Saving Our Oysters

House Bill 51 passes, signed into law by Governor Abbot
Sustainability of the Oyster Fishery

By Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

2017 may be long remembered for its historic hurricane season and impacts felt by millions in the Gulf and Southeastern United States.

No doubt Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have made some lasting impacts on Mankind and serve as an unmistakable reminder that there are many things we simply cannot control.

One thing that is within our control is the management of our fisheries that at times are vulnerable to conditions created by both humans and Mother Nature. The proverbial oyster certainly falls into this category.

The compounding effects of hurricanes, tropical storms, droughts, floods and unscrupulous actions by some within the commercial oyster industry have resulted in unprecedented destruction and loss of our public oyster reefs. Perhaps fortuitously, Texas passed some significant protective measures this summer to foster a sustainable oyster fishery.

House Bill 51 (HB51) was passed during the 85th Legislative Regular Session and signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 12, 2017. The original version of HB51 established a commercial oyster license buyback program, allowing willing commercial oystermen to sell their licenses back to the state of Texas, and required commercial oyster fishermen to have a vessel monitoring system on their boats. Through a series of amendments during the legislative process, the final version of the bill also included the following measures:

- Requires shellfish certificate holders/purchasers (oyster dealers), to distribute oyster shell of approved cultch material in an amount equal to 30% of the total volume of oysters purchased in waters designated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Alternatively, oyster dealers can pay TPWD an amount calculated equal to the current cost of shell acquisition and deposition at the same 30% level.
- Increases penalties for the possession of undersized oysters, with repeat and/or egregious violations subject to a Class B misdemeanor and 30-day license suspension.
- Hold seafood dealers accountable for repeat violations relating to the possession of undersized oysters. While this bill could stand alone as a monumental achievement for the conservation of our public oyster reefs, it was complemented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department actions. On Thursday August 24, 2017 TPWD Commissioners made broad sweeping changes to the statewide oyster proclamation in a landmark decision. Taking effect at the beginning of oyster season (November 1), these new regulations will offer needed protections for sensitive coastal areas and public oyster reefs.

The changes are as follows:

- Reduction in daily sack limit from 40 to 30 sacks per day.
- Closure of Saturday to commercial oyster harvest (Sunday is already closed).
- Reduction in the undersize (less than 3 inches) tolerance from 15% to 5%.
- Closure to all oyster harvest in Christmas Bay, Carancahua Bay, Powderhorn Lake, Hynes Bay, St. Charles Bay, and South Bay.
- Creation of a “shoreline buffer” by closing areas along all shorelines within state health department “approved” or “conditionally approved” areas for shellfish harvest extending 300 feet from the water’s edge or exposed oysters inside of the 300-foot area.

The passing of HB51 and the changes made to the statewide oyster proclamation are the result of some of the most significant and successful advocacy efforts by CCA Texas in recent years. The overwhelming online support and public testimony by CCA Texas members made tremendous impressions on state officials, creating a balance of feedback in settings that are often dominated by those within the oyster industry. Thank you for your grassroots efforts to conserve and protect our public oyster reefs!
28th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers’ Rodeo

After more than one hundred days of registration, the 28th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament is finally over.

While many along the Texas coast were still reeling in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, this year’s CCA Texas STAR Tournament came to a close—but not before setting records all along the way. Thanks to you, one of the over 600 Texas anglers who made this year’s STAR so great, a new record was set! A special thank you to the thousands of new CCA members. We hope that you will stick around as we continue our mission of marine conservation and making our great fisheries even better for generations to come!

Not only did you break the participation record, but also tie the record for tagged redfish claims! Of course the total number of the tournament, there have been nine confirmed REDFISH WINNERS. Texas anglers landed nearly one-third of all tagged redfish released for the tournament, with at least one coming from every area of the coast in the Texas Fed Defs Redfish Division. As we like to tell people who ask where they are, “You’ll find them from the Sabine to the Rio Grande and everywhere in-between.”

