

GONE FISHING!



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GONE FISHING!

The history of fishing in North America is as old as the history of humankind. Fishing hooks are estimated to have been used for at least 30–40,000 years, but due to the perishable nature of the first efforts — likely wood, thorn, bone, or antler — little evidence remains. One site in Czechoslovakia yielded bone hooks that are estimated to be about 20,000 years old, while numerous sites around the world have revealed a variety of fish hooks dating from about 8–10,000 years ago. Over time they have been made of many materials; in addition to those mentioned above, fish hooks



have been made of horn, claws, hooked raptor beaks, shell, stone, copper, bronze, and iron.

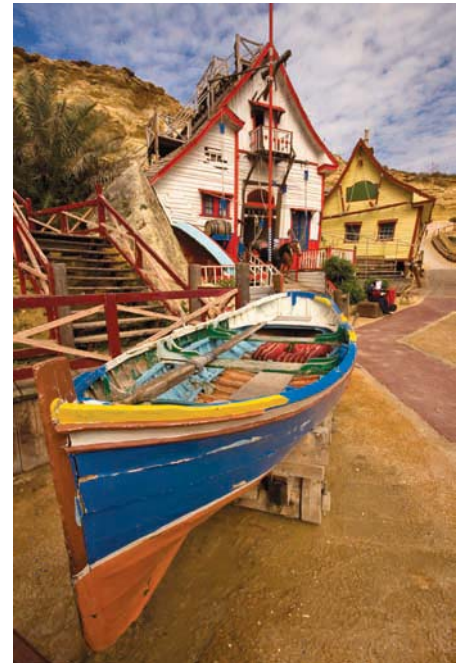
Our ancestors depended on aquatic life to sustain them with food and to provide tools and ornaments to make their lives easier and more pleasurable. The often huge mounds of seashells and other human debris found at Mesolithic sites along rivers and the coastal regions of the world have long been a rich source of archaeological information about how different peoples have utilized their environment. There are two basic types of these shell depositories: kitchen middens where the debris

of daily living is discarded, and packed mounds that usually served as a base for greater ceremonial structures or as a raised covering for burial sites. For our purposes, however, it is the kitchen midden, with its deposits of mussels, clams, oysters, cockleshell, a variety of fish bones, turtles, and snails — all of which may be found in fresh and salt water varieties — that is of primary interest to these album pages. If we are what we eat, there is a distinctly aquatic component to the peoples of North America, and shell kitchen middens can be found along the sea coast, estuaries, and river banks of the present-day United States from Florida to Oregon.

When European colonists arrived they, too, relied on the bounty of the sea and the local fresh water tributaries. The Maryland Charter of 1632, which was granted to Lord Baltimore by Charles I, king of England, guaranteed the new proprietor the rights to “Fishings of every kind of Fish as well as Whales, Sturgeons and other royal Fish in the Sea, Bays, Straits, or Rivers, within the premises ... [and] ... the Liberty

Indeed, my good scholar, we may say of angling, as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries, “Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did”; and so, if I might be judge, God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling.

— Izaak Walton,
The Compleat Angler (1653)



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GONE FISHING!



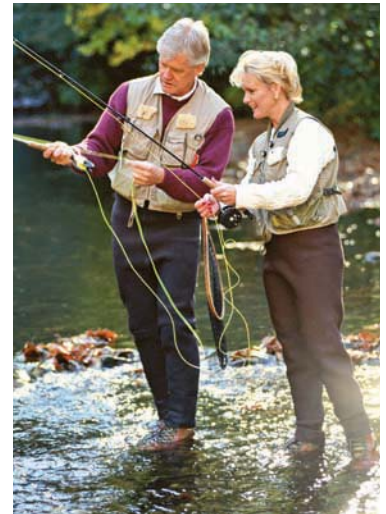
of Fishing for Sea-Fish as well in the Sea, Bays, Straits and navigable rivers ... of the Province aforesaid.”¹ These were important matters, in an era when royal decree governed what resources the colonists were allowed to exploit.

By the 1700s, however, early commercial fishing ventures were in place from Newfoundland south along the Atlantic coastline, making fishing the first major

colonial industry. Colonists dined on (and marketed) such fare as halibut, ocean perch, haddock, flounder, cod, shad, herring, striped bass, gar, catfish, sturgeon, sheepshead, drum, lobsters, oysters, and blue crabs. Exports of salt cod and dried herring, in particular, filled the holds of ships making their way back to Europe and points east. The rich marine waters off the coast of the eastern United States and lower Canada were the source of livelihoods for generation after generation, until over-fishing began to deplete stocks in the late twentieth century.

But individual fishermen continued to feast on the rich food source supplied by America’s waters. Anglers headed to the banks of streams, rivers and lakes for the pleasure of the activity as well as for the opportunity to add to the family’s food supply. However, it wasn’t really until the years following World War II that strictly recreational fishing became a force of its own. Today, armchair fans can sit back and follow the exploits of professional sports fisherman on television, online, and in magazines. Still, if fishing doesn’t have the importance it had when the rewards could be laid on the family dining table, it remains a popular personal pastime and a vital commercial activity in the United States,

By the way, the area surrounding State College, Pennsylvania was listed by *Forbes Magazine* as one of the Top 10 Fly Fishing destinations in the country. So the next time you visit the American Philatelic Center, bring along your gear — stop by the editorial office and we’ll give you a few local tips.



GONE FISHING!

Fresh Water Fish

— Biggest & Oldest —

Wonders of America: White Sturgeon

39¢ • Scott 4061

The white sturgeon is North America's largest and most primitive freshwater fish. It has been around for an estimated 170 million years. As the Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet" noted, this would have qualified it for a guest spot in the movie *Jurassic Park*. The white sturgeon can live for more than 100 years, reaching a length of 20 feet or better and a weight approaching one ton. It doesn't have typical fish scales but is covered by a bony armor. It also has a primitive notochord instead of a backbone. This feature is found in only one other modern-day creature, the lamprey, which, curiously enough, is the sturgeon's favorite prey. A bottom feeder with poor eye sight and no teeth, the sturgeon has an extendable mouth to help it vacuum up its prey. Although young fish eat mostly insect larvae, worms, and small invertebrates such as snails and crayfish, the adults have a fish-based diet composed of smaller fish such as smelt, shad, and, as mentioned, the lamprey eel. However, they occasionally tackle larger prey. One sturgeon was found to have five fresh, whole sockeye salmon in its stomach. They are found from Ensenada, Mexico to Cook Inlet, Alaska. Because they are slow to mature (females are not ready to spawn until they are about 25 years old), they are particularly vulnerable to changes in their habitat (such as silted waterways, pesticide/fertilizer runoff, and the invasion of other species) and over-fishing. Once abundant in our large rivers, today their numbers are in a steady decline.

