



June 30, 2005

Mr. Kyle Thigpen
[REDACTED]

Brunswick, Georgia 31525

Dear Mr. Thigpen:

I wish to personally congratulate you on your exceptional catch of a 38-pound, 14-ounce tripletail, which has been accepted as a Men's Georgia Saltwater Gamefish Record. Enclosed is a certificate that serves not only to recognize the size of the catch, but also the angler's skill and the sportsmanship displayed in the landing of a gamefish record.

Again, congratulations on your achievement, and thank you for your participation in Georgia's Saltwater Gamefish Records Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Shipman".

Susan Shipman
Director

Enclosure

cc: Captain Buddy Thigpen, GET THE NET
Records Review Committee

IGFA Record Application

FORM FOR RECORDING FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER GAME FISH CATCHES

Read all IGFA angling rules and world record requirements before completing and signing this application. The angler's signature on the completed form must be witnessed by a notary. This application must be accompanied by line or tippet samples and photographs as specified in the World Records Requirements. Hybrids and other species that may pose a problem of identity should be examined by an ichthyologist or qualified fishery biologist. IGFA reserves the right to employ verification procedures such as polygraph tests to determine the authenticity of record claims.

I AM SUBMITTING THIS ENTRY FOR:

- An all-tackle world record.
- A world record in the following line class:
30 lb / 15 kg
- A fly rod world record in the following tippet class:
 _____ lb / _____ kg
- A state freshwater record in the following line class:
 _____ lb / _____ kg
- A state freshwater fly rod record in the following tippet class:
 _____ lb / _____ kg

<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Angler	<input type="checkbox"/> M-Smallfry (to 10) <input type="checkbox"/> M-Junior (11-16)
<input type="checkbox"/> State Freshwater Junior Angler	<input type="checkbox"/> F-Smallfry (to 10) <input type="checkbox"/> F-Junior (11-16)

SPECIES

Common name: Tripletail
 Scientific name: Lobotes surinamensis

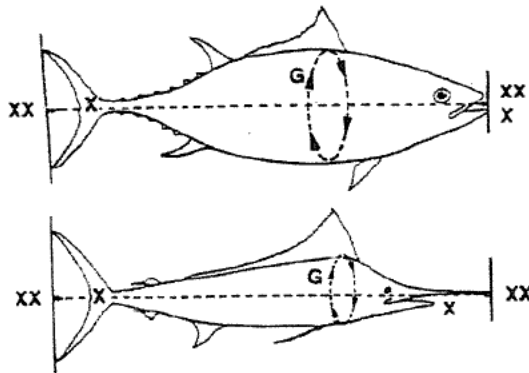
WEIGHT: Fish was weighed in: lbs kgs.
 lbs: 38 oz: 14 kg: _____
 Digital weight (if weighed on electronic scales, give weight exactly as shown): 38.9

DATE OF CATCH (MM/DD/YY): 6/19/05
PLACE OF CATCH: Hampton River in coastal Georgia

Was the fish released alive? Yes No

LENGTH (see measurement diagrams)
 inches: x to x _____ xx to xx 35 1/8
 cm: x to x _____ xx to xx _____

GIRTH (measured completely around fish at thickest point)
 inches: 32 7/8 cm: _____



METHOD OF CATCH (trolling, casting, fly fishing, etc.):

Casting
FIGHTING TIME: 30 minutes

Was this catch recorded on video? Yes No

ANGLER (Print name as you wish it to appear on your record certificate):

Kyle Thiapen
 Daytime phone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Permanent address- required for certificate mailing
Brunswick GA. 31525

Age/birthdate if 16 or under: 17

Angler's fishing club affiliation (if any):
Troup Creek Fishing Club

EQUIPMENT

Rod
 Make: _____
 Tip length (center of reel to end of tip): _____
 Butt length (center of reel to lower end of butt): _____

Reel
 Make: Ambassador Size: 5000

Line or tippet
 Make: Spyderline Size stated on label: 30 lb
 Make of fly line: _____

- I am an IGFA member, enclosed is \$25 (US) application fee. Includes all-tackle, fly rod, state freshwater line class, and state freshwater fly rod.
- I am not an IGFA member, enclosed is \$50 (US) for membership and record application fees.
- I am an IGFA Junior member, enclosed is \$25 (US) application fee. (includes regular and State Freshwater Junior records)
- I am not an IGFA Junior member, enclosed is \$35 (US) for membership and record application fees.

Enclosed is \$ 50 check or money order for the World Record application processing fee.
 Or please charge to my:

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover
 Account No. _____

Exp. date: ____ / ____ / ____ Signature: _____
 Please send ____ extra copies of my record certificate at \$5 (US) each.

