



RISING TIDE

THE MAGAZINE for YOUNG ANGLERS
and CONSERVATIONISTS

Floating trash? No, it's a...

TRIPLETAIL

(*Lobotes surinamensis*)

WHAT ARE
DERELICT
CRAB TRAPS?

PLUS

MORE!

PHOTOS, ARTICLES,
& ACTIVITIES!

RISING TIDE

THE MAGAZINE for YOUNG ANGLERS and CONSERVATIONISTS

The largest marine conservation group of its kind, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is a non-profit organization made up of 17 coastal state chapters. CCA has been active in almost every national fisheries debate for decades and has been a driving force in state and federal fisheries management issues. With your continued support, CCA will continue to battle for the health and longevity of our coastal fisheries and for recreational anglers' interests in them.

Editor and Designer Heather Peterek

Consulting Editors Pat Murray
Ted Venker

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What's inside this edition:

All About Tripletail

Next time you think you see a piece of floating trash while fishing, take another look...

4

That is a Weird Fish!

You don't usually think of pancakes or bats when talking about fish, but this species changes all that.

6

Bye-Bye Old Traps

Abandoned, or derelict, crab traps create big problems for marine life, habitat, fishermen and boaters.

7

Activities and Games

Test your skills and solve fun puzzles!

8

MORE Kids Fishin'

Kids from all over the nation show off their trophies.

10

ON THE COVER:

CCA member and experienced angler, Charlie Drost, 12, with a nice tripletail caught in Lake Calcasieu, Louisiana. Notice something has taken a bite out of his caudal (tail) fin! Ouch! Photo by Will Drost.

KIDS FISHIN'



Cousins Lukas S. and Bruce M. with a tournament-winning, 27 inch redfish caught in Copano Bay, Texas.



Tyler R., 9, caught this big speckled trout on the King Ranch Shoreline, Texas.



Shane H., 14, with his 60lb amberjack, caught off Port O'Connor, Texas.



CCA member Garrett R., 12, caught this bull redfish in Big Lake, Louisiana.



CCA member Jackson H., 7, shows off his red snapper caught off Galveston Island, Texas.



Hannah, 15, on her first wade fishing trip with a 24.5 inch redfish caught in Keller's Bay off Sandpoint Ranch, Olivia Texas.



Walter Y., 11, shows off his big kingfish caught while fishing Sabine Pass, Texas.



Kaleb B., 4, on Baffin Bay with his speckled trout.



CCA member Keston F., 9, with his 23 inch flounder caught in Matagorda Texas.



Siblings Dylan, 11, and Bo W., 8, caught these Jack Grevalles in Port O'Connor, Texas.



Riley R., 9, with his first keeper speckled trout at the Seabrook Flats on Galveston Bay, Texas.

WHAT FISH FLOATS
ON IT'S SIDE AND
HAS 3 BIG FINS?
**the TRIPLE
TAIL**

Photos by Will Drost

The dorsal and anal fins are very similar in size and shape to the tail fin. So they give the illusion that the fish has *three tails*.

OTHER NAMES :

Blackfish, Drift Fish,
Buoy Fish

RANGE & HABITAT :

The tripletail is found Gulfwide in all offshore waters and occasionally in saline bays. It is a surface or near-surface fish, very often found near floating debris or seaweed, pilings, and buoys.

IDENTIFICATION & BIOLOGY :

The body of this fish is almost as broad as it is long, giving it an almost square side profile. Color is a mottled brown or olive above, shading to olive-yellow below. The head is dish-shaped, and the elongated rear lobes of the dorsal and anal fin, combined with the tail fin, give the fish the appearance of having three tails.

They calmly float and wait for food but when prey is sighted, they move with lightning speed to strike it. Also, when they take a hook, they are very hard fighters. It is known that they can live up to 10 years, grow fast, and can breed by one year of age.

Average-sized females of 25 inches will produce 4,000,000 to 8,000,000 eggs per year.

Tripletail almost exclusively eat finfish, including thread herring, menhaden, butterfish, spot, anchovies, and croakers.