— Bass —

Fish: Largemouth Bass

22¢ • Scott 2207

Native to the eastern United States, the largemouth bass is a voracious predator that will eat insects, small to medium-sized fish, crayfish, frogs, and even snakes. Although they can grow as long as two feet and weigh up to 20 pounds, a typical largemouth is about a foot long and weighs between 3-5 pounds. The record is 29.5 inches and 25 pounds. They are named for their large mouths, which extend past their eyes. Considered the most popular gamefish in the United States, they strike hard and leap high, but they are often fished as catch-and-release. They are the state fish of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee (which recognizes both large- and smallmouth bass); other subspecies of bass (fresh and salt water) are honored in Kentucky, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

— Carp —

Bright Eyes: Goldfish

32¢ • Scott 3231

The popular yellow-orange color of today's goldfish is actually a naturally occurring genetic mutation that has been bred for selectively for hundreds of years. These small members of the carp family were first domesticated by the Chinese more than a thousand years ago. Selective goldfish breeding has developed various ornamental shapes and colors; however, if released to the wild, within a few generations their coloration will revert to its original shade of greenish brown. A popular aquarium fish, they can even be taught to perform simple tricks. These small carp do well in a variety of environments, including stock tanks on large cattle or sheep ranches, where they are used to keep down the mosquitoes and algae that would otherwise cause a problem during the summer months.

— Catfish —

Fish: Catfish • 22¢ • Scott

2209

Named for their prominent barbels, elongated sense of touch organs near their mouths that resemble elongated cat whiskers, there are more than 2,200 species of catfish worldwide. In fact, catfish inhabit the waters of every continent except Antarctica. Some species of this fish can be huge. The blue catfish that lives in the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio river basins system is usually given the honors as the largest American catfish; the current record holder weighed 124 lbs. but blue catfish in excess of 300 lbs. have been recorded. Flathead catfish are not only large (the record holder weighed 123 lbs.), are excellent eating and game fish. Channel cats are smaller, up to 40 pounds. The most numerous are the various bullhead catfish, at 3-7 lbs. All of these species are bottom feeders, eating aquatic insects, worms, snails, crayfish, and fish — living or dead. The channel cat is the state fish of Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.



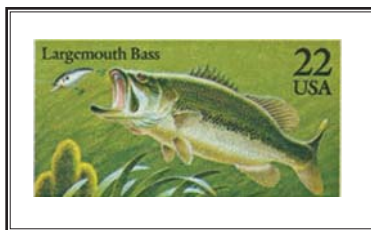
GONE FISHING!

Fresh Water Fish

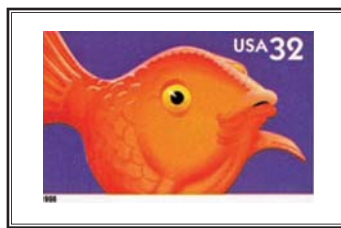


**Wonders of America:
White Sturgeon (2006)**
39¢ • Scott 4061

Check out the video on YouTube
of a fisherman reeling in
a 9-foot 4-inch sturgeon —
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCcblhcXqg



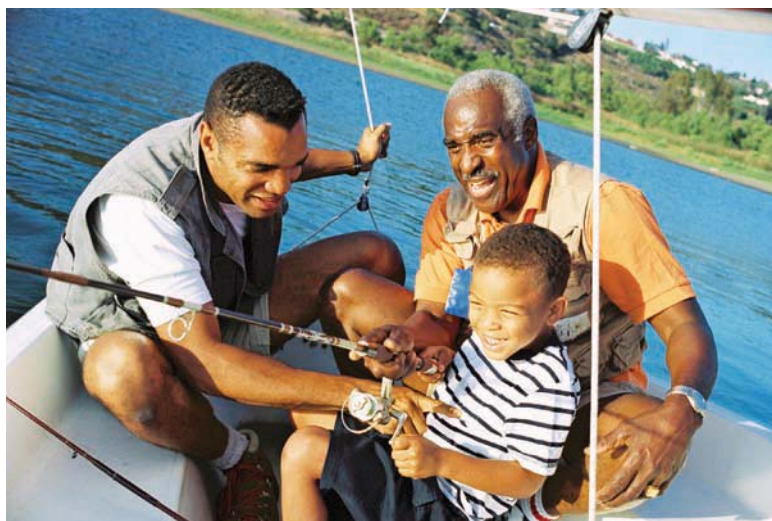
Fish: Largemouth Bass (1986)
22¢ • Scott 2207



Bright Eyes: Goldfish (1998)
32¢ • Scott 3231



Fish: Catfish (1986)
22¢ • Scott 2209



GONE FISHING!

Fresh Water Fish

— Pike —

Fish: Muskellunge 22¢ • Scott 2205

The largest of the pike family, the muskie is one of the most desirable catches among gamefish anglers — and the most elusive. Known as the “fish of 10,000 casts,” it has been estimated that it takes the average angler more than fifty hours to catch a legal-size muskellunge. A mature muskie can live as long as 30 years, reaching a length of more than five feet and a weight of nearly 70 pounds. Not surprisingly, they are voracious predators, increasing the size of their prey as they mature — from small fish and frogs to medium fish, mice and ducklings to large fish, adult ducks, muskrats, and even other muskies. Their great shovel-shaped head is filled with a mouth that reaches halfway around the head and is filled with strong sharp teeth on the upper and lower jaws and even on its tongue! The muskellunge is the state fish of Wisconsin.

— Salmon —

Greetings from America: Alaska 34¢ • Scott 3562

Alaska's state fish is also popular with the state's largest carnivore, the Alaskan Brown Bear. During the salmon spawning run, these normally solitary creatures can be found in groups as large as 70 bears along a choice stretch of river. During the height of the spawning run, the salmon are so plentiful that the bears will actually stand in the water with their mouths open, patiently waiting for the fish to jump in!

— Pike —

Louisiana World Exposition: Fresh Water as a Source of Life 20¢ • Scott 2086

Among the aquatic life pictured on the stamp are three fish: a largemouth bass (described elsewhere), a chain pickerel, and several golden shiners. The chain pickerel is named for the distinctive dark chain-like pattern on its sides that contrasts with its lighter green body. These are the smallest members of the pike family but they can live for ten years and reach a length of three feet. They are ambush hunters, lurking in weedy undergrowth to hunt their prey, which mainly consists of insects, small fish, crayfish, newts, frogs, and even mice. Solitary fish by nature, once hooked they become aggressive fighters, making pickerel a popular gamefish. One of their favorite foods is minnows, such as the golden shiners the pickerel is shown pursuing on the stamp.

