

CURRENTS

October / November 2017



Saving Our Oysters

*House Bill 51 passes, signed
into law by Governor Abbot*

CALDWELL

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 fish-



Precision calipers determine the size of legal oysters
Photo by Jim Olive of Stockyard Photos / stockyardphotos.com

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.

ermen 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

Bedrock of the bays: Oyster colonies are the base of healthy Texas bay ecosystems
Photo by Jim Olive of Stockyard Photos / stockyardphotos.com



at the same 30% level.

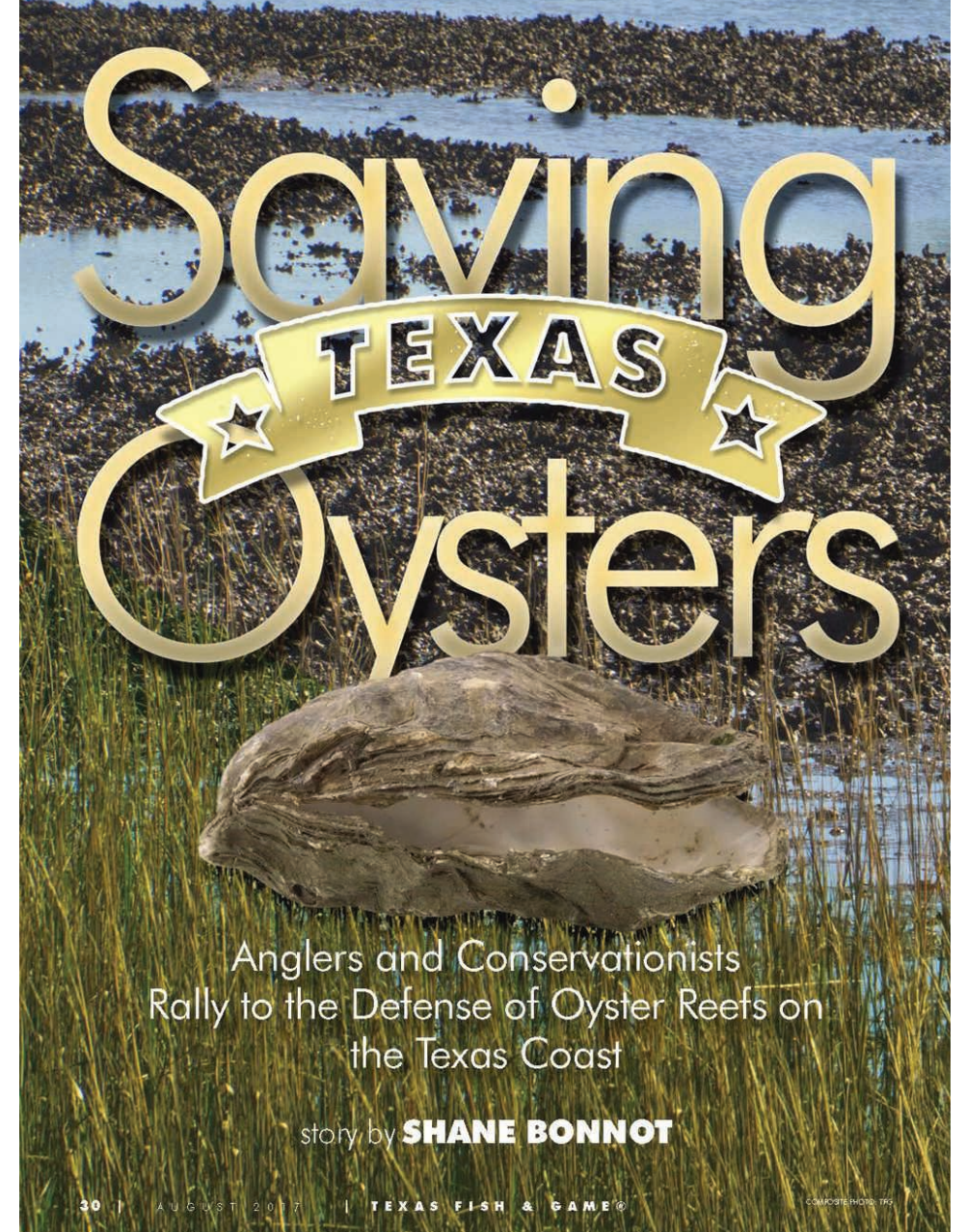
- Increases penalties for the possession of undersized oysters, with repeat and/or egregious violations subject to a Class B misdemeanor and 30-day license suspension.
- Hold seafood dealers accountable for repeat violations relating to the possession of undersized oysters. While this bill could stand 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!



