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World's tuna stocks under siege, say scientists

Posted: February 19, 2008, 7:52 PM by Ronald Nurwisah

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Tuna is easily the world's most ubiquitous fish. You can buy cans of it for under a buck at the corner store or spend a whole lot more for a really great raw cut of it at a sushi restaurant. But fishery experts are worried that tuna's worldwide popularity means that the "chicken of the sea" might go the way of the dodo. Canadian scientists also point out that Canada knows a thing or two about disappearing fish. [Canwest has the story:](#)

"The whole idea is to look at what happened to cod and say, 'What can we learn from this . . . to save tuna from going the same way?' " said Rashid Sumaila, a professor and environmental economist at the University of British Columbia.

Particularly at danger are tuna stocks in the Mediterranean, but stocks in the Pacific are also at risk for being overfished. There's big money in tuna but a collapse in the tuna population could also be a financial disaster.

At its peak in 1968, the landed value of cod in Atlantic Canada was \$1.4 billion Cdn. That value had dropped to \$10 million by 2004. The cod fishery was closed in 1992, devastating the economy of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Photo: Tuna is a big business, generating more than \$1-billion a year, but scientists say overfishing threatens the long-term sustainability of the

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