

Canada 19th largest fish catching country: National Geographic



A wild Atlantic salmon caught in Paris, France.

Getty Images

Shereen Dindar September 22, 2010 – 5:11 pm

A new study conducted by the [University of British Columbia](#), the [National Geographic Society](#) and [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#), ranks the top 20 nations with the greatest impact on ocean ecosystems through catching and consuming marine wildlife.

The SeafoodPrint study, written up in October's *National Geographic* magazine, found that China's enormous population gives it the world's biggest "seafood print" — 694 million metric tonnes of the sea's resources consumed each year. The U.S. came in 3rd in both catch and consumption rates.

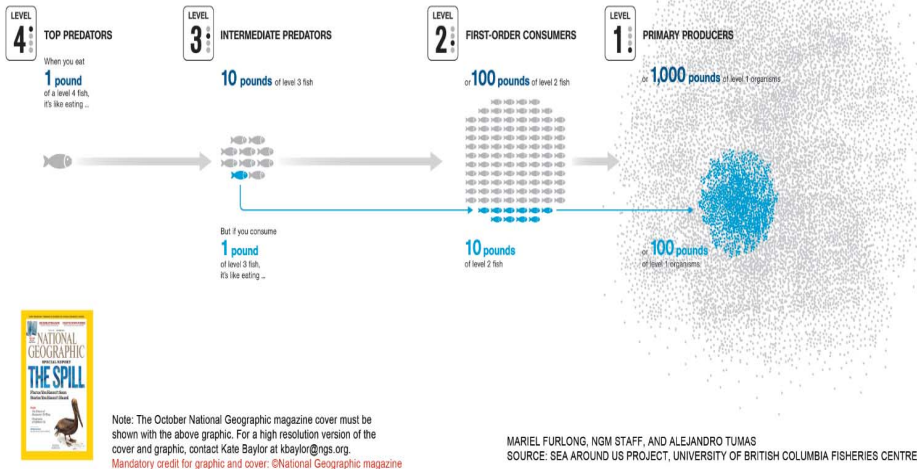
Canada [ranked 19th](#) in catch rates, but did not make the top 20 for consumption rates.

Lead researcher, [Daniel Pauly](#) of UBC, explains that not all seafood are equal when it comes to ocean impacts.

"Every fish is different. A pound of tuna represents roughly a hundred times the footprint of a pound of sardines," Pauly said in a statement.

What We Eat Makes a Difference

Examples of Top Predators: Bluefin tuna, goliath grouper, Atlantic salmon, orange roughy
Examples of First-Order Consumers: Tilapia, snails, sea urchins



The study's figures do not represent the raw tonnage of fish and shellfish consumed by a nation. It measures what the researchers called "primary production" of seafood — a figure weighted to reflect not only the total amount of seafood consumed, but also the place each seafood species occupies on the food chain.

"A country can acquire primary production by fishing, or it can acquire it by trade," explains Pauly in a statement.

The report claims that when poorer countries enter into fishing trades with wealthier countries they are at a disadvantage because local fish is denied to citizens who have a greater need for them.

Among the researchers recommendations, they advocate reducing the world's fishing fleets by half, establishing large no-catch zones, and limiting the use of wild fish as feed in fish-farming to reduce the impact of the seafood industry on the world's fish stocks.

The study warns, "These quantities are not just extremely large but also fundamentally unsustainable."

Check out the *National Geographic* [seafood quiz](#) to see how much you know about seafood sustainability and wise seafood purchasing.

with files from AFP

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