**Why did the Chicken Cross the Ocean: An Analysis of Faunal Remains from the Emanuel Point Shipwrecks**

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**INTRODUCTION**

In 1559, Don Tristan de Luna y Arévalo attempted to create the first permanent settlement in Florida. Under the command of Luna were a total of twelve ships, carrying close to fifteen hundred individuals (Milanich 1999; Worth 2009). Among the people chosen for the expedition were Spanish colonists and soldiers along with clergyman and Native Americans brought from Mexico as servants (Milanich, 1999, Worth 2009). Food, or the lack thereof, was one aspect which served detrimental to the success of the expedition which came before Luna (Worth 2009). Previous expeditions led by the Spanish which attempted to colonize La Florida relied far too heavily on local resources for food (Hudson 1989; Worth 2009). This ultimately led the Spanish to barter with the Native Americans and in many cases forced them to supply the Spanish with food and other supplies (Hudson 1989; Worth 2009). Because of this, the Luna expedition was intentionally designed to include enough food to last the Spaniards about a year, giving the colonists enough resources to survive until crops could be sown and harvested (Worth 2009). Not long after the Spanish arrived, Pensacola was struck by a powerful hurricane, sinking seven of Luna’s ships (Arnade 1959, Milanich 1995, Worth 2009). Since a permanent shoreline had not yet been constructed, practically all of the Spanish’s supplies remained onboard the ships and were lost (Arnade 1959, Milanich 1995, Worth 2009).

**AIM**

The purpose of this research project is to determine, through analysis, what species of animals were being utilized onboard the Spanish ships during the Tristán de Luna expedition of 1559. To accomplish this goal, I have analyzed faunal remains recovered from the Emanuel Point Shipwrecks. This research is important because, other than what can be discerned through limited documentary references about the diet of Spaniards, not much is known specifically about what the Spanish brought with them on the Luna expedition. Therefore, a thorough and extensive study of the faunal remains from the Emanuel Point Shipwrecks will give archaeologists a glimpse into the lives of the Spaniards on that fateful expedition and an overall better understanding of the early Spanish explorers during the 16th Century through their diet.

**METHOD**

In order for the remains to be analyzed, they must first be preserved through two processes, one called desalination, the second, consolidation. Desalination, which is conducted in the laboratory incorporates the use of tap water and eventually desalinized water to remove most, if not all, salts from the bones. After the bones are desalinized, they go through a process called consolidation. Consolidation allows the bones to be safely exposed to the atmosphere without deteriorating, warping, or excessively cracking; this is accomplished by soaking the bones in a solution of Elmer’s glue and water, usually a 50/50 solution, after which they can be left to air dry. Once the bones are desalinated, consolidated and dried, they are stable and can then be analyzed.

After conservation, faunal remains were analyzed for taphonomic characteristics linking them to being butchering practices, including: breaks, splits, knife marks and tooth marks. Analysis was completed with the assistance of UWF’s Cathy Parker, the anthropology departments faunal specialist, as well as her comparative type collections.

**RESULTS**

This analysis of faunal remains from Emanuel Point II has revealed important information about the diets of Spaniards during the tragic Luna expedition of 1559, allowing for some of the different types of fauna, brought onboard the ship by the Spaniards, to be identified.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Through this analysis I was able to determine the types of animals that were being utilized by the Spanish and who were onboard the ships during their sinking. This study will allow a new glimpse into the life of the Spanish sailors during Tristán de Luna’s fateful 1559 expedition to establish the first permanent settlement along Florida’s Gulf Coast.

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