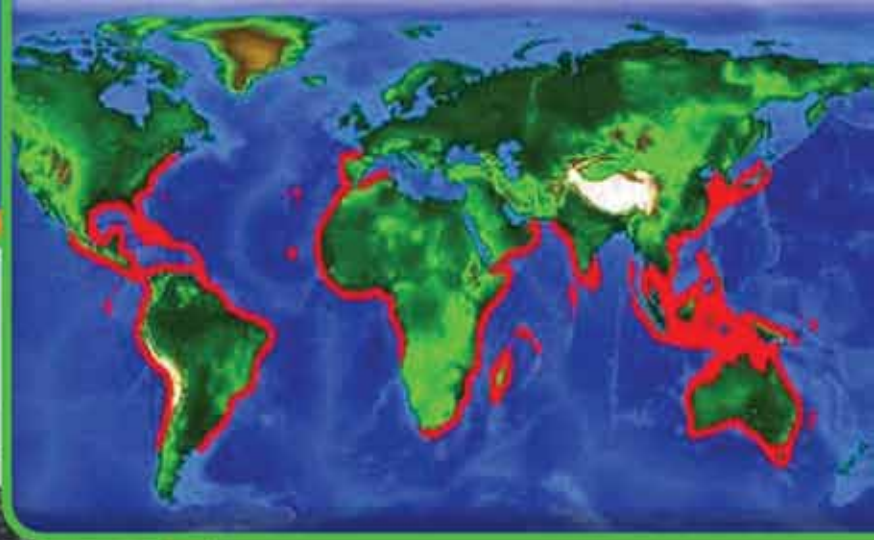
SIZE :

- Although tripletails can grow to over 40 pounds, they average 3 to 15 pounds.

FOOD VALUE :

Very good eating!

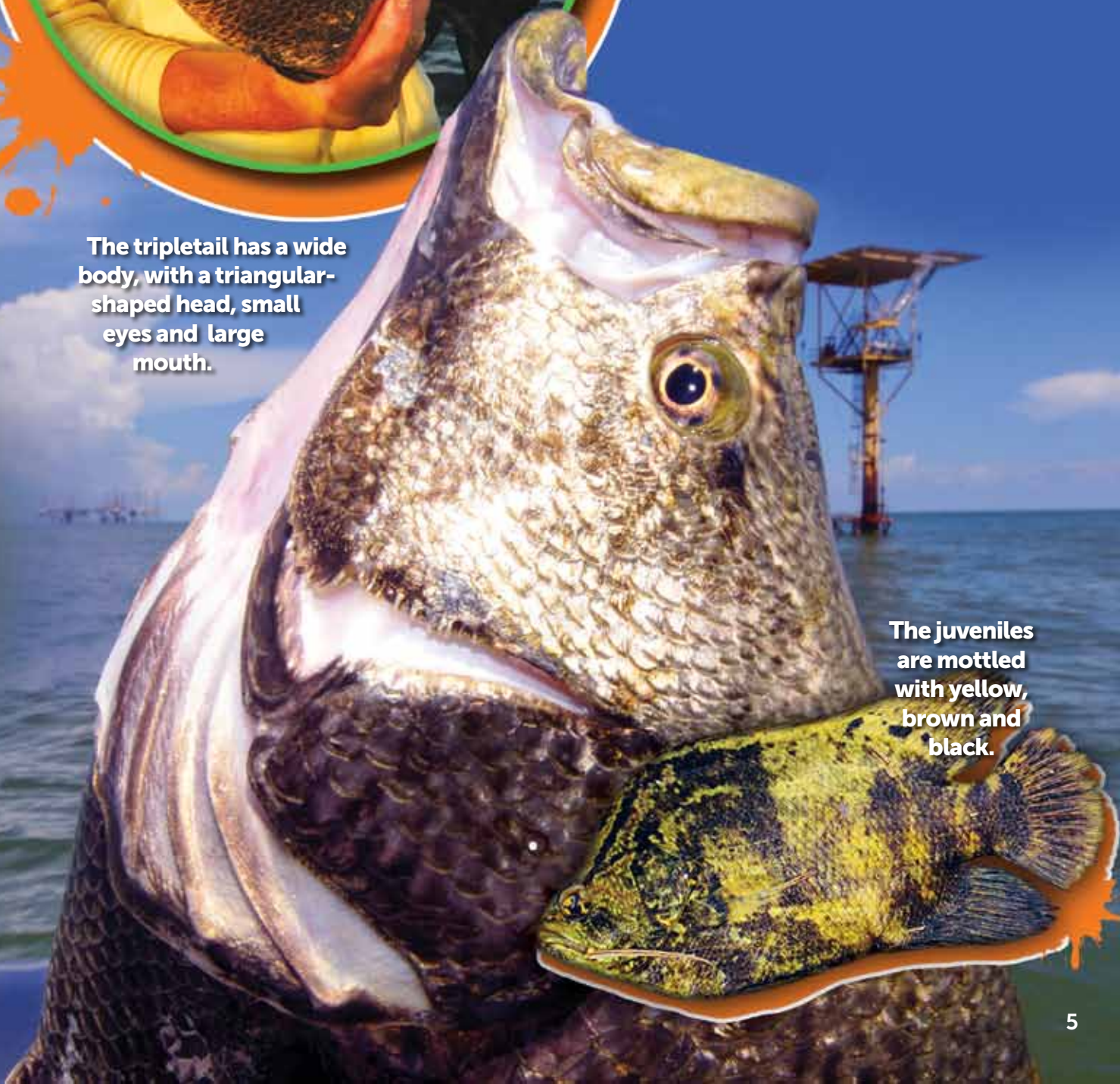
Tripletail are also unique in that they are commonly found floating on their side near surface objects such as seaweed, driftwood, pilings, and buoys. Anglers often mistake the fish for floating trash.