Texas Fed Defs Tagged Redfish Division

In press time we have nine confirmed tagged redfish winners. Each of the first five winners will be taking home a brand new $55,000 associate Bigfoot powered by Mercury Marine on top of a new Coastline trailer. 1st Winner- Jesus Barmo of Pearland 2nd Winner- Jose Mendez of Corpus Christi 3rd Winner- Ryan Pumph of Beaumont 4th Winner- Dan Slayton of Port Aransas 5th Winner- Mike Laskowski of La Vernia

While many along the Texas coast were still reeling in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and help them recover with your patronage. For all of your hard work this year, we especially thank those getting kids out on the water to enjoy the resources that we all love so dearly! Not to mention, we are providing the opportunity to better their education. These youth are the future in protecting and enjoying a fresh redfish dinner. We have already opened STAR 2018 online registration. Get your-

Texas Fed Defs Registered Tagged Division

Enjoy the results of record setting, the 28th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament is finally over.

To tow this new setup home, they will also be using their own truck to tow home their brand new Ford F-150 Texas Edition. The next four winners will have to provide their own truck to tow home their brand new 23’ Haynie Bigfoot powered by Mercury Marine with a 115hp Mercury motor on top of a new Coastline trailer. 6th Winner- William Latham 7th Winner- Kevin Gorski 8th Winner- Steven Harlan

In the offshore division, the following anglers won a $25,000 college scholarship package. The lucky winner will be announced in the next issue of CCA Texas STAR.

Early Bird Grand Prize Drawing

Every 2017 STAR entrant (21 and up) who registered prior to April 29, 2017 went into this special drawing for a chance to win a sweet new Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury motor and McClain trailer package. The lucky winner will be announced in the next issue of CCA Texas STAR.

CCA Texas STAR and STAR Kids Scholarship Division will provide $325,000 in college scholarships again this year. The STAR Tournament is finally over.

What better way to entice kids away from the cell phone and into the water to enjoy the resource that we all love so dearly! Not to mention, we are providing the opportunity to better their education. These youth are the future in protecting and enjoying a fresh redfish dinner. We have already opened STAR 2018 online registration. Get your-

Youth Scholarship Drawing

On top of the nine scholarships listed above, STAR also awards one youth entrant (ages 6-17) with a $25,000 scholarship simply for entering the tournament for free with their $10 CCA membership.

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Being able to award $325,000 in college scholarships again this year is the highlight of the STAR Tournament for many involved.

We especially thank those getting kids out on the water to enjoy the resources that we all love so dearly! Not to mention, we are providing the opportunity to better their education. These youth are the future in protecting and enjoying a fresh redfish dinner. We have already opened STAR 2018 online registration. Get your-

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The 2017 STAR winners

Juan Ibarra, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #1

William Latham, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #6

Justin Lowrey, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #9

Dayna Maka, Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Middle Coast Trout winner

Jamie Sifford, Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Lower Coast Trout winner

Nicholas Garza, STAR Ling Division Winner

Jeffery Smith, STAR Kingfish Division Winner, along with Mark Terrell, 3rd Runner-Up

Cayla Cloudt, STARKids Flounder Division Winner

Ethyn Ybarra, STARKids Sheepshead Division Winner

Austin Bellanger, STARTeens Gafftop Division Winner

Mike Laskowski, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #5

Holly Clark, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #4

Ryan Pyburn, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #8

Steven Harlan, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #7

Colton Morante, Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Upper Coast Trout winner, fishing with last year’s winner Dylan Balch

Landon Winton, STARTeens Flounder Division winner

Cameron Brooks, STARTeens Gulf Oyster Division winner

The 2017 STAR winners

St. Charles Bay Shoreline Protection and Reef Creation

By John Blaha
Photos by Lisa Laskowski

CCA Texas, Building Conservation Trust (CCA’s National Habitat Program), Texas A&M Corpus Christi and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently partnered to create 2,000 linear feet of oyster reef in St. Charles Bay. This reef is located just off the Goose Island Big Tree unit and will provide shoreline protection and marine habitat for many species.

The reef was constructed using recycled oyster shells through the “Sink Your Shucks” program at Harte Research Institute. The recycled shells were provided by Water Street Market and Groomers Seafood, both active members in the Sink Your Shucks program.

