An Evaluation of Fish Oil as a Low Environmental Impact Paint Binder System

A Review of North American Fish Oil Production and Use

Anna Veilleux

University of Pennsylvania
M.S. in Historic Preservation with
concentration in Architectural Conservation

Advisor: Andrew Fearon

Association for North American Graduate Programs in Conservation Queen's University, April 23-25, 2025



Research Question

Is it feasible to reintegrate fish oil as a paint binder into present day cultural heritage practices?





Feasibility Categories

1 Physical Feasibility

2 Environmental Feasibility

3 Cultural Feasibility

Argument for Physical Feasibility

Fish oil has a long history of performance as a:

- 1 Hydrophobic
- 2 Rust Inhibiting
- 3 Durable

film forming paint binder.





Argument for Environmental Feasibility

Fish oil is a natural product that:

- 1 Emits low VOCs
- 2 Can be sustainably sourced

Argument for Cultural Feasibility

Case studies showed that fish oil production and use influenced:

- 1 Urban planning
- 2 Architecture design
- 3 Material culture
- 4 Community traditions