Tripletail are found in several countries worldwide.



The tripletail has a wide body, with a triangular-shaped head, small eyes and large mouth.



The juveniles are mottled with yellow, brown and black.

Meet the Louisiana Pancake Batfish



An image of the Louisiana pancake batfish taken by one of its discoverers, Prosanta Chakrabarty



The Louisiana pancake batfish is only found in the Gulf of Mexico in this small range (circled) at an average of about 1,300 feet deep.

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Actinopterygii
ORDER: Lophiiformes
FAMILY: Ogcocephalidae
GENUS: Halieutichthys

ACTUAL SIZE!

These fish can fit within the palm of your hand and are about as thick as a pancake.



Funny name... EVEN FUNNIER LOOKING!

This bottom-dwelling species was discovered in 2010 and is among only 70 or so species that live *entirely* in the Gulf of Mexico. The population of these fish is not known. However, in one trial net dredging, of 100,000 fish, only three were Louisiana pancake batfish.

Pancake batfish got their name because of the flat, round shape of their bodies and the way they scurry across the sea floor like little crawling vampire bats. Their pelvic fins act like feet, complete with little hook-like elbows for hopping along the sea floor. They are about two inches in length and their bodies are covered in cone-like scales known as tubercles, which have small spines, making the fish look like it is covered in coarse hair.

They feed on invertebrates, and use chemical lures to catch prey. The Louisiana pancake batfish possesses a fleshy structure at the end of the snout which is also used to lure in prey.

Its small mouth is situated on the underside of the body, the eyes of this species are set close together on the top of the head, and the small, round gill openings are located at the base of the pectoral fins. The Louisiana pancake batfish also has a small dorsal fin on the top of its tail.

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT: DERELICT CRAB TRAP REMOVAL

DERELICT • der-e-lict • adjective

Definition: abandoned by the owner or occupant

WHAT IS A DERELICT TRAP?

A derelict crab trap is defined as any trap that is not being actively fished and tended and may range from a crushed and barnacle-encrusted old trap without a line and buoy to a fairly new trap with a line and buoy.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Derelict traps may originate from: accidental loss of actively fished traps due to tides, currents or storm surges; weathering of buoys or lines; clipping of buoy lines by vessel propellers; displacement of traps caught in shrimp gear; intentional cutting of buoy lines by vandals; abandonment of fishable traps by fishermen who leave the fishery; and improper disposal of old, unfishable traps.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Derelict traps are capable of fishing continuously for many months, if not years, after they have been lost. This unattended fishing by crab traps is often referred to as "ghost fishing."

Lost traps have also been a problem for boaters and fishermen. The abandoned traps get tangled in their motors and fishing gear and they often end up with costly repairs or loss of valuable fishing time. These traps may also be damaging marine habitat, such as sea grasses. Additionally, these old, neglected traps are ugly - removing them helps make our waters even more beautiful.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Visionary conservationist Ronnie Luster of Houston, Texas pioneered a program that partnered the state with local anglers and conservationists to remove abandoned traps. Now in every state that has bays where derelict traps can be found, there are annual crab trap clean-ups (or round-ups or rodeos) run by local organizations and the state. Thankfully every year this problem is becoming smaller thanks to the thousands of volunteers working hard to make a positive difference in the health of our bays and estuaries.



