

Title: Tuna, the Bison of the Sea; Consumerism, Aquaculture, and Christian Stewardship

Program of Study: Studio and Digital Arts

Presentation Type: PowerPoint

Mentors & Email: Professor Chris Phillips; csphillips4@liberty.edu

Student & Email: Kerry Christman; kchristman1@liberty.edu

Category: Creative & Artistic

The aim of this paper and presentation of created artwork is to inspire and educate about the environmental issues of overfishing our ocean's resources, in particular looking at the Bluefin Tuna as a target for consumerism and the proposed problems of eradicating an apex predator. The threat of our ocean's ecosystem becoming unbalanced in trophic levels caused by the diet evolution and lifestyle choices of humankind in this present time interval is referred to as Anthropocene. This paper poses questions of sustainability and stewardship attained from the studies performed in the lucrative business of tuna farming and fattening that has now presided dominance in the fishing market as an alternative resource to depleting the biomass of wild stock. Through researching the methods of conservation regulated by the international governments of: International Conservation Community of Atlantic Tuna, Regional Management of Fisheries Organizations, and the Food and Agriculture Organizations, this paper provides clarity to allocate solutions to the misgivings and misrepresentations of the assessments regarding Bluefin Tuna species. The presentation will further look into the development of creative thinking and research serves the concept of man's consumerism and the threat of extinction that looms in the insatiable appetite for sushi through a satirical illustration mimicking pop culture reference to the blockbuster movie, Jaws. The presentation will add to the illustrated

artworks concept of consumerism by providing awareness and conscious efforts in becoming more environmentally aware and better stewards of our oceans.

Christian Worldview Integration:

The Christian worldview concerning the cultural mandate by respecting and honoring God's creation as well as the Old Testament narrative of God's provision through the use of manna impacts the concept of consumerism presented in artwork. Faith coupled with environmental stewardship and scientific findings in the decrease of populations of wild tuna also posed as inspiration into the presentation. The integration of faith in the artwork created mimics and glorifies the ultimate creator while simultaneously uses the figure of a remote hand emerging from an unknown space below as the personification of consumerism. This transition of using the hand to allude to Michelangelo's infamous *Creation of Adam*, where God's hand reaches to touch Adams's, harkens the inherent liturgical and Christian symbolism found in Art History. The research and artwork is impactful for the culture at large by using visual communication to relate universal truths of the cultural mandate and being good stewards of what God has created. Referencing the Native American philosophy of living within the harmony and balance of nature, this illustration and presentation heralds the Christian Church to do the same by making better choices for sustainability emphasizing the ocean. By examining consumerism driving the aquaculture and overfishing market, the integration of Christian worldview can be viewed as bringing light to the idols we serve and participate in the world today. For we are called to serve no other idols before our Lord and to be serious and alert for His next coming. For when the Messiah comes, we need to be prepared to be responsible and give account for the things He has

given us, including His creation. Therefore, this presentation aims to inspire the Christian Church and worldview to be the fore runners for Cultural Mandate and Stewardship.