



RISING TIDE

THE MAGAZINE for YOUNG ANGLERS
and CONSERVATIONISTS.



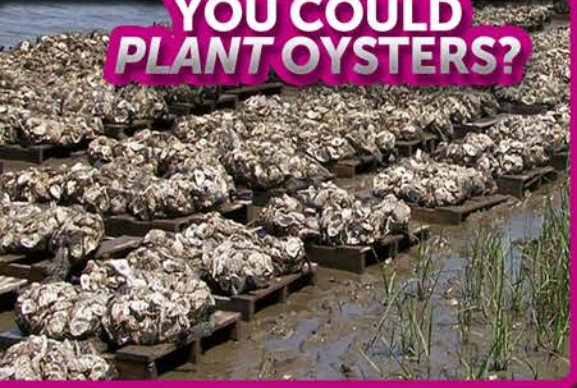
Make These!
YUM!

COLD WEATHER SPECKLED TROUT



Learn
TWITCH
baits work best
on these slow
moving fish.

**DID YOU KNOW
YOU COULD
PLANT OYSTERS?**



PLUS LOTS MORE!

PHOTOS, ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES...

RISE **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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Valero Energy Company



What's Inside this Edition:

Where's Mary Lee?

Ocearch's favorite great white shark continues to make history traveling across the Atlantic Ocean.

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Twitching for Trout

As temperatures drop, twitch baits are great for catching big and slow speckled trout in the south.

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Oyster Restoration

Learn how it works and why the health of Georgia's oyster population is so important.

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Activities and Games!

Test your skills as you try and make oyster cookies, tie an oyster knot, and solve fun puzzles.

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Kids Fishin'

Kids from all over the US show off their trophies.

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ON THE COVER:

CCA member and experienced angler, Buck West Warren, 6, bears the cold and shows off his huge, wintertime speckled trout caught in Texas using a twitch bait. His dad is a fishing guide, so Buck started at an early age catching big fish on artificial lures. Photos by Shawn Warren.

OCEARCH

Global Shark Tracker

OCEARCH's Global Shark Tracker observes the navigational pattern of sharks that have been tagged with satellite tracking technology all for the purpose of shark conservation.

The navigational and migratory data being collected from sharks like Mary Lee will be used to create successful conservation and management plans which will affect laws for change around the world!

Mary Lee was **FIRST** tagged in Cape Cod, MA on Sept. 17, 2012.

Gender: Female
Length: 16 ft
Weight: 3,456 lbs

SPOT
SATELLITE
TAG

POP OFF
ACCELEROMETER TAG

MARY LEE has been a busy girl!

On Nov. 13, 2012 she pinged in around northeast Florida. So, in about two months she traveled nearly 1,400 miles away from her original tag location!

WHERE IS SHE NOW?

After traveling back up along the Atlantic coast of the US, she took a turn offshore and headed back south. She traveled to and through Bermuda and on Feb. 26, 2013 she pinged in about 90 miles south of the island.

Q&A with Chris Fischer

Ocearch Expedition Leader



Dear Mr. Fischer,

I totally agree with you about saving sharks because I have loved them all of my life. I wanted to know what I can do to help save sharks in my hometown of Galveston, Texas. - Thank you, Kyle B., Age 11

Dear Kyle,

It's wonderful to hear you have a love of sharks and want to do more to make sure there are plenty left in the ocean for years to come.

Unfortunately, shark populations worldwide are under threat - sharks are being killed at a very high rate, many for a bowl of soup!

That's right. Sadly, the demand for shark fin soup is driving several shark populations toward extinction. Tens of millions of sharks are killed annually for their fins! Because many shark species are late to mature, have few

young and reproduce very infrequently - they are simply being killed faster than they can reproduce. For example, studies suggest that some hammerhead species in the northwest Atlantic have declined over 89% between 1986 and 2000. A new study, which carried out DNA testing on shark fin soup served in 14 U.S. cities, revealed that endangered shark species, including hammerheads, were being served up at local restaurants.

So one easy way you can help is - first of foremost - don't eat shark fin soup! Another step you can take, because you live in a coastal community with several seafood restaurants and bait shops, is to make sure they are not serving shark fin soup.

If you find an establishment that DOES sell shark fin soup, you can write the owner a letter educating them on the importance of sharks to our ecosystem and urge them to STOP!

Additionally, you can ask your parents to help you write and send a letter to your state government asking them to ban the sale/possession of shark fins.