A volunteer works hard to release an abandoned, buried trap.



Trapped croakers in an old, rusty derelict crab trap.

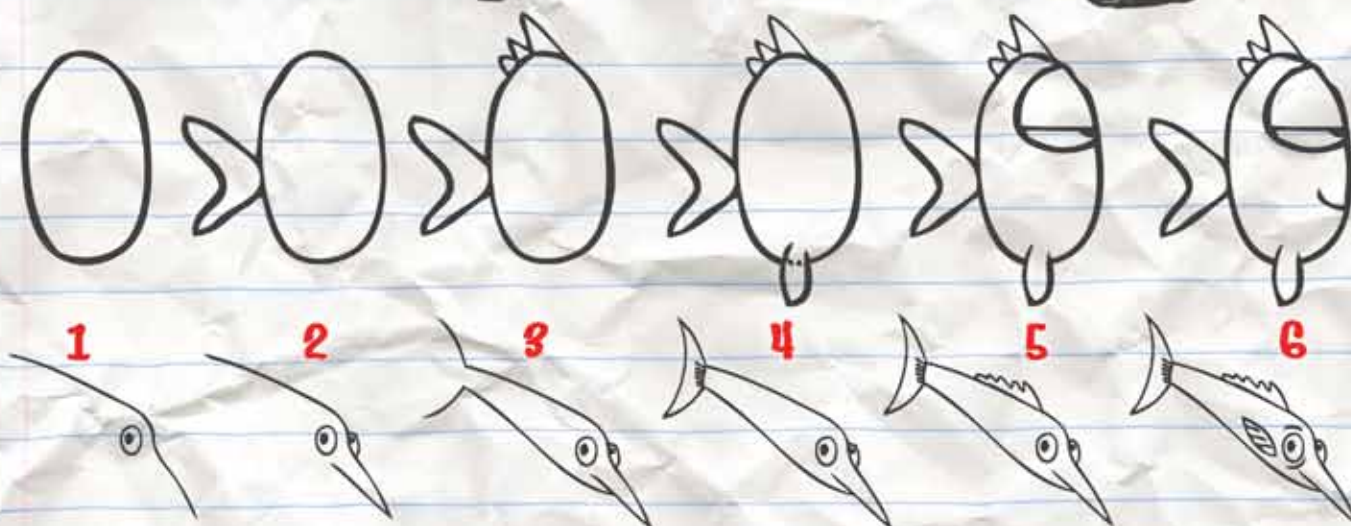


An excited volunteer after a hard day's work of removing old traps from Texas waters.



Volunteers unload their boat full of derelict traps to be discarded.

How to draw... CARTOON FISH



Can you tie this?



IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT



IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT TYING:

Pass the end of the line through the eye. Wrap it around the standing end about five complete turns. Pass the end back through the loop beside the eye. Then pass the end under the final turn. Tighten the knot and trim the end.

KIDS FISHIN'

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT CATCH THAT COULD MAKE OUR KIDS FISHIN' PAGE?

- ✦ Send us your favorite photo and stories and you could be featured in the next issue of Rising Tide.
- ✦ Include your mailing address in the email and you will receive a free CCA sticker and certificate!

***Email photos and info to photos@joincca.org**

Puppy drum
caught by
CCA member
Amelia F., 10,
in Manchac,
Louisiana.



CCA
member
Hunter T., 11,
caught a
redfish with
20 spots in
Port Lavaca,
Texas.



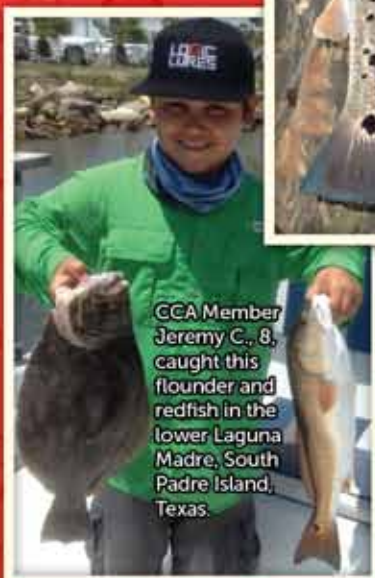
CCA member
Lilly Ann K., 9,
caught this big
flounder in
Sargent, Texas
while fishing in
the Texas STAR
Tournament.



