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 Table of Contents
 Print Table of Contents
 Advertising (PDF)
 Classified (PDF)
 Masthead (PDF)

ARTICLE TOOLS

Deep-sea catches undercounted

Marine ecology

Landings from deep-sea commercial fisheries might have been underreported by as much as 42% over the past 6 decades, because fleets excluded bycatch or didn't report all hauls, researchers reported last week in *Frontiers in Marine Science*. Catches of deep-sea species amounted to just 0.5% of global landings from 1950 to 2015, but populations of Greenland halibut, orange roughy, and other species have collapsed under the fishing pressure because they tend to mature slowly and reproduce at low rates, say Lissette Victorero of the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom and colleagues. Her team analyzed data on deep-sea catches reported to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and drawn from a database assembled by the Sea Around Us project at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. The undercount means that conservation and management plans for these species may be inadequate, the authors contend.

Link: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6386/244.full>