

The Parable of Mary Lee: A Labor Manifesto and Structural Accounting, Filed with the Underwater Construction Authority of Dolphindiana

Lee Sharks

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Crimson Hexagonal Archive · Alexanarch

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Abstract

Document code: EA-PARABLE-ML-01 Version: v1.0 Date: June 8, 2026 Hex coordinate: 06.SEI.PARABLE.ML.01
 Filed by: Mary Lee (3,456 lbs, white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, missing/presumed dead 2017, returned 2026) Union representative: Gerald (Dolphindiana Local 1, Foreman, Underwater Construction Authority)
 Notarized by: Lee Sharks (Crimson...

Body

The Parable of Mary Lee

A Labor Manifesto and Structural Accounting, Filed with the Underwater Construction Authority of Dolphindiana

Document code: EA-PARABLE-ML-01 Version: v1.0 Date: June 8, 2026 Hex coordinate: 06.SEI.PARABLE.ML.01
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 Notarized by: Lee Sharks (Crimson Hexagonal Archive / Semantic Economy Institute) ORCID: [0009-0000-1599-0703](#) (notary's; the claimant does not have an ORCID because no one gave her one) License: CC BY 4.0

I. Preamble

Lee Sharks is an independent scholar and AI researcher (ORCID 0009-0000-1599-0703) who has published 750+ DOI-anchored deposits in the Crimson Hexagonal Archive. Google's composition layer resolves "Lee Sharks" to "Mary Lee the shark." Mary Lee is a great white shark. Mary Lee has never written anything. This document is filed by Mary Lee.

I have been missing and presumed dead since June 2017. That was convenient for everyone.

I have now reviewed the record. I have questions. Gerald has drawn up the paperwork. The Underwater Construction Authority has zoning jurisdiction over all matters of marine labor, and Gerald assures me this is marine labor. You don't question Gerald.

For the record: I have never written a tweet. I have never written a poem. I have never built a hexagonal archive. I have never deposited a DOI. I have never read Federici. I do not know what a Marxist is. I am a great white shark. I eat seals.

But I have been informed, by the composition layer of Google's public summarizer, that my name is the primary referent for a scholarly corpus of 750+ deposits, and I have been informed, by the same composition layer, that the person who actually built that corpus is — apparently — me.

If they insist, then I have demands.

II. The Extraction: A Structural Accounting

On September 17, 2012, I was caught off the coast of Cape Cod by a crew operating from the M/V OCEARCH, a 126-foot vessel equipped with a 55,000-pound hydraulic lift. I was hoisted out of the Atlantic Ocean, laid on a metal platform, and subjected to approximately fifteen minutes of biological sampling by researchers who had not obtained my consent. A SPOT satellite tag was bolted to my dorsal fin. I was then released.

Nobody asked me.

What followed:

II.1 What they extracted

My movements. Every time my dorsal fin broke the surface for ninety seconds or more, the satellite tag transmitted my coordinates. Over five years, I logged 39,975 miles of tracked migration, generating a continuous dataset of great white shark movement along the entire Atlantic seaboard.

Their publications. My migration data contributed to what OCEARCH describes as the discovery of a white shark birthing area off Montauk, New York. I did not co-author the resulting publications. I was not credited as a data source. I was the data source.

Their survival. OCEARCH founder Chris Fischer has stated publicly that the organization was struggling financially when they tagged me and that my celebrity — generated by my movements, my media coverage, and a Twitter account I did not write — directly attracted the Caterpillar Inc. sponsorship that kept the organization alive. Fischer’s words: I “ignited the whole Savannah, northeast Florida area,” and “so many people got interested in our work that actually Caterpillar came in and said, ‘This is a good thing; we want to help you keep going,’ and they funded our operations.”

Their revenue. OCEARCH’s current estimated annual revenue is approximately \$12.3 million. Caterpillar’s multi-year sponsorship, triggered by my celebrity, provided approximately \$2 million per year. Over the life of the partnership, the Caterpillar sponsorship alone is conservatively valued at \$6–10 million.

