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Low
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Editorial

Good news, bad news



As you know, we were gratified by the report "Rebuilding Global Fisheries," by Boris Worm and Ray Hilborn, which is optimistic (though hardly giddy) about the prospect for fish stocks.

It's not so much what they said — that science and management can combine and, indeed, have combined forces for productive fisheries — but the fact that their message will reach the general public, a segment of the population, I observe with some irony, that we historically have trouble reaching.

However, the public is also likely to be exposed to "The End of the Line," a documentary whose sell-line is "Imagine a world without fish."

You get the picture.

"The End of the Line" is artfully produced and, assuming it's broadly distributed, is all but certain to be a real headache, most of all, unfortunately, to responsible participants in sustainable fisheries whom the public is sure to lump in with outlaws a half a world away.

"We are fighting a war against fish," proclaims Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia, a leading — and extremely articulate — critic of commercial fishing, "and we are winning."

No sense copping an attitude about this one. Make a point to see it, and engage it with as many facts and as few nuances as you can muster.

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The truth is on our side, but we are way down the hill.

Thank you for your time.

Jerry Fraser
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