Fishery Prof an iconoclast

In a profile on UBC Fisheries Prof. Daniel Pauly, The New York Times detailed his work in marine stocks around the globe.

“Looking at the big picture has not been the mandate of anybody,” Pauly told the NYT, with an accent that simultaneously hints at many languages, but not necessarily his native French or his acquired tongues, German or Spanish or the Swahili or Indonesian that he once spoke.

Most fisheries scientists work for regulatory agencies charged with managing a particular stock in a particular port, he said. But he and his colleagues “have given ourselves the mandate to look at the whole world.”

“Nobody has been asking these questions before,” Pauly said.

In the process, he and his fellow researchers are making a splash with paper after paper in the most prestigious scientific journals. Their news is uniformly bad. As a result, Pauly has become a man on a mission to spread the word that fish stocks are plummeting around the world.