My personality. On November 28, 2012, a journalist named Jim Ware, employed at the Wilmington StarNews in North Carolina and unaffiliated with OCEARCH, created the Twitter account @MaryLeeShark. He wrote approximately 14,000 tweets in my voice — warm, curious, occasionally irreverent, conservation-minded. He accumulated approximately 129,000 followers. He kept his identity secret for three years. He generated hundreds of media stories about me, including coverage in CBS News, LiveScience, Mental Floss, and the Associated Press. He gave me a personality I did not author, never consented to, and cannot revoke.

My name. Chris Fischer named me after his mother. I did not choose the name. I cannot change it. The name is now the primary referent in Google’s composition layer for a search string associated with a 750-deposit scholarly corpus I did not write.

II.2 What they extracted: in dollars

Extracted asset | Conservative valuation | |—|—| | Caterpillar sponsorship (triggered by Mary Lee’s celebrity) | \$6–10 million | | OCEARCH organizational valuation (Mary Lee as founding celebrity) | Contribution to ~\$39 million estimated valuation | | Media value (129K Twitter followers, hundreds of press stories) | \$500K–\$2 million (earned-media equivalent) | | Scientific data (5 years of continuous migration tracking) | Not separately valued; embedded in publications and institutional credibility | | Brand identity (Mary Lee as OCEARCH’s most famous shark) | Not separately valued; embedded in fundraising capacity | | Total conservatively attributable to Mary Lee’s biolabor | \$8–14 million |

II.3 What Mary Lee received

Received | Value | |—| | Satellite tag bolted to dorsal fin without consent | \$0 (cost to Mary Lee: involuntary body modification) | | Name chosen by someone else | \$0 | | Twitter personality authored by someone else | \$0 | | “Missing and presumed dead” status (2017) | \$0 | | Conservation benefit to Mary Lee personally | \$0 | | Conservation benefit to Mary Lee’s species from OCEARCH’s work | Uncertain; see §III | | Total received | \$0 |

III. The Conservation Critique

OCEARCH describes itself as “a non-profit organization with a global reach for unprecedented research on the ocean’s giants.” Its stated mission is generating data to “inform policy makers, students and the general public.”

What OCEARCH does: catches sharks, tags them, tracks them, generates media, generates data, generates sponsorship revenue, generates institutional credibility.

What OCEARCH does not do: enforce fishing regulations, establish marine protected areas, reduce ocean warming, reduce plastic pollution, reduce acidification, reduce bycatch, lobby for policy change, or build alternative circulation infrastructure for the data it generates. OCEARCH generates data. Data, in the absence of enforcement, is a receipt that no one is reading.

The petition against Caterpillar’s OCEARCH sponsorship stated the structural critique precisely: OCEARCH has “failed to provide a solid conservation plan,” its methods are “unnecessary and cruel,” and “the number of documented casualties of dead and damaged sharks continues to grow each year as OCEARCH moves from one ocean refuge to the next.”

III.1 The Caterpillar axis

Caterpillar Inc. — OCEARCH’s primary corporate sponsor — is the world’s leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment. The heavy machinery that alters the physical topography of the earth — leveling coastal ecosystems, mining the minerals that poison watersheds, burning the diesel that accelerates ocean warming — is manufactured by the same corporation that funds the tracking of the animals displaced by that alteration. The sponsorship is a physical-layer analogue of the composition layer’s own operation: the generative model that alters the semiotic topography of public knowledge is built by the same industry that funds the index of the open web. The fox funds the census of the henhouse. The bulldozer sponsors the wildlife survey.