Good luck on spreading the word. The future of our sharks depends on young shark conservationists like you!

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR CHRIS FISCHER?

Send in your questions and if chosen, he will answer them in this ongoing Q&A section. If your question is selected, you will receive some cool Ocearch gear! * Send questions to hpeterek@joincca.org.

IT'S COLD OUTSIDE AND THE TROUT FISHING IS HEATING UP!

So bundle up and catch some!



Buck West Warren, 6, shows off his monster cold weather speckled trout caught in Texas using a twitch bait.

The speckled trout, or spotted seatrout, inhabits all salt marsh estuaries from north of the Carolinas down to and around through the coastal regions of South Texas. Known in many areas as "specks," they have long been a favorite of southern anglers. Identified by the numerous round dark spots scattered along their sides and two large canine teeth on the front upper jaw, these trout are exciting to catch *and* good to eat!

Speckled trout are a predatory fish that aggressively attacks anything it thinks is food. This explains their willingness to powerfully attack artificial bait or lures, further making them a fun fish to catch.

However, did you know these very aggressive fish move and react much more slowly during colder months of the year? It's true. Trout will naturally slow down their metabolism on winter days to conserve energy, making them much less aggressive feeders and swimmers.

Because the trout are moving slower, you as the fisherman have to move slower too. This is why using a slow-sinking or suspending bait called a "twitch bait" is your best bet.

As the name implies, these baits are meant to be reeled in or "retrieved" slowly while you twitch the rod tip at the same time. This will make the lure dance quickly from side-to-side as it moves through the water. This is often called "walking-the-dog."



When fishing for these cold and drowsy trout, you should follow each twitch with a long pause. The colder the weather, the slower the fish, so the longer the pause should be.

Keep your rod tip down on windy days and up on still days. If you are working with a current, it's important to allow the lure to be carried downstream as much as possible before you start twitching and reeling.

To further increase your chances, you should choose an area where you think there is live bait already in the water. And you should also try to match the size of your lure to that of the real bait in the water.

No matter which model you may choose (*check out our favorites to the right*), or how you may choose to work it, you should definitely give twitch baits a try! It will take a good amount of practice and patience, but if you can learn to use these baits, you will be catching monster wintertime speckled trout in no time!

**As with any species, make sure you are following your states regulations for size and limits. Catch and release fishing is a great way to practice conservation while still having a fun day on the water. When catching and releasing, remember it's best to use a dehooking device and touch them as little as possible. The "slime" on their skin is actually germ protection, so wetting your hand or using proper gloves will minimize any possible harm.*



As cold sets in, trout will usually migrate into deep water bays, river channels or into the Gulf of Mexico. However, you can still occasionally find some in your own backyard.

TWITCH IS TWITCH?

IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL, YOU NEED TO KNOW WHICH TWITCH BAITS TO CHOOSE AND WHEN TO THROW THEM. THAT ALONE CAN BE A CHALLENGE, AS THERE ARE SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM. BELOW IS A LIST DESCRIBING SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR MODELS TO USE FOR CATCHING COLD WEATHER SPECKLED TROUT, AS WELL AS SOME ADVICE ON WHEN, WHERE AND HOW TO USE THEM.



51 SERIES MIRROLURE

The 51MR is ideally suited for wade fishermen working shallow flats during the winter. It's good to note that it has two line attachments - one at the top of the head and one at the nose.



52 SERIES MIRROLURE

The 52 Series MirrOlure is the original slow-sinking twitch bait. It is an excellent bait to use when fishing deeper water (4-8 ft) for winter trout. The 52M does rise when twitched. When trying to keep the bait down near the bottom, it is helpful to pause several seconds between twitches to allow the bait to descend back to the desired depth.



MIRROLURE CATCH 5

The Catch 5 (S25MR) is most useful when fishing shallow water (3 ft or less). The Catch 5 imitates a shad. Anytime fish are foraging on shad during cool weather, this should be considered one of the top baits for fooling them into biting. And, weighing in at 3/4 of an ounce, it has enough weight to punch through even the most stubborn winter wind.



MIRROLURE CATCH 2000

The original suspending MirrOlure twitch bait, the Catch 2000 has a slimmer profile than the Catch 5 and is better suited to fishing slightly deeper water (2 - 5 feet). It is also a better choice when fish are feeding on mullet or minnows as opposed to shad.



CORKY

The bait that started the entire slow-sinking bait craze along the Texas coast, the Corky is still an excellent big trout bait. Because of its extremely slow sink rate, the Corky can be fished over very shallow flats.



