't take much to get rid of it," because it can catch fire. Intense conflagrations burn all of the dried peat in a forest. "Usually, just a foot or so of peat is dry enough to burn, but if all two meters dry out as climate warming trends continue," he cautions, "the full accumulation could be released to the atmosphere over perhaps 50 years."

The Great Global Experiment

As climate change accelerates, how will we adapt to a changed earth?  
by Jonathan Shaw

During a recent Alaska study cruise cosponsored by the Harvard Museum of Natural History, James J. McCarthy stopped at several islands with small native communities-Little Diomedes, for example, with 150 inhabitants. At each village, McCarthy asked the elders if climate had changed in their lifetimes. In one village after another, he relates, "They said, 'Well, my grandfather said the ice used to come in November, and now it doesn't come until January.'" Wherever he went, the story was the same: "My grandfather said it used to leave in June. Now it goes out in March."

For more go to: <http://www.harvard-magazine.com/on-line/1102195.html>

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