



## highlights

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## this week's highlights

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## Global fisheries: Stock taking

The global fish catch is declining, something that would give cause for concern about the sustainability of fisheries and the ability of the world to feed itself. Or it would, were it not for systematic over-reporting by China in the mid-1990s. Because the Chinese catch is so large, the over-reporting biases estimates of the global catch, so that the overall trend in the 1990s was officially up, when in reality catches had already begun to go down.

**letters to nature****Systematic distortions in world fisheries catch trends**

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