



RISING TIDE

THE MAGAZINE for YOUNG ANGLERS
and CONSERVATIONISTS

Make these!
Page 7
Get Crabby!



**TEST YOUR FISH
knowledge**
Page 11



Page 4

MASTERS of DISGUISE

The tripletail is one of many marine life
species that know how to blend in!

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RISING TIDE

Rising Tide is Coastal Conservation Association's youth outreach and education program, which promotes conservation ethics and education among young anglers. The program endeavors to capture the enthusiasm of young anglers and provide opportunities for them to understand and appreciate the coastal environment. CCA encourages young anglers to get involved with community habitat projects, participate in local and statewide tournaments, and promote marine science and conservation at their school. The Rising Tide program is committed to engaging the imaginations of young people and inspiring them to become the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

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<< ON THE COVER
Cade Aukeman, 10, caught this 18.5 inch tripletail while fishing with his family. At first he thought it was a floating piece of trash! Cade is a lifelong CCA member and angler, and aside from tripletail, his favorite fish to catch is mahi. He loves the visual action of casting to the fish and watching them eat.

What's Inside:

- 4 Masters of Disguise**
These fish know how to vanish before your eyes.
- 6 Cool Stuff That's Got CCA Kids Feelin' Salty**
- 7 Make Some Crab Cakes!**
But not the kind you might expect.
- 8 A Growing World of No Shoes Reefs**
Kenny Chesney, CCA and No Shoes Reefs are finding ways to improve our marine environment.
- 10 Activity Time!**
Test your skills with fun and fishy puzzles.
- 11 Fishin' Kids**
Kids and their best catches...you guess all the species!

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INTELLIGENT

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AER

CHONDRICHTHYESEUZ

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QUARIUMDEWQRTGQSK

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BUGDANGEROUSASRXI

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HARKATTACKPLWSYAL

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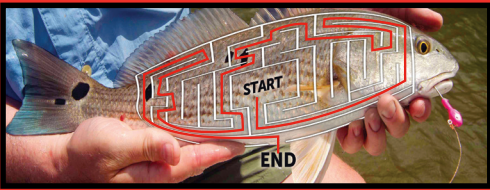
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1. speckled trout | 2. jack crevalle or jackfish | 3. snook | 4. king salmon or chinook | 5. sheephead | 6. redfish or red drum | 7. red snapper | 8. cobia or ling | 9. flounder | 10. striped bass

BOUNCING BACK FROM THE TEXAS



THE BIG WINTER STORM THAT SLAMMED INTO THE STATE OF TEXAS IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR WAS HARD ON OUR COASTAL FISH.

It stays warm in Texas a lot of the time, but every now and then a really hard freeze makes it all the way to the coast and when it does, it spells trouble for fish like speckled trout that can't handle low water temperatures for very long.

they caught until the populations started to recover. By taking special care, fish like speckled trout can be unhooked and released back in the water to swim away. Many anglers decided to practice "catch-and-release" until the trout populations can grow back to healthy levels.

When things like freezes or wildfires happen in nature people can pitch in and make a difference to help fish and animals bounce back faster.



Unfortunately, last year's big freeze killed a lot of saltwater fish, especially on the lower Texas coast where the water isn't very deep. The people who take care of the fish in Texas may never know exactly how many fish we lost, but it was enough that the state had to change some rules to make sure the fish recover. Not only that, but a lot of fishermen and fisherwomen decided they were not going to keep any speckled trout

others are working to give the fish a helping hand when they need it most, and that will help ensure a healthy speckled trout fishery, hopefully sooner rather than later.



ANGLERS IN ACTION
Rapidly responding to the 2021 freeze event, CCA Texas gave **\$152,000** to help the Sea Center Texas Hatchery in Lake Jackson and the CCA Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff to ramp up their production of juvenile speckled trout and redfish. With these critical funds, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists at Sea Center Texas were able to purchase and install **new pond liners for three one-acre ponds** where the fingerlings (baby fish) grow up, allowing them to immediately increase critical fingerling production.
Also, CCA Texas **donated money for the replacement of four vital heat exchangers** for the speckled trout breeding tank systems at the CCA Marine Development Center. These heat exchangers make sure the tanks have proper temperature control and allow staff to increase the time in which speckled trout can lay eggs. **More time = more trout eggs!** As a result of these and efforts, the 2021 hatchery production season was an enormous success with TPWD staff releasing **more than 10 million speckled trout and over 15 million red drum** across the Texas coast.

