

# SANS 2023 Holiday Hack Challenge Write-up

1/17/24 – Bonus



**Author:** Jim Kirn




(jj) in game, @infosecjim in Discord, [@JimKirn](#) on Twitter(X)

## This is my Bonus part of the 2023 write-up

This part of the write up was done after the Jan 6, 2024 submission deadline. I used several other write ups to solve these write-ups. I used the following:

- 1.) For the “Game Boy” challenges (9, 10 and 11) I used Cody Travis’ (chillreport in the game) write ups - <https://chillaspect.com/hhc/2023/>. I postponed solving these challenges as they seemed not to be directly related the overall game and seemed to be very keyboard clicking related. I was able to get a successful ultimate completion without completing these initially; however I did collect all the Game Boy cartridges during the game.
- 2.) For the “Fishing Mastery” challenge I used Samantha’s (Samanthaper in the game) write up - <https://samanthactf.medium.com/2023-sans-holiday-hack-challenge-4d5df655c474>. Her javascript and tip on where to get the difficult to catch fish was very useful!

## 9 - Game Cartridge: Vol 1

Difficulty: 

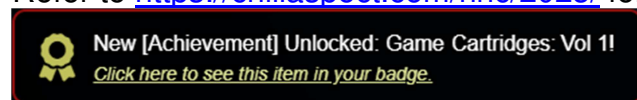
Find the first Gamegosling cartridge and beat the game

### ANSWER:


"santaconfusedgivingplanetsqrcode"

### SOLUTION:

Refer to <https://chillaspect.com/hhc/2023/> for detailed steps.



## 10 - Game Cartridge: Vol 2

Difficulty: 

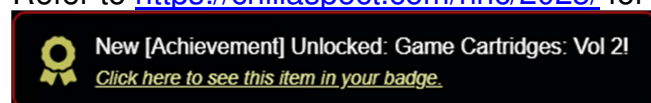
Find the second Gamegosling cartridge and beat the game

### ANSWER:


"gl0ry"

### SOLUTION:

Refer to <https://chillaspect.com/hhc/2023/> for detailed steps.



## 11 - Game Cartridge: Vol 3

Difficulty: 

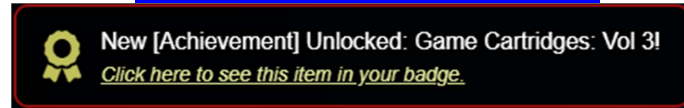
Find the second Gamegosling cartridge and beat the game

### ANSWER:

!tom+elf!

### SOLUTION:

Refer to <https://chillaspect.com/hhc/2023/> for detailed steps.



## 23 - BONUS! Fishing Guide

Difficulty: 🌲

Catch twenty different species of fish that live around Geese Islands. When you're done, report your findings to Poinsettia McMittens on the Island of Misfit Toys.

### ANSWER:

**Catch at least 25 unique fish species.**

### SOLUTION:

**Catch fish while travelling around the islands.**

**After catching at least 25 different fish, talk to Poinsettia McMittens:**



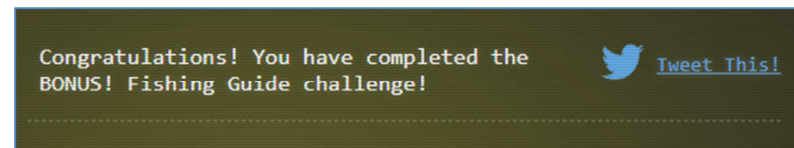
Hoy small fry, nice work!

Now, just imagine if we had an automatic fish catcher? It would be as ingenious as me on a good day! I came across this fascinating article about such a device in a magazine during one of my more glamorous fishing sessions.


If only I could get my hands on it, I'd be the undisputed queen of catching them all!

<https://www.redhat.com/sysadmin/getting-started-socat>

### Get the win:



## 24 - BONUS! Fishing Mastery

Difficulty: 

Catch at least one of each species of fish that live around Geese islands. When you're done, report your findings to Poinsettia McMittens.

### ANSWER:

**Catch all (171) unique fish species.**

### SOLUTION:

Refer to <https://samanthactf.medium.com/2023-sans-holiday-hack-challenge-4d5df655c474> for detailed steps.

Apply Samantha's javascript to the appropriate iframe – I used Firefox, dev tools - F12:

```
// Samantha's javascript from her writeup with some minor change
// Define the buttons
const castButton = document.querySelector('.castreel');
const reelButton = document.querySelector('.reelitin');

// Flag to track cast status
let isCasting = false;

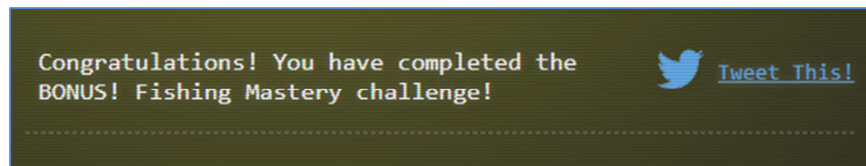
// Function to check if a fish is caught
function isFishCaught() {
    return reelButton.style.display === 'block' &&
    reelButton.classList.contains('gotone');
}

// Main loop
setInterval(() => {
    if (!isCasting) {
        if (castButton.style.display === 'block') {
            castButton.click();
            isCasting = true; //Set flag to true after casting
        }
    } else if (isFishCaught()) {
        reelButton.click();
        isCasting = false; // Reset flag after reeling in
    }
}, 50);
```

Samantha did provide a map with the location of the “difficult to catch” last three fish:



Get the win:

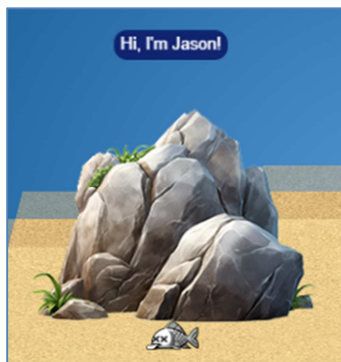


And talk with Poinsettia:



You managed to catch every fish? You're like the fishing version of a Christmas miracle! Now, if only you could teach me your ways... but then again, I'm already pretty fabulous at everything I do.

**Jason – now a fish!**



Jason showed up as a dead fish in the game at Coggoggle Marina on Steampunk Island.