

The travel industry hates the press, can't stand whingers – but is great for making a few quid. And if global warming continues it will soon be very different. **Louise Longman, Juliet Dennis** and **Martin Lane** report from the Institute of Travel and Tourism conference in Qatar

Bleak forecast for travel

BBC weather forecaster Michael Fish has warned global warming will revolutionise travel in the next 30 years.

Speaking at the Institute of Travel and Tourism conference in Qatar, Fish told delegates rising temperatures will make the majority of European ski resorts extinct and summer sun favourites in the Mediterranean uncomfortably hot for UK visitors.

He claimed the rising demand for travel will increase air pollution and called on tour operators to persuade the public to take more eco-friendly holidays. "If we do nothing it's going to get

worse at an increasing rate. Even if we all stopped driving cars it would take 100 years to get back to where we were 80 years ago."

He added last week's record rise in oil prices might be a good thing in the long term by bringing home the message that

"If we do nothing it's going to get worse at an increasing rate"

"something has to be done about burning fossil fuels".

Fish painted a grim picture of the future (see map) in which the only winners are likely to be domestic operators to southern parts of the UK.

He predicted operators will have to adapt to changes in seasonality by offering more indoor attractions and exploring alternative ski destinations including

Greenland and Alaska. He also claimed insurance premiums will increase as rising temperatures increase the threat of illness, with malaria spreading across southern Spain.

TUI UK managing director Chris Motterhead said the predictions were "so far away" it was difficult to react now, but he'd already seen a 25% drop in visitors to the Balearics due to the wetter winters.

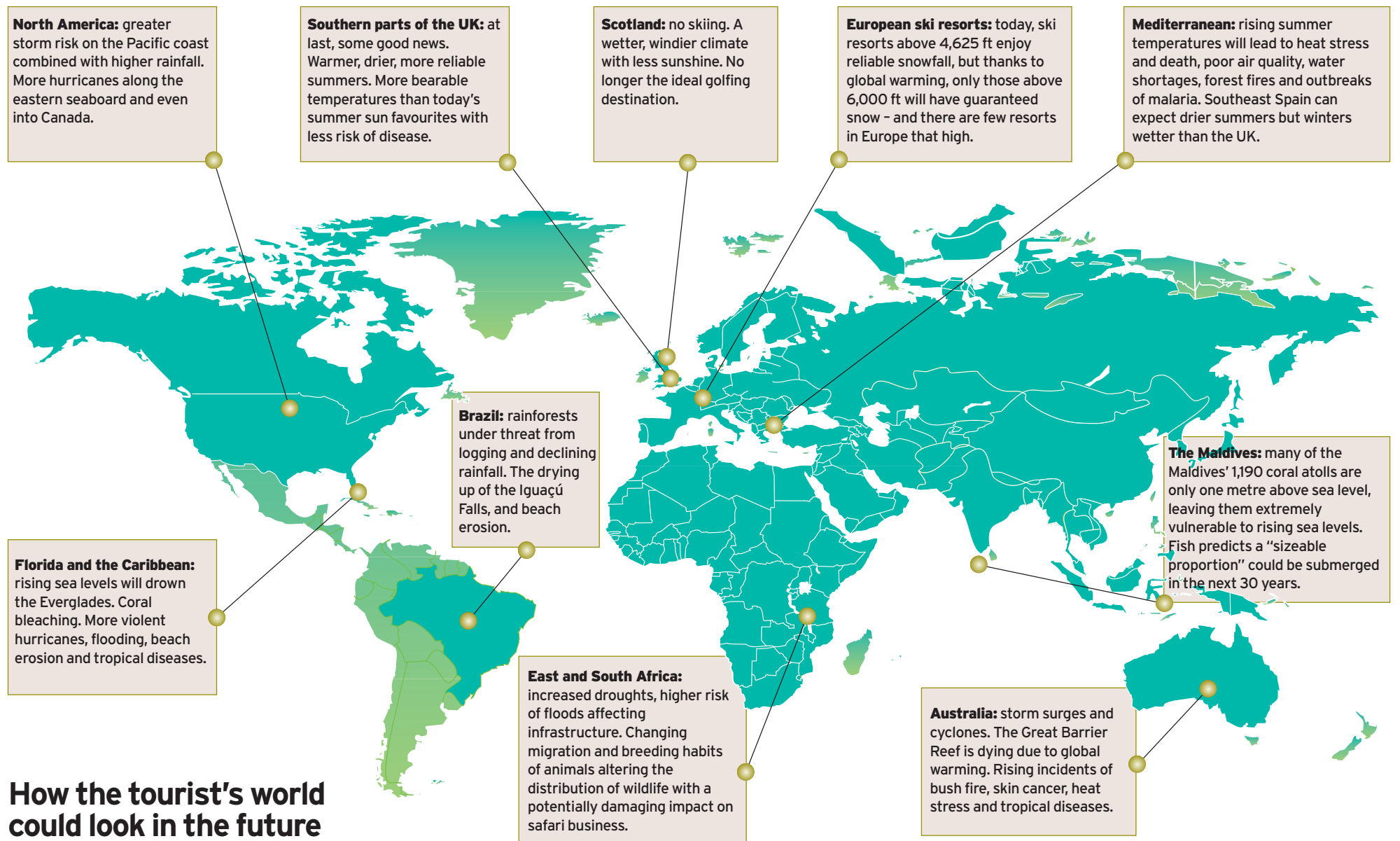
"It's a sad endorsement of the way the human race has lived," he said.



Fish: industry must act soon



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How the tourist's world could look in the future

