



the  
**CRAYFISH TALE**

**I GOT LETTERS...**

Trapper Arne,

Thanks for all of your help and the great traps. Four traps were the perfect number. It's like a birthday party when you pull up the traps. You just never know what you're gonna get... one, three, twenty...

We are learning. Lesson One: listen to Trapper Arne and don't put the traps too deep. We set some at a dock, one end about 22 feet and the other about 12 feet. The ones at twelve feet were full and the one at 22 feet had very few.

Great Fun and Great Eatin!!!! Thanks!!!!

Stuart

**(I also made that mistake at Blue Ridge Reservoir. The deeper the trap, the smaller the catch.)**

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Arne,

Just wanted to inform you that I was up at Roosevelt Lake this past weekend and did very well with the cray fishing! I utilized the Trappy I purchased from you and baited it with Friskies Ocean Whitefish cat food as one of your previous articles discussed. I placed the trap overnight under the boat dock at the Windy Hill campground for three consecutive nights. I ended up with 20-30 every morning and we had quite the feast! Thanks for all your time and energy helping us novices!

Kevin

**(Yes, I know that Roosevelt Lake has a lot of crayfish. The forest Service people maintaining the lake even bought a whole bunch of Trappy traps in their efforts to reduce the crayfish populations.)**

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Hi Arne

As always a good read...we found a lake up here that Fish and Wildlife won't stock with baby trout...why??? Too many crayfish...oh, we think I found a new spot, don't you think?

**(I wish I could come and visit you.)**

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Hey arne,

I had quite the experience with your trap last week. I had caught a single crayfish after an overnight soak. In Hay Creek in Bismarck, ND. (Confirmed crayfish population). So I left it in the trap hoping it would tear and eat at my bait and release a little more scent. I came back the next morning and I had a baby carp dead and half a crayfish. Ha! Ha!. But what puzzled me was that the carp's head was half eaten and it looked like the

crayfish's doing. Any thoughts? Thanks again for the wonderful trap. Many fun times have been had. And I have only had it for about a month!

JH

**(One of those life's mysteries, I suppose.)**

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Dear Trapper Arne

My name is Brian and I am 16 years old and live in Texas. Your web site has lots of good information about crawdad fishing in the Deep South. I have a couple of questions about the location of where the trap should be in the summer. Local bait stores and Bass Proof told me that the crawdads went into the sand but that was all they told me. My question is where in the sand are they? In coves or stagnate water or just out side the rocks?

My second question is, what kind of fish is good bait for my trap. On the dock we own we sank tons of Christmas trees for the crappies. We keep them and skin them. Would the entrails of a crappie or sand bass be good for this bait?

Thank you for answering my questions

Sincerely:

Brian

**(Hi Brian**

**Thank you for your email question about crayfish.**

**Some crayfish like to burrow down into sand or mud, but most crayfish prefer to simply hide behind and under rocks and stones and other places on the bottom of a lake or river where they can stay away from their enemies. Crayfish have many things to hide from, other fish, otters and some wading birds. Therefore, you will be more likely to find crayfish where they can hide from their predators. I always look for rocky places in the water.**

**For bait in your crayfish trap you can use any local fish such as crappies, shad, bass or pieces of trout. I prefer to use trout heads or tails, but lately I have had good luck using fishy cat food, such as made by Friskies. Just punch some holes in the lid and place the can inside the trap and you'll catch crayfish. If there ARE any crayfish in the lake, that is.**

**Good luck catching more crayfish, Brian.**

**Greetings**

**Trapper Arne)**

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I purchased two Trappy XL traps, and couldn't be happier. I caught about a hundred crayfish over the weekend! I put Arne's trap up against one I had purchased from the Bass Pro Shop, and Arne's trap worked much better. The escape holes worked great; I only had large crayfish, no throw backs. The Bass Pro Trap was full of minnows, and small crayfish. If you trap crayfish buy the Trappy XL you'll love it ! "

*Justin, Az*

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...Oh, by the way, the Trapper you sent works like a dream. My sister called me the other day and said that each morning when they pull it from their dock you couldn't squeeze another craw into it if you tried. Let me know when you have a couple of them built, she wants two more...

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Thank you for the response to my latest email. ... There are very few reports of the crawfishing opportunities in Washington but there are several lakes that have incredible crawfishing to say the least. Moses Lake is infested with red swamp and northern craws; they are not a commercial opportunity because the state does not allow that for non native species but it is great for personal fishing. Williams Lake, Amber Lake, and Rock Lake all have excellent populations of Pacificus, or as you know them, Signal crayfish. Many times at Williams lake I would set two or three traps off the dock and then go for dinner and by the time I returned a couple of hours later my traps were full to nearly funnel level. Rock Lake and Amber Lake are just as productive. I have tried the Friskies cat food you have spoken of but fresh shad by far and away has proven itself as the best bait in both the Columbia and Snake Rivers to me. The non native species in Moses Lake seem to like the cat food but the Pacificus seems to prefer shad. ... Thanks

Jason

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Hello, which of your traps would you recommend me getting to catch crayfish, shad and bluegills?

Thanks,  
George

**(Hi George,**

**A trapper Arne crayfish trap is intended to catch crayfish. Not fish. And if I told you which caught the most, who would buy the others?)**

## **TRAPPY XL BACK IN STOCK**

The container ship Rotterdam unloaded two pallets of XLs in Los Angeles last week. Now they are on their way up to Payson, ready to go out to crayfish hungry crayfish lovers

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## **TRAPPER ARNE OUT OF OFFICE**

I'll be catching crayfish next week (August 7-15) and will be up in the mountains NOT answering emails and orders. But I'll be back.

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Trapper Arne

