Are Current Fishing Regulations Misguided?

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A new paper in the <u>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</u> 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

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