

Dateline Earth

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Roundup: China's big dam now looks a lot less gorges; BP caves in on Lake Michigan pollution; organic aquaculture? And more

Dog days be damned, it's been a busy week for compelling enviro-news from right here in Puget Sound clear over to Asia. (We're Dateline *Earth*, after all).

- Speaking of dams, China's [Three Gorges Dam](#) has long been controversial. But now it turns out the world's largest hydropower project seems likely to trap sewage, fertilizer and a lot of other gunk that previously would have flowed to sea. And it looks like the sheer weight of all that water is eroding the steep banks of the Yangtze River's shores, writes Shai Oster in a [Page One story](#) in the Wall Street Journal this week. Writes Oster:

The emerging issues at Three Gorges illustrate this rapidly industrializing country's efforts to control its environment, and how the attempts to overcome them can worsen the problem.



See that bridge on top? It will replace the one on the bottom when the Yangtze is dammed

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If you don't have the cash for a WSJ subscription, [this enviro-news site](#) has a reasonably good recap.

- Remind me not to take this job: Out on the high seas, observers stationed on fishing boats by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to report overfishing or other violations have increasingly faced retaliation from fishing crews, according to [figures obtained by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility](#) through the Freedom of Information Act. Understand that many of these observers are young women, who must live with all- or mostly-male crews for long periods in treacherous waters. Environment News Service [covered the story](#). Here's the kicker: Just as these harassment incidents were escalating, NOAA stopped compiling the statistics.



Don't these scallops in mascarpone sauce look great? I have to stop writing these things at lunchtime ...

Photo/[pdphoto.org](#)

- Closer to home, clams, scallops and other shellfish are on the menu, er, agenda next month in Oregon when shellfish producers, researchers, enviros and others get together to talk about declaring certain farm-raised mollusks "eco-friendly." I know -- farm-raised? Eco-friendly? Makes you think of jumbo shrimp or military intelligence, yes? But the World Wildlife Fund is among those [willing to give it a try](#). Meanwhile, Atle Eide, head honcho at Marine Harvest, the world's largest farmed-salmon operation, [is resigning](#), effective tomorrow. [Enviros wonder](#): A sign of change?

- Maybe it was the Sun-Times? We [touched recently](#) (third item) on how the newspaper, which manages to be at once venerable and scrappy, had advocated a boycott of BP because the energy giant was planning to increase dumping of ammonia and suspended solids into Lake Michigan. Here's rival Chicago Tribune's story by Michael Hawthorne recounting how [BP is backing down](#). Predictably, perhaps, it doesn't mention

the Sun-Times.

- Whoa! Four organizations including [Stewardship Partners](#) have been named as recipients of an \$883,000 EPA grant to "promote market-based conservation and sustainable land use in forestry, agriculture, and residential development that will preserve the habitat and water quality of this relatively pristine Puget Sound watershed," the group says. That's a huge chunk of change. Tribes, ag folks, timber people, enviros and others in the Nisqually have worked hard over the years to achieve peace, and from what we hear the lions really are laying down with the lambs. The other groups involved are the [Nisqually River Council](#), the [Nisqually Land Trust](#) and the [Northwest Natural Resource Group](#).

Posted by [Robert McClure](#) at August 31, 2007 10:59 a.m.

· [Return to Roundup: China's big dam now looks a lot less gorges; BP caves in on Lake Michigan pollution; organic aquaculture? And more](#)