



Vale Silver Superfish

By Reese Halter

O pinnacle of piscine evolution,
Pointed snout, plump middle, crescent caudal,
The ultimate predator, bluefin tuna.
Counter-shaded, dark topside, light below,
Blue, green, silver befitting only the regal.

Olympians inhaling ramjet oxygen-loaded seawater,
Travelling a distance equal to length each second.
Sampson-like heart 10X other's size.
Gracefully cruising 46 knots, top end 55 knots!
Night schooling, slower, musing, bunched.

Diving 700-kilo superfish seeking daily prey, 175 kilos.
Warm-blooded countercurrent heat exchange beauts,
Specialised white and red muscle bands flowing heat.
Astonishingly, 14 degrees warmer than the icy inky abyss.
Thirty years of sprinting the seas, whoa!

Money, greed, power, annihilation, evilness.
2 billion hooks, 21 million longline kilometres, 3.7 million fishers.
Domesticated cats eat more tuna than seals.
Sashimi, cold storage, Chinese/Japanese trawlers endlessly marauding,
Economics of extinction, last one highest price. Imminent.
Goddamnit.

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