

ScrippsNews

beta release | blogroll | latest blogs | forums | help | contact us

search

NEWS | SPORTS | LIFE | ARTS | BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY | OPINIONS

| Auto Racing | Baseball | Boxing | College Basketball | College Football | Golf | Hockey | Hunting and Fishing | NBA Basketball | NFL Football | Olympic Sports | Recreation | Soccer | Sports Columns | All other sports

Navigation

- recent posts
- news feeds
- category browser

User login

Username:

Password:

Log in

- Create new account
- Request new password

Advertising by Google

Ads by Google

Solar Powered Radios

18 Models of Self Powered Solar AM/FM SW & NOAA Radios www.nobatteryledlight.com

Emergency Dailer

Save the Day with Our Auto-Dialers Automatic Emergency Alert- Easy Use VoiceGate.com

Tornado Warning Systems

Federal Signal's Advanced Storm Warning Systems Can Save Lives

Emergency/Hurricane

Keep in touch when power is out! Hand crank, solar, TV/weather/AM/FM

Dakota Alert System

Wireless Montion Alert System Low Price, Large Selections. Home

Photos prove damage caused by trawlers

science and technology

By MARK HUME

Toronto Globe and Mail Friday, May 11, 2007

When world-renowned fisheries scientist Daniel Pauly clicked open his e-mail recently, he was stunned by the picture that flashed onto his screen.

There before the University of British Columbia researcher was a satellite image that confirmed something he'd long known, and that he'd written groundbreaking research papers about, but which he'd never seen so graphically illustrated.

The image, sent by Kyle Van Houtan, an environmental scientist at Duke University in North Carolina, was a picture of a Chinese trawler fleet at work in the ocean off the mouth of the Yangtze River.

Behind the trawlers were what Pauly has named "mud trails" _ great plumes of sediment churned up as the weighted nets plowed along the ocean floor.

"Divers have filmed this mud before," said Pauly, who in 1998 wrote a seminal research paper that coined the term "fishing down the food web" to describe how commercial fishing is depleting the oceans.

"What was not known before was that you could see these mud trails from space. I was flabbergasted by it."

Pauly said Van Houtan had found the pictures by looking at images shot from a QuickBird satellite, owned by DigitalGlobe.

"He wanted to know what we were seeing in these pictures," said Pauly.

The answer, he said Wednesday, is that the satellite images show in stark reality just how destructive ocean trawlers are.

"They lift up huge quantities of mud. Basically the implications are terrifying," said Pauly. "Trawling is destroying bottom habitat."

Van Houtan provided Pauly with a number of pictures of trawlers at work in oceans around the world. Some are in such sharp detail you can see birds whirling around the sterns of the vessels to feed on discarded fish.

One was of a fleet of trawlers at work off the Yangtze.

"The one from China blew everyone's mind," said Pauly, who has shared it with colleagues around the world. "This really shows the impact of trolling is like agriculture on land. There is no chance for wild animals to live there.

"All the (ocean) shelves on Earth are being trawled. The damage being done is enormous.

"I say it is like a geological force, because firm ocean bottoms are being turned into soft, oozy bottoms on a gigantic scale."

Pauly said the trawlers destroy coral reefs and other hard bottoms, replacing them with soft, muddy bottoms. Storms, tidal currents and the continual passage of trawlers stir up the sediment, which drifts back to the bottom, smothering life.

"These mud flats (that are created) are good for the production of shrimps only and nothing else," said Pauly.

"An environment that was dominated by large animals essentially becomes a microbial vat."

(Distributed by Scripps Howard News Service, www.scrippsnews.com.)

» email this page | delicious | digg | reddit | technorati

Post new comment

Your name: Anonymous

E-mail:

Recent Stories

- Mother's cells may linger
- Blue corn ... farm concentrations ... mower pollution ... more
- Iraq is no Vietnam
- How to stem the decline of unions
- Kid factor gone for Billy Gilman
- Rap on Clemens isn't about the money
- It's true about the magic of compound interest
- Richardson ads include mock job interview
- Romney: nothing 'more awful'
- than polygamy

 Young black bear finds condo
- to his liking

Advertisement



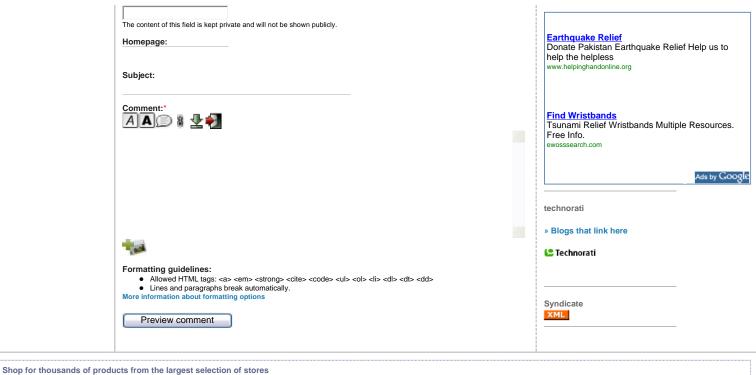
search by google

Google[®]

○ Web ScrippsNews

Search

Google Advertising



Electronics Home & Garden Office Furniture

Furniture Health & Beauty Home & Garden Home Accents Men's Shoes Office Furniture Computers & Software Sports & Outdoors Travel Women's Clothing Women's Shoes



All materials copyright 2006 Scripps Media Center and Scripps Howard News Service except where otherwise noted. Opinions expressed in user comments are not endorsed by ScrippsNews. ScrippsNews respects your privacy online.

Other E.W. Scripps Web sites include HGTV | Food Network | Do-It-Yourself Network | Fine Living | Great American Country Comparison Shop for Laptop Computers and PDA Phones at Shopzilla & BizRate