



## Statement of Gerald Leape, Director of NET's Marine Conservation Program, on New Information Indicating Falling Fish Stocks

**Washington, D.C.** -- A new study that will be released in Nature tomorrow shows that the world's fisheries are dramatically declining in contrast to what was previously thought. Over-reporting of catches by China obscured the downward trend in global fisheries.

"This is a wake-up call to all fisheries managers especially those in the U.S. -- you can't make good management decisions based on poor data and that's exactly what we've been doing here. Right now, we don't even know the status of two-thirds of all the fish stocks in U.S. waters."

"There is currently legislation, The [Fisheries Recovery Act of 2001](#), before Congress that would eliminate this problem. This crisis deserves the immediate and full attention of Congress."

To see the report, visit: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/011129/011129-12.html>

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