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Pauly: MSC has nothing to do with conservation

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The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) has "very little" to do with conservation, says scientist Daniel Pauly, the keynote speaker at this year's Seafood Summit.

"I see the MSC as part of the sector. It is something the industry needs to make its products more palatable," he said. "It is reacting as a result of impulses from the industry. It doesn't have much to do with conservation anymore."

Pauly also warned on the situation with regards to the growth of salmon farming to produce a commodity product.

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"It is fine to make money producing a luxury product. I have lunch with a guy that produces caviar -- that is fine. Don't try to make it a commodity and externalize all the costs with wages and working conditions."

Dialogue with the salmon farming industry is "like talking with the tobacco industry, they always say, 'this is not proven.'"

Impact of global warming

The combination of fisheries expansion and the development of global warming will have a devastating effect on wild fish populations in the future, he said.

"Global warming is coming; we can see it in the fog. It is becoming clearer. We have a bad situation with stocks, global warming will make things worse."

It will cause of shift of species to the north and south, he said.

However, he said that the increase in cod stocks in the Barents Sea and Baltic is a "new opportunity" for cod. The problem is, the capacity could be transferred elsewhere, he said.

In his key note speech on the first day of the conference, Pauly said that industrial fishing is, by its very nature, unsustainable. He advocated for a return to small scale fishing that can only come from a decrease in industrial fishing, because the two "directly compete."

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