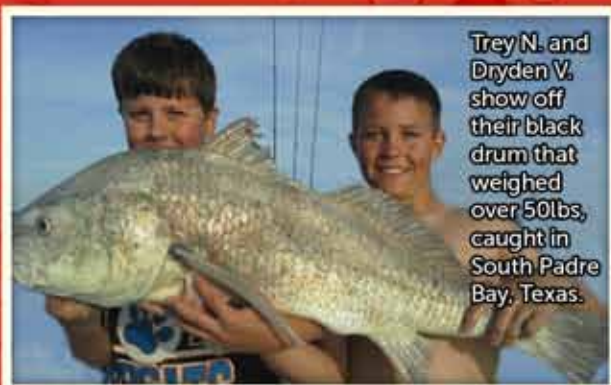
Henry G.,
5, caught
a big
redfish
near Lake
Charles,
Louisiana.



CCA Member
Jeremy C., 8,
caught this
flounder and
redfish in the
lower Laguna
Madre, South
Padre Island,
Texas.



Trey N. and
Dryden V.
show off
their black
drum that
weighed
over 50lbs,
caught in
South Padre
Bay, Texas.

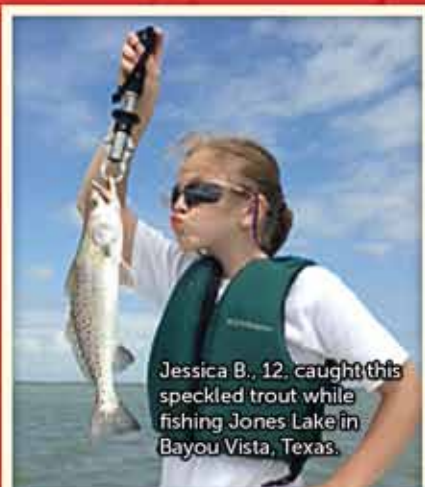


Hunter M., 12,
with his
"Texas Slam"
(trout, red and
flounder)
caught in
West
Matagorda
Bay, Texas.





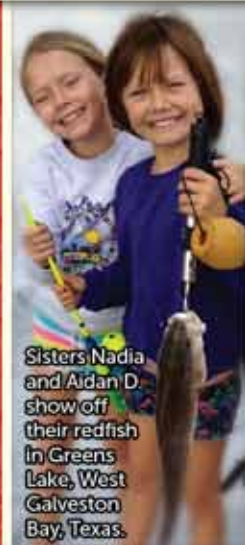
Tyler R., 9, with his 8lb redfish caught in Leesville, Louisiana.



Jessica B., 12, caught this speckled trout while fishing Jones Lake in Bayou Vista, Texas.



CCA member, Tatum B., 6, with a nice redfish caught while fishing Sabine Lake, Texas.



Sisters Nadia and Aidan D. show off their redfish in Greens Lake, West Galveston Bay, Texas.



CCA member Jay C., 5, with his 22 inch redfish caught near Yankeetown, Florida.



Owen F.'s first red snapper caught off Fourchon, Louisiana.



Gage B. on Bob Hall Pier, Corpus Christi, Texas with his first kingfish ever caught.



CCA member Matthew B., 7, with his big black drum caught in Port Connor, Texas.



CCA member Joey Angel A., 5, with a nice black drum caught while fishing Cayo Del Grullo in Baffin Bay, Texas.



Thank you Valero!

CCA & Valero Continue Youth Partnership


Because of the generous support of Valero, the Rising Tide Youth Program will continue to thrive!

"Since the 2007 launch of the Rising Tide Youth Program, more children than ever are participating in community projects, local and statewide tournaments and in the conservation of coastal resources," said Pat Murray, president of CCA. "But, there is still work to do, and Valero's generous sponsorship will allow us to continue focusing on the future of marine conservation through our youth programs."



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6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100 | Houston, Texas 77024
p 713.626.4234 | f 713.626.5852 | www.joincca.org

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At Valero, we're proud to be America's largest refiner, producing everything from gasoline to jet fuel. But we're also one of the nation's most environmentally responsible refiners, too. We think the Coastal area is one of the most important regions in the United States, and we want to help keep it that way. That's why we are proud to sponsor the Rising Tide newsletter. Inside, you'll find lots of interesting information, and you'll discover the fascinating world underwater.

We hope that with what you learn, you will grow up just as determined as we are to help protect one of our most valuable natural resources: the Coastal area of our United States.