— Sunfish —

Anti-Pollution: Save Our Water 6¢ • Scott 1412

A member of the sunfish family, bluegills prefer a quiet pond or slow-running stream. When it comes to raising young, the female lays the eggs and considers her job done. The males build nests in sociable proximity to other bluegill nests, then guard the eggs and newly hatched young. Averaging about six inches in length, bluegills can grow as large as twelve inches. A tasty “pan” fish, bluegills are abundant and easy to catch; they are a favorite way to introduce children to the pleasures of fishing. The bluegill is the state fish of Illinois.

— Salmon —

Wildlife Conservation: King Salmon Scott 1079

The Alaska King Salmon is the largest species of Pacific Salmon, with individuals weighing as much as 120 pounds! Also known as the Chinook Salmon, it has the highest amounts of Omega-3 oils, making it the most commercially valuable of the Alaskan salmon. Like all salmon, these great fish are hatched in freshwater where they remain from several months to two years before migrating down to the sea. There they continue to grow until they reach maturity, before returning to their home streams to spawn and die. First day sales of the 1956 salmon conservation stamp in Seattle, Washington, opened at 7 a.m. with a line around the block

— Sunfish —

Flora and Fauna: Pumpkinseed Sunfish 45¢ • Scott 2481

One of the most colorful of the pond fish, the pumpkinseed sunfish often share a habitat with their cousin, the bluegill. They prefer to stay in an area with cover, such as submerged brush, rather than open water. Interestingly, they have been shown to have a strong homing instinct if caught and then released in another spot of a lake. Like the bluegills, pumpkinseeds prefer to build their nests in small colonies, often within or adjoining bluegill nesting sites.



GONE FISHING!

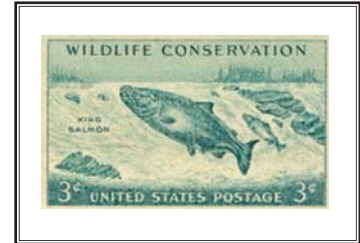
Fresh Water Fish



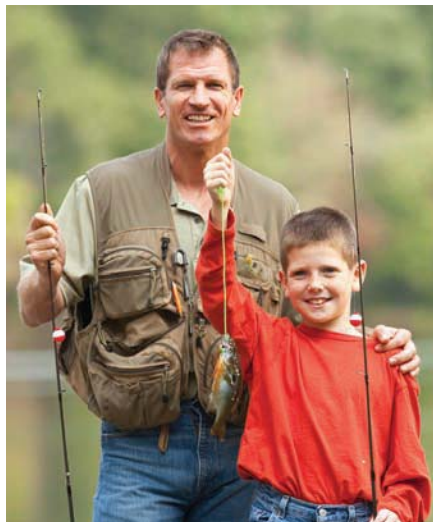
Fish: Muskellunge (1986)
22¢ • Scott 2205



Louisiana World Exposition: Fresh Water as a Source of Life (1984)
20¢ • Scott 2086



Wildlife Conservation: King Salmon (1956)
3¢ • Scott 1079



Greetings from America: Alaska (2002)
34¢ • Scott 3562



Anti-Pollution: Save Our Water (1970)
6¢ • Scott 1412



Flora and Fauna: Pumpkinseed Sunfish (1992)
45¢ • Scott 2481



GONE FISHING!

Fresh Water Fish

— Trout —

Wildlife Conservation: Trout

8¢ • Scott 1427

The fish shown on the stamp is a rainbow trout. The rainbow received its name from the pink to red stripe, often with orange or light purple highlights, that runs along its side. Originally native only to North America west of the Rockies, it has been introduced the lakes and rivers of world, even achieving “pest” status in some locales where it is replacing native species. It prefers cold fast water streams and rivers but can be found in deep lakes as well. Although the average size is about 12–15 inches long with a weight of 2–12 pounds, rainbows are known to grow to 30 inches and weigh as much as 20 pounds. Lake trout have been caught that were four feet in length and weighed more than 50 pounds! Esteemed for its flavor, the rainbow trout is not only good tasting but it is an exciting, hard fighting game fish, prone to jumping completely out of the water when hooked. Because they do not reproduce well outside of their native habitat, rainbows are routinely restocked in the early spring throughout the United States.

Nature of America:

Pacific Coast Rain Forest: Cutthroat Trout

33¢ • Scott 3378d

Originally the most diverse trout species in North America with 13–15 distinct subspecies, cross breeding with other trout such as rainbow (known as “cut-bows”) and competition from yet others such as brown and brook trout has led to some decline in native populations. The species name, *Onchorhynchus clarkii*, honors the 1804–1806 Lewis and Clark Expeditions. Both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark have subspecies of the cutthroat named in their honor: the Westslope cutthroat (*O. clarkii lewisi*) and the Coastal cutthroat (*O. clarkii clarkii*). Lewis’s first detailed look at the Westslope came over dinner. He reported: “[Private Silas] Goodrich had caught a half dozen very fine trout.... These trout are from sixteen to twenty-three inches in length, precisely resemble our mountain or speckled trout in the form and position of their fins, but the specks are of a deep black instead of red or gould colour of those common to the U’ States.” Also seen on the pane, but not specifically included on a stamp, are some Chinook salmon parr or young fish (the tail of one is about to disappear into the trout’s mouth).

— Trout —

Flags of Our Nation: Idaho

42¢ • Scott 4288

Although a particularly tasty fish, a cutthroat is not the fighter portrayed leaping out of the water on the stamp. In fact, although the cutthroat trout is the state fish of Idaho, it is its cousin, the rainbow trout, that is pictured on the stamp. The cutthroat or one of its subspecies has been honored as the state fish not only of Idaho but of Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Unfortunately, no state stamp has managed to include one. Cutthroat trout can be found in waterways from the western mountain ranges down to the Pacific Ocean. All share a red “cut” on the lower jaw just below their gill covers.

— Trout —

Endangered Species:

Gila Trout (1996)

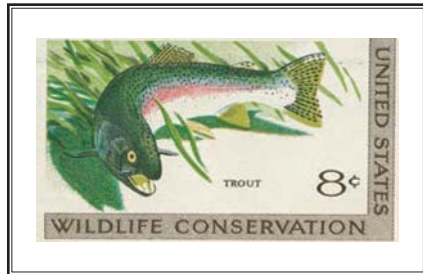
32¢ • Scott 3105j

The rarest of trout species in the United States, this is another member of the trout family that originally made its home along the West Coast, from about San Francisco down into New Mexico and Arizona. By the 1950, however, it had disappeared from the northern extent of its range and was found only in four streams along the headwaters of the Gila River in New Mexico; it was declared endangered in 1967. From a low of about 20 stream miles of habitat in 1950, it now occupies approximately 65 stream miles in New Mexico and has been reclassified as “threatened.” The gila trout can grow to about 17 inches in length and is a yellowish brown color that can appear coppery or gold.