Anglers and Conservationists
Rally to the Defense of Oyster Reefs on
the Texas Coast

story by **SHANE BONNOT**

From the August 2017 Texas Fish and Game Magazine

Galveston Bay Foundation's oyster shell recycling program promotes a sustainable oyster population by returning shucked oyster shells from local restaurants back into the bay.
Photo by Jim Olive of Stockyard Photos / stockyardphotos.com





28th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers' Rodeo

After more than one hundred days of record setting, 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 50,000 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 tied the record for tagged redfish claims! Over the course 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 port along the coast in the Texas Ford Dealers 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." As always, there were many Texas anglers who missed their chance at a drive-way sized prize by fishing without being registered for the tournament, many saying something along the lines of, "I never thought I'd catch one, but I dang sure will be registered now!" A simple \$25 STAR entry fee and CCA membership could have had them fishing in style out of a new Haynie Bigfoot pulled by their new Ford F-150, instead of simply enjoying a fresh redfish dinner. We have already opened STAR 2018 online registration. Get yourself, the kids and anyone else you can think of registered now so that you don't become one of the many heartbroken anglers who would have won!



2017 Ford F-150 "Texas Edition" XLT SuperCab with Haynie 23 Bigfoot, the Redfish Division prize.

This year we were once again able to offer 123 prizes for the catching in the STAR Tournament, 121 of which were claimed by lucky anglers across the state. With record tagged redfish claims, **we will be giving away TWENTY-SEVEN top prizes, including \$325,000 in college scholarships on October 12, 2017 which will be held at the CCA Texas STAR Awards Banquet at Bayou City Event Center.** Everybody is welcome at the banquet with purchase of a ticket. Without further ado, we present to you the 2017 CCA Texas STAR Tournament final winners! (*winner pending polygraph):

STARKids Scholarship Division

The STARKids Scholarship Division will provide three young anglers (ages 6-10) with a \$50,000 college scholarship after entering for free with their \$10 CCA membership. Through the years, this division has empowered many children to further their education who otherwise may not have been able to attend college.

Flounder- Cayla Cloudt of Clute, age 7, 5 lb 5oz
Sheepshead- Ethyn Ybarra of Houston, age 7, 8 lb 7oz
Gafftop- Austin Bellanger* of Orange, age 10, 7 lb 13 oz

Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Scholarship Trout Division

The Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Scholarship Trout Division was open to all STAR entrants ages 11-17 for free with their \$10 CCA membership. These young anglers with the heaviest speckled trout in each region (upper, middle and lower coast), will be awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship to help further their education:

Upper Coast- Colton Murante of Spurger, age 15, 8 lb 2 oz
Middle Coast- Dayne Macha of Wallis, age 12, 8 lb 9 oz
Lower Coast- Jamie Sifford* of Corpus Christi, age 17, 8 lb 5 oz

STARTeens Inshore Scholarship Division

The STARTeens Inshore Division was open to all STAR entrants ages 11-17 for free with their \$10 CCA membership. These young anglers with the heaviest flounder, sheepshead or gafftop will be awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship to help further their education:

Flounder- Landon Winton of Freeport, age 16, 7 lb 3 oz
Sheepshead- Kobe Tedrick of Baytown, age 17, 8 lb 4 oz
Gafftop- Cameron Brooks of Orange, age 16, 6 lb 6 oz

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.

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

What better way to entice kids away from the electronics and onto 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 the vitality of our precious marine resources for many years to come. Take a kid fishing today! To date we have awarded almost \$6.2 million in free college to Texas youth!

Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division

At press time we have nine confirmed tagged redfish winners. Each of the first five winners will be towing home a brand new 23' Haynie Bigfoot powered by Mercury Marine on top of a new Coastline trailer.

To tow this new setup home, they will also be using 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 on top of a new Coastline trailer.
1st Winner- Juan Ibarra of Pearland
2nd Winner- Jose Mendoza of Corpus Christi
3rd Winner- Ryan Pyburn of Beaumont
4th Winner- Holly Clark of Port Arthur
5th Winner- Mike Laskowski of La Vernia
6th Winner- William Latham
7th Winner- Kevin Gorski of Houston
8th Winner- Steven Harlan of Lake Jackson
9th Winner- Justin Lowry of West Columbia

Trout Division

These registered anglers weighed in the heaviest trout for the upper, middle and lower coast divisions. They will each be taking home a Mowdy 22'V, powered by Mercury Marine, set on a Coastline trailer:

