Fun Fish Facts: The Toadfish

I was walking along the beach at Gilbert's on day and came across the ugliest fish I'd ever seen. When I pointed it out my friend, who is a fisherman, he told me it was simply a Toadfish.

Toadfish, also called Dogfish or Oysterdog, are brown and gray with a huge mouth full of razor sharp teeth. They only get to be about 12 inches long and when caught they make a strange noise similar to a grunt or a croak. Some people say it even sounds like the cry of a baby. The sound comes from their swim bladder and not their throat. Males also "grunt" to attract females for the purpose of mating, just like my ex-husband did.

If you happen to find a
Toadfish on the beach, take a
stick and roll it over. Check it out,
there will be no mistaking it if it's



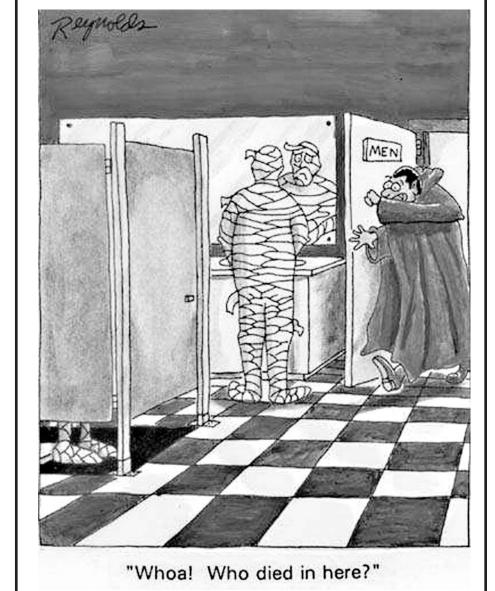
a male

The reason my friend and I found it on the beach was probably because fishermen don't want anything to do with them. If they hook one and manage to remove the hook they usually throw them overboard or cut their line just to get rid of the ugly creature.

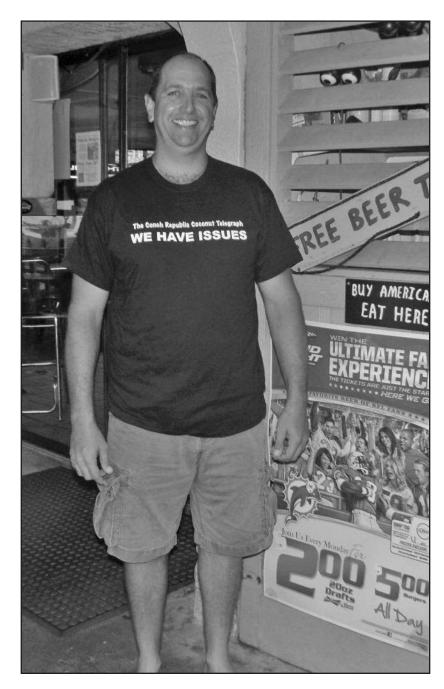
Although Toadfish may possibly be eaten in other countries, you won't find it on any menu in the Florida Keys.
Toadfish made history in the United States years back when Senator John Glenn took them on a space flight. Toadfish have a balance system very similar to that of humans and they wanted to study the effects of microgravity on the fish. See, every creature, even ugly Toadfish, serves a purpose.







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