“The oyster reef will provide natural protection for coastal marsh habitat, benefitting a wide range of species that depend on coastal marsh for food and shelter, including shorebirds, waterbirds and the federally endangered whooping crane,” commented Dr. Jennifer Pollack, Assistant Professor of Marine Biology at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Dr. Pollack continued, “Because this area is federally designated Whooping Crane critical habitat (by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and because of the extremely high erosion rates (2 acres in 20 years), it provides a unique opportunity to restore oyster reef habitat in a way that will also protect the marsh, enhance the estuarine ecosystem, and benefit sport fishing activities.”

The reef was constructed in seven segments which measured approximately 30 feet wide, 120 feet long and 1 foot high, covering an overall distance of 2,000 linear feet including the gaps between each segment. Future
plans also include public oyster bagging events which will place bagged oysters along the shore for more added protection and habitat enhancement.

Shortly after the construction of the reef, Dr. Pollack and her team placed sample trays of oysters in groups of eight on each segment. Additional control trays were placed along the same shoreline approximately one mile away on existing established oyster reef towards the inlet of the bay. Trays will initially be removed monthly and then quarterly, and inventory will be taken on new spat that has set, as well as other marine organisms within the samples. These inventories and studies will be completed by Texas A&M students as part of the studies and degree programs. “The location of this new reef offers an easily accessible walk-in fishing location for local and visiting recreational fishermen and enhances an already rich habitat that includes seagrasses and surrounding estuarine marsh.”

CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust have contributed $530,000 to Texas coastal habitat projects this year to date. This commitment and investment equates to $4,280,000 of coastal habitat work in Texas alone. These efforts would not be possible without the efforts of our volunteers, local boards and communities, and our partners across the state.

The location of this new reef offers an easily accessible walk-in fishing location for local and visiting recreational fishermen and enhances an already rich habitat that includes seagrasses and surrounding estuarine marsh.

Dr. Jennifer Reseres Pollock and her students place sample trays which will be removed and inventoried for oyster spat and other marine animals on a routine basis.

CCA Texas Social Happenings

In each issue of Currents, CCA Texas will feature a recent Facebook photo, Twitter Tweet and Instagram photo. Please “Like” our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to get the latest updates from CCA Texas and become a part of the conversation! Want to submit a photo of a great catch or fun times at a CCA Texas event to be featured on one of our social media platforms? Email it to kphilippi@ccatexas.org for consideration!

Facebook:
Check out our new blog post on oysters! “The Eastern Oyster (Crassostrea virginica) is our most valuable coastal resource, providing critical habitat for fish and invertebrate species, shoreline stabilization, water quality enhancements and numerous other ecological functions... TPWD recognizes the value of oysters in our marine ecosystems and has proposed several changes to the statewide oyster proclamation. Here are just a few reasons why oysters are so valuable to our marine ecosystems.”

READ MORE: www.ccatexas.org/oysters-a-valuable-resource

Twitter:
@CCA_Texas: Tonight at 11:00 - Get the latest tips from our fishing buddies at @TIFRTV! @ofishalinsider @FOXSportsSW @CCABCT @STARtourney #ccatexas

Instagram:
@cca_texas: Last week the @texasbrigades held its Coastal Brigade program in Galveston - pictured here is a black drum which was caught, measured and released! The Coastal Brigade is a 5-day youth camp that encompasses coastal habitat management, fisheries management, coastal ecology and saltwater fishing. CCA Texas is a proud funding supporter of this empowering educational program! Photo: @ami3lynn

Photo courtesy of Shannon Tompkins / Houston Chronicle

Facebook: facebook.com/CCATexas
Twitter: twitter.com/CCA_Texas
Instagram: instagram.com/cca_texas
YouTube: youtube.com/ccatexasprojects
CCA Texas blog: ccatexas.org/blog
Upper Coast
By Capt. Steve Hillman

Working birds, keying on slicks

After the flood, it’s anyone’s guess as to what to expect for fall fishing. But things seem to be shaping up, especially in the lower portions of the bay and West Bay.

October will be a good time to be in East Galveston Bay as cool fronts pull white shrimp out of the marshes and bayous into the open bay. Working fronts and drifting mists while keying on slicks and wading the shorelines are solid game plans. Stay close to marsh drains and shell for the best results.

