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Fish out of water

By Mark Schrope

GLOBAL fish stocks may have declined without anyone noticing. For the past few years, China has unwittingly misreported how much fish it takes from its ocean waters, masking the extent of worldwide overfishing.

There have been long-standing concerns that China has been reporting implausibly high fish catches. Now a computer model of the area developed by researchers based in British Columbia suggests that, between 1995 and 1999, China's claimed ocean fish catch was about twice what should be possible based on conditions in the area.

Estimates of annual global fish catches, which are in the range of ...

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