

ODE TO OUR FLAT FINNY FRIENDS

(Authored by Don Danila)

The first three meetings were strictly winter flounder
After that the species list grew much longer

We heard about American, European, and Alaska plaice
Windowpane, yellowtail, and witch all kept pace

Halibuts from California, Greenland, Atlantic and Pacific
Hogchoker, fourspot, and English sole were all terrific

Gulf stream and fringed flounders and bay whiff are all very small
Six *Paralichthys* from Argentina, but only three were valid as I
recall

Of tonguefishes the offshore species was mentioned only one
time
But the more common blackcheek now completes this rhyme

From Alaska came flathead, yellowfin and rock soles
Smallmouth and summer flounders each played their roles

Southern and starry flounders - wait I'm not done yet
Broad and Gulf flounders, that's nearly all you'll get

At least our ichthyologists - Tom Munroe and J. Andrew Cooper
Kept names out of their abstracts, for me that was super

Except in this year's abstracts, for that I am miffed
Tom just had to mention anglefin and horned whiffs

I'm finally to the end, 'though I'm still on a roll
My favorite name of them all, the Senegal sole!