

Title: **Potential Contribution of Global Marine Fishery Resources to Human Welfare**

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Abstract: We combine information from several global fisheries databases including those from the Sea Around Us Project (www.seaaroundus.org) and the Fisheries Economics Research Unit (<http://feru.org>) to project the future potential gains in human welfare under the assumption that (i) global fisheries continue the current declining trend observed over the last several decades; and (ii) the global community succeeds in doing what it takes to rebuild global fisheries in such a way that they may be described as sustainable, where the potential maximum catch from ocean fish populations are attained through time. Often, fisheries managers feel pressure to sacrifice the long term health of marine fish resources in favor of short term economic needs of the fishing industry and consumers. By estimating the potential contribution of global marine fisheries to human welfare, the current study seeks to motivate the public and policy makers alike to develop sound policies aimed at protecting the oceans of the world, supporting sustainable activities, and therefore the communities that depend on them.