Upper Coast- Leonard Knopp of Clute, 8 lb 13 oz
Middle Coast- George Hinojosa of Corpus Christi, 10 lb 1 oz
Lower Coast- Juan Ramirez of Harlingen, 10 lb 14 oz

Inshore Division

These Inshore Division winners will take home a Shoalwater 19' Cat with a 115hp Mercury motor and McClain trailer for weighing in the heaviest flounder, sheepshead and gafftop:

Flounder- Robert Goode Jr. of Alvin, 7 lb 12 oz
Sheepshead- Rodolfo Ibarra of Dayton, 10 lb 12 oz
Gafftop- John Landrum of Nederland, 7 lb 4 oz

Offshore Division

In the offshore division, the following anglers weighed in the heaviest kingfish, dorado and ling. Each angler will be leaving the banquet with a brand new Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI in Polaris Pursuit Camo, each on a Big Tex trailer courtesy of Hoffpauir Polaris:

Kingfish- Jeffrey Stultz of Brazoria, 59 lb 2 oz
Dorado- Chris Brzozowski of Corpus Christi, 44 lb 14 oz

Ling- Nicholas Garza of San Antonio,

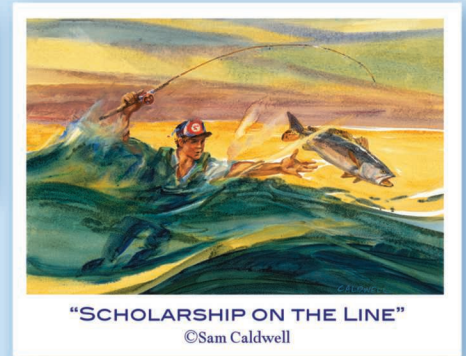


COLLECT THE 2017 STAR PLATINUM PRINTS



**TWO CHOICES...
one great cause!**

Proceeds from the sale of these limited-edition packages will help us continue to fund the STAR scholarships.



Act now to own ONE of these signed, limited-edition prints! Renowned artists Sam Caldwell and David Drinkard showcase their unique styles exclusively for CCA Texas STAR 2017. Pick your favorite or BUY BOTH!

CCA Membership and STAR registration included with your purchase ★ ccatexas.org ★ startournament.org ★ (713) 626-4222

62 lb 7 oz

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 *Currents*.

Member Bonus Drawing

For everyone who did not win a grand prize, you were automatically entered into our member bonus drawing for the same new Dargel 210 Skout, Mercury motor and McClain trailer package. The lucky winner will be announced in the next issue of *Currents*.

CCA Texas and STAR would like to thank our fine sponsors, weigh stations, ticket stations and the countless volunteers for their hard work and dedication in not only helping to enhance our marine resources but helping these lucky kids with their education. Without you, the CCA member, there would be no CCA or STAR, and we want to thank each and every single one of you for all that you do for our great resource. We especially thank those getting kids out on the water to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same things we do!

We ask that you think about our great weigh stations all along the coast, as many were heavily affected by Hurricane Harvey, and help them recover with your patronage. For all of your hard work this year we thank: **Peggy's On the Bayou in Orange, SGS Causeway in Port Arthur,**

STAR has reached \$6,175,000 in scholarships awarded to children 6-17 years of age. Many thanks to our sponsors for making this happen. Without them, it would not be possible.



Trout Division Prize: Mowdy 22' V boat with a 150 HP motor and Coastline trailer.



Inshore Division - Shoalwater 19' Cat boat with a 150 HP motor and McClain trailer



Polaris Ranger Crew, the STAR Offshore Division first prize.

See all the 2017 STAR winners on page 6





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



Jose Mendoza, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #2



Ryan Pyburn, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #3



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



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

The 2017 STAR winners



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



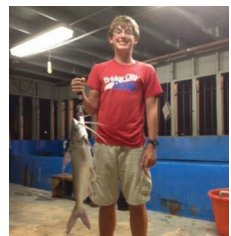
Kevin Gorski, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #7



Steven Harlan, Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division winner #8



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



Cameron Brooks, STARTeens Gafftop Division winner



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



Dayne Macha, Academy Sports + Outdoors STARTeens Middle Coast Trout winner



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



Landon Winton, STARTeens Flounder Division winner



Chris Brzozowski, STAR Dorado Division Winner



Nicholas Garza, STAR Ling Division Winner



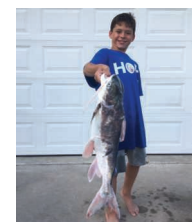
Jeffery Stultz, STAR Kingfish Division Winner, along with Mark Terrell, 3rd Runner-Up



Cayla Cloudt, STARKids Flounder Division Winner



Ethyn Ybarra, STARKids Sheepshead Division Winner



Austin Bellanger, STARKids Gafftop Division Winner



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 Ma-



Derrick construction operators place shell in new St. Charles Bay Reef

rine 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, en-

hance 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



CCA STAR PLATINUM PRINTS

Collect them all from past years!