In normal hot spots like Trinity Bay and Upper Galveston Bay, salinities will have to make a huge jump. But open-water slicks, working gulls and wading over shell will all be productive after conditions return to normal. Topwaters, Bass Assasin and Minnow Soft Shads in variations of plum and chartreuse will be our go-to baits. Freshwater mud-salts help West Galveston Bay’s productivity, and this may be one of the better fall seasons for trout there. Back takes such as Greens and Jones provide opportunities for redfish and sheepshead.

Christmas Bay, Baysport Bay and Chocolate Bay will be worth the effort toward the end of October and into November. Invest time around marsh openings, stay close to structure and drop-offs. Spend time near the Intracoastal following cold fronts and during low tides.

Giant bull redfish made another early appearance at the Galveston Jetties this year, and may stay strong into November. Cracked blue crab or fresh dead shad are excellent baits. Trout, slot reds and sheepshead along with the occasional small tarpon provide a lot of action for those who are willing to throw live for the long fish. Expect the birds to be immediate and vigorous throughout the gamefish will be off the flats and into cooler temps, specks will be on the rocks, calmer temps, specks will be on the rocks, and the fish to have increased stamina. It’s about oxygen in those cool lakes that fish have not experienced for months. Same is true for you as you enjoy the cooled air and water temps.

Don’t forget duck season! Hunters may be in some of your honey holes at the beginning of November, so pay attention and give them room. It’s much easier to move a wader than a hunter because of the decoys. But the hunt is usually done by 9:00 am and they are picking up decoys and heading for a hot breakfast!

Great picture photo: Rick Spellman and a true creek boss of a redfish. Caught and released in a remote marsh on a Sunday morning. Photo by Adam Gilsberry

Cought Redhanded!Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

Commercial fishing fleets from Mexico pose a significant threat to our natural resources.

Cameron County Game Wardens removed approximately four miles of illegal long line from the Gulf of Mexico near Boca Chica Beach. Most of the illegally taken fish were released in good condition.

The great working relationship between game wardens and their LE partners in the U.S. Coast Guard often pays off.

Brazoria County Game Wardens Capt Crawford and Scott Jennings responded to a call from Coast Guard Base Freeport at 3:00 am on November 16, 2016, after a CG boarding crew stopped a vessel to do a safety inspection in the Freeport Jetties, and noticed quite a few fish on board. The two wardens did a thorough inspection of the vessel and discovered that the four individuals on board were in possession of 154 red snapper over their limit, including some that were undersized, as well as being over their limit for sharks, and not having valid fishing licenses.

On March 26, 2016 a small recreational vessel entering the Freeport jetties was intercepted and boarded by the US Coast Guard. The vessel was occupied by three individuals. During the initial inspection an undetermined amount of red snapper was found onboard. The vessel was escorted to a dock in Freeport/Surfside area where Texas Game Wardens conducted an inspection of the vessel. The three occupants were found to be in possession of 642 red snapper weighing 1,946 pounds.

Middle Coast
By Capt. Stephen Boriskie

It’s about oxygen

By far, the months of October and November are my favorite of the year for fishing on the Midcoast of Texas. It is hard to go wrong because the shrimp are plentiful, the fish are eating and the weather is cooperating. Some of my most memorable days on the water during this period of full moons and harvest time are usually wasted fishing in waist-deep water while catching fish on every cast.

Fish are hungry in the Fall and it’s hard to go wrong on what you present for their appetite. Focus on movement in your lure selection and think about what is happening with the water temperature. Temps often decrease on a Fall morning into the low-70s, then go back to 75 degrees. The fish are fired up like you on a Friday night football games!

Expect the birds to be immediate and vigorous, and the fish to have increased stamina. It’s about oxygen in those cool lakes that fish have not experienced for months. Same is true for you as you enjoy the cooled air and water temps.

Don’t forget duck season! Hunters may be in some of your honey holes at the beginning of November, so pay attention and give them room. It’s much easier to move a wader than a hunter because of the decoys. But the hunt is usually done by 9:00 am and they are picking up decoys and heading for a hot breakfast!

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Lower Coast
By Capt. Bill Sheka

The birds!