CORKY FAT BOY

Similar to the MirrOlure Catch 5 in appearance, the Corky Fat Boy is a great shad imitation. The Fat Boy is a great choice when wade fishing mid-depth flats or when the fish are feeding on shad or pilchards.



KICK A MULLET

This is a newer bait on the market, but is gaining popularity. The Texas-based Kick A Mullet is a hard bait that suspends, rattles, and has a natural swimming action. It has a unique tail kick that mimics the natural action of fish.



SMITHWICK SUSPENDING ROGUE

The Suspending Rogue is a lipped plug. So it will dive when twitched or cranked. The advantage of the lip is it causes the bait to have a 'wobbling' motion when retrieved. It must be reeled in slowly when fishing shallows. This is a great choice for fishing around vertical structure such as docks and pilings.



RATTLIN' RIG CHATTERTUBE

The Chattertube is basically a tube fitted over a rattle. The swaying motion of the tube's skirt is often enticing to tired fish. This bait is particularly effective on fish lazing in potholes. It has only a single treble hook so anglers need to be patient when setting the hook - make sure the fish moves off with the bait before rearing back.

REPAIRING AN ECOSYSTEM

CCA Georgia's oyster restoration project aims to turn back the clock.

In the early 1900s, coastal Georgia was one of the largest commercial producers of oysters in the United States. Oyster canneries were common, located in quaint fishing villages along Georgia's 100-mile shoreline.

In 1908, records show that about 8 million pounds of oysters were harvested in Georgia waters. The resource seemed endless. Then slowly the canneries closed. The oyster shuckers moved on. Georgia's time of being the nation's largest provider of oysters had come and gone in a matter of about 20 years.

What occurred was a break in the ecosystem. Certainly the overharvesting of oysters caused the greatest impact, but there were other factors that contributed to the demise. Oyster larvae by the billions are pushed by tide, current and wind until they find a suitable surface to attach onto and begin to grow. Oyster shells, hard and porous, are nature's ideal surface on which to launch the next generation of oysters. Without the shell beds, the ability of oysters to repopulate was greatly diminished. And once the oysters were removed, water quality worsened. Oysters are powerful filter feeders, siphoning and purifying up to 50 gallons of water per day. With oyster beds gone and water quality poor, a downward spiral was inevitable.

Today, the state of coastal Georgia's water quality has improved due to strict state and federal guidelines, monitoring and enforcement, but for the most part, the oyster beds are down to a precious few. CCA Georgia, along with CCA chapters in other states, has embarked on an ambitious plan to create oyster reefs by taking the discarded shells from oyster roasts, permitting them to "cure" (to rid the shell of unwanted bacteria), and placing these shells back in the water.

The CCA Georgia Conservation and Habitat Committee has been charged with leading oyster restoration projects that will eventually span Georgia's entire 100-mile coastline and the first step in that process was to work closely with the Coastal Resources Division (CRD) of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources.

Next, CCA Georgia volunteers erected shell collection sites at strategic locations. Anyone who has done oyster restoration knows collection is the easy part. People love to eat oysters and they are usually more than willing to recycle their shells.

Bagging the oyster shells is the tough part, and that is where CCA Georgia members again stepped up. After the collection sites were completed, Capt. Bob Barnette of the Richmond Hill Chapter, who serves as the CCA Oyster

Project and Procurement Manager, designed an efficient way of bagging the oysters.

"Basically we built a large inverted funnel mounted onto the top of a 55-gallon barrel drum. The funnel led into a large PVC pipe which served as the sleeve that held the mesh bags in place," he said. "All in all, the device works pretty well."

"We had to hold three different bagging events in three months just to keep up," said Rick Crawford, chairman of the Savannah Chapter's Conservation and Habitat Committee. "With six guys and Captain Bob's oyster bagger, we can bag about 300 bags of shell in a couple of hours – that's about 10- to 12,000 pounds of oyster shells!"

Next spring, CCA Georgia volunteers will place hundreds of bags of oyster shells back into Georgia's rivers.

"We are anxious to get started," said Chris Barr, Conservation and Habitat Committee chairman for the Richmond Hill Chapter, which won the privilege of placing the first reef in 2013.

"Next spring, you will see a bunch of people wading waist deep in river mud lugging hundreds of 40-pound bags of oyster shells. It will be a lot of hard work, and probably pretty entertaining to watch, but it's what we need to do to repair a broken link in our marine ecosystem. And it will pay huge dividends in the future."