2011 "STAR Reds" © David Drinkard



2012 "STAR Sighting" © David Drinkard



2013 "School is in Session" © David Drinkard



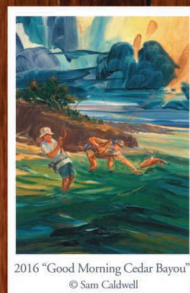
2014 "Working the Spoils" © David Drinkard



2015 "Split Screen" © David Drinkard



2016 "King Ranch Shoreline" © David Drinkard



2016 "Good Morning Cedar Bayou" © Sam Caldwell



Complete your collection of these beautiful limited-edition artist's prints while supplies last for only \$100 each

Call today
(713) 626-4222



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

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

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.

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," commented Jay Gardner, Chairman of CCA Texas's Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow.

Gardner continued, "This proj-

ect will also offer an educational and community outreach effort to local schools as public bagging events are held to further enhance the project site and surrounding ecosystem."

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 in 2017 alone. These efforts would not be possible without the efforts of our volunteers, local boards and communities, and our partners across the state.



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 @STARtournament #ccatexas

Instagram:

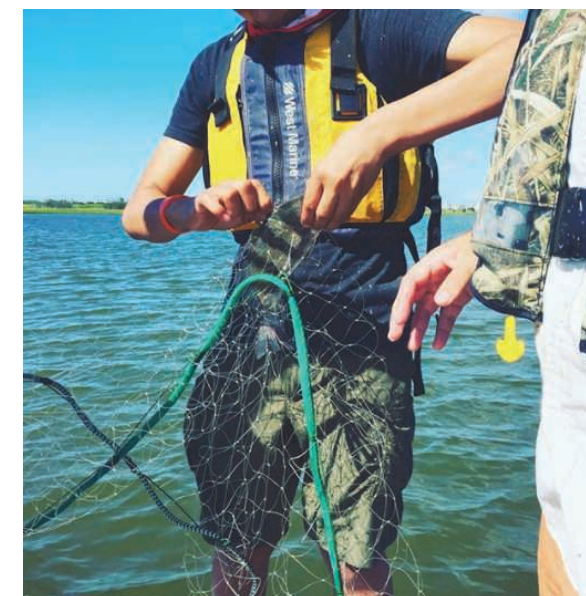
@cca_texas: Last week the @texasbrigades held its Coastal Brigade program in Galveston - pictured here is a black drum which was caught, measured and released! The Coastal Brigade is a 5-day youth camp that encompasses coastal habitat management, fisheries management, coastal ecology and saltwater fishing. 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 birds and drifting reefs 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 Assassins and MirrOlure Soft Shads in variations of plum and chartreuse will be our go-to baits. Freshwater usually helps West Galveston Bay's productivity, and this may be one of the better fall seasons for trout there. Back lakes such as Greens and Jones provide opportunities for redfish and flounder.

Christmas Bay, Bastrop 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 bait choices. Trout, slot reds and sheepshead along with the occasional small tarpon provide a lot of action for those who are throwing free-lined live shrimp. Good luck to all and please only keep what you need!

— **Captain Steve Hillman** 409-256-7937

www.hillmanguideservice.com
captsteve@hillmanguideservice.com

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 wade 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 appetites. 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 game!

Expect the bite to be immediate and vigorous, and the fish to have increased stamina. It's about oxygen in these cooled waters 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. Our challenge is to enjoy the bounty of the Midcoast, while being good stewards of the resource. Take care today, and our youngsters will have a bounty to enjoy tomorrow. — **Capt. Stephen Boriskie**
Guide at Bay Flats Lodge (361) 785-2686

Lower Coast

By Capt. Bill Sheka

The birds!

Those immense disturbances in the Gulf meant an incredible exchange of fresh Gulf water. Huge tides 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 cooler temps, specks will 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 Gulps 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 is 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

Caught Redhanded!