After the freeze, CCA Texas responded by donating funds to help the state's hatcheries ramp up their production of baby speckled trout and redfish to release into our bays and estuaries, and help replace the ones that were lost to the cold snap. Baby speckled trout and red drum are called "fingerlings" because when they are released they are about the size of a finger. The hatcheries raise them from eggs so small they are hard to even see until they are a couple of inches long to give them a better chance to survive in the wild.
The money provided by CCA Texas helped the state buy new gear and repair some of their equipment. In the end, the 2021 hatchery season was a tremendous success, with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff releasing more than 10 million speckled trout fingerlings and over 15 million red drum fingerlings across the Texas coast.
Texas' marine fisheries were heavily impacted by the freeze, and they need time to recover.
Fortunately, groups like CCA, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and

MASTERS of DISGUISE



#1 TRIPLETAIL A.K.A. FLOATING DEBRIS

The tripletail gets its name from the three fins along its rear. Like a boat with three motors, the trio of back propellers this fish has makes the tripletail a powerful swimmer. Their coloration can vary from almost black, to reddish-bronze, to spotted yellow. A very typical behavior of the tripletail is to float on its side at the water's surface. This motionless floating, plus its spotty coloring, is the reason this fish is frequently mistaken for floating trash or debris.

They like to hang out near structures such as channel markers, buoys, oil platforms, weed mats and of course, floating debris. Many times a fisherman will pull up to a structure or patch of floating debris, throw their line out and not even notice the tripletail hiding in plain sight right in front of them! Next time you're on a fishing trip and see something floating near a structure, make sure to take a second look...it could be more than you think!

#2 FLOUNDER A.K.A. DISAPPEARING DOORMAT

Flounder have a kind of skin cells called chromatophores (krow-MAT-uh-forz). Chromatophores contain colors, or pigments, that can change the skin's appearance. When flounders swim near the bottom, their skin can imitate the different colors and textures found on the seafloor. They can look like sand one minute, and a rocky bottom the next! One scientist even put a flounder against a checkerboard to see what would happen. In less than a minute, the flounder's body started to resemble the black and white squares on the gameboard! This special camouflage ability makes flounders perfect ambush predators. They lie on the water bottom perfectly hidden, then just surprise and gobble up any prey that swims within reach.

Knowing a flounder's behavior of hiding out on the bottom is also helpful knowledge for your next flounder fishing trip! You can count on these fish being on the seafloor waiting for their next meal. So when you cast your bait in the water, make sure you let it sink all the way down within the flounder's reach. You may not be able to see this camouflaged trickster, but you could maybe catch one!

A few more WELL-HIDDEN WONDERS!

#3 GHOST PIPEFISH



GHOST PIPEFISHES have a real knack for camouflage. There are about five species, and although they have different styles, they all know how to blend in - from the ornate ghost pipefish which tends to live among feather stars, to the robust ghost pipefish which looks like a piece of algae.

GARDEN EEL #4



GARDEN EELS get their name from their practice of poking their heads from their burrows while most of their bodies remain hidden. They live in groups, so the many eel heads "growing" from the sea floor look exactly like plants in a garden. They are easily mistaken for seagrass.

#5 LEAFY SEADRAGON



LEAFY SEADRAGONS are named for their plant-like appearance that allows them to perfectly blend in with algae that grow in the seagrass beds and the rocky reefs where they live. Leafy seadragons are poor swimmers so they must rely on their camouflage to avoid predators.

STONEFISH #6



STONEFISH are the world's most venomous fish and masters of camouflage. Prey, predators and scuba divers have trouble seeing them at all. They almost always sit perfectly still on the sea floor in coral and rocky reefs, using their camouflage mainly to ambush prey with its powerful jaws.

where did they go?!

HEY GROWN-UPS,
we are now an
amazon smile
approved charity!
Use the Amazon Smile link
[AmazonSmileCCA.com](https://www.amazon.com/AmazonSmileCCA) when
shopping and Amazon will
donate .5% of the price of eligible
purchases to CCA!

salinity now

WHAT'S GOT CCA KIDS FEELIN' SALTY?



