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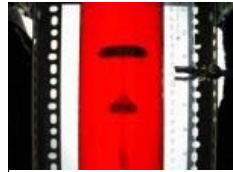
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Fisheries have no more place to expand on Earth

Sat, Dec 4, 2010

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A new study that just makes you say 'Wow!' was published in the online journal *PLoS ONE* by researchers from the University of British Columbia; they concluded that our planet has absolutely no more place to expand fisheries after charting the systematic development of the industry.

The study is the first one of this kind, taking into consideration the spatial development of fisheries throughout the world; they found out that from the 1950s to the 1970s, fisheries expanded at a rate of one million sq. kilometres per year, and this rate more than tripled by the 1980s and 1990s. However, after that period, the numbers slowly dropped.

"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, a PhD student at UBC Fisheries Centre and lead author of the study.

On the other hand, less than 0.1 percent of marine areas are protected against fishing.

"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 and 'fishing down the food chain'

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pretty dire, because wild fish sustainability is not possible at the moment.

"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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Written by [Mihai Andrei](#)



Andrei is no scientist, but from an early age, he has been fascinated by science; that's why he went to college, and signed up for Geophysics. Feeling that there's a huge gap between science and average people, he rallied TP, started ZME Science, and gave it a green twist too.

Andrei has published 686 posts on ZME Science .

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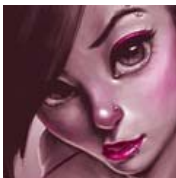
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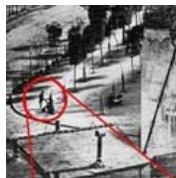
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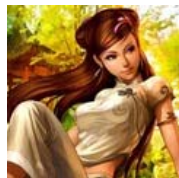
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