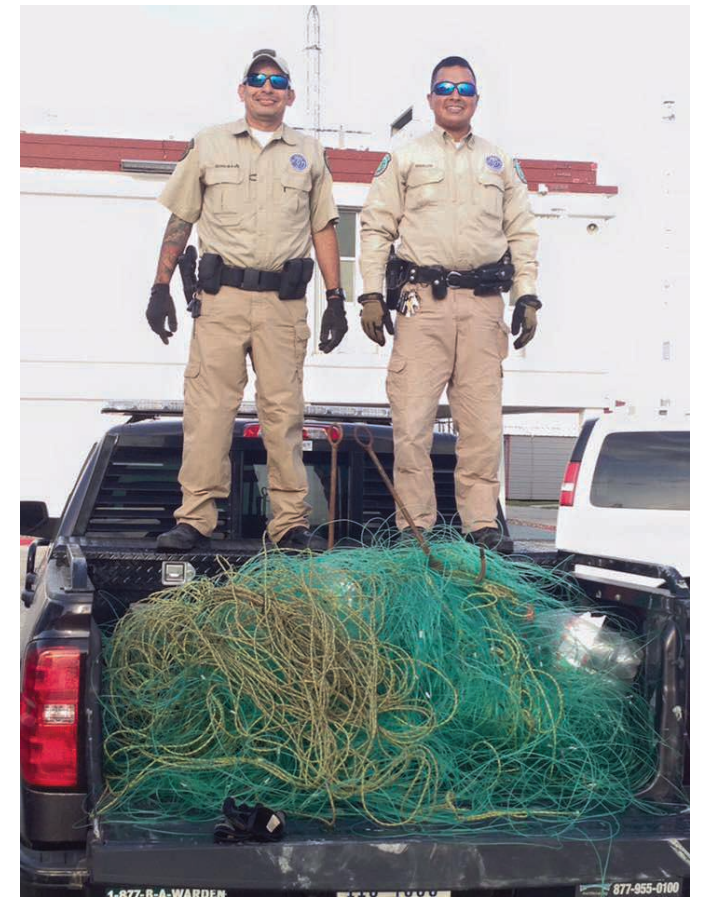
Reports from TP&W
Game Wardens

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 Colt 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 1,846 pounds.

Texas Game Wardens,
Serving Texans since 1895
Law Enforcement Off
the Pavement



Great CPR photo: Rick Spillman and a true creek boss of a redfish. Caught and released in a remote marsh on a Sunday morning. Photo by Adam Gilvarry



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CONSERVATION



Celebrating 40 Years
Long Sleeve Tee
\$25.99

Celebrating 40 Years
- Scales - Long Sleeve Tee
\$25.99

Own a piece of  History
www.joinccastore.com



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 recorder/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.



CURRENTS is a membership benefit of the Coastal Conservation Association-Texas. It is published bi-monthly, alternate months from the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) TIDE Magazine. Address: 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024. Phone: 713-626-4222. FAX: 713-961-3801. www.ccatexas.org

Editor, Sam Caldwell
sam@caldwell.com

This is the issue of October/November 2017
Vol. 35, Issue 6

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.ccatexas.org/chapters

Alvin-Pearland

Aransas 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!

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 Denmark'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

Bay Area
Curtis Anderson 832-435-0257



Nice fish in a flyfishing tourney, 22 inches. Now what? See page 17 for the fishermen and result.

Brazoria County
Wes 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

Centex
Wayne Webb 254-405-1300
sheyhunt@aol.com

Central Houston
Todd Buster 713-545-1897

Colorado Valley
Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425

Corpus Christi
Jake Herring 361-244-0258
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: **Majek Boats, Premier Yamaha, Sierra Pacific Mortgage, and Marker 37 Marina.**

Due to Hurricane Harvey our Poco Rojo kid fish tournament has been rescheduled to Saturday October 21 at the CCA Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff. The “Hatchery,” as we all know it, did sustain some damage to their facilities, but **Dr. Robert Vega and his team** worked hard so we could hold the event on the rescheduled date. Keep a lookout for an email from CCA Texas with more details including registration information for Poco Rojo. A huge thanks goes out to **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Ainsworth Trucking, Mike Henry (Poco Rojo Chair) and the CCA Corpus Christi Chapter** for putting on this event for the young anglers.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our 40th Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday February 22, 2018 at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. Hang in there and enjoy the fall! Yours in Conservation – **Jake Herring**

Dallas / North Texas
Matt Scherer 214-995-6777
matthew.scherer@ryan.com

The Dallas Chapter would really like to extend our condolences to those down in South Texas who have been battling through the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. We wish you all a quick recovery.

As for happenings in North Texas, our board has begun the preparation for the **2018 Dallas Chapter Annual Banquet**. As noted in the last edition of *Currents*, the **37th Annual Banquet will be held in Dallas on April 26, 2018 at 6500 Cedar Springs.**

We have also set the date for our next General Membership Meeting, which will be held on November 9, 2017 at Tailwaters Fly Fishing Company. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm and our guest speaker will be Shane Bonnot, Advocacy Director for CCA Texas. Shane was originally scheduled for our August meeting but due to Hurricane Harvey we were forced to reschedule.

