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Marine reserves needed to protect cod stocks: scientist

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QUEBEC CITY-- Scientists say drastic changes are needed for wild fish stocks to recover.

More than 1,800 delegates attending the 133rd Congress of the American Fisheries Society in Quebec City are discussing ways to reduce chronic overfishing, the greatest factor in the declines.

Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre said when certain species of cod are overfished, the industry begins marketing other species. The shift poses a greater threat to the oceans than ever, he said.



Technology can allow all cod to be targeted

Technology means fish, even in the deepest parts of the sea, are being targeted.

"Before we were limited by events and by the situation itself," said Pauly. "Now we don't have those limits so we catch all the fish. It's as simple as that."

According to Pauly, creating large marine reserves is the only way to protect fish and replenish fish stocks. The measures include reduced quotas and closures.

He said Canada has a role to play internationally, after it improves its own track record. "Canada is not in that situation where it can tell the rest of the world we're doing it better than you, because it isn't."

The changes won't be popular but are necessary to protect all species, conservationists say.

Written by CBC News Online [staff](#)

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