

The 11th Hour for Seafood Lovers 渔业危机倒数计时

Since the mid-twentieth century when large **commercial** fishing fleets began **roaming** the world's oceans, we have enjoyed access to **abundant** and relatively affordable seafood. Nowadays, Japanese restaurants serve delicious sushi and sashimi, while Chinese restaurants serve steamed **cod** and sweet **vinegar yellow croaker**. Then there is the **ever-present delicacy** of shark fin soup offered at traditional Chinese weddings, of which there are about nine million per year in China. However, such widespread seafood consumption is leading us down a very dangerous path.

二十世纪，大型捕鱼队开始横扫世界各大洋，自此，我们一直享有充裕且相当便宜的海鲜。现今，日本料理餐厅提供美味的寿司及生鱼片，而中式餐厅则端上清蒸鳕鱼和糖醋黄鱼，此外还有东方婚宴中无所不见的美食：鱼翅羹——中国每年大概有多达九百万场喜宴。然而如此普及的海鲜消费却正将我们导向一条危险的道路。

A study published in the journal [Science](#) in 2006 found that if present fishing rates continue, the world's **fisheries will collapse** by 2048. Countless stories in the media today are filled with such **alarming statistics**, which all point to one broad conclusion: we are fishing at an unsustainable rate, and utilizing fishing techniques that, if left unchecked, will do **irreparable** damage to ocean ecosystems.

一篇于 2006 年《科学》杂志发表的研究报告指出，倘若人们不减缓现在的捕鱼速度，全球渔业将于 2048 年崩溃。现今，不计其数的媒体报导都充斥着这类令人恐慌的数据，而且都指向同一个概略的结论：我们正以远超过生态所能负荷的速度捕鱼，而且我们使用的渔捞技术若未受管制，将对海洋生态造成无法弥补的伤害。

With that being said, all hope is not lost. These ecosystems, though they will never return to their once **pristine** condition, can **recover** with our help. One proven method is to **set aside** zones that are **off-limits** to all human activity while keeping others open for fishing. Another possible solution is referred to as [catch-share](#) fisheries management, in which fisheries receive a share of **fixed** seasonal fishing **quotas**. We can also do our part by reading guides about **sustainable** sushi and fish, such as the one provided by the [Blue Ocean Institute](#), before buying seafood. With our **assistance**, aquatic life the world over will be able to bounce back.

虽说如此，我们仍有一丝希望。遭受破坏的生态系统虽然无法回到最原始的状态，但在我们的努力之下是能慢慢恢复的。一项已证实有效的方法是设立一些禁止所有人类活动的区域，只开放其他区域允许渔业活动。另一项可行的方法是渔获量管理机制，意指每个捕鱼队会分配到固定的季节性捕捞配额。我们也能海洋保育出一份力，在选购海鲜之前先阅读一些像是蓝色海洋研究所提供的一些指南，了解如何选购永续寿司及海鲜。在我们的帮助下，全世界的海洋生物一起能恢复蓬勃生机。

— by Joe Henley

Vocabulary

commercial [kəˈmɜːʃəl] adj. 商业的

abundant [ə ` bʌndənt] adj. 丰富的，充裕的
delicacy [` dɛləkəsi] n. 美味，佳肴
collapse [kə ` læps] v. 崩溃；垮掉
alarming [ə ` lɑ:miŋ] adj. 令人担忧的，令人恐慌的
statistic [stə ` tɪstɪk] n. 统计数值
irreparable [ɪ ` rɛpərəbəl] adj. （破坏、伤害等）不能修复的；无法弥补的
recover [rɪ ` kʌvə] v. 恢复
set aside 留出，拨出
off-limits [` ɔf ` lɪmɪts] adj. 禁止进入的；禁区的
fixed [fɪkst] adj. 固定的
sustainable [sə ` stenəbəl] adj. 能长期保持的；能长期维持的；能持续的
assistance [ə ` sɪstəns] n. 援助，帮助

More Information

11th hour : 在最后的时刻，刚刚来得及 the latest possible time before it is too late
roam [rom] v. 漫步；漫游；流浪
cod [kɔd] n. 鳕鱼
vinegar [` vɪnɪgə] n. 醋
yellow croaker [` krokə] 黄花鱼；大黄鱼
ever-present 經常存在的
fishery [` fɪʃəri] n. 渔业
pristine [` prɪstɪn] adj. 原始的；崭新的；完好无损的
quota [` kwotə] n. 配额；定额；限额