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MORE NEWS

United States
May 10, 03:00 (GMT + 9): EN BREVE - Gulf Shrimp Season Closes May 15 2017

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May 10, 03:00 (GMT + 9): IN BRIEF - Omega Protein Announces First Quarter 2017 Financial Results

New Zealand
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FEATURED EVENTS

27-28-29 September
Lima - Peru

13-15 Sept 2017
Smáránn, Kópavogur • Iceland

19-21 August 2017
Shanghai New International Expo Center, China

CATCH THE BEST IN ASIA

Dr. Dirk Zeller, executive director of UBC's The Sea Around Us Project. (Photo: Sea Around Us)

A third of global fishing goes unreported, study reveals

CANADA
Wednesday, May 03, 2017, 23:40 (GMT + 9)

New research from [University of British Columbia](#) (UBC)'s [The Sea Around Us Project](#) indicates that nearly a third of fish caught in the world's oceans goes unreported.

The scientists carrying out the analysis found that while as much as 120 million tonnes were fished from the oceans in 2015, the [United Nation's](#) official capture reports revealed that in 81.2 million tonnes were harvested from the ocean, *CBC* reported.

"Fifty per cent more fish were actually taken out, were caught by fisheries around the world, than the officially reported data that countries provide actually would suggest," said Dirk Zeller, a senior scientist and executive director for the Sea Around Us project at UBC.

Zeller pointed out that the team was able to uncover the unreported fishing activity by restructuring the official data provided by the UN with external data, such as university studies, nutritional surveys, and local knowledge.

It took 10 years for these scientists to piece the data together but Zeller said it has given them a greater sense of the immense pressure commercial fishing has put on fish populations.

"Catches around the world peaked around the mid-1990s — [and] that's been declining steadily by about 1 to 1.2 million tonnes per year ever since," he said, adding that the number of boats and fishermen on the water have increased in the same time period and implying that more and more fisherman, catching less and less and less — that is a sign of overfishing.

The scientists explained that many fish stocks are on the brink of collapse and that bringing them back to healthy levels is not easy.

"If you take a fish population and you deplete it substantially to a very small percentage of its original version ... then you create a situation where these fish might not be able to recover — even if you stop harvesting it, purely because its place in the ecosystem might have changed," highlighted Zeller.

The scientists and other members from The Sea Around Us team recently captured the global overfishing crisis in a new documentary, titled *An Ocean Mystery: The Missing Catch*.

The documentary shows that the devastation of fish stocks is on full display, specially in the case of juvenile specimens.



editorial@fis.com
www.fis.com

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