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## No room left for fisheries to expand, survey shows

EMMA WOOLLACOTT | Fri 3rd Dec 2010, 08:09 am

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There's no room on the planet to expand fisheries any further, according to a new study that tracks their growth since 1950.

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**University of British Columbia** researchers say that fisheries expanded at a rate of one million square kilometres per year between 1950 and the end of the 1970s. The rate of expansion more than tripled in the 1980s and early 1990s – to roughly the size of Brazil's Amazon rain [forest](#) every year.

Between 1950 and 2005, total catch increased by nearly five times, from 19 million tonnes to a peak of 90 million tonnes in the late 1980s.

"For decades now, numerous fisheries are corporate operations that take a mostly no-fish-left-behind approach to our oceans until there's nowhere left to go," says Daniel Pauly, co-author and principal investigator of the Sea Around Us Project at UBC [Fisheries](#) Centre.

The total dropped to 87 million tonnes in 2005, according to the study - but not for any worthy reason.

"The decline of spatial expansion since the mid-1990s is not a reflection of successful [conservation](#) efforts but rather an indication that we've simply run out of room to expand fisheries," says Wilf Swartz, of the UBC Fisheries Centre.

"If people in Japan, Europe, and North America find themselves wondering how the markets are still filled with seafood, it's in part because spatial expansion and trade makes up for [overfishing](#)

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and 'fishing down the food chain' in local waters."

In fact, less than 0.1 per cent of the world's oceans are designated as marine reserves and closed to fishing.

"The era of great expansion has come to an end, and maintaining the current supply of wild fish sustainably is not possible," says National Geographic [Ocean](#) Fellow Enric Sala.

"The sooner we come to grips with it – similar to how society has recognized the effects of climate change – the sooner we can stop the downward spiral by creating stricter fisheries regulations and more marine reserves."

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 **fishy** 5 days ago

Without the ability to truly see other than expediently throwing a glance, sight has no real meaning. Without the ability to be fearful, you won't know what being greedy means. As such, it is always the message and not the messenger. Running out of fish [and not so much, say, the Japanese], is not the real message, that is merely the messenger trying to be the message, wearing the fish outfit in order to exude. The true message behind the attempt of trying to contain/own the impossibly large is that change is the order of the day and not preaching about change and the salient feature about changing is that it has to happen now, the now factor being the reality.

People cannot be taught, they have to be pure within their desire/change and not willy-nilly desiring purity/change. Hands up, those who will start eating smaller portions of fish and not buying fish from those who waste fish through "marketing", "displaying", "processing" and the myriad of messages which are ignored because few are convinced that misfortune is theirs [but most expect fortune/lottery-strike to be theirs - optimism or just denying pessimism]. To be able to learn, we must be able to realised the benefit and not just hope for the

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benefit. Preaching about the coming death of fish is not doing anything other than selling the preacher/driving-up fish prices because for every one who is going to give love a try, there will be many who would not be so whilst not forgetting those who will say that the oncoming scarcity is actually a bounty in disguise.

It is through having the courage to see that change will come and once a person is able to open his true eyes, he will see more than just over-fishing, he will be able to see the totality of the destruction and not so much selling the destruction. It would be benevolent to realise that changing partly is actually "No Change" in reality. It has to be an all or nothing approach and for that, Divinity has the backdoor key/solution - to gift real sight, aka absoluteness of discrimination - such that we won't need some disaster to inform us that not changing is the real disaster and not, say, overfishing. Seen anybody really changing yet? Really, is that Hollywood or Bollywood. Afterall, whatever a disaster maybe, it has to arrive at one's doorstep to be so which is why reality is one self and never others, others being mere knowledge, especially misfortune, whereas fortune is always next to one's doorstep - aka illusion-cum-delusion preached into reality/ignored through optimism, the duty of optimism being to counter pessimism and nothing else.

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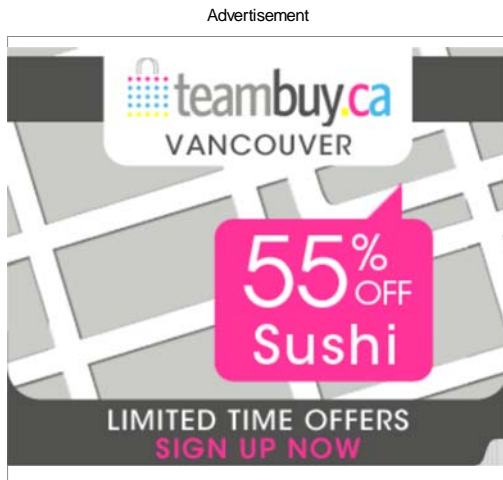


**mcrackin** 5 days ago

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