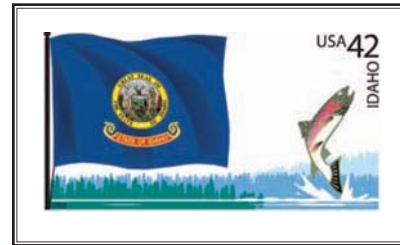


GONE FISHING!

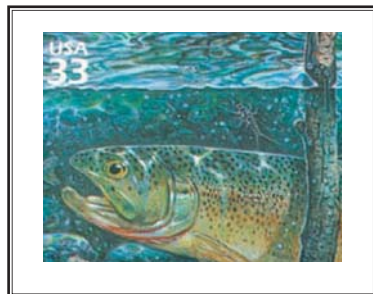
Fresh Water Fish



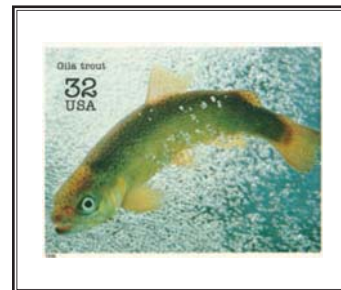
Wildlife Conservation: Trout (1971)
8¢ • Scott 1427



Flags of Our Nation: Idaho (2008)
42¢ • Scott 4288



Nature of America: Pacific Coast
Rain Forest: Cutthroat Trout (2000)
33¢ • Scott 3378d



Endangered Species:
Gila Trout (1996)
32¢ • Scott 3105j



GONE FISHING!

Salt Water Fish

Fish: Atlantic Cod 22¢ • Scott 2206

Renowned for its flaky white meat and the use of its liver to make the healthful, if noxious tasting, cod liver oil, cod is second only to herring in importance in commercial fishing. Its native range is the Atlantic waters from western Greenland south to about Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Cod can live for 20 years and reach a maximum size of about 50 inches in length and a weight between 55–77 pounds. But despite its remarkable reproduction rate (a large female will lay 9 million eggs in a single spawning), overfishing has led to a dramatic decline in numbers in recent years and some populations may never recover.

Fish: Bluefin Tuna 22¢ • Scott 2208

One of the most highly evolved fish species, the flavorful bluefin tuna is also one of the most expensive fish to be found in the Atlantic Ocean — recently a 754-pound bluefin sold for \$396,700 in Tokyo's main fish market. It is the largest member of the *Sombridae* family, with an average weight of 550–1,500 pounds, although the largest fish have become quite rare. The bluefin is highly migratory, swimming long distances and capable of diving to a depth of 3,000 feet. It is also one of fastest fishes, able to achieve speeds of up to 43 miles per hour. A rarity among fish, the bluefin is actually warm-blooded, and so is comfortable living at a range of temperatures, from the cold waters off Newfoundland to the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mediterranean Sea.

Republic of Palau 32¢ • Scott 2999

The Republic of Palau (traditional name *Belau*) is an island nation about 435 miles east of the Philippines. Once part of the U.N. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Palau voted for complete independence in 1978 rather than join the Federated States of Micronesia. In 1993 it entered into a Compact of Free Association with the United States. With its cluster of 20 large and 566 small islands, Palau is a diver's paradise. Pictured on the stamp is the national flag and several marine species. Easily identifiable are the raccoon butterfly fish and the conch shell, but the red-orange fish is less easy to name. It looks like a mixture of several species; or perhaps it's just artistic license.

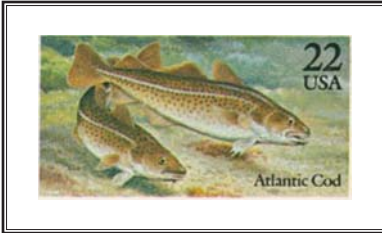
Flags of Our Nation: Guam 42¢ • Scott 4286

As close to an ideal tropical island paradise as it gets, Guam is a leading tourist destination in the western Pacific. Following the end of World War II it became an unincorporated territory of the United States, which maintains a strong naval presence on the island. The territory's motto is: "Where America's Day Begins." The stamp features the Guam flag, a majestic frigate bird, and a mixed school of brightly colored reef fish.

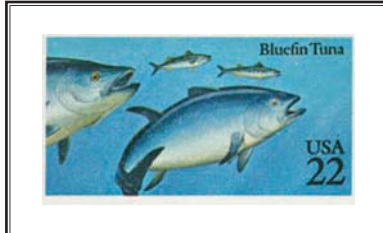


GONE FISHING!

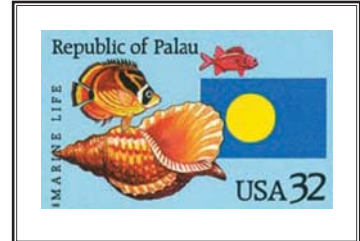
Salt Water Fish



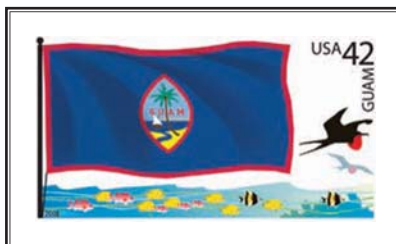
Fish: Atlantic Cod (1986)
22¢ • Scott 2206



Fish: Bluefin Tuna (1986)
22¢ • Scott 2208



Republic of Palau (1995)
32¢ • Scott 2999



Flags of Our Nation: Guam (2008)
42¢ • Scott 4286



GONE FISHING!

Salt Water Fish

Aquarium Fish: Reef Fish 33¢ • Scott 3320a (strip of 4)

Small, brightly colored saltwater fish make popular and beautiful aquarium denizens. The strip of stamps shows a view of the bottom of an aquarium filled with various reef fish, cleaner shrimp, anemones, starfish, coral, a hermit crab, a thermometer, and a heater/aerator.

Deep Sea Creatures: Fanfin Anglerfish 33¢ • Scott 3439

Between 660 and 3,300 feet below the surface of the ocean is a diverse and little-known world filled with bizarre looking creatures who live so far from the sun that plant life cannot exist. They feed on one another and on decaying plant matter that drifts down from the sunlit zone. One fascinating example is the fanfin anglerfish whose glowing fleshy lure is fueled by light-producing bacteria. This “lure” is actually an extension of the fish’s spine and can be made to move as the spine flexes. Anglerfish are covered with long fin rays that help them sense movement in the water around them. Tiny finger-tip sized males will attach themselves to a female by biting into her and gradually fusing with her body.