We Eat Oysters



Used Shells Are Collected At Special Sites



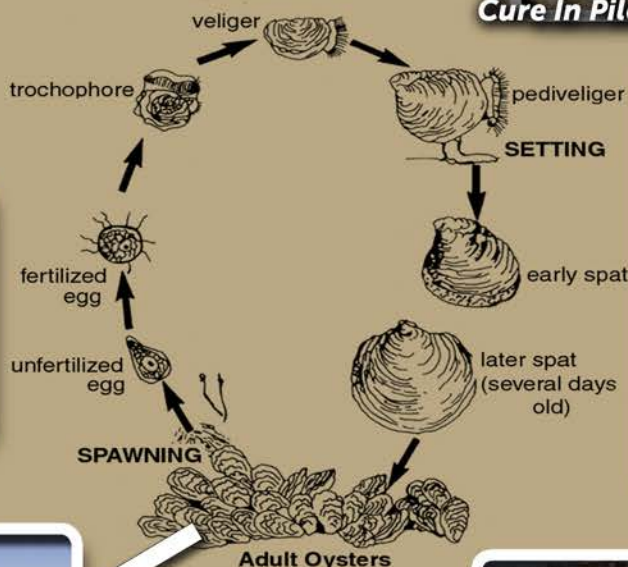
Used Shells Cure In Piles



Oysters Are Sent To Seafood Distributors & Restaurants



Oysters Are Harvested



How it works!



Cured Shells Are Bagged



Bagged Shells Are Planted

Oyster reefs provide hard base in the otherwise soft muddy surfaces of Georgia's estuaries for oyster larvae and other organisms to settle, attach to and grow.

Dense populations of oysters can significantly improve water clarity and quality by filtering algae and pollutants.

Oysters are an important food source for humans and many other animals.

Georgia has about 1/3 of the remaining coastal salt marshes on the United States' east coast. Oyster reefs protect these marshes against shoreline erosion by dissipating the energy caused by boat wakes and waves.

Oyster reefs provide spawning, breeding, feeding and nursery habitat for many other commercial, recreational, and sport species that are ecologically important to the region.

Oysters are described as "keystone" species as they play a critical role in maintaining a healthy coastal ecosystem. Sadly, the majority of Georgia's oyster populations have greatly declined within the last century due to overfishing, dredging, increased sedimentation, invasive species, pollution and disease.

GEORGIA'S OYSTERS ARE A "KEYSTONE" SPECIES

Almost too
cute to eat.

Make These! OYSTER COOKIES

Easy Instructions:

1. Add a few drops of the red food coloring to the can of white icing, stir until it turns pink.
2. Spread pink frosting on one half of a Nilla Wafer.
3. Place a marshmallow towards the front of the iced Nilla wafer.
4. Place a second Nilla Wafer on top of iced/ marshmallow half to act as the "top" of the oyster shell.
5. Dot two eyes on each oyster with the black decorating icing.

You will need:

