

Trapper Arne's Crayfish Newsletter for April 2010



CRAYFISH AND WIKIPEDIA

Among the many books in my sizeable library in my home in Payson are two encyclopedias. They are often in use, but not as much lately since I started using the Internet as my main encyclopedia. You can, as you probably already have found out, find just about anything on the Internet, especially with help of Google.

Then one day I ran into Wikipedia. This web site is a collection of encyclopedic information about just everything under the sun. In addition, while you must take most everything on the Internet with a certain grain of salt or two, Wikipedia seems to be more reliable. I have become impressed by its serious editorial approach and well designed presentations of topics.

Not suprisingly, I went to Wikipedia to look for crayfish and crayfish traps. They have an impressive collection of information about this crustaceous creature we all find so interesting. They cover the biological aspect of crayfish as well as the culinary. They even tell you how people in different contries use crayfish, with an emphasis on the Scandinavian countries I come from.

There was also a sizeable reference listing at the end where, among many others, you could see the name of the famous biologist Thomas Huxley (grand father of the also famed Aldous Huxley, by the way.)

But not only that, further down the list of 24 reference items I came upon a name that opened my eyes.

Trapper Arne! Yes, one of the references points the readers to my own web site with special emphasis on how to cook crayfish. Here I was in fine company on the subject of crayfish, that should indeed be cooked with a handful of dill and a pinch of salt or two. I was really impressed.

TRAPPY XL HAS ARRIVED

In a small town named Virserum down in the dark forests of central Sweden resides a crayfish trap maker you can find on the Internet by telling Google to go to Trappy. The name is really Smålandsmjärden AB, but they are better known by the name Trappy. During the cold days of last winter, they were busy with their mold injection machinery making a new polypropylene product for catching crayfish. This new trap they call the Trappy XL, because it is indeed an extra large model of the popular Trappy crayfish trap.

One day in January they packed up a pallet of XLs in boxes with traps stacked 12 to the box. The pallet went to the Swedish port of Gothenburg for transport down to Hamburg, Germany, where the container ship Ludwigshafen Express stood waiting. And, like so many other container ships, it sported the suffix Express. But in spite of its name, it moseyed along as the proverbial slow boat across the ocean blue toward the US. With an Internet ship tracking program I could follow its route across the seas. First it anchored in New York, but later continued down the east coast, along the coast of Florida, voyaged between the isle of Hispaniola and Cuba toward the Panama Canal. Thence, as the formalists would put it,

up along the west coast of Mexico and California to the port of Los Angeles.

After some days of customs checking, the two, yes, there was both a pallet of Trappy and one of XL on the way, pallets went by truck to Phoenix where the in-family agent, Trapper Arne Jr. (also known as son Peter) stood ready to welcome the traps and to transport them up the mountains to their final destination in Payson, Arizona.

Those of you who have already checked out my updated web site have found out what the new 'extra large' trap looks like in its curious shape that permits stacking. Although related to the popular Trappy crayfish trap, the XL has a few unique features. It is stackable so you can put a whole bunch of these traps in your boat and still find space to sit. But most of all, the XL is larger than the Trappy, a feature I am especially looking forward to myself.

My experience with crayfish traps tells me that larger traps simply catch

more crayfish. And as the XL is considerably larger than the Trappy, I expect good catches from it. My own extra large but discontinued crayfish trap, the Jumbo, which I still have four samples of, is so productive that with the right bait in the right water, I usually expect fifty crays or more after an overnight session. But the Jumbo needed stronger, and harder wires to work, stronger tools and more time to make, so unfortunately, I had to discontinue its production.

Now I hope the XL will take its place in my presentation of crayfish traps that now fight for space in my trap inventory. And as of this writing, the first XLs have already gone out to set the record straight. Take a look at this newcomer at my web site, and at the same time enjoy a little video I found on its manufacturer's web site. Click on <http://trapperarne.com/trappyxl.htm> to view this video. It shows among several pictures of this new trap introduction.

As usual, the first three months of this year have broken sales records.

Trapper Arne