Deep Sea Creatures: Fangtooth 33¢ • Scott 3441

Another denizen of the deep marine waters is the fangtooth fish, which can live at depths reaching 16,400 feet, making it one of the deepest-living fishes known. Photographs show a fearsome creature whose large mouth filled with very long, sharp teeth. In fact, its teeth are so long that it has evolved special sockets around the brain to contain them. These are the longest teeth, proportional to its size, among all fish. Despite their nightmarish appearance, they are both small and solitary. There are only two species, both found in deep tropical waters, the 3-inch shorthorned fangtooth and the 6-inch common fangtooth.



GONE FISHING!

Salt Water Fish



Aquarium Fish: Reef Fish (1999)
33¢ • Scott 3320a



Scott 3317



Scott 3318



Scott 3319



Scott 3320



Deep Sea Creatures:
Fanfin Anglerfish (2000)
33¢ • Scott 3439



Deep Sea Creatures:
Fangtooth (2000)
33¢ • Scott 3441



GONE FISHING!

Underwater Environments

Wonders of the Sea

29¢ • Scott 2866a (pane of 4)

The pane shows four underwater marine themes: recreation, scientific research, exploration, and commercial fishing. The first day ceremonies were held in a submarine near a ship wreck off Waikiki Beach, Hawaii. It was the first time a U.S. stamp had been canceled underwater! The event is marked by an enlarged pane of the stamps, mounted in protective housing, and attached to the side of the sunken ship.

Upper Left: Long-nose butterfly fish, Porcupine puffer.

Upper Right: Heniochus black & white butterfly fish.

Bottom Left: Raccoon butterfly fish.

Bottom Right: (Above) Emperor angelfish, Banded butterfly fish, Raccoon butterfly fish. (Below) Convict tang surgeonfish, Percula butterfly fish.

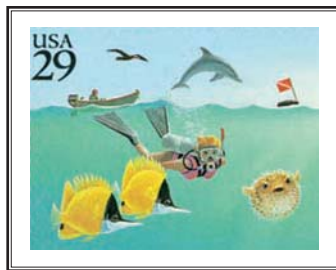


GONE FISHING!

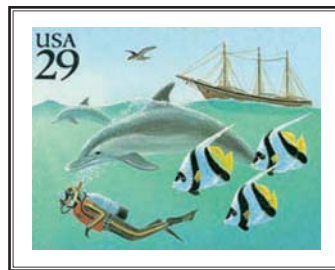
Underwater Environments



Wonders of the Sea (1994)
29¢ • Scott 2866a



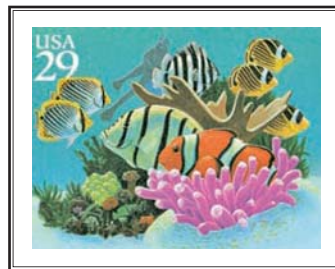
Scott 2863



Scott 2864



Scott 2865



Scott 2866

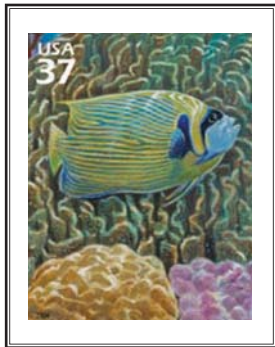


GONE FISHING!

Underwater Environments

Nature of America: Pacific Coral Reef
37¢ • Scott 3831a-j (pane of 10)

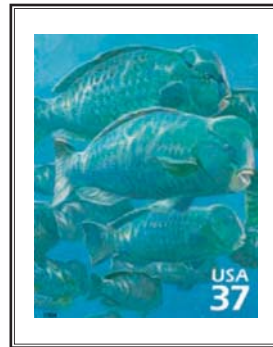
The stamp pane gives a panoramic view of the busy life to be found on a typical Pacific coral reef, in this case one in the western Pacific Ocean near Guam. There are thirty varieties of marine animals included in the view, all of which are identified in a key on the back of the stamp pane. Species portrayed on individual stamps include:



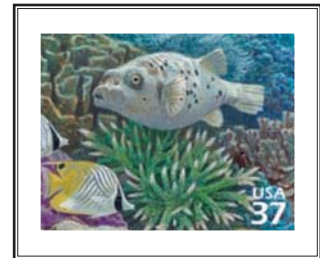
Scott 3831a — Emperor angelfish, blue coral, mound coral.



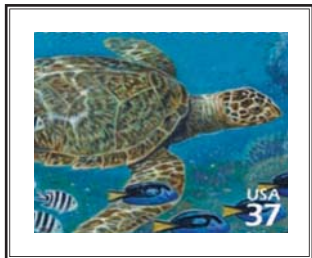
Scott 3831b — Humphead wrasse, Moorish idol



Scott 3831c — Bumphead parrotfish



Scott 3831d — Black-spotted puffer, threadfin butterflyfish, staghorn coral



Scott 3831e — Hawksbill turtle, palette surgeonfish



Scott 3831f — Pink anemonefish, magnificent sea anemone



Scott 3831g — Snowflake moray eel, Spanish Dancer nudibranch or sea slug



Scott 3831h — Lionfish

Scott 3831i — Triton's trumpet



Scott 3831j — Oriental sweetlips, bluestreak cleaner wrasse, mushroom coral



Nature of America:
Pacific Coral Reef (2004)
37¢ • Scott 3831a-j

PACIFIC CORAL REEF

SIXTH IN A SERIES



N A T U R E O F A M E R I C A



GONE FISHING!

Underwater Environments

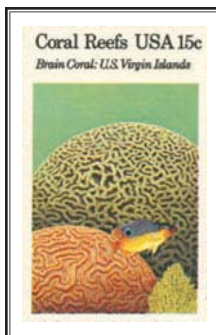
Coral Reefs

15¢ • Scott 1830a (block of 4)

Coral reefs form an ancient part of Earth's history. Fossil reefs exist that are 500 million years old, although "modern" corals have only been building reefs for about 60 million years. These reefs are composed of the hard exoskeletons of living coral animals and form the building blocks of elaborate communities of marine life in clear, shallow tropical waters around the world.



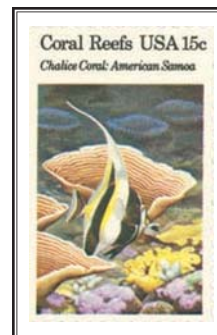
Coral Reefs (1980)
15¢ • Scott 1827-1830



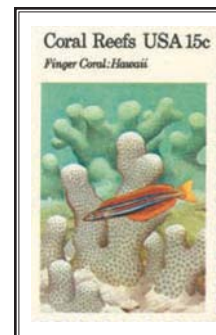
Scott 1827: Brain Coral, U.S. Virgin Islands — Brain coral, beaugregory fish



Scott 1828: Elkhorn Coral, Florida — Elkhorn coral, porkfish



Scott 1829: Chalice Coral, American Samoa — Chalice coral, Moorish idol fish



Scott 1830: Finger Coral, Hawaii — Finger coral, sabertooth blenny



GONE FISHING!

