



RISING TIDE

THE MAGAZINE for YOUNG ANGLERS
and CONSERVATIONISTS.

Meet
the
**GIANT
ISOPOD**



LIVE BAIT:

it's what the
**BIG SPECKLED
TROUT**
are biting.

**Tie Your Boat
to the Dock
Like a Pro!**

PLUS MORE!
Photos, Articles & Activities!

RISING TIDE

THE MAGAZINE for YOUNG ANGLERS and CONSERVATIONISTS.

Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is a non-profit marine resource conservation organization. It 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 Patrick Murray
Ted Venker



ON THE COVER:

CCA member, Brody Herbert, age 7, with a 23" speckled trout caught and released in Cocodrie, Louisiana.

What's Inside:

Meet the Giant Isopod

Learn more than you want to know about one of the creepiest creatures in our oceans.

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Big Specks Love Live Bait

Top five baits to use on your next fishing trip targeting big speckled trout.

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Activity Time

Test your word finding skills, learn to tie a cleat hitch and make a shark-y art project!

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Kids Fishin' Photos

Kids from all over the nation show off their trophies.

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BUDDY



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
CORPUS
CHRISTI

HARTE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR GULF OF MEXICO STUDIES

Gulf-tagged SHARKS



OCEARCH is a recognized world leader in generating critical scientific data related to tracking (telemetry) and biological studies of keystone marine species such as hammerhead and tiger sharks.

OCEARCH uses a Global Shark Tracker to share real-time location data on their website. To the left are two sharks tagged with satellite tags out of Port Aransas, Texas. OCEARCH has been tracking all of their *pinging in the Gulf, and now we are too!

BUDDY

Species: Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna*)

Gender: Male

Length: 7'10

Weight: 170 lbs

Tag Date: Nov 05, 2015

Tag Location: Port Aransas, TX

Total travel: 1722.039 miles

Description: Buddy is named after Buddy Holly, a singer/songwriter from Texas. Buddy is the first shark tagged during Expedition Gulf of Mexico.

FINLEY

Species: Tiger Shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*)

Gender: Female

Length: 10 ft

Weight: 361 lbs

Tag Date: Nov 10, 2015

Tag Location: Port Aransas, TX

Total travel: 3202.332 miles

Description: Finley is a 10 foot female tiger shark in the Gulf tagged during Expedition Gulf of Mexico. Finley was named in collaboration with Shark Week with help from kids like you!

* A 'Ping' is determined when the tagged shark's dorsal fin breaks the surface of the water and transmits a signal to a satellite overhead. The transmission then sends back an estimated geo-location.



Giant isopods can reach 18 inches long.

Meet the

GIANT ISOPOD



Average height of a kitten is about 7 inches.

The giant isopod is also related to the small pillbugs, or roly polies, that you can find in your own backyard. In fact, this insect-like creature is sometimes referred to as the giant pillbug.

The giant isopod is one of the creepiest creatures found in our oceans. This vulture-of-the-deep crawls on clawed legs looking for scraps of rotting fish or whale that drift down to the ocean floor.

THEY COME IN DIFFERENT COLORS.

The overlapping segments of the giant isopods shell comes in two varieties of colors: brown and pale lilac.

It is the largest known member of the isopod family, a group of crustaceans closely related to shrimps and crabs. The enormous size of the giant isopod is a result of a phenomenon known as deep sea gigantism. This is the tendency of deep sea crustaceans and other animals to grow to a much larger size than similar species in shallower waters. The reason for this size difference remains a mystery, although some researchers believe it may be an adaptation to help the animal deal with the enormous pressure of living so deep underwater.

Do people eat giant isopods? Not commonly, since fishermen don't usually set their nets or traps that deep. But they're sometimes caught and end up in Puerto Rican markets, or in Taiwan's seaside restaurants where some say they're as tasty as lobster.

THEY WEAR ARMOR.

The giant isopod is protected from enemies by overlapping segments of armor on its back. If threatened, they can roll into a ball to protect its soft belly.

CREATURE FEATURES

- SPECIES:** Bathynomus giganteus
- SIZE:** Length up to 1.5 feet;
Weight up to 3 pounds
- BODY:** Armored shell, 14 clawed legs, 4 jaws
- HOME:** Depths up to 2,000 feet and more in all oceans
- DIET:** Decomposing meat and some live invertebrates

THEY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH CATS.

