

The Greeks would have recognized that John was alluding to all wisdom, but to especially that of the Greeks as represented by Archimedes by using that number 153.

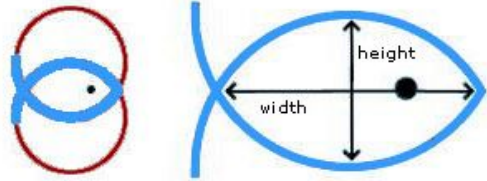
The Church Fathers were separated from John the Evangelist by time and space and lived in a culture different from John's. It had lost familiarity with Archimedes' actual text. Without that context they could not see to what John was alluding.

The Fish

Pythagoreans → Euclid → Archimedes

Measure of the Fish

IXΘΥΣ



$$\frac{w}{h} = \sqrt{3} \cong \frac{265}{153}$$

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John goes even a step further. He makes **8 references to fish** and **8 references to the measure of the fish** in these 11 verses.

The Greeks would notice the connection to Euclid's work *Elements*, where he constructs two circles whose intersection is in the shape of a fish. By using the Pythagorean Theorem the measure of this "fish," the width to the height ratio, can be calculated to be the square root of 3, or approximately 265/153.

John lived and wrote his Greek Gospel in the Greek city of Ephesus. He knew they falsely believed the Gospel of Jesus was foolishness and in contradiction to their wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1:22-24. So, John included the detail of 153 fish in John 21:11. Further, the use of the word fish, its repetition, its measurement, and the number 3 would be seen as a secondary allusion to all Greek wisdom. The Greeks would have understood that John was claiming that Jesus, who is God, is the source of all the fish, and by extension He is the source of all wisdom. The net which contains all the fish, all the wisdom, both Greek and Christian, does not tear because there is no inconsistency or contradiction between the two.

Fr. Bob's answer is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle that makes all the other pieces fit together. It answers all the questions without leaving any loose ends, unlike all the other proposed answers that really do not fit and could not be John's primary message.

John's message that true natural wisdom is consistent with Jesus' revelation is very relevant today. Today's culture proposes a "new wisdom" and new concepts that redefine the words love, freedom, happiness, as well as the purpose of life and self-worth. And these new ideas are incompatible with Jesus' wisdom. The same net cannot hold both without tearing.

Read more, and ...

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Luke 5:1-11

What was John's Meaning in 21:11 ?

