

WASHINGTON

Study: China catches, eats most seafood; U.S. is 3rd

China catches and consumes more fish than any other nation, according to findings published today in *National Geographic* magazine, while the United States ranks third.

The study measures what its researchers call the seafood print of each country, factoring in the type of fish and total haul to gauge the extent to which a nation exploits the ocean. The U.S. comes in as high as it does in part because Americans prefer top predators such as Atlantic salmon.

The report also highlights a divide in which rich countries are increasingly buying their fish, often from poorer nations that don't consume nearly as much. Japan is second in overall fish consumption and buys more than twice as much as it catches. By contrast, Peru ranks No. 2 in terms of its annual catch, largely because its anchovies help supply fish meal for farm-raised pigs and chickens, as well as fish. Peru's citizens consume very little fish themselves.

