

# Business Week

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## Innovations

### Otis Port

Despite mounting evidence that the oceans' fish stocks are shrinking to perilous levels, the U.N. Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported steady increases in fish catches during the 1990s. The FAO data were wrong. China's reports to the agency were grossly inflated by officials whose promotions were, until recently, based on the size of China's catch -- which is dropping, not growing. The discrepancy was uncovered by researchers at the University of British Columbia. -- Blasting cancer with sound waves may soon be a safer, cheaper alternative to surgery. In clinical trials at University Hospitals of Cleveland and Case Western Reserve University, radio-frequency energy delivered through a needle inserted into a tumor cooked it to death. The technique killed the tumors in 10 of 11 patients. A similar treatment for prostate cancer has been developed by Focus Surgery in Indianapolis. -- Spread by mosquitoes, malaria kills millions of people each year. This deadly scourge might be stopped if scientists could pinpoint the precise combinations of chemicals that attract the insects. A team led by biologist Laurence J. Zwiebel at Vanderbilt University has taken a step in that direction, isolating key genes that govern how mosquitoes sniff out their victims. That understanding should lead to better repellents -- or irresistible lures for lethal traps.