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Nearly 700 tons of fish go unreported in Malta

Study calls for more monitoring.

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by IntraFish Media
July 24th, 2017 08:05 GMT

Nearly 700 metric tons of fish go unreported from Malta's statistical system every year for the past decade, according to a new Sea Around Us study published last week.



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"Discards are playing an increasing role in the unreported catches," said lead study author Myriam Khalfallah, adding authorities need to start monitoring this and offices should start counting "subsistence-type" catch.

Most unreported fish are caught unintentionally by trawlers and are thrown back into the ocean because they are undersized or damaged.

Also other unreported fish are those caught for personal, crew or family consumption, which adds up to about 285 metric tons annually in recent years.

Overall, Maltese landings between 1950 and 2014 were 1.3 times higher than reported.

"Malta is making good efforts to estimate unreported commercial landings, but the recreational and subsistence fisheries together with discards need to be monitored to get a better idea of what is really being killed and withdrawn from the ocean," said Khalfallah.

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