In closing, I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in getting more involved with the Dallas Chapter to contact me at matthew.scherer@ryan.com. – **Matt Scherer**

East Texas
Brent Rogers 936-554-4866
brent.rogers@merck.com

Fort Bend
Donnie Powers 281-850-9023

Fort Worth
Hunter Baird 817-437-8351

Summer is almost over, and we are all looking forward to some cooler temperatures ahead. And don't forget that football season is finally back upon us!

You are seeing it first right here readers:

The Fort Worth Chapter Annual Banquet is set for May 3, 2018 at the famous Joe T. Garcias in the historic stockyards. We see a bunch of you at **our Bi-Annual Fish Fries** and would love to see you come to the banquet as well. So join us for exciting silent and live auctions and some fun raffle games with incredible prizes.

Be on the lookout for emails and updates from your board about the fish fries and goings on that you might be interested in. We thank you for your support year in and year out, and look forward to seeing you around an event if not on the water before! – **John Black**

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731

Golden Triangle
Jason Kuchera 903-780-8618
jlkuchera@yahoo.com

Greater Sugar Land
Robert Bailey 713-819-5534
rbailey@robertbaileypc.com

We hope all of you and your families are safe and sound after Harvey.

We all need something else to think about (I know I do), and I hope our chapter meetings can help. **We've got Phil Ortiz lined up for our October 4 meeting and Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas's Advocacy Director, for our November 1 meeting.** Phil has designed numerous successful lures over his fishing career and will share his fishing tips gleaned from years of fishing, and for flounder specifically. When Shane agreed to visit, he said he'd talk about recent oyster regulations and developments in the red snapper fishery. That may change after Harvey's onslaught. Whatever the fishing conservation topic, Shane is well versed and one of the most interesting speakers we've had. I hope you all will be able to attend our meetings for a good change of pace!

I was able to confirm with **Bryan Treadway** that he is good to go for our September meeting, Harvey notwithstanding. Press time for this article was before that meeting, but I'm sure Bryan was as informative and entertaining as he has been in the past. Thank you Bryan!

Our General Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Otto's Barbecue in The Fountains Shopping Center in Stafford. We have a door prize raffle as bait for the hook. Hope to see you at our meetings! **Take care – Robert G. Bailey**

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263
The CCA Greater Woodlands Chapter had a **General Membership Meeting on September 11, 2017.** We enjoyed the open air at **Papa's Ice House**, and it timed perfectly with the cooler nights we were having after Hurricane Harvey passed through. We were entertained

by **THE Chicken Boy of Chicken Boy Lures** himself! He had some awesome giveaways and great fishing advice. There was not a question he couldn't answer. He even shared his best kept secrets!

As always, we are looking for new members to join our chapter. You can get involved as much as you want to, or as little as you want to. Or maybe you just want to hang out with some new fish in a different part of the sea. We always have a good time with old fishing buddies and enjoy meeting new fishing buddies. **Check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands) or the CCA Texas website** for more information about our next chapter meeting. Send us a line to our email if you have any questions or pictures you'd like to share. **Tight Lines! – Charlotte O'Dell**

Guadalupe Valley
Chuck Howard 361-275-9464
chuck.howard@att.net

The Guadalupe Valley Chapter will host its 2017 Annual Banquet on November 2 at the Venue in Cuero, Texas. There are still a few raffle tickets available for the **Grand Prize Polaris Ranger 570 Crew Cab ATV. Only 200 tickets were available** for this primo vehicle. The drawing will be held at the banquet, and you don't have to be present to win. Table sales are now open for the banquet that will be a catered event as usual. There will be lots of terrific silent auction items, live auction items and mystery ice chests to vie for. **For more information, tickets, auction item donations etc., contact Chuck Howard at (361) 275-9464 or chuck.howard@att.net.**

Our last chapter quarterly meeting was held in Yoakum in August at the Lakeside Club. We had a homemade feed of gumbo and bread pudding, which made for a great turnout. Chapter members who have been fishing on a regular basis over the summer all reported solid catching most of the time. Now that the region has settled with the aftermath of Harvey, most of us will be venturing into “new” old waters to fish. I'm almost certain the bottom structure in the well-trod bays has changed. So this means spending hours re-learning the area again. We are all fine with that, but also know everyone wished we didn't have to.

