Floating trash? No, it’s a...

TRIPLETAIL
(Lobotes surinamensis)

WHAT ARE DERELICT CRAB TRAPS?

PLUS MORE!
PHOTOS, ARTICLES, & ACTIVITIES!
All About Tripletail
Next time you think you see a piece of floating trash while fishing, take another look...

That is a Weird Fish!
You don’t usually think of pancakes or bats when talking about fish, but this species changes all that.

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

Activities and Games
Test your skills and solve fun puzzles!

MORE Kids Fishin’
Kids from all over the nation show off their trophies.

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.

Kyle B. S caught his big speckled trout on the King Ranch Shrimp Line, Texas.

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

GCA member Carter R., 12, caught this bull redfish in Big Lake, Letcher.

GCA member Jackson P. shows off his first stable caught on Galveston Island, Texas.

Hannah H. on her first wide fishing trip with a 24.5-inch redfish caught in Keller's Bay of Sandpoint Ranch Oliva, Texas.

Katie B. A. on Baffin Bay with his speckled trout.

GCA member Keaton E. O. with his 23-inch flounder caught in Matagorda, Texas.

Riley F. A. with his first keeper speckled trout at the Steamboat flats on Galveston Bay, Texas.

Siblings Dylan A. and Dea M. caught these three in Port O'Connor, Texas.
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.

**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!
The juveniles are mottled with yellow, brown and black.

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

Tripletail are found in several countries worldwide.

The juveniles are mottled with yellow, brown and black.
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.
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.
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.
GAME TIME!

FOR ANSWERS TO THESE PUZZLES, GO TO: WWW.JOINCCA.ORG/RISING-TIDE

WORD SEARCH

Fill in the blanks to the questions to the left, then find and circle those words below...

LBOBERJAMRTPNF
AMSRELPAITDNHT
IAIDBBTXVTINIA
CRHWSYYETINGEHPC
ILAAEMRHEHLRSWK
FICNUNGRTONIDALT
INIMOIPCOPGNLDE
TLSMEURGINJEIBE
RRRLWCANTIEIUHRO
AATTWIALSPRCSX
SWILHLLNOHPIOET
XAESUOECIAANCRU
BRIGRCGSTGEO0
BFETISEILFCYAHRI
IRULESAELEGRNST

TELL ME A TAIL...

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 

You can use live or artificial ________ to catch fish.
A good ________ will send your bait out farther.
Where you can fish from or pull your boat up to is a ________.
Keep your ________ tight or you’ll lose your fish.
A ________ is usually freshwater and flows towards an ocean or lake.
When surf fishing, you stand on the ________.
Specled ________
A ________ doesn’t let your bait sink too far down.
Blue, black, white or stripped ________
Needlenose ________ can be used to remove hooks.
Chinook, sockeye or king ________.
A ________ sinks your bait deeper towards the bottom.
The ________ is a freshwater fish pronounced “croppy”.
When wade fishing, you should be careful of strong ________.
You must have a fishing ________ to legally fish.
A “bag limit” is the ________ amount of fish you can catch.
To practice good conservation, you should catch and ________.
Both adults and ________ enjoy fishing.
Use gloves when handling fish to avoid ________ it.
Running a boat with bait or lures trailing behind is ________.
Pants that keep you dry when wade fishing are ________.
A ________ holds all your fishing lures and hooks.
A “soft plastic” is another name for an ________ lure.
You can’t go fishing without a ________ are the rules that control where you can fish.
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 recieve a free CCA sticker and certificate!

* Email photos and info to photos@joincca.org
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.”
Learn the A-B-Seas of Conservation!

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.