

1046-G1-2058 **Ben Fusaro*** (fusaro@math.fsu.edu), Math. Dept, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
32306 4510. *Modelphobia - How does it arise; what can we do about it?*

Resistance to the use of modeling is not uncommon among field scientists ("naturalists"). However, after the failure of a model such as the Club of Rome "Limits to Growth", the resistance increases to the point of hostility. More recently, the poor predictive aspects of some marine fisheries models have led to a recent "pox on models" reaction. Since models – from the most sophisticated structures (such as scientific theories) on down to matrices, differential equations, and even arithmetic, form the backbone of the scientific method, such responses are puzzling. We will discuss a recent polemic and suggest that (perhaps) a repressed aversion to mathematics is behind such reactions. (Received September 17, 2008)