

A Tale of Tuna



Robert Cantrell
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I always enjoy visiting Japan. I find it an interesting contradiction. It seems technically more advanced and socially somewhat behind at the same time.



Many things seem the same as they are at home yet different.



There is a reality of being on the outside looking in...



...and at times, an illusion of being on the inside looking out.



There is also a famous fish market where bluefin tuna and other fish are sold.

Tsukiji Fish Market



4:55 a.m. The Tsukiji fish market awakens.



A centerpiece of the Tsujiki fish market, the largest fish market in the world, is the sale of bluefin tuna.



Bluefin tuna are phenomenal fish. Nature built them for speed, going so far as to make them partially warm blooded for more efficient muscle propulsion.



Bluefin tuna are sold for food at Tsujiki by auction.



Sellers price lesser fish by what they expect the market will bear.



There is an honesty to Tsujiki fish market that I appreciate. The reality is that most fish meet a violent end one way or another.

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This violent end is true for bluefin tuna.



Only an estimated one in one million bluefin tuna survives from egg to adulthood. These were the lucky ones.



Once a staple for cat food, today bluefin tuna are prized in sushi restaurants. A single bluefin tuna has sold at auction for over \$100K...which causes a problem.

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It is now worthwhile for individuals to hunt down every last fish.



**Just as the surest way to defeat a human enemy is to leave him no sanctuary,
the surest way to eliminate a species is to kill it everywhere and all the time.**



There is a solution. Sanctuaries can raise fish populations significantly, although with wide ranging tuna, meaningful sanctuaries would be a challenge to establish.



Sanctuaries, however, could keep the bluefin tuna market viable...if the long term needs of the many can be made to outweigh the short term needs of a few.

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The interests of everyone is actually the same. Everyone desires there to be more fish.

Conclusion



Morning at the Tsujiki fish market ends.



I head to the airport.



I land back home. The Tsujiki fish market will open again on the other side of the world in three hours.

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