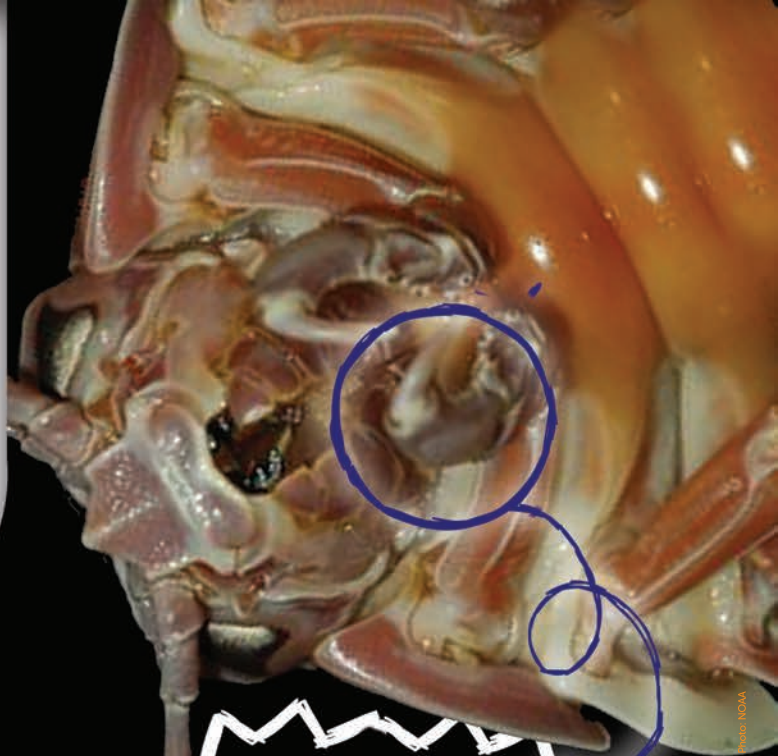
And it's all in the eyes. Giant isopods have widely spaced, fixed compound eyes with more than 4,000 individual facets. Cats and giant isopods have a reflective layer at the back of the eye called the tapetum, which reflects light back through the retina and increases the ability to see at night. It's also what makes cats' and isopods' eyes appear to glow.

THEY USE HOOKS TO EAT.

The first of this creature's legs are curved so much that the claws on the end look like hooks. The isopod stabs these into rotting meat it finds on the ocean floor to bring the food to its four sets of jaws.

THEY CAN GO A LONG TIME WITHOUT EATING.

One giant isopod brought to the Toba Aquarium on the east coast of Japan went five years without eating a single bite of food.



LIVE BAIT:

it's what the
**BIG SPECKLED
TROUT**
are biting.



SHRIMP

A live shrimp is a delicacy to all the game fish roaming Gulf states' inshore waters. A mainstay of a speckled trout's diet, a live shrimp is deadly when dangled in front of a trout.

Besides being incredibly effective live offerings, shrimp are usually plentiful at coastal bait shops throughout most of the fishing season. Live shrimp are always on the specks' must-eat list.



MENHADEN / SHAD

High in oil content, menhaden, or shad, are gorged on throughout the summer and late fall until they exit the shallow inshore waters.

You won't find live menhaden at local bait shops — you'll have to catch them yourself. You'll need a small-meshed cast net in the 6- or 7-foot size range, and you'll have to learn how to throw it.





PINFISH



The scales on the silver, purple, and yellow sides of an active pinfish make a lot of flashes alluring to trout. They spend much of their time lurking near barnacle-encrusted pilings and grassbeds.

This small saltwater baitfish can be caught in small, baited meshed traps. They can also be chummed up near pilings or grassbeds and then caught in a cast net.

BULL MINNOW



These hardy baitfish are mostly used during the winter months, when shrimp and menhaden are scarce. Bull minnows spend their lives in the shallows found on bayous, sloughs, and ditches along marshy coastal shorelines.

If they can't be found in bait shops, bull minnows can be caught at the mouth of small sloughs and ditches, especially when the tide is falling out of the marsh; or in small, baited meshed traps.