The **YETI RAMBLER JR. 12 OZ KIDS BOTTLE** is leakproof and mighty with a super strong, stainless steel armor that won't flinch through all the bumps along the way to your next outdoor adventure. **\$22 | YETI.com**



With the **LEGO CITY GREAT VEHICLES DIVING YACHT** you can create a sleek diving vessel with removable roof, turning searchlight, buildable buoy, opening treasure chest and a sea floor scene for amazing underwater adventures! **\$15 | Amazon.com**



Finally a CCA fishing shirt just for kids! The **CCA YOUTH SAMURAI 2 PERFORMANCE SHIRT BY AFTCO** is the newest version of the Samurai 1 with added AFLEX technology making it stretchier and softer. Extra built-in sun protection features means you will keep cool, dry and comfortable all day. **\$34 | AFTCO.com**



CODDIES FISH FLIP FLOPS are the perfect footwear for any angler. Hilarious yet functional - they are soft, flexible, comfortable, non-slip and easy to wash. Nothing smells fishy here! Just some scaley sandals! **\$15 | Amazon.com**



A good angler always needs a good pair of pliers. The **CCA DURA-HOLD GRIP PLIERS** have a super grip handle making it easy to hold on, even in slimy situations. The built-in wire and line cutters mean you'll always be ready to tie on another bait or release another catch. **\$24 | Academy.com**

The fishing force will be strong with you when these **ZEBCO STAR WARS BOBBERS** are tied to your line. When your favorite droid disappears, it's time to start reeling! **\$5 | Amazon.com**



These **YORKI FISH PENS** will make you wonder if you're looking in your school supply box or your tackle box! Fun to use and come in a pack of 6 different fishing lure designs, every angler needs these fantastic fish pens. **\$9 | Amazon.com**



You will need: Make These! CRAB CUPCAKES



1 bag chocolate chips



1 bag Twizzlers PULL 'n' PEEL licorice



1 can white icing



1 package red cake mix
*Use red velvet cake mix if you can't find red cake mix.

red food coloring

MAKE CUPCAKES:

1. Make the red cupcakes according to directions on the box and let cool completely.

MAKE ICING:

2. Set aside 2 tablespoons of the white icing to leave white for the eyes.

3. Add several drops of the red food coloring into the tub of icing until you make red icing.

ASSEMBLE:

4. Cut your Twizzlers PULL 'n' PEEL licorice into "leg" sized pieces.

5. Insert them into your cupcake so they are touching the plate.

6. Spread the red icing over the top of the cupcakes, covering the licorice.

7. Put 2 dabs of the white icing on the cupcake where the eyes will be. Then, push two chocolate chips into the white icing to complete the eyes.

8. For added effect, pour brown sugar on a tray or plate to serve as "sand" for the crab cupcakes to sit on.





A GROWING WORLD OF



The idea for No Shoes Reefs first came to life in 2013 as Kenny Chesney and a few friends from CCA floated on the St. John's River in Jacksonville, Florida, over two concrete structures that had been sunk as habitat only 18 months before. As the boat floated over the location, the boat's electronics showed waves of fish over and on the river's two new living reefs. Thrilled by the outcome, Chesney and Pat Murray, national president of CCA, proclaimed these the first "No Shoes Reefs" and from that afternoon, No Shoes Reefs was born.

Today, Chesney is an honorary board member for the Building Conservation Trust, the national habitat program of CCA and No Shoes Reefs helps ocean conservation groups create awareness, raise money and connect to each other. Working with partners like Deep Apparel, RePatriot Flag and other brand partners, No Shoes Reefs raises awareness and support through the brand partnerships that sell exclusive products.

"I love that No Shoes Reefs is not only helping protect the water's ecosystem, it's giving people an opportunity to make a difference in their own coastal communities," said Chesney. "Providing a healthy environment for fish, plants and waterways well into the future is a legacy I'm honored to be part of."

Drawing on the power of Chesney's No Shoes Nation -- well over a few million fans -- No Shoes Reefs, CCA and a growing list of supporting organizations continue work making our marine habitat better and keeping the oceans vibrant and healthy for generations. 🐠

"AS A GUY WHO HAS SO MANY OF MY HAPPIEST MEMORIES ON THE WATER, I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF THE OCEANS AND BEACHES FOR YEARS TO COME."



THE BOAT RIDE THAT STARTED IT ALL | No Shoes Reefs first came to life in 2013 as Kenny Chesney and friends from CCA floated on the St. John's River in Jacksonville. As the boat floated over the location, their electronics showed waves of fish over the river's two new living reefs. Thrilled, Chesney and CCA National President Pat Murray, proclaimed these the first "No Shoes Reefs."



NO SHOES REEFS HAS PROVIDED SUPPORT TO A MANY REEF BALL HABITAT PROGRAMS UNDERWAY IN CCA STATE CHAPTERS.

