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Social and Ethical Relevance SLO Reflection

The artifact I selected for the Social & Ethical Relevance Student Learning Outcome is my paper, “Ethics on the prohibition of shark finning,” as it is directly related to ethics due to its subject matter—shark finning in the context of animal ethics. This artifact also relates to the social and cultural circumstances that shark finning was spawned from. The learning outcome relating to Social and Ethical Relevance states that students must have the ability to evaluate and discuss ethical and social positions that are relevant to a biological issue, and this artifact was written specifically on the subject of animal ethics and includes the various social, ethical, and cultural considerations related to the controversial practice of shark finning. One thing I learned during the creation of this artifact is that social and ethical considerations are very important for various aspects of science, whether that is biological conservation or research. I also learned that some stakeholders are not always obvious options, so there are many different aspects of society that are interconnected with science.

Some strengths are my explanation about the ethical values related to the issue of shark finning and in the general context of environmental and animal ethics, as well as my background on the social, cultural, and economic aspects of the subject. One weakness may be the proposed solution that I wrote about as I could have also considered developing countries and those who may not have the legal, political, or financial means to prohibit shark finning. I also did not elaborate on how finning could be prohibited aside from politically, as there are other aspects that influence management and regulation, such as fishing gear regulation.

One thing I dislike about this artifact is that my section headers are in all capital letters rather than bolded words, as this can make it harder to see when a new section starts. I also dislike that I did not elaborate much on those who fish for shark for sustenance and do so

sustainably; if I were to recreate this artifact, I would also consider the stance of those who fish for shark meat for sustenance, such as some Inuit tribes in the Arctic. Furthermore, I would also include that this issue encompasses more than only those who fish for shark fins and waste the rest of the body. I think that this would have rounded out the paper more. On the other hand, some things I like about this artifact include the organization of the paper, the background, and my section on biological ethical values directly related to the paper's topic.