

Latest Posts | Archives | About | RSS | Contact

« Millionth Comment Meet-up in Vancouver | Main | Average Is Beautiful. But in a Leader? »

Last 24 Hours
 Syndication Feeds (RSS)
 Email Subscriptions
 The SB Weekly Recap

The Shifting Baselines Blog



[Jennifer Jacquet](#) is a Ph.D. candidate with the [Sea Around Us Project](#) at the UBC Fisheries Centre. She works closely with [Dr. Daniel Pauly](#), who coined the term [Shifting Baselines](#), the syndrome on which this blog focuses.



[Josh Donlan](#) is a conservation scientist and a [Visiting Fellow at Cornell University](#). He often hides out in the backcountry of the Teton Mountains, pondering bygone giant beavers and ground sloths. He also is also the founder and Director of [Advanced Conservation Strategies](#) and has a habit of restoring remote islands.



Scientist turned filmmaker [Randy Olson](#), founder of the [Shifting Baselines Ocean Media Project](#) is also a blog contributor.















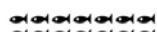

Funding Priorities: Big Barriers to Small-scale Fisheries

Category: [New Research](#) • [Ocean Politics](#) • [Seafood](#) • [Solutions](#)
 Posted on: September 13, 2008 10:57 AM, by [Jennifer L. Jacquet](#)

Focusing on subsidies rather than consumers likely to be better for fish and for small-scale fishermen

A couple weeks ago, Daniel Pauly and I got the paper [Funding Priorities: Big Barriers to Small-scale Fisheries](#) published in the journal *Conservation Biology*. In our analysis, we try to demonstrate that conservationists attempts to encourage sustainable fisheries at the market level should place at least equal emphasis on eliminating harmful fisheries subsidies as on consumer-based approaches (e.g., wallet cards that advise on which fish to eat).

More emphasis on eliminating subsidies might also bring small-scale fisheries, arguably our best hope at sustainable fishing, to the market.

FISHERY	LARGE SCALE 	SMALL SCALE 
BENEFITS		
Subsidies	\$\$\$\$\$ 25-27 billion	\$ 5-7 billion
Number of fishers employed	 about 1/2 million	 over 12 million
Annual catch for human consumption	 about 30 million t	 same: about 30 million t
Annual catch reduced to fishmeal and oils	 35 million t	 Almost none
Annual fuel oil consumption	 about 37 million t	 about 5 million t
Catch per tonne of fuel consumed	 =  1-2 t	 =  4-8 t
Fish and other sealife discarded at sea	 8-20 million tonnes	 Very little

Small-scale fisheries use much less fuel than industrial fisheries. They also discard fewer fish, convert almost none of their catch into fishmeal (to feed farmed fish, pigs, and chicken), and favor the use of labor over capital. Despite these more 'sustainable' traits, small-scale fisheries are disadvantaged by subsidies that go to industrial fishing fleets and keep big boats out on the water. This bias occurs because, as Daniel Pauly says, "small-scale fishers don't golf." So industrial fishers have access and power at the federal level (for which evidence can be seen in [European fishers recent demands for further increases in fuel subsidies](#)).

[ScienceDaily](#) and several other news sources covered our findings. And [Mongabay.com](#) [just published an interview with me](#) about this research and more. And, if you still haven't gotten enough, watch this short YouTube clip with a couple more of my thoughts on the topic:

All Blogs

ADVERTISEMENT

- [Living the Scientific Life \(Scientist, Interrupted\): The Bi | Polar Puzzle](#)
- [Living the Scientific Life \(Scientist, Interrupted\): Are Mad Cow Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Identical?](#)
- [Greg Laden's Blog : Major Blunder in Science Reporting will Fuel Creationist Claims](#)
- [erv : Elite Suppressors](#)
- [Greg Laden's Blog : "Flee Ike or Face Certain Death" \(What you need to know about Hurricane Ike\)](#)

Search this blog

New Projects & Publications

August 2008: Josh Donlan is co-author on a new paper titled [Integrating invasive mammal eradications and biodiversity offsets for fisheries bycatch: conservation opportunities and challenges for seabirds and sea turtles](#) published in *Biological Invasions*.

August 2008: Jennifer Jacquet is co-author on a new paper titled [Funding Priorities: Big Barriers to Small-Scale Fisheries](#) published in *Conservation Biology*.

August 2008: Josh Donlan is an author on a new paper in *Journal of Applied Ecology* titled [Diversity, invasive species, and extinctions in insular ecosystems](#).

July 26, 2008: Randy Olson's film [Sizzle](#) premieres on the East Coast at the [Woods Hole Film Festival](#) in MA.

July 24, 2008: Josh Donlan gives a talk on biodiversity offsets to [The Alcoa Foundation](#) and the Alcoa Intalco Aluminum Plant in Bellingham, Washington.

July 22, 2008: Jennifer Jacquet gives the talk "A Way Forward in a Sea of Market Based Initiatives to Save Wild Fish" at the [Scripps Institution of Oceanography](#) in La Jolla, CA.

July 19, 2008: Randy Olson's film [Sizzle](#) premieres on the West Coast at [Outfest](#) in Hollywood, CA.

July 17, 2008: Jennifer Jacquet gives the talk "In Hot Soup: Shark's Captured in Ecuador's Waters" at the [Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting](#) in Chattanooga, TN.

July 9, 2008: Jennifer Jacquet gives the talk "Flawed Data, Reef Fisheries, And Food Security: A Close Inspection Of Marine Fisheries Catches in Mozambique, Tanzania, Fiji, And The Solomon Islands" at the [11th International Coral Reef Symposium](#) in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

June/July 2008: Josh Donlan attends training for his [Kinship Conservation Fellowship](#) in Bellingham, WA.

May 2008: Josh Donlan is an author on a new paper in *Ambio* titled [High impact Conservation: Invasive Mammal Eradications from the Islands of Western Mexico](#).

May 15, 2008: Jennifer Jacquet reviews [Bottomfeeder: How to Eat Ethically in a World of Vanishing Seafood](#) at the Tye.

April 2008: [Trade Secrets: Renaming and Mislabeling of Seafood](#) by Jennifer Jacquet and Daniel Pauly is published in *Marine Policy*.

April 2008: Randy Olson and the [Puget Sound Partnership](#) release the flash video [Shifting Baselines in the Sound](#).



Find more posts in: [Environment](#)

ShareThis

Comments

Thanks, I did not know this info.

#1

My uni department hosted a speaker a couple of years ago talking about conservation and management programs. He was very good, encouraging us to get more involved in policy. One thing he said was very blunt and really struck me.

Policy decisions and regulations are never 'based on the science'. They are always political (special interest, ect). Our job as involved scientists is to try to shape the landscape such that the political and economic self-interests end up aligning with what is sensible from a scientific perspective.

Posted by: travc | [September 13, 2008 5:42 PM](#)

Post a Comment

(Email is required for authentication purposes only. Comments are moderated for spam, your comment may not appear immediately. Thanks for waiting.)

Name:

Email Address:

URL:

Comments: (you may use HTML tags for style)

Preview

Post

[Having problems commenting? \(UPDATED\)](#)

If it's in the water we'll help you find it.

[CLICK HERE](#) for FREE Environmental Applications Compendium



If it's in the water we'll help you find it.

[CLICK HERE](#) for FREE Environmental Applications Compendium