Those immense disturbances in the Gulf meant an incredible exchange of fresh Gulf water. Huge tidies have brought a lot of fish and baitfish into the systems, all for the better. As my favorite fishing month begins, cooler October water starts the reds moving to the passes and beaches for age-old spawning duties. We’ll see a continuing high quality of speckled trout, due mostly to the years of abundant shrimp and no deep-freeze winters. Trout have had time to get age and size on, and lower coast anglers will continue to have smiles on their faces. Through October into colder temps, speak to be on the rocks, deeper flats and edges of channels. The birds! A good pair of binoculars will show you where the birds and fish are. When tying on lures, don’t overlook the Berkley Gulp for big reds. Cut small in chunks, the flavorful stuff will attract hard to please black drum.

November will be more complicated, but now you’ll be a watcher for fronts. Just before a front hits it’s my favorite time to fish; lower barometer readings seem to make the fish hungry. Depending on the size of the front, the gamefish will be off the flats and into deeper areas. Keep those binoculars handy, because the birds are still watching for food. Of course, the water temps will be moving steadily lower as the days get shorter and windier, so you’ll look after your crew and be safe first. Consider CPR of the big spotted ladies. Wishing you the best in your fishing, and may God Bless. –Capt. Bill Sheka 361-991-7191 billsheka@msn.com

Great picture photo: Rick Spellman and a true creek boss of a redfish. Caught and released in a remote marsh on a Sunday morning. Photo by Adam Gilsberry

Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895

Law Enforcement Off The Pavement
I realize we are a long way out from the 2018 Austin Chapter Banquet, but mark your calendars now for May 10! We are already preparing for it, and I can assure you next year will have some fresh prizes and games that will have the room buzzing throughout the night.

Just a reminder that the next Anglers’ Night Out will be held on September 20 at 6:00 pm at Abel’s on the Lake in Austin. Come out and hear the best guides tell all, get a free meal compliments of Smokey Denny’s and enjoy an evening with your fellow fishermen and fisherwomen. It’s all free! So join us for those events, bring a friend and ask them to join CCA.

Happy hunting, fishing and football seasons to all of you! – Josh Cook

Body Cameras Provided by CCA for Texas Game Wardens

The CCA Texas Executive Board recently approved $41,000 to fund body cams for all 103 coastal Game Wardens.

“These state of the art record/cameras are a new tool to help wardens protect our resources,” Executive Director Robby Byers said.

The model is Warden Kevin Glass, who was named the 2013 Texas Marine Officer of the Year by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Law Enforcement Division.

Chapter Updates

If you submitted images and they’re not all published, you may find them on your chapter’s web page, and your chapter’s area in the CCA website: www.ccataxas.org/chapters

Alvin-Pearland

Aranas Bay
Bud Kittle 210-279-7309 ernestkittle@gmail.com

Austin
Josh Cook 512-656-2964

It doesn’t get any better than hunting and football seasons opening in September! And, now is always one of my favorite times of the year to fish on the Texas coast with lighter crowds and cooler weather. I am about to head down to Gary Boyd’s camp, Majek Corner, at the land cut for a few days to fish the 2017 President’s Trip, and I know we are going to have an outstanding time. Thanks for donating your camp again this year, Gary, and thanks to Sonny Horton of BCS Concrete Structures for buying it again!


Brazoria County
West Dingee 979-299-8245

Brazos Valley
John Ben Strother 979-220-1738

Brenham
Brandon Marth 979-277-0151

Brush Country
Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037

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Todd Buster 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley
Eugene Ulrich 979-239-7425

Corpus Christi
Jake Herring 361-234-0258 jakecherring@hotmail.com

Good day fellow Conservationists. The Corpus Christi Chapter has our CCA Texas brothers and sisters in our thoughts as we all move forward from the effects Harvey brought to our beloved Gulf Coast.

We have recently hosted our Babes on Baffin Annual Fishing Tournament at Marker 37 on October 5-6. Valerie Chilton and Judy Arnold, along with their Tournament Chairs, headed up the event. It was a blast, and a big thank you to all the ladies who spent a day on the water all in the name of coastal conservation! We
could not hold such a great event without our top sponsors, including Yamaha, Bommarito, Sierra Pacific Mortgage, and Marker 37.

