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Mario U Martelli* (mario.martelli@cgu.edu), School of Mathematical Sciences, 710 N. College, Claremont, CA 91711. *Vito Volterra*. Preliminary report.

Volterra was born in 1860 and died in 1940. Umberto D'Ancona, a biologist, and the son in law of Volterra, observed the dramatic increase of the percent of selachians captured during the first World War in the top portion of the Adriatico sea. Unable to explain the significant change, he decided to ask father in law, who proposed the well-known Lotka-Volterra system of differential equations. Volterra was one of 12 professors who refused to sign the oath of loyalty to the Fascist regime. He was deprived of his job at the university. In this brief contribution I shall illustrate the life and merits of Volterra, one of the greatest representative of the Italian mathematics. (Received September 08, 2009)