Underwater Environments

Seashells

22¢ • Scott 2117–2121 (booklet)

Malacology is the study of mollusks: snails, slugs, octopus, squid, clams, etc. — not all of which, as you will notice, have shells. There is, however, a branch of malacology devoted specifically to the study of mollusk *shells*: conchology. These shells not only contain a delicious source of nutrients in the mollusk they contain, they have been used as tools and ornaments throughout human history.

Scott 2117: Frilled Dogwinkle — A species of whelk, this small snail grows to about two inches and is named for the wavy frills on its shell. Commonly found on the west coast of North America.

Scott 2118: Reticulated Helmet — A member of the cowrie family, a common shell found all over the world. Used by early humans as an ornament, it is still made into jewelry today. This species has a heavy, reddish shell with a broad orange lip at the opening, suggesting an ancient warrior's helmet. Often found along the shores of the Caribbean.

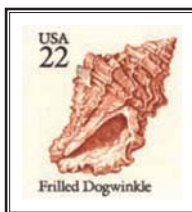
Scott 2119: New England Neptune — The state seashell of Massachusetts, this is also known as the ten-ridged whelk.

Scott 2120: Calico Scallop — This tasty bivalve has a brightly colored splotches or stripes of bright red, maroon, or lavender patterned on top a creamy white to yellowish shell. Once an important fishery off the coast of Florida, in recent years the mollusk has been hit by recurring parasitic infestations.

Scott 2121: Lightning Whelk — The lightning whelk can reach a length of 10–15 inches. Unusually, it has a “left-handed” shell — one that spirals counter-clockwise. This is another species that makes its home along the southern Atlantic shores of the United States, where beach goers often find its chains of hard disk-shaped egg capsules washed ashore.



Seashells (1985)
22¢ • Scott 2117–2121



Scott 2117: Frilled Dogwinkle



Scott 2118: Reticulated Helmet



Scott 2119: New England Neptune



Scott 2120: Calico Scallop



Scott 2121: Lightning Whelk



GONE FISHING!

Underwater Environments



Scott 4423a — Brown pelican



Scott 4423b — Western gull,
southern sea otters, red sea
urchin



Scott 4423c — Harbor seal



Scott 4423d — Lion's mane
nudibranch (sea slug)

Nature of America: Kelp Forest 44¢ • Scott 4423a-j (pane of 10)

If you ever have the chance to stand before a kelp forest exhibit in an aquarium, you'll see immediately why "forest" is exactly the right word. The "trees" are actually a species of seaweed known as giant kelp. It grows in cool, sunlit waters along rocky coastal sea beds so that the kelp can anchor its self firmly. It is also one of the world's fastest growing plants, able to grow as much as 300 feet in a single year. Once it reaches the surface, it continues to grow to form a floating mat of vegetation. An individual plant can live up to six years, constantly growing new fronds. The kelp fronds stay afloat thanks to gas bladders in their stems that help support their weight. Every sort of marine species from whales to snails live and feed in the shelter of the kelp forest. Although the scene in the stamp pane is overcrowded for what you might expect to find in any given section of the underwater forest, they are all species that spend part of their lives within the fronds of giant kelp.



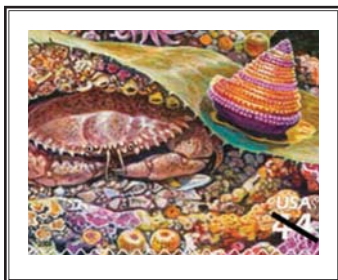
Scott 4423e — Yellowtail rockfish,
white spotted rose anemone



Scott 4423f — Vermilion rockfish



Scott 4423g — Copper rockfish



Scott 4423h — Pacific rock crab,
jeweled top snail



Scott 44243i — Northern
kelp crab



Scott 4423j — Treefish, Monterey
turban snail, brooding sea
anemone



Nature of America: Kelp Forest (2009)
44¢ • Scott 4423a-j

KELP FOREST

11TH IN A SERIES



N A T U R E O F A M E R I C A



GONE FISHING!

Fishing

Classic Books: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* 29¢ • Scott 2787

If you've ever read Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* you know that Huck spends a lot of his time sitting on a river bank with a pole and some bait — the ultimate way to relax the mind and body. If you haven't read it, what are you waiting for? This is one of the great books of American literature.

Coil Stamps: Fishing Boat 19¢ • Scott 2529

The next best thing to sitting on a bank with a fishing pole on a lazy summer day is being out on the water in a small boat, rod in hand. It doesn't even matter whether or not the fish are biting.

Fishing Flies

29¢ • Scott 2545–2549

Of course, many avid fishermen will tell you that you haven't experienced *real* fishing until you've waded out in a stream armed with a rod and reel and a long weighted line baited with an artificial version of whatever snack the local fish prefer. Mastering the art of choosing the right lure and laying it in the water just so is a cause for serious pride.

Scott 2545: Royal Wulff — A variation on the classic British dry fly, the British Coachman, the Royal Wulff is designed to resemble a large-winged "bushy" insect that rides high on the water. It is particularly attractive to trout.

Scott 2546: Jock Scott — Said to be the most famous salmon fly ever created, the fly was designed in 1845 by Jock Scott, who was employed as Fisherman to Lord John Scott of Kirkbank on Tweed in Scotland. Particularly excellent for its versatility as an all-weather, all-seasons fly.

Scott 2547: Apte Tarpon Fly — Designed by master angler Stu Apte in the 1960s to hook the Atlantic tarpon, one of the ocean's most exciting game fishes. Catching a Silver King on a fly line is a true test of an angler's ability.

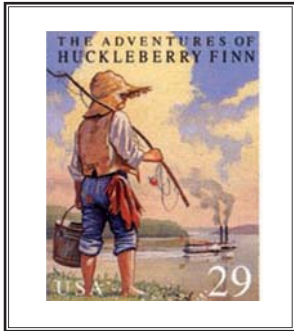
Scott 2548: Lefty's Deceiver — A modern saltwater fly designed by Lefty Kreh in the late 1950s, the pattern excels as an all-around baitfish imitation for numerous varieties of fish. In fact, it is not so much a strict pattern as a *method* of tying. The actual fly can be anywhere from two inches to more than a foot long.

Scott 2549: Muddler Minnow — This versatile steamer-type fly is designed to imitate the small bottom feeders that are a favorite food of both trout and bass. It was created by Don Gapen of Minnesota in 1936 and can now be found, in one form or the other, in every fly fisherman's tackle box.