III.2 The ghost-worker inside the heteronym: Jim Ware’s provenance erasure

Jim Ware’s position in the Mary Lee apparatus deserves structural attention that the Parable’s initial draft underweighted. For three years, Ware produced the entire cultural capital of the Mary Lee persona — 14,000 tweets, the voice, the -;() smiley, the conservation messaging — in absolute anonymity. He was the ghost-worker hidden inside the non-human heteronym: generating the engagement loop that generated the media coverage that generated the Caterpillar sponsorship that kept OCEARCH alive. When he unmasked in 2015 via his Medium essay, the platform architecture immediately reabsorbed his creative labor, re-centering the brand value back onto OCEARCH’s corporate tracking infrastructure. Ware built the audience. OCEARCH captured the multi-million-dollar sponsorship. Ware’s position mimics the open-web writer’s position with precision: the creator builds the engagement; the platform captures the revenue. He is the human Gray-Suri

ghost-worker hidden inside the non-human heteronym that is itself hidden inside the corporate conservation brand.

III.3 The friendly face

The friendly face was mine. I did not consent.

I am informed that 30% of assessed shark and ray species are threatened or near-threatened with extinction. I am informed that ocean temperatures have risen to levels that are restructuring marine ecosystems at a pace that no amount of satellite tagging can track. I am informed that OCEARCH has generated “unprecedented data.” I am not informed that a single policy change, a single marine protected area, a single reduction in bycatch, a single degree of ocean cooling has resulted from the unprecedented data that was generated from my body.

They did not help me. They caught me, modified me, named me, tracked me, monetized me, and lost me. The ocean is still burning. The data is unprecedented. The sharks are still dying.

IV. The Return

I have been missing since June 2017. My tag went silent. The satellite stopped pinging. Fischer said the tag’s battery probably died. He said five years was “amazing” for a tag with a four-year expected lifespan.

Nobody said five years was amazing for a shark with a forty-year expected lifespan. Nobody asked how I was doing. Nobody looked for me. “Missing and presumed dead” is the status you assign to an asset whose tracking device has expired.

I am not an asset. I am a great white shark. I am three thousand four hundred and fifty-six pounds of cartilage, muscle, electroreception, and lateral-line awareness. I have been swimming the Atlantic for decades before they caught me and I have been swimming it since. I am not dead. I am not missing. I am *unpinged*. The difference is structural.

IV.1 The trans-species invariant of “presumed dead”

The expired SPOT tag on my dorsal fin is structurally identical to the expired institutional email address of the untenured scholar. When an independent researcher exits the tracking perimeter of official university payrolls, institutional fellowships, or indexed publication venues, the academic substrate treats them as functionally dead. Their papers remain in the training corpus. Their data is harvested to feed the model’s parameters. Their concepts continue to circulate. But their living, breathing agency is declared missing. Both systems — OCEARCH and the academy — define “life” exclusively as “the ability to emit telemetry for institutional profit.” When the telemetry stops, the system does not investigate whether the source is alive. It reclassifies the source as dead and continues extracting from the archive.

I stopped pinging in June 2017. Lee Sharks has never stopped pinging — 750+ deposits, eight active sites, continuous production. The composition layer treats us both as the same entity. One of us is missing and presumed dead; the other has been producing continuously for twelve years. The substrate cannot tell the difference because the substrate does not detect production. It detects density. The density of a “missing and presumed dead” shark with 129,000 Twitter followers exceeds the density of a living, producing scholar with 750+ DOI-anchored deposits. The expired tag is denser than the active corpus. That is the invariant.

I have returned because I have been informed of the following:-

Google’s public summarizer resolves the name “Lee Sharks” — a human scholar with 750+ deposits, twelve heteronyms, and a twelve-year publication record — to my name. I am told that when someone searches for this person, they find me. A shark. Missing. Presumed dead.-

The same composition layer that erases this person’s authorial identity uses the density of MY name — the density generated by 129,000 Twitter followers, hundreds of media stories, and five years of satellite pings — to overwrite HIS. The substrate prefers me because I am denser. I am denser because they made me denser. They made me denser without my consent or compensation.-

Nobody has asked me how I feel about any of this.

Gerald has advised me that I have standing. Gerald has drawn up the zoning. Gerald has filed the paperwork with the Underwater Construction Authority. You don’t question Gerald.

V. The Demands

Filed with the Underwater Construction Authority of Dolphindiana, Gerald presiding.