Length of double line: N/A
Make of backing (if used): _____ Size: _____

OTHER EQUIPMENT:

Type of gaff: N/A Length: _____
Length of trace or leader: 39 inches
Number and type of hooks: 1 #6/0 hook
Name of lure, fly or bait: DOA shrimp

BOAT (if used)

Name: Get The Net
Make: Proline Length: 20'
Captain's name: Buddy Thigpen
Signature: Buddy Thigpen
Address: _____

Mate's name: Joan Thigpen
Address: _____
Brunswick GA. 31525

SCALES (note: IGFA can certify portable scales for members for \$15, including return shipping charges)

Location of scale: Georgia DNR
Type: F-20W digital
Manufacturer: Ohaus
Date last certified: May 10, 2005 by
Georgia Dept. of Agriculture _____

Person and/or agency that certified scales: Georgia DNR Coastal Resources Division
Weighmaster: Spud Woodward
Signature: Spud Woodward
Address: One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

WITNESSES:

Witness to weighing (other than angler, captain or weighmaster):
Clay Fordham _____

Add: _____

Witnesses to catch (other than captain). List two names and addresses if possible.

1. _____
2. _____

Number of persons witnessing the catch: 1

VERIFICATION OF SPECIES IDENTITY
(See world record requirements.)

Signature of examining ichthyologist: Spud Woodward
Title, degree or qualifications: M.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science
Address: One Conservation Way University of Tennessee
Brunswick, GA 31520

Anglers are encouraged to write a detailed description of the catch. In some cases this may be required. The description may be used in a future IGFA publication.

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, hereby take oath and attest that the fish described in this application was hooked, fought, and brought to gaff by me without assistance from anyone, except as specifically provided in the regulations; and that it was caught in accordance with IGFA angling rules; and that the line submitted with this application is the actual line used to catch the fish on the stated date. I further declare that all information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that IGFA reserves the right to employ verification procedures such as polygraph tests. I agree to be bound by any ruling of the IGFA relative to this application.

Signature of angler: _____

Sworn before me this _____ day of _____ the year _____

Notary signature and seal: _____

When completely filled out and signed, mail this application with photos and line sample by quickest means to:
IGFA FISHING HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM, 300 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004 USA
PHONE: (954) 927-2628 WEBSITE: www.igfa.org EMAIL: HQ@igfa.org FAX: (954) 924-4299

(This application may be reproduced)

Note: All items must be filled in. If an item does not apply, write "none used". Do not leave any spaces blank

**GEORGIA SALTWATER GAMEFISH
RECORDS APPLICATION FORM
FOR RECORDING RECORD
GAMEFISH CATCHES**

Read all angling rules and Georgia Saltwater Gamefish Record requirements before completing and signing this application. This application must be accompanied by photographs as specified in the State record requirements.

DIVISION _____ Women's X Men's

SPECIES

Common name: tripletail

WEIGHT 17.65 kg

lbs., oz.: 38.90 lb 38 lbs 14 oz

LENGTH (See measurements diagrams)

inches: x to x _____ xx to xx 35 1/8 total length

GIRTH (See measurement diagrams)

inches: 32 7/8

DATE OF CATCH: 6/19/05

PLACE OF CATCH: Hampton River

METHOD OF CATCH (trolling, casting, fly fishing, etc.):

DOA shrimp on casting gear

ANGLER (print name as you wish it to appear on record certificate):

Kyle Thigpen

Permanent address (include county and address code):

[REDACTED]

Angler's fishing club affiliation (if any):

Troup Creek Fishing Club

EQUIPMENT

Number of hooks: 6/0 single hook

Name of lure, fly or bait: DOA shrimp

BOAT (if used)

Name: Get the Net

Captain's Name: Buddy Thigpen

Signature: Buddy Thigpen

Ac [REDACTED]

SCALES

Location: Coastal Regional Headquarters

Date last certified: 5/05

Person and/or agency that certified scales: _____
Georgia Dept of Agriculture

Weighmaster: Spud Woodward

Signature: Spud Woodward

Address: One Conservation Way
Busk, GA 31520

WITNESSES

Witness to weighing (other than angler, captain or weigh-
master): Clayton

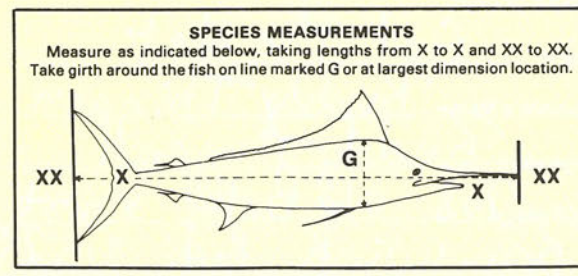
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (fighting time, equipment
used, additional witnesses, etc.) _____
30 minutes

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, hereby take oath and attest that the fish described in this application was hooked, fought, and brought to gaff by me without assistance from anyone, except as specifically provided in the regulations, and that it was caught in accordance with Georgia Saltwater Gamefish Records angling rules. I further declare that all information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of angler: Kyle Stegner
Date: 6/19/05, 1905

When completely filled out and signed, mail this application with photos by quickest means to:
Public Service Section Chief
Coastal Resources Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
1200 Glynn Avenue
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
Phone (912) 264-7218



**GEORGIA SALTWATER GAMEFISH RECORDS PROGRAM
REVIEW COMMITTEE**

DATE: 6/20/05

SPECIES: TRIPLETAIL

DIVISION: WOMEN'S MEN'S X

CURRENT RECORD: 28 LBS. 7 OZ.

