

Worldwide fish stocks in danger of depletion

Auld, Alison . New Brunswick Telegraph Journal ; Saint John, N.B. [Saint John, N.B.]21 Nov 2003.

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

"You have one fishery collapsing after the other," he said in an interview from his office at the University of British Columbia. "The parts of the world that were not fished are now fished. . . This is a very powerful trend."

"If you don't subsidize so much, then most of the fisheries can rebuild because there's less fishing effort on them," he said.

"I'm not too optimistic," said Mr. [Daniel Pauly]. "If we chose ecology first, then that bleak ending will not happen. If we continue what we have, then we're in trouble."

ABSTRACT

"If fuel energy becomes as scarce and expensive in the next decades as suggested by a number of independent geologists, then we should expect the most energy-intensive among industrial fisheries to fold," the paper says.

FULL TEXT

Fish stocks throughout the world could face near extinction by 2050 if more isn't done to stem the increasing strain on all species, especially those in deep waters, says a report to be released today.

The article, to be published in Science Magazine today, says authorities must try to contain a trend that has trawlers venturing farther offshore and destroying habitats as they search for large species.

The paper, called the Future for Fisheries, describes measures that should be taken to "bring fisheries back from the brink and reduce the danger of extinction for many species."

The world's fisheries have become so stretched because boats have been moving into deeper water to find larger, high-priced fish, such as tuna and groupers, as smaller species become fished out.

Daniel Pauly, one of the article's authors, said that over the last 50 years the international fishery has moved into deeper waters - a trend that could foreshadow stock losses similar to what happened to the cod in Canada.

"You have one fishery collapsing after the other," he said in an interview from his office at the University of British Columbia. "The parts of the world that were not fished are now fished. . . This is a very powerful trend."

Mr. Pauly and his colleagues suggest there are things that can be done to prevent further erosion of stocks, and for the first time have linked the availability of cheap oil to the expansion of the world's fisheries.

The scientists argue that boats will continue to ply deep waters farther offshore if there is a ready supply of inexpensive fuel.

But economists and geologists have predicted that fuel prices will rise, possibly making the fishery prohibitive for large trawlers that are heavily dependent on cheap oil.

"If fuel energy becomes as scarce and expensive in the next decades as suggested by a number of independent geologists, then we should expect the most energy-intensive among industrial fisheries to fold," the paper says.

The authors argue this might protect stocks that are now under threat and could lead to the creation of spontaneous reserves or protected areas with little or no fishing.

Fish stocks might also be helped internationally if heavy fishery subsidies were reduced if not eliminated, something that could lead to a significant reduction in the number of boats on the water, says Mr. Pauly.

"If you don't subsidize so much, then most of the fisheries can rebuild because there's less fishing effort on them," he said.

The article also states that agencies and governments have to introduce regulatory reforms to protect resources that are already under threat. Namely, Mr. Pauly argues more marine protected zones should be created, the fishing effort should be reduced overall and gear that destroys habitats should be restricted.

Without such measures, the scientists contend many fisheries will be exhausted in the next four decades and marine geography will be stripped of valuable nutrients and plankton.

"I'm not too optimistic," said Mr. Pauly. "If we chose ecology first, then that bleak ending will not happen. If we continue what we have, then we're in trouble."

DETAILS

Subject:	Fishery economics; Fishing; Endangered & extinct species
Publication title:	New Brunswick Telegraph Journal; Saint John, N.B.
Publication year:	2003
Publication date:	Nov 21, 2003
Section:	News
Publisher:	Infomart, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.
Place of publication:	Saint John, N.B.
Country of publication:	Canada, Saint John, N.B.
Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--Canada
ISSN:	17066204
Source type:	Newspapers
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	423184148
Document URL:	http://ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/423184148?accountid=14656
Copyright:	Copyright CanWest Digital Media Nov 21, 2003
Last updated:	2010-06-28
Database:	Canadian Newsstream

LINKS

[Check UBC eLink for Full Text](#)

Database copyright © 2019 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)