FINGER MULLET

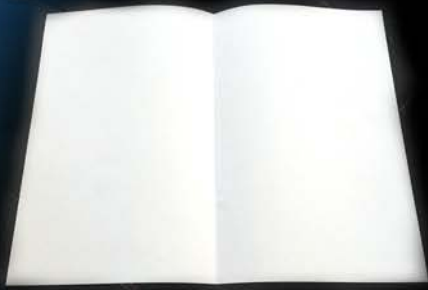


These silver baitfish are a year-round staple in Gulf state shallows, and play an important role in the speckled trout's diet. Small finger-sized mullet excel for attracting a trophy-sized trout speck.

A mullet makes an extremely active and showy bait, and never more than when a hungry speckled trout's hot on its tail. The odds on your finding live mullet at coastal bait shops aren't good, so if you plan to fill your livewell with these valuable baitfish, keep a cast net on hand.

MAKE THIS! NICE SHARK/MEAN SHARK

Fold Drawing

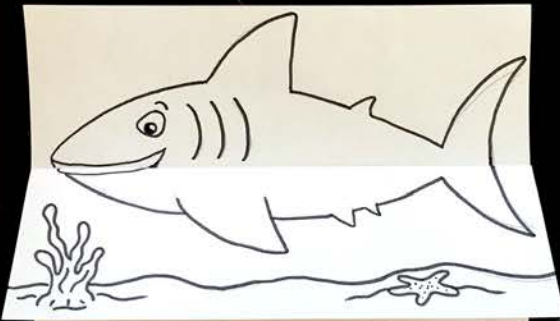


1 Fold

Fold both halves in half, making a letter M with the folds of paper.

2 Draw

With your paper folded, draw the "nice" shark body and sea floor. Start with pencil, then outline with black marker.

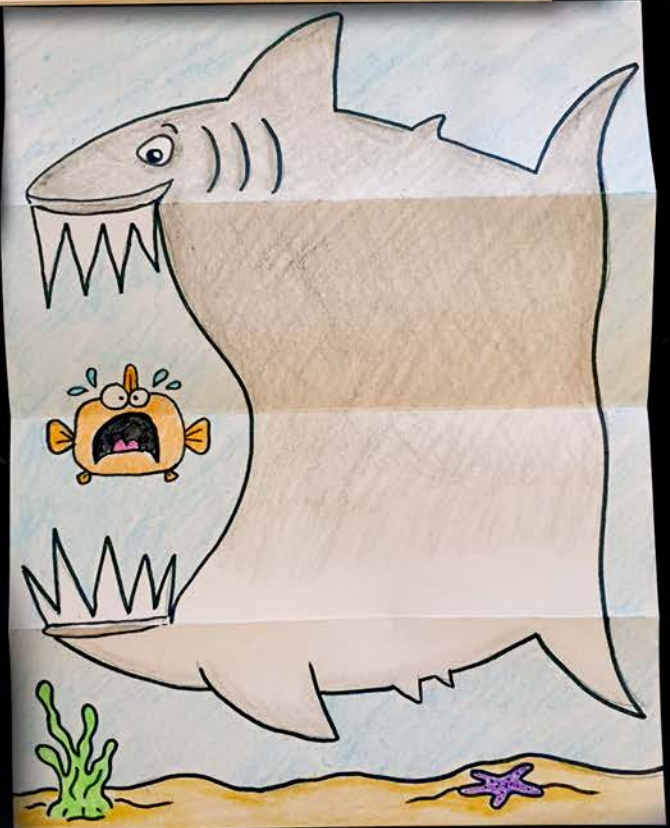
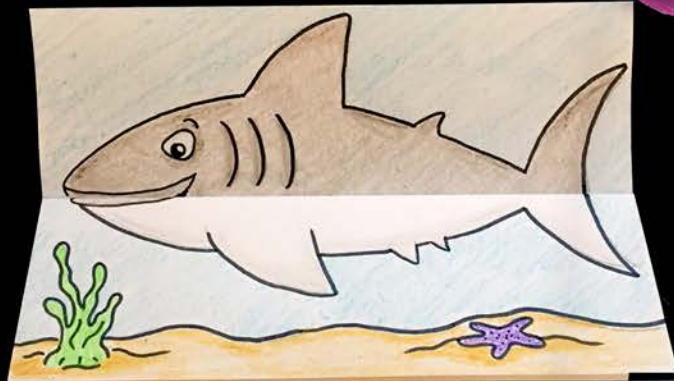


Unfold the paper and add the big teeth and connect the top half to the bottom half to make the "mean" shark.