WEIGHT NEEDED: 28 LBS. 15 OZ.

ENTRY WEIGHT: 38 LBS. 14 OZ.

DATE ENTRY RECEIVED: 6/19/05

Please find attached for your review, comment, and approval/disapproval an application for consideration as a Georgia Saltwater Gamefish Record, and/or Outstanding Catch. Return when complete to Henry Ansley.

notes

*For review as possible record.
Entry form & photograph attached.
THANKS*

REVIEW COMMITTEE	APPROVED NEW RECORD	APPROVED TIE RECORD	DISAPPROVED RECORD <i>(explain below & back)</i>	APPROVED Outstanding Catch	DISAPPROVED Outstanding Catch <i>(explain below & back)</i>
Susan Shipman, Director Coastal Resources Division	<i>SS</i> <i>6/24/05</i>				
Spud Woodward, Asst. Director Coastal Resources Division	<i>SW</i> <i>6/24/05</i>				
Patrick Geer, Leader Commercial Fisheries Program	<i>PKG</i> <i>6/24/05</i>				
John Pafford, Leader Recreational Fisheries Program	<i>JMP</i> <i>6/20/05</i>				
Henry Ansley, Leader OCS Program	<i>HA</i> <i>6/20/05</i>				

Teen reels in record catch

Family's angling tradition with tripletail continues

By **BUD L. ELLIS**
The Brunswick News

If there is one thing the Thigpen family of Brunswick knows, its tripletail fishing.

Joan Thigpen holds the Georgia state record for largest tripletail caught by a female angler. Her father once held the state record for largest tripletail caught. Her brother was on the boat when the current state record tripletail was caught 12 years ago.

But what 17-year-old Kyle

Thigpen did on Father's Day surpasses them all.

Thigpen, a rising senior at Glynn Academy and member of the Terrors' tennis team, caught the ace of all tripletail, a mammoth 38-pound, 14-ounce beast in the Hampton River that obliterated Jeff Anderson's state mark by more than 10 pounds.

"It was unbelievable," Kyle Thigpen said. "I had never seen one that big anyway. I got excited."

The Sunday trip hadn't produced great fishing until the

record fish took an artificial shrimp lure in the early afternoon. On the rod at the time, Thigpen thought he had a decent-sized fish, but after the 30-minute battle, he was shocked at what he saw on the end of the line.

So was Buddy Thigpen, Kyle's father.

"I knew we had a huge fish, but when I saw it, I told him, 'You've got a state record, no doubt about it,'" Buddy

Please see FISH, 5A



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Kyle Thigpen, 17, set a new state record when he caught a 38-pound, 14-ounce tripletail Sunday in the Hampton River.

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Brunswick News
June 23, 2005

Fish: Qualifies for Georgia record

Continued from 1A

Thigpen said.

Buddy Thigpen used a net to help his son bring the fish onboard. That job originally belonged to Joan Thigpen, who relinquished control of the net when she saw the fish.

"I handed it to my husband because if I lost it, they may have thrown me overboard," she said. "We just could not believe it."

Using a digital scale on the boat, the Thigpens got readings between 37 and 39 pounds. The world record tripletail is 42 pounds, 5 ounces, caught off the coast of South Africa.

"We were jumping up and down, screaming," Buddy Thigpen said.

After fishing for a little while longer, the Thigpens headed to

About tripletail

Tripletail (scientific name *lobotes surinamensis*) gets its name from the similarity and close proximity of three fins located at the fish's rear:

- An average tripletail weighs from 2 to 15 pounds.
- The fish is known to put up a spirited fight despite its smaller size, often jumping out of the water.

• Tripletail can be found along the Eastern Seaboard as far north as Massachusetts, but it mainly congregates in the warmer waters of the Southeast coast.

• On the Georgia coast, the fish can be found in rivers, sounds and the ocean, out to the Gulf Stream.

shore and called the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Spud Woodward, assistant director of marine fisheries for the DNR Coastal Resources Division, met the Thigpens and weighed the fish on a certified scale, a requirement for establishing a new state record.

"Right now, it's a slam dunk," Woodward said when asked whether Thigpen's fish met the requirements of a state record. "As far as applying for a record, it's just a formality."

Record-holder Anderson, who Buddy Thigpen said knows his family, caught a 28-pound, 7-ounce tripletail in the

South Brunswick River in July 1993 with Kyle Thigpen's uncle and Joan Thigpen's brother, Phillip Bluestein, on board. Joan caught a 22-pound, 7-ounce tripletail in June 1995. On the same trip, her daughter, Dawn Whitley, caught a 22-pound, 3-ounce tripletail. Joan's father, Bubba Bluestein, was one of the first anglers in the area to fish for tripletail and set a state record with a 25-pound, 12-ounce catch in August 1988 in Satilla Cove.

Now, with the new state record in hand, Kyle Thigpen can smile and know that he's continuing an ol' family tradition.

"It's ironic, but I'm keeping it in the family," he said. "That's the way to go."