



# News Article

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## Scientists predict 50% drop in global fish stocks by 2015

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A study is warning global fish stocks will be half what they were in 1988 by 2015.

University of British Columbia scientists say China has been reporting misleadingly large catches to conceal the absence of fish along its shores.

Report author Reg Watson, claims the world is playing with the food supply of the planet.

The study says global catches in the 1990s fell by 360 million kilograms per year, despite previous United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates suggesting an increase.

Scientists at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver say global catches will be down on estimates because China has been reporting misleadingly large catches.

They accuse the country of doing so to conceal the absence of fish along its shores, [The Independent](#) reports.

A computer model that predicts catch sizes in different ocean regions showed China's reports were unrealistically high compared to other oceans with similar characteristics.

Daniel Pauly, another co-author of the report, told the science journal [Nature](#): "Our studies showed that whatever [China's] leaders set as production targets is what is officially reported.

"If you dictate fisheries [output] to increase by 5%, then it is reported to increase by 5%."

He called for the end of over fishing, saying the sea can't meet our growing demand for fish.

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