

## Chilean Sea Bass

The aim: protect the ocean.  
Promote rational use.  
Be precautionary.  
Avoid too much abuse.

Be precautionary:  
No risk in the face of doubt.  
"Don't fish there just in case".  
Is what it's all about.

Apply the science method.  
Uncover the total stock.  
Rules put down thereafter.  
Not in a way, ad hoc.

Yet say in the case of toothfish,  
the theory on paper is sound.  
When in the actual ocean,  
it's not based on solid grounds.

The life of the toothfish  
is a mystery to science.  
Adrift the deepest depths.  
They make elusive clients.

So what are the actions,  
in the face of the unknown?  
Be precautionary.  
Is the supposed tone...

"Why don't we base our models,  
On a different kind of fish,  
Make stock estimates,  
That'll be accurate-ish".

Fists bang onto tables,  
the fishermen want to work.  
Open up the waters,  
says the banker with a smirk.

A lady with red lips,  
hair curled in a bun.  
A night in downtown New York.  
Cosmopolitan fun.

Teeth sink into white flesh,  
her favourite Friday treat.  
It is Chilean Sea Bass,  
she goes out on the town to eat.

As her taste buds explode,  
the banker shakes a hand.  
A fisherman nods his head.  
A fish is pulled off the sand.

The slash of a hook in gills.  
A silver fork hits plate.  
The 'ka-ching' of a cash drawer.  
Now it's all too late.

Black ocean depths are empty.  
The children are told the tale.  
We planned to stop this nonsense.  
But all to no avail.

"Be precautionary?"  
Says the grandchild with wide eyes.  
"You weren't precautionary,  
all the fish have died".

And so goes the story,  
if we don't act wisely now.  
In the face of the uncertain,  
what should we disallow?

Activities that continue,  
when we don't know the damage made,  
Industry based on guess work,  
is a practice that has to fade.