

## **Press TV (Iran)**

US bans fishing subsidies  
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A US proposal for an international ban on fishing subsidies that lead to over-fishing has won support from the World Trade Organization.

Noting that more than 2.6 billion people depend on fish for food, Peter Allgeier, US WTO Ambassador, said strong action would help control the "race to fish".

According to a study by the University of British Columbia, global fisheries subsidies total an estimated \$30-\$34 billion annually, with at least \$20 billion being "harmful" subsidies promoting overcapacity and over-fishing.

Subsidies for boat-building and modernization have helped lift the capacity of the world's fishing fleet to more than twice the level needed for sustainable fishing, the study says, listing the biggest subsidizers as Japan (\$5.3b), the EU (\$3.3b) and China (\$3.1b).

Leading scientists warned last year that commercial fisheries could collapse altogether by mid-century.