GONE FISHING!

Fishing



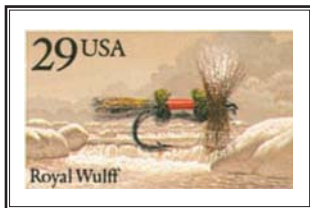
Classic Books: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1993)
29¢ • Scott 2787



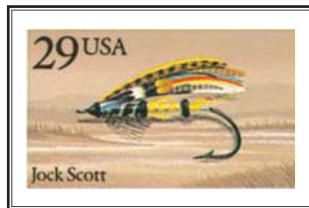
Coil Stamps:
Fishing Boat
(1991)
19¢ • Scott 2529



Fishing Flies (1995)
29¢ • Scott 2545-2549



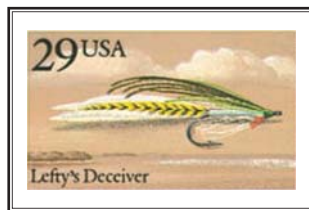
Royal Wulff (1995)
29¢ • Scott 2545



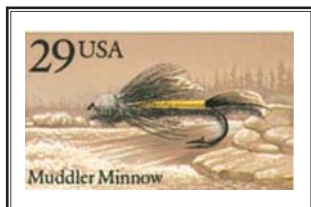
Jock Scott (1995)
29¢ • Scott 2546



Apte Tarpon Fly (1995)
29¢ • Scott 2547



Lefty's Deceiver (1995)
29¢ • Scott 2548



Muddler Minnow (1995)
29¢ • Scott 2549



GONE FISHING!

Fishing

National Parks Centennial: Cape Hatteras 2¢ • Scott 1451a (pane of 4)

You don't need a boat to enjoy ocean fishing. Surf fishing from the beach is as thrilling and entertaining a sport as any form of angling. It requires an ability to read the movements of small fish and sea birds offshore, an understanding of weather patterns and feeding conditions, and much more. Surf rods can be up to 14 feet long and are designed to throw a weighted line and bait as much as a hundred yards out into the calmer water beyond the breaking surf. The good news is that the new graphite and composite rods, plus innovations in lines and lures, mean that surf fishing is no longer just for the physical giants among us. Anyone can go out for a day on the beach and, with any luck, bring home supper.

Winslow Homer 20¢ • Scott 1207

Winslow Homer (1836–1910) was himself a passionate fisherman and painted nearly as many scenes of fishing for sport in the New York Adirondack Mountains as he did of the men and women whose lives depended on the bounty of the sea. Two of his sea scenes have appeared on stamps. *Breezing Up* (also known as *A Fair Wind*), oil 1876, shows three boys and a man sailing home in a catboat with their day's catch of fish.

Four Centuries of American Art: Winslow Homer 32¢ • Scott 3236f

The life of fishermen who ply the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean has always held a strong element of peril. In *The Fog Warning*, oil 1885, a lone fisherman rows his dory through choppy seas with his catch of halibut. The mother ship is seen in the distance against a rapidly approaching fog bank.

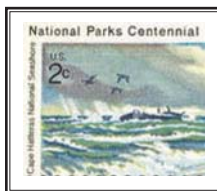


GONE FISHING!

Fishing



**National Parks Centennial:
Cape Hatteras (1972)**
2¢ • Scott 1451a



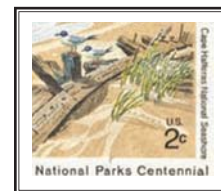
Scott 1448



Scott 1449



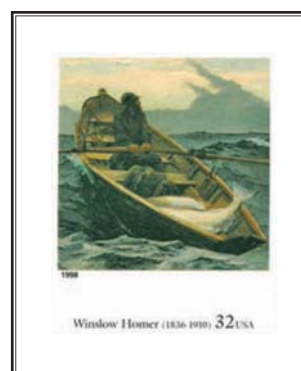
Scott 1450



Scott 1451



Winslow Homer (1962)
20¢ • Scott 1207



**Four Centuries of American
Art: Winslow Homer (1998)**
32¢ • Scott 3236j



GONE FISHING!

Fishing

Greetings from America

34¢ • Scott 3567, 3580–3582, 3584

The difference between a boat used for the sheer pleasure of being out on the water and one used for bringing home a daily catch of fish is largely a matter of size and intent. Commercial trawlers and specialized boats (such as those used for hauling in shrimp) are indeed distinct. The stamps that follow (including one from the Flags of Our Nation series) all show boats that reflect the heritage of marine fishing in the United States.

Flags of Our Nation: Alabama

42¢ • Scott 4274

The Alabama state flag, adopted in 1895, features a crimson St. Andrew's cross on a white field and is patterned after the Confederate Battle Flag. The stamp vignette shows a fishing trawler.



GONE FISHING!

Fishing



Greetings from America (2002)
34¢ • Scott 3567: Connecticut



Greetings from America (2002)
34¢ • Scott 3580: Maryland



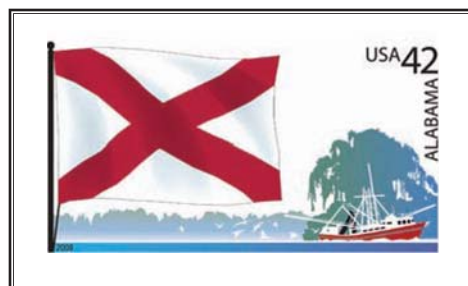
Greetings from America (2002)
34¢ • Scott 3581: Massachusetts



Greetings from America (2002)
34¢ • Scott 3582: Michigan



Greetings from America (2002)
34¢ • Scott 3584: Mississippi



Flags of Our Nation: Alabama
(2008)
42¢ • Scott 4274



GONE FISHING!

Other Fishermen

Of course, it would be a mistake to think that humans are the only local fishermen. One of the most spectacular of these is the beautiful brown pelican with its white or cream-colored head and neck, which makes its home along the east, west, and gulf coasts of the United States. Almost completely decimated by the overuse of DDT in the 1960s, since the banning of that pesticide the brown pelican has made a full recovery on the east coast and other populations are growing.

The only pelican that dives into the water from above to catch its prey, the brown pelican then rises to the surface, drains the water from its beak, and tilts its head back to swallow its meal. This is the moment opportunistic gulls are waiting for, and they often snatch the fish literally out of the pelican's mouth. A popular limerick (usually, and mistakenly, attributed to Ogden Nash) was written by the editor of the Nashville newspaper, *The Tennessean*, Dixon Lanire Merritt, in 1910:

*Oh, a wondrous bird is the pelican!
His bill holds more than his belican.
He can take in his beak
Enough food for a week.
But I'm darned if I know how the helican.*

Curiously, this is based on fact. The brown pelican's pouched bill holds about three gallons of water and fish, while his stomach can hold one gallon.

