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Daniel Pauly answer:

### Why should the management and recovery plans developed by various fisheries be based on both past and current fish population models?



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#### Transcript

Maybe you've heard the phrase: "to plan for the future, you must understand the past." Good advice—and scientists say it also applies to fisheries management. An ocean scientist looks "back to the future" today on—Our Ocean World. How can we tell the size of fish populations long ago? Scientific records go back only a few decades. Can we trust the reports of early explorers, who say codfish were so numerous, you could almost walk to shore on their backs? Pauly: "And these reports, when you read them now, they sound incredible." Daniel Pauly, a professor at the University of British Columbia, thinks reports like these are closer to the truth than many other "fish stories." Why are accurate models of past fish populations so important? Pauly: "These possible models of the past are also possible models of the future." If we look only at the current sizes of fish populations to develop management and recovery plans, Pauly says, we'll be setting our sights too low. Pauly's research shows that it's important to look to the past to see what might be possible in the future. I'm Marilyn Cooley.

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## Cassandra Brooks

Science Writer And Researcher  
Cassandra Brooks



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