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Rapid changes and loss of freshwater springs and fsh communities of the Arabian Peninsula

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During summer 2018, 132 springs from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan were surveyed for water chemistry and fsh communi tes. Although most springs in Oman are reasonably intact, only 14 of 46 springs fowing in Saudi Arabia in 1990 exist, and all springs visited in Jordan were heavily polluted from direct human contact. In addi ton, the electrical conduc tvity of the remaining Saudi springs has increased profoundly during this period. Fish were sampled at each spring boil, if present, using a dip net, iden t fed to species, photographed and returned to the loca ton where collected. Five na tve species were found in the springs of Saudi Arabia and Oman, but all springs in Jordan lacked fsh. In addi ton, two introduced Tilapia species were found in some Oman springs. Garra tbanica was found only in Saudi Arabian springs, while Cyprinion watsoni was restricted to a single spring in Oman. The general distribu tons of species in the Arabian Peninsula were compared with earlier surveys, and the rela tonship of each species to electrical conduc tvity was analyzed