Again, if you want tickets, tables or information regarding the Guadalupe Valley Chapter Annual Banquet, give Chuck a call! – **Chuck Howard**

Hays County
Tim Young 512-573-7939
hayscountyycca@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills
Kelly Parks 210-669-3732
bucksdelucks@yahoo.com

Hill Country

Miles Engelke 210-260-8968

The Hill Country Chapter wrapped up our 2017 Annual Banquet on Thursday, August 24, on the evening before Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Rockport, Texas. This banquet will forever remain in my mind, as our chapter has a lot of board members, including myself, who were dealing with decisions on getting their boats, RVs, etc. out of Harvey's way. Thank you to all of our board members – some dealt with their coastal possessions and still made it back to help with our banquet. **October 24, 2017 will be our final General Meeting at the Elks Lodge in New Braunfels. Our speaker will be Captain Jay Watkins,** who always has a very informative presentation. As always we will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to fish with Jay.

My prayers go out to all those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Treasure the Trips – **Miles Engelke, (210) 260-8968**

Houston Homebuilders
Mack Davis 832-381-6130

Houston Real Estate
Dale Couch 281-953-2510

Katy
Gary Mancini 281-850-2212
gman091753@aol.com

Laredo
Javier C. Villarreal 956-206-7953
jcvillarreal13@gmail.com

Lee County
Jake Horne 979-540-6117
The Lee County Chapter will be hosting its 7th Annual Banquet on Thursday October 19, 2017. Committee members have been putting in their hard work to make this another successful year. **You can contact Lee County chapter president Jake Horne or any committee member** to reserve individual tickets or tables for the banquet. **Reserved tables start at \$500 for our Flounder Table, \$750 for our Trout Table or \$1,000 for our Redfish Table. Individual Tickets may be purchased for \$55, and Couples Tickets for \$85.** Individual Tickets and Reserved Tables may be purchased through any Lee County CCA Board member or online on the chapter page at www.ccatexas.org/lee-county.

The banquet will consist of a Live and Silent Auction, numerous bucket raffle items, a card game to win a **Kimber Pro Carry 2.45 ACP** and a Cap Raffle with the custom Lee County CCA logo, designed by our very own committee member **Wes Swarengen**. The Lee County board members are currently selling presale raffle tickets for many great prizes.

The Lee County CCA Chapter would like to give special thanks to our donors and sponsors for their continued support of this great event. The success of the Lee County

CCA Chapter would not be possible without them! **God's Blessings – Jake Horne**
jake@aubainesupply.com, (979) 540-6117

Live Oak
T.J. Harkness 832-723-6723
tandmenergy@gmail.com

Lower Colorado Stephen Zapalac
979-244-6633
stephen.zapalac@capitolfarmcredit.com

Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148

Mainland
Eric Minor 409-370-7379

Matagorda Bays
Chad Hensley 979-541-3239

MidCoast
Danny Goyen 361-564-7471
goyenfishing@yahoo.com

Northeast Houston
Jason Law 713-898-8594
jlaw1899@yahoo.com

Northwest Houston
Alan Massey 281-414-6341
At our General Membership Meeting in August, we had CCA's very own Advocacy Director, Shane Bonnot. He gave us a very informative presentation about the current status of the bay systems and fisheries, along with an in-depth look at the proposed oyster regulations. Everyone should check out the CCA or TPWD website to see the new regulations now in place! Also, don't forget to check out the **Coastal Advocacy Adventures Podcast** hosted by Shane – there are interesting interviews ranging from guides sharing tips to **Chester Moore** talking fishing!

For our next General Membership Meeting on October 3, we will be hosting **Shimano Rep, Philip Cambra!** We are excited to have Mr. Cambra back to fill us in on all the new products Shimano has for 2017-2018, as well as some Tips from the Pros! As usual, it will be held at **Houston Distributing on Cutten Rd in the**

Stein room at 7:00 pm.

We held our 28th Annual Northwest Houston Chapter Banquet Fundraiser in August at the Raveneaux Country Club. To say this was a success is an understatement! We had a fantastic, energetic crowd fill the venue, great food, cold drinks and top of the line donations from our incredible sponsors! The raffles were full of unique prizes, and the live auction had trips available to all the top sportsman destinations. Thank you to everyone who sponsored our event! A huge thank you to our **Gold Sponsor – Houston Distributing.** As well as our **Silver Sponsors – Bluewater Seafood, Way-Tech, Keyera Energy, Academy Sports, GIL, and John Eagle Honda.** If you missed out this year, we sure hope to see you next year!