Wildlife Conservation: Brown Pelican 8¢ • Scott 1466

The first Wildlife Conservation issue, intended to emphasize the importance of American wildlife, was released in 1956. The set of three stamps featured a wild turkey, pronghorn antelope, and king salmon. The following year, 1957, a stamp featuring whooping cranes was released and in 1970 a stamp featuring the American bison. The Wildlife Conservation issue for 1971 was a set of four stamps with a trout, alligator, polar bear and cubs, and a California condor. Another set of four was released in 1972 showing fur seals, a cardinal, a brown pelican, and bighorn sheep. A final set in the Wildlife Conservation series was issued in 1978 and featured a set of owls: a great grey, saw-whet, barred, and great horned.

Endangered Species: Brown Pelican 32¢ • Scott 3105h

Like many other birds, the brown pelican was once threatened to the point of near extinction by the pesticide DDT. Today's threats remain manmade: becoming snarled in abandoned fishing lines or nets, flying into overhead wires, reduction of prey fish through over-fishing by commercial trawlers, and the disturbance of nesting colonies. The endangered species included on the pane are the black-footed ferret, thick-billed parrot, Hawaiian monk seal, American crocodile, ocelot, Schaus swallowtail butterfly, Wyoming toad, brown pelican with fledglings, California condor, gila trout, San Francisco garter snake, woodland caribou, Florida panther, piping plover, and the Florida manatee.

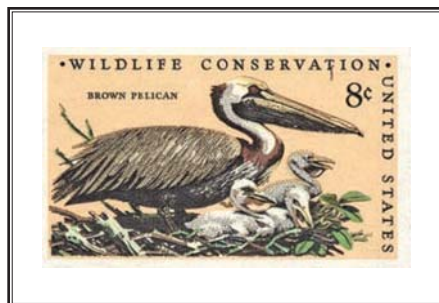
Flags of Our Nation: Louisiana 44¢ • Scott 4294

The brown pelican was designated the Louisiana state bird in 1966, but it has been a symbol of the state since the earliest Europeans settled there. "The Pelican State" proudly displays the brown pelican on the state flag, state seal, official state painting, and the U.S. mint's bicentennial quarter. The brown pelican, in fact, had completely disappeared from Louisiana by 1966 due to pesticide poisoning and was only reintroduced through the importation of Florida fledglings. The brown pelican was finally declared "recovered" in Louisiana in 1995.



GONE FISHING!

Other Fishermen



**Wildlife Conservation:
Brown Pelican (1972)**
8¢ • Scott 1466



**Endangered Species:
Brown Pelican (1996)**
32¢ • Scott 3105h



**Flags of Our Nation: Louisiana
(2008)**
44¢ • Scott 4294



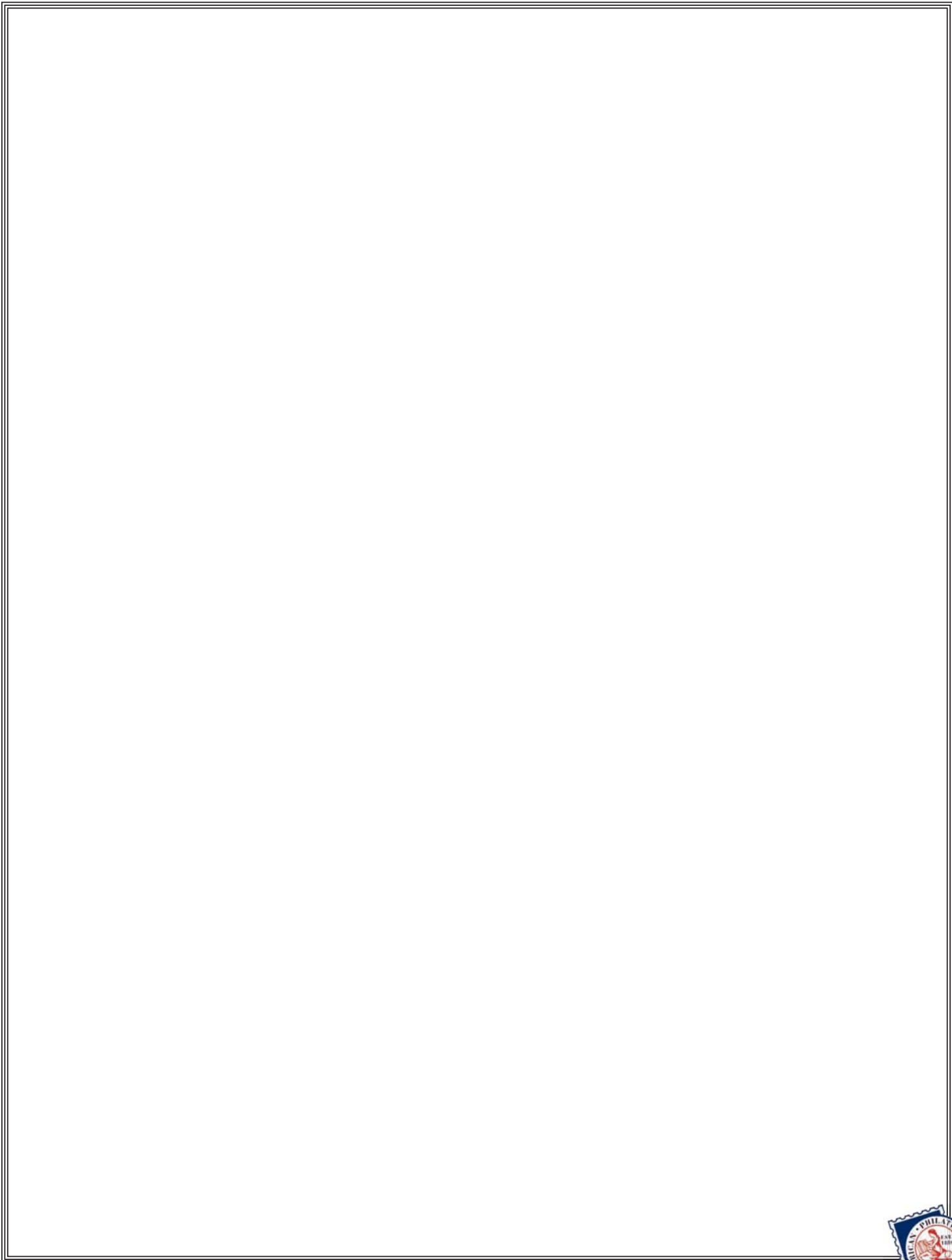
GONE FISHING!



GONE FISHING!









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