



Date and Time: August 12, 2020 10:18:00 AM PDT

Job Number: 123122292

Document (1)

1. [*A fishy mission: Daniel Pauly says he's not talented, just a scientist who inspires real experts. But he has global vision and an alarming message*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "daniel pauly"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2003 to Dec 31, 2003

A fishy mission: Daniel Pauly says he's not talented, just a scientist who inspires real experts. But he has global vision and an alarming message

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 25, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: Weekender; Pg. G14

Length: 1016 words

Byline: CAROL KAESUK YOON

Dateline: VANCOUVER

Body

In the field of fisheries science, where a researcher can spend an entire career with one scaly school in one small stretch of sea, provincial rather than global perspectives have long been considered the most useful.

But as marine stocks collapse, from the anchovies of Peru to the North Atlantic cod, local detail sheds little light on what is happening to the world's fisheries.

Into the void, ***Daniel Pauly*** has stepped. He is an iconoclastic fisheries scientist at the University of British Columbia who is so global in his life and outlook that he is nearly a man without a country.
New York Times

"Looking at the big picture has not been the mandate of anybody," Pauly said, with an accent that hints at many languages, but not necessarily his native French or his acquired tongues, German or Spanish.

Most fisheries scientists work for regulatory agencies charged with managing a particular stock in a particular port, he said. But he and his colleagues "have given ourselves the mandate to look at the whole world."

"Nobody has been asking these questions before," Pauly said.

In the process, he and his fellow researchers are making a splash with paper after paper in the most prestigious scientific journals. Their news is uniformly bad. So Pauly has become a man on a mission to spread the word that fish stocks are plummeting around the world.

"In some places in the world," he said, "you can see people chasing the last fish. In the Java Sea in Indonesia, I have seen fishers going out in the morning, six of them going out and coming back with 5 pounds of fish. That is the end point, a pound of fish per person per day to sell for rice. That's where fisheries go if you let it happen. That's where it stabilizes. These people cannot feed their families."

Unchecked, he says, the same will be seen around the world, and the fishing industry will leave little in the seas but harvests of what he calls "bait and worse," the bottom levels of the marine food web like sea cucumbers, jellyfish and, eventually, plankton for future generations to eat.

The problem, he and colleagues say, can be remedied only with a huge reduction in global fishing and the radical step of creating large "no take" zones, where fish can grow large, breed and replenish. But that will only happen, he said, if the true owner of the ocean resources, the public, demands it, which has yet to happen. The public should demand it, he said, once people know the truth about what overfishing really means.

"No, you don't need to worry about these problems," he said, "as long as your children like plankton stew."

A fishy mission: Daniel Pauly says he's not talented, just a scientist who inspires real experts. But he has global vision and an alarming message

Stepping outside the role of the circumspect academic, Pauly has been alternately described by colleagues as inspiring, arrogant, brilliant and aggravating. Some call him a heretic, part of the doomsaying threesome of Peter, Paul and Pauly, the others being the ecologists Peter Vitousek and Paul Ehrlich.

Pauly was born in 1946 in Paris to a white French mother and a black American father who abandoned the family. When he was 2, Pauly went on what was supposed to be a short visit to the home of a Swiss family that had recently befriended his struggling young mother. But the family, Pauly recounted, refused to return him to his mother, telling him that his mother had abandoned him.

Over the next 14 years, Pauly said, he was a forced replacement for the family's young son, who had died, but was also turned into a live-in servant who cleaned and did other chores. His identity crisis was compounded by being a half-black oddity in an all-white town. He found solace in books.

At 16, he ran away and put himself through high school in Germany, eventually reuniting with his mother in France and with his father in America, where he learned the harsh reality of race in America in the '60s. He recalled being in Little Rock, Ark., with an aunt who warned him not to run, "because the police shoot black kids that run."

He returned to Germany where he went to college and received his doctorate in fisheries biology at the University of Kiel. Eventually he traveled to western Africa to study fisheries, hoping that he might blend in there. Instead, he said, "I found I was European."

Pauly sailed the Java Sea in Indonesia and carried out fisheries research in the Philippines, finally landing in this city of many immigrants from many cultures. Easily identifying with the disadvantaged, Pauly has been working for years on "leveling the playing field," as he likes to say, trying to help scientists in developing countries conduct their research despite scant resources.

He found immediately that the methods to collect and analyze information that Europe was using could not be transferred wholesale to study tropical fisheries. Catches of tropical fish are on the whole much more diverse in terms of species, and those species have been studied little.

In addition, fish in temperate climates have growths in their ears that, like tree rings, can indicate their age. Tropical fish lack those easy markers, whose use figures prominently in standard methods of taking census counts and monitoring fish populations.

Pauly developed simple practical methodologies that depended not on age, but on the length of fish, and that required only inexpensive technology, like calculators. The methods enabled researchers in developing countries to study their fisheries.

Although much of his work is heavy on mathematics and modeling, Pauly said, he is no expert on such fields. He describes himself as not particularly talented but hard-working and capable of gathering and inspiring experts.

The many number-crunching scientists he has drawn here to work with him describe him as unendingly energetic, bursting with ideas, demanding and intensely interactive.

They say they brace for his return from long airplane trips, when he can be guaranteed to have made new plans for grander and, if possible, more controversial projects.

"We came here to make a difference," said Jackie Alder, a research fellow at the university. "If you want to stir the pot, he'll hand you the spoon."

Graphic

A fishy mission: Daniel Pauly says he's not talented, just a scientist who inspires real experts. But he has global vision and an alarming message

Color Photo: THE GAZETTE; A load of cod is taken off a fishing boat in Southern Harbour, Nfld. in 1997. The Atlantic fishery is in trouble.; Color Photo: NEW YORK TIMES; ***Daniel Pauly*** is global in outlook. He's also controversial.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: ICHTHYOLOGY (90%); SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (90%); FISHES (90%); OCEANOGRAPHY (90%); NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); CHILDREN (78%); MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (78%); FAMILY (75%); OCEANS (64%)

Industry: FINFISH FISHING (78%)

Geographic: INDIAN OCEAN (79%); ATLANTIC OCEAN (79%); BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA (58%); INDONESIA (73%)

Load-Date: January 26, 2003