

## International Arctic fishing grossly underreported, researchers say

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Fisheries catches in the Arctic waters of Russia, Canada and Alaska have for decades been underreported to the United Nations, say researchers from the University of British Columbia. CBC News reports that as an example of underreporting, "the Alaska Department of Fish and Game showed that over the study period, the Arctic fish catch in Alaska alone was 89,000 tons, even though the U.S. reported no catches at all to the U.N."

*"Ineffective reporting, due to governance issues and a lack of credible data on small-scale fisheries, has given us a false sense of comfort that the Arctic is still a pristine frontier when it comes to fisheries," said Dirk Zeller, the lead author of the report on the research findings, in a statement.*

*"We now offer a more accurate baseline against which we can monitor changes in fish catches and to inform policy and conservation efforts."*

*The study, published this week in the journal Polar Biology, estimated that fisheries catches in Russian, Canadian and U.S. Arctic waters totalled 950,000 tonnes from 1950 to 2006 - nearly 75 times more than 12,700 tonnes reported to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.*

[Read more at CBC News.](#)