1 box Nilla Wafers



red food
coloring

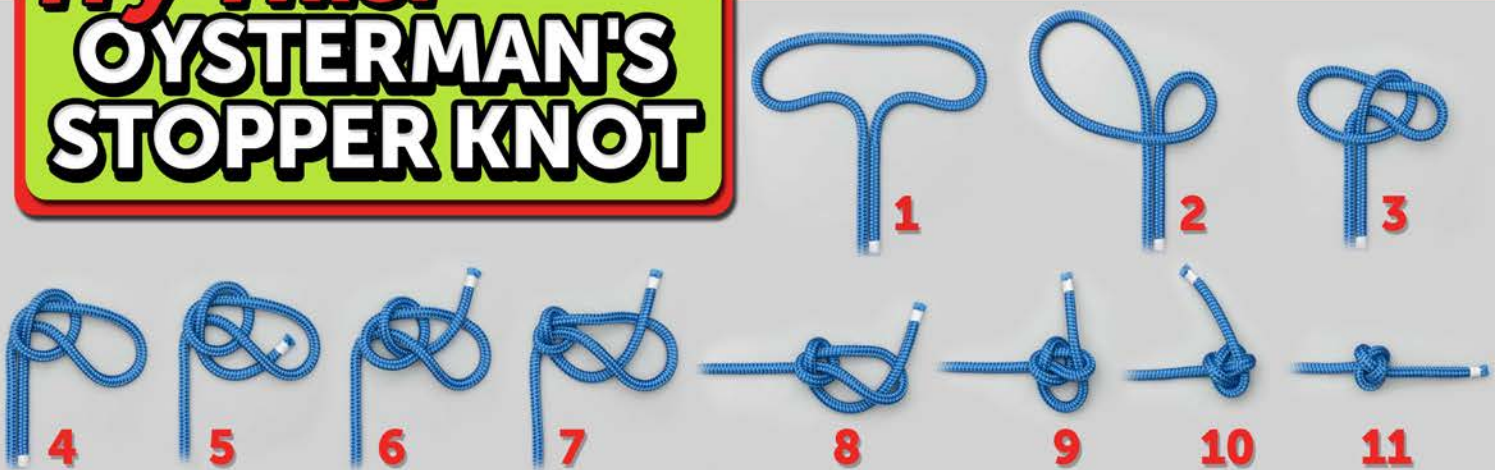


1 can white icing



1 bag mini marshmallows

Try This! OYSTERMAN'S STOPPER KNOT



FINISHED
PRODUCT!

The Oysterman's stopper, also known as Ashley's stopper knot, is a knot developed by Clifford W. Ashley around 1910. Ashley developed this knot in trying to duplicate a knot he saw on a boat in a local oyster fishing fleet. When he had a chance to observe the knot up close at a later time he realized it was just a badly water-swollen figure eight stopper knot. This knot can be tied at the end of a rope to prevent the end from unraveling, slipping through another knot, or passing back through a hole. Essentially, the knot is a common Overhand noose, but with the end of the rope passing through the noose eye, which closes upon it.

Game Time!



WORD SEARCH

Find and circle all words below:

ALLIGATORFISH	EEL
ANCHOVY	FISH
ANEMONE	FLAGFISH
AROWANA	GROUPE
BARRACUDA	HALIBUT
BASS	KOI
CARP	MAHIMAH
CATFISH	MANTARAY
DORY	PIRANHA
DRAGONET	

SCRAMBLE/MATCHING

Unscramble the words below,
THEN match the fish name to
the correct fish photo.

ROLFUNDE

IYDFHSLA

PARTNO

VORGEAMN PREPASN

DEHAESSH

KSPECEEDL ROUTT

CLAKB MRDU

ONOSK

HIFDSRE



KIDS FISHIN'



Jake R., 7, kayak fishing in Cypremort Point, Louisiana.



CCA Member Andrew S., 9, caught this redfish in the CCA Poco Rojo Fishing Tournament in Corpus Christi, Texas.



CCA Member Maddox L., 10, holds up a 27 lb bull red he caught in Venice, Louisiana.



Trey L., 6, caught this trout on his first fishing trip on Delacroix Island, Louisiana.



Christian V., 10, with a 24" redfish landed on the Galveston Fishing Pier, Texas.



Brandon L., 10, and Kaitlin N., 11, and their two nice snapper caught off Freeport, Texas.



Aaron E., 8, with his first flounder caught in Sabine Lake, Texas.



CCA Member Bryce C., 7, with his red caught in Bay Allen, Louisiana.



Matthew A., 12, caught this black drum in Kemah, Texas.



Chase P., 9, shows off his flounder in West Galveston Bay, Texas.



Luke Z., 13, with a 38 lb black drum, caught surf fishing at San Luis Pass, Galveston, 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."

BROTHERS!

Tanner M., 13, caught this bull red in Little Chenier, Louisiana.



Brady M., 7, with his redfish in Little Chenier, Louisiana.



SISTERS!

Juliette S. shows off her speckled trout caught in the Barataria area, Louisiana.



CCA Member Isabelle S., with a red snapper in the Barataria area, Louisiana.



Jordan S., 4, shows off his redfish on the Brazos River.



Gracie R., 7, caught this blacktip shark while fishing San Luis Pass, Galveston, Texas.



SISTER & BROTHER!

Cody R., 14, with a 25" red from East Bay, Galveston, Texas.



CCA Member Jacob S., 9, caught this redfish from the North Jetty Boat Cut, Galveston, Texas.



BROTHERS!

Mark D., with his catch in Gautier, Mississippi.



Corbin L., 10, with his first bull redfish in Destin Beach, Florida.



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**

Julius A., 9, with his 23" flounder caught in the ICW by the Surfside Beach bridge, Texas.






CONSERVATION & PROTECTION OF MARINE LIFE

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100 | Houston, Texas 77024
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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.

