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One-Third of Caught Fish Wasted on Livestock

By: [Craig Baird](#) in [Green News](#)

Posted on Thu Nov 6 2008

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Last year, a study was released that said about half of the entire ocean's species would be gone between 2030 and 2050. This is of course disastrous for both the oceans and the Earth, and could spell the slow decline for our species on Earth. Since then, it has seemed that the fishing industry has made progress to become more sustainable to prevent this collapse from happening.

Sadly, things are not perfect yet, and a report in the issue of Annual Review of Environment and Resources showed how the mismanagement of ocean fishing has resulted in 30 percent of the total catch from the oceans being wasted on farmed fish, pigs and poultry. These fish that are wasted in this manner include anchovies, sardines, mehaden and other small and mid-sized species of fish. These fish serve as the primary food source for dolphins, whales, seabirds and large species of fish.

What makes this even worse is that there are other alternatives available. The Sea Around Us Project has

found that soy and land-based crops would be much better suited for the feeding of livestock. Sadly, this is more expensive and in an effort to appeal to the all-mighty dollar, companies use the inexpensive fish instead.

The reason this is such a problem can be answered by any first-year marine biology student. These fish serve as the basis of the food chain in the ocean, with only plankton and smaller types of fish below them. If these species of fish are over-fished, then it could spell the collapse of the food chain above them, and this would have far-reaching consequences across the planet for years, or even decades and centuries to come. As a result, it is highly important that when they are fished, that they are not fished to the extreme. More important than that, is the effort not to waste any of the fish that is caught on livestock when better and healthier alternatives exist.

The ocean is the cradle of life, and if we do not treat it with respect, and instead wipe it clean of life, then our time on this planet will be severely limited. The ocean gives life, but it can also take it away.

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