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Report: Thai distant-water fleet massively underreporting catches

By Undercurrent News Dec. 14, 2017 16:08 GMT



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Fishing boats, Thailand. Photo: Dan Heep

Thailand's distant-water fleet of vessels that harvest in neighboring waters are catching a lot more fish than what they report to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a new study alleges.

The study, by Sea Around Us, an initiative of the University of British Columbia's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, [claims that](#) Thai-affiliated vessels caught over 3.7 million metric tons of fish outside of its exclusive economic zone in 2014 but reported catches of only 247,000t to the FAO.

This number is down substantially from a high in the mid-1990s when illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the region was even more rampant, the study suggests.

“Fishing by Thai vessels outside of Thailand’s waters takes place around the South Chin Sea, the Indonesian archipelago, the Bay of Bengal as well as the Western Indian Ocean, under both official and unofficial agreements, as well as illegally,” Brittany Derrick, lead author of the study said in a press release.

Link: <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2017/12/14/report-thai-distant-water-fleet-massively-underreporting-catches/>