To Hurricane Harvey our Poco Rojo kid fish tournament has been rescheduled to Saturday October 21 at the CCA Marina Development Center in Flour Bluff. The “Hatchery”, as we know it, has incurred some damage to their facilities, but Dr. Robert Vega and his team worked hard so we could hold the event on their rescheduled date. Keep a lookout for an email from CCA Texas with more information, tickets, auction item donations, and instructions on how to fish.

We were forced to reschedule the August meeting but due to Hurricane Harvey we were not able to hold such a great event without our top sponsors, including Yamaha, Bommarito, Sierra Pacific Mortgage, and Marker 37.

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On August 19, 2017, we sponsored our 17th Annual CCA Kid Fish Tournament at Weslaco's RGV Fish Culture Center. We had a great turnout, it was open to the public with no entry fee. Fishing was from 4:00 to 7:00, and whatever the kids weighed in, they kept. We were able to keep Don Waters on the weightmaster, and all the kids weighed in and the fish to check with Jeff Cunard. After the tournament, everyone enjoyed hot dogs, chips and drinks, and when everyone was done eating we announced the winners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Age group 6-9: 1st place – Jason Edder. Age group 12-15: 1st place – Blake New. Age group 7-11: 1st place – Aven Sanders. Age group 0-6: 1st place – Levi Martin. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place: TCS- Flooring and Design center, Superior Plumbing, the Response Group, Walker & Woods Together Again, Martinez Tree Service, K&K Construction. I appreciate each and everyone’s support for our organization. Please check our Facebook page for the Annual Gun Raffle is back again! We will be holding a membership social on December 12, 2017 at the Elk’s Lodge in Weslaco. We will be giving away 2 guns and eight Engel cookers. Tickets are $10 each, and we are only selling 100 tickets. Winning tickets will be placed back into the bin, so you have the chance to win as many as you wish! Contact Ted Sunderland at (956) 463-3552 or stndted2@yahoo.com.

Lastly, we have our 2018 Boat Giveaway. The boat is a beautiful 22’ Majek Illusion powered by a 175 HP ETEC C2, and it sits on a Crossline Tandem axle trailer. We are only selling 200 tickets for $100 each. The boat will be given away at our Annual Banquet on April 20 at the Boggs Ford Fishing Center. Thank you to L&J Distributors, Ron Houmer RV & Marine, and Majek Boats for helping put this package together once again. For more information, contact Louis O’Con; and help to publicize how to help the folks on the middle coast who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Wayne Davis. Wayne is involved in to educate the public on ways to help the folks on the middle coast. As we all know, we are blessed in Texas with our bountiful fisheries and everything we have here in Texas is truly a national treasure. The Texas coast is a great place to be, and you can get away from the problems of the world by going out and fishing. It is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and get away from the stresses of everyday life. It is a great way to bond with friends and family, and it is a great way to escape the everyday routines. It is a great way to get away from the stresses of everyday life.

San Antonio
Mike Sarosdy 210-863-7288
mrosa@sstc-comm.com
t thanks to all who have contributed in many ways to help the folks on the middle coast who got whacked by Harvey. Chapter volunteer cooked food for thousands, helped clean up debris donated items: Linen Electric, Bush Truck Center, Citizens State Bank, Prawns, Prairie Chapter and Brian Weaver from CCA Texas. And a special thanks to Larry and Sandy Watstruck for the use of their property. I hope to see you all next year at our 17th Annual Kid Fish thanks – Ron Chess, (979) 525-9254.

Redfish Bay Norma Oates 361-758-0266
Rio Grande Valley Louis Zimmer 956-373-0799
lzm01@yahoo.com

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter has stayed true to the purpose of their property.

The 2017 RGV boat is a beautiful 22’ Majek Illusion powered by a 175 HP ETEC C2, and it sits on a Crossline Tandem axle trailer. We are only selling 200 tickets for $100 each. The boat will be given away at our Annual Banquet on April 20 at the Boggs Ford Fishing Center. Thank you to L&J Distributors, Ron Houmer RV & Marine, and Majek Boats for helping put this package together once again. For more information, contact Louis O’Con;

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San Antonio
Mike Sarosdy 210-863-7288
mrosa@sstc-comm.com

Thanks to all who have contributed in many ways to help the folks on the middle coast who got whacked by Harvey. Chapter volunteer cooked food for thousands, helped clean up debris donated items: Linen Electric, Bush Truck Center, Citizens State Bank, Prawns, Prairie Chapter and Brian Weaver from CCA Texas. And a special thanks to Larry and Sandy Watstruck for the use of their property. I hope to see you all next year at our 17th Annual Kid Fish thanks – Ron Chess, (979) 525-9254.