Reef Balls are one of the best designed artificial reef methods. They are a very effective way to create long-lasting marine habitat. Reef balls are made from a fiberglass mold system that can be supplied anywhere in the world. The round, hollow, vented and "bottom-heavy" form makes them extremely stable.

A reef ball gives all kinds of marine life a place to rest, hide, grow and feed.



CCA SOUTH CAROLINA and No Shoes Reefs teamed up to purchase four new reef ball molds and donated them to the state department of natural resources. The new molds are larger than anything the state currently has and can now achieve even more large habitat projects.

In Georgia, No Shoes Reefs, **CCA GEORGIA** and the Reef Ball Foundation teamed up to purchase 400 concrete oyster balls. They are working with the state to determine the best places along the coast to build new oyster reefs.



In Maryland, No Shoes Reefs donated funding to develop the chapter's new website that shares news about habitat projects and gets the community involved. The website plays a huge role in **CCA MARYLAND's** Living Reef Action Campaign and its ongoing program partnering with local school districts to have students (like you!) build concrete reef balls and learn the importance of healthy marine habitat.



In early 2021, **CCA FLORIDA**, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, Sandoway Discovery Center, Reef Ball Foundation, Building Conservation Trust and Global SubDive deployed 13 10,000-pound goliath reef balls, about a half-mile off Delray Beach, kicking off development of a 32-acre underwater reef park. No Shoes Reefs and Reef Ball Foundation donated the 7-foot by 6-foot reef balls and four flatbed trailers.





Try This JAWS-y Word Search!

Find the words listed below...

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| ANIMALS | FEAR | NURSE |
| AQUARIUM | FINS | OCEANS |
| AQUATIC | FISH | PLANKTON |
| ATTACKS | FOOD | PREDATOR |
| BEACH | FRESHWATER | REEF |
| BITE | GILLS | ROWS OF TEETH |
| BULL | GREAT WHITE | SALTWATER |
| CAGE | HABITAT | SEAWATER |
| CARNIVOROUS | HAMMERHEAD | SHARK ATTACK |
| CARTILAGE | HUNTER | SNOUT |
| CHONDRICHTHYES | INTELLIGENT | SPIRACLE |
| CONSERVATION | JAWS | SWIMMING |
| DANGEROUS | KILL | TAIL |
| VERTEBRATE | TOOTH | TIGER SHARK |

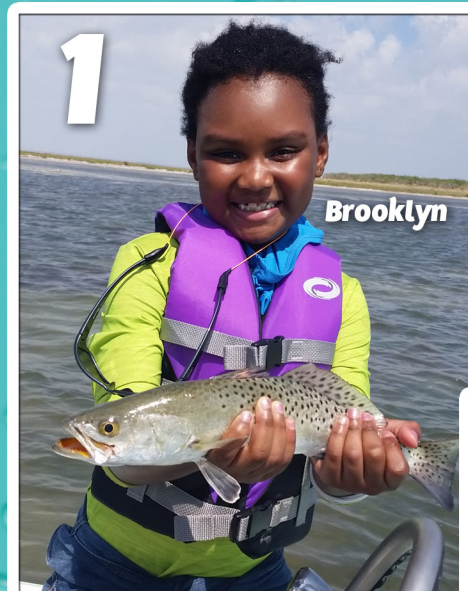
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Answers on Page 2

Isn't nature A-MAZE-ING?!

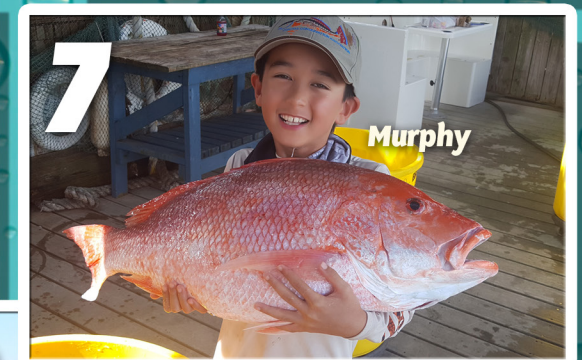


BECAUSE KIDS MAKE THE BEST ANGLERS! KIDS FISHING?



CCA YOUTH MEMBERS
FROM ALL OVER LOVE
TO SHARE THEIR
BEST CATCHES!

Do you see a species below that
you've caught before?
See if you can name them all!
>> Answers on page 2.



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Thank you Phillips 66!

Because of the generous support of Phillips 66 the
Rising Tide Youth Program will continue to thrive!



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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.



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