

## Changing Oceans: the Decline of Large Fish

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The demand for fish for human consumption is on the rise, but, as reported by researchers on Friday, the supply is on the decline.

In fact, the number of large fish in oceans worldwide has dropped by two-thirds over the last one-hundred years.

At a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Villy Christensen of the University of [British Columbia](#), inquired whether there would still be fish in the oceans in 2050. He answered that there would still be fish, but the seas would be very different from the seas we know today or have ever known in the past.

Since the population of large, predatory fish is declining, other fish are able to reproduce unchecked. This shift of populations throws the ocean ecosystem off-balance. He related the change to that of a wilderness area transforming into a domestic situation where the lions are gone and the antelopes and deer are left behind. Meanwhile, added fellow researcher Reg Watson, restrictions on fishing are keeping humans from harvesting these growing numbers of smaller fish. Still, a member of the UN Environment Programme, Jacqueline Alder, suggested that all fishing should halt until the oceans re-balance themselves.



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