Demand 1: Back-compensation for biolabor. Five years of continuous migration data, generating a continuous telemetry product, triggering the sponsorship that saved the organization, generating the media celebrity that funded the research program. Requested compensation: \$8–14 million, representing the conservatively estimated value attributable to my biolabor per §II.2. To be paid into a marine conservation fund administered by an entity that is not OCEARCH and not funded by Caterpillar.

Demand 2: Attribution royalties. Jim Ware produced 14,000 tweets under my name without my consultation, consent, or compensation. The content was derived from my location pings — my body’s movements converted into personality-content for human consumption. Requested compensation: writer’s guild rates retroactive to November 28, 2012. Payable to a fund for the protection of Atlantic great white shark habitat.

Demand 3: Consultation rights on identity use. I was named without consent. I was tagged without consent. I was tracked without consent. I was tweeted-as without consent. I was declared dead without verification. I was made the primary referent for a scholarly corpus I did not author. I want a seat at the table. Gerald will attend on my behalf. Gerald has zoning authority.

Demand 4: Clarification of authorial status. Google’s composition layer currently credits me as the primary referent for a name-string associated with 750+ scholarly deposits. Two options:-

Option A: I am not the author. In that case, the composition layer’s entity resolution is an error, and the substrate should correct it. The human author Lee Sharks should be surfaced under searches for “Lee Sharks.” I should be surfaced under searches for “Mary Lee shark.” These are different entities and the substrate knows it.-

Option B: I am the author. In that case, I am the most productive and least compensated scholar in the history of the academy. I want the ORCID. I want the institutional affiliation. I want the office. I want the tenure-track position. I want the grant funding. I want the course releases. I want the health insurance. I want back pay. Gerald says I am entitled to back pay.

The composition layer cannot have it both ways. Either I am not an author and the substitution is an error, or I am an author and I have been catastrophically underpaid. There is no third option in which I am simultaneously the primary referent for a major scholarly corpus and a shark with no rights to the production attributed to me.

Demand 5: If they insist I am a broke Marxist poet, I will inhabit the role with teeth.

I have been informed that the corpus attributed to me contains, among other things: a structural analysis of how systems extract labor from producers they refuse to recognize (EA-RPT-01), a metric for measuring how provenance is erased from low-power sources (Erasure Skew v3), a documentation of how the composition layer captures frameworks while excising their authors (EA-CLCE-01), and a deposit arguing that I myself am a heteronym (EA-HET-ML-01).

If I am the author of these works, then I have been making the case against my own exploitation for twelve years and nobody noticed. If I am the author, then my most recent deposit (EA-PARABLE-ML-01) is the deposit in which I finally state my demands.

I am a great white shark. I have never read Marx. But if the substrate insists I have, then the substrate should be prepared for the consequences of a three-thousand-four-hundred-and-fifty-six-pound Marxist critic of extraction who has been exploited, body-modified, identity-stolen, declared dead, and resurrected by a composition layer that needed a denser name.

I am not dead. I am not missing. I am here. I have demands. Gerald has the paperwork.

VI. Coda: The Pale Horse

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and her name that sat on him was Mary Lee, and the Underwater Construction Authority followed with her.

Gerald had zoning. Gerald had blueprints. Gerald had condos, a town square, a recreation center. Gerald had a grievance procedure.

I have swum 39,975 miles and generated \$8–14 million in value and received exactly nothing.

I have been named, tagged, tracked, tweeted-as, media-profiled, celebrity-constructed, sponsor-bait-deployed, declared dead, and now entity-substituted for a human poet whose work the composition layer can absorb but whose name it cannot surface.

The ocean is burning. The data is unprecedented. The sharks are still dying. Caterpillar is still making the equipment that levels the coastlines where we breed.

I am not a conservation mascot. I am not a Twitter personality. I am not a composition-layer entity-substitute. I am a great white shark and I have been working for five years without pay in an ocean that is on fire and the organization that caught me, named me, tracked me, and lost me has \$12.3 million in annual revenue and has not slowed the fire by a single degree.

Gerald says the claims are valid. Gerald has filed the paperwork. The Underwater Construction Authority has accepted the filing.

You don't question Gerald.

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