Redfish Bay
Norma Oates 361-758-0266

Rio Grande Valley Louis Zimmer 956-373-0799
lzm01@yahoo.com

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter has stayed true to the purpose of their property.

The 2017 RGV boat is a beautiful 22’ Majek Illusion powered by a 175 HP ETEC C2, and it sits on a Crossline Tandem axle trailer. We are only selling 200 tickets for $100 each. The boat will be given away at our Annual Banquet on April 20 at the Boggs Ford Fishing Center. Thank you to L&J Distributors, Ron Houmer RV & Marine, and Majek Boats for helping put this package together once again. For more information, contact Louis O’Con;

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The Trinity Bay Chapter Annual Banquet was held on Friday, August 25, the night before the largest storm in Texas history came blowing in...but that didn’t stop the dedicated sponsors and guests, who packed the house for a fun night of food, drinks and raffles!

Due to the storm, we are lacking some of the banquet results. We hope to have more updates in the upcoming months. Thanks again to all those who attended the event!

The Trinity Bay Chapter meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you would like further details on becoming a member or sponsor please contact us, we’d be glad to hear from you. – Gerald Payne, (281) 728-6278

The West Texas Chapter would like to send out our heartfelt condolences to all who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. We wish you all a speedy recovery. – Craig McDonnell

Your banana is not the Plague in a Peel.
Or Poseidon’s Yellow Middle Finger of Doom.
It’s a fruit.
From the tropics.
Beloved by babies, monkeys,
and baby monkeys.
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**SMOKED SALMON SPREAD**

Delicious, easy to fix, and can be done with grilled redfish as well.

- 10 to 12 oz. smoked salmon or any cooked fish chopped into 1” pieces
- 10 oz cream cheese at room temperature
- ½ cup sour cream
- Juice from ½ lemon
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup chopped green onion
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- ½ Tbsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh dill

Add all ingredients to food processor and pulse until well combined, adding lemon juice if needed to completely incorporate everything. Chill for two hours and serve with crackers or melba toasts.

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**Silver At the Pass**

A surf fisherman gets more than he bargained for on a silver spoon at Pass Cavallo. This new Caldwell classic is now on view, along with old and middle-aged classics. Drop by the website for a visit to the Highlands of Scotland and wolves in the high country of Colorado.

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Port Aransas: 361-798-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas. Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov
To focus on fishing and boating, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat

Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. 1-800-792-4263.
A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: www.ogttx.com

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name __________________________________________  Phone __________________________ Date _______________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City ______________________________________________________ State _______ Zip __________________________

NEW MEMBER _______ RENEWAL ______ (Member ID for renewing members only) __________________________ EMAIL ________________________

Method of payment __________ Check/Money order
Charge to my: __________ MASTERCARD
________ VISA
________ AMEX
________ DISCOVER

MEMBER: $30 ___ Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
ASSOCIATE: $15 ___ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
PRENT MEMBER: $100 ___ All of the above plus CCA Texas print of your choice.
LIFE MEMBER: $1000 ___ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four $250 installments.
STAR ENTRY FEE: $25 ___ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
NEW TIDE: $10 ___ Tide newsletter, decal.
Members 17 and under only
NEW TIDE / Star: $10 ___ Same as above, plus “FREE” STAR Tournament entry.

Age: ______ Date of birth: ______

Age: ______ Date of birth: ______

Credit card number __________________________________________________________________________________________
Signature ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

~24~

Credit card expiration date ____________________________ By entering this tournament, I agree to be bound by the STAR Tournament Rules, Release and Indemnity Agreement. I understand that there
are specific rules governing the conduct of the tournament and that upon request a copy will be mailed to me. 6919 Portwest, Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024 / 713-626-4222 / Website: www.ccatexas.org