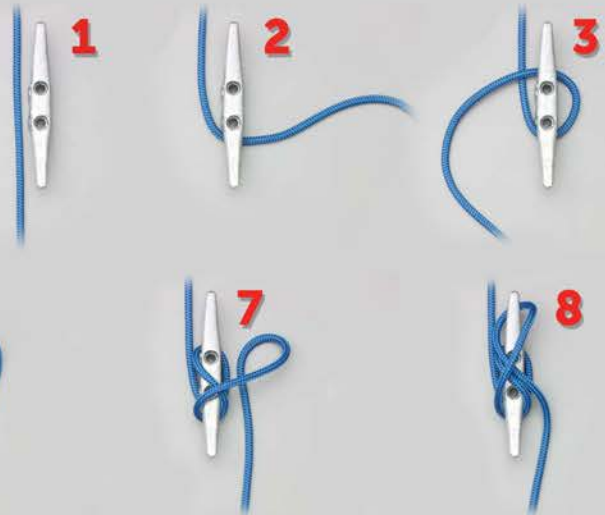
3 Color

Color your artwork with crayons or markers. You can even add a little snack in there for the hungry shark.



Try This! CLEAT HITCH

The best way to tie a boat to a dock!



**FINISHED
PRODUCT!**

The Cleat Hitch is the best way to tie a boat to a dock. It is a quick and easy method of tying a rope to a cleat on a dock or boat that is also easy to untie. This knot ties and unties quickly and neatly. You will impress everyone if you tie this knot when handed a rope at the dock!

HOW TO TIE: Pass the rope around the bottom horn and on around over the top. Continue down across the middle, and then up across again. Twist a loop in the rope and hook it on the cleat as a Half Hitch. * Always make sure your parents are there to check your work.

C Z V U H F H S H A R K J I N
A Z W G Z S S I C I O A T T M
N E E H L C I L T U Q L F D U
E T V K P F F F B A R C S C T
M H O B E F R Y V G D U G W G
O T J B K A A N I G P R I W B
N J G A O R T I I O A H V K D
E J O U G I S P T H S E A J F
S D B N L X X C M I P I O G A
Z X I B O G O Q F Q E L E E C
S T H A B X Z Y A Q L L O L X
S B V I S H L C E E R N A D L
L Y M H T L P T O R K M M H U
T K G G E F T H S Q U I D Q W
X F N J R T U R T L E O S L V

ANEMONE
CLAM
DOLPHIN
EEL
FISH

JELLYFISH
LOBSTER
OCTOPUS
SHARK
SQUID

OCTOPUS
STARFISH
STINGRAY
TURTLE
WHALE

Answers at www.joincca.org/rising-tide

ANGLERS LIKE YOU!... KIDS FISHIN'

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

To submit photos, have your parents:

1. Email to photos@joincca.org OR
2. Share on Facebook at [Facebook.com/CCANational](https://www.facebook.com/CCANational)

** There are a lot of kids fishin' out there and while we try our best to get everyone's photo published, we cannot guarantee yours will be printed.*

** Any photo with a child (under 13) not wearing a life jacket on a boat cannot be published, as we want to portray safe boating examples to all our readers.*



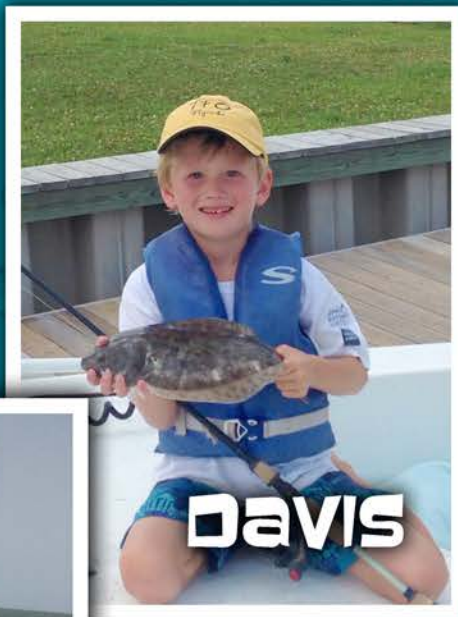
AUDREY



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JACOB



MADI ANN



CARLEIGH



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YOU are an important part of a conservation organization of more than 100,000 people who love and care about fishing and the health of marine life and habitat. That makes **YOU**...a pretty cool kid.