Our sincere thanks to both **Houston Distributing and Academy Sports + Outdoors.** They are active sponsors of our meetings and many events. We are especially fortunate to have such great support. See you at the next meeting! – **Alan Massey**

Orange County
Scott Bandy 409-988-3667
scottbandy77@yahoo.com

Port O'Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690

Well, usually this time of the year we are preparing to usher in the fall activities and getting ready for our **Annual Port O'Connor Chapter Banquet.** Then along came Harvey, and with it dramatic changes. Taking into consideration our members, volunteers, donors, vendors and guests who attend the banquet, **the chapter has elected to postpone the banquet scheduled for October 21.** We regret this decision, but have to consider the number of people and/or businesses that have been affected. The chapter will be meeting soon to discuss other options.

The golf cart that was scheduled to be drawn at the banquet is safe. During the mandatory evacuation, one of our Vice Presidents,

Patty Elkins, went back to her house and retrieved the drum with the tickets that have already been sold. So, if you bought any, hold on to them, because there will be a drawing in the future!

Please continue to support our coastal resources. Also, keep all victims of Harvey in your thoughts and prayers. **From POC, “Where it all began” – Bill Moore**

Prairie
Patricia Walters
979-877-5598



Prairie's 16th Annual KidFish was open to the public with fish, food, prizes and fun.

On August 19, 2017, we hosted our 16th Annual CCA Kid Fish Tournament at Wietstruck Farm catfish pond. 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 caught they were able to keep. **Don Waters was the weight master**, and all the kids weighed their catches for judging. After the tournament, everybody enjoyed hot dogs, chips and drinks, and when everybody was done eating we announced the winners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place:

Age group 0-6: 1st place – Levi Marquardt; 2nd place – Scott Pean / Age group 7-11: 1st place – Aven Sanders / Age group 12-15: 1st place – Blake Newsome; 2nd place Aeson Sanders / Age group 16-99: 1st place – Jason Edder Congratulations to all of the winners, who received a CCA logo'd rod!

After the awards where all handed out, we had a silent auction. There were a lot of great gifts that people and kids bid on! Thanks to all of the board members who helped out to make this event a great success, and thanks to the sponsors who donated items: Liteco Electric, Rush Truck Center, Citizens State Bank, Pro Pest Exterminating, First National Bank of Bellville, Mill Creek Custom Homes, Wittenburg Printing, Chessdale Acres, Prairie Chapter and Brian Weaver from CCA Texas. And a special thanks to Larry and Sandy Wietstruck for the use



year at our 17th Annual Kid Fish! Thanks – Ron Chess, (979) 525-9254

**Redfish Bay
Norman Oates
361-758-0266**

**Rio Grande Valley
Louis Zimmerer
956-373-0799**

Lmz01@yahoo.com

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter has stayed busy through the year. We have several events coming up during the last quarter of 2017.

We will be having our South Padre Island Take a Kid Fishing event on Friday and Saturday October 13-14. Registration and check-in will be on October 13 at Jim's Pier from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm, and October 14 from 7:00 am-9:00 am. Fishing will take place on Saturday, October 14 beginning at 7:00 am until 12:00 pm. The weigh-in will take place at Jim's Pier from 10:00 am- 12:30 pm. You must be in line before 12:30 pm. The cost is \$10 per child and includes their New Tide membership, entry into the 2018 STAR, food and drinks, and a rod/reel combo as the inventory lasts. Please visit www.ccatexas.org/rio-grande-valley, or "like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ccatxrgv.

On October 24, 2017, we



Prairie chapter's KidFish workers had as much fun as the kids.

The 2017 RGV boat is a beautiful 22' Majek Illusion powered by a 175 HP ETEC G2, and it sits on a Coastline Tandem axle trailer. Hope to see you all next



will host a General Membership Meeting at the Elk's Lodge in Weslaco. Come and visit with Texas Parks and Wildlife and CCA Texas representatives as we discuss the current status of the fishery in the Lower Laguna Madre. Biologists will be on hand to discuss the recent results for net and creel surveys, the methods used to determine changes in the management of the fisheries, current trends in the fishery and recent changes in fishery management for the Lower Laguna Madre and the rest of the state. CCA Texas Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot will be there to discuss how changes are made on the legislative and the TPWD Commission levels. CCA Texas Assistant Director and Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow Director John Blaha will also be on hand to give an update on habitat projects up and down the Texas coast, and other CCA news. This is a great opportunity to come and visit your fellow anglers and ask questions you might have about the status of Texas fisheries. For more information, contact John Blaha at (713) 626-4222 or jdblaha@ccatexas.org.

Our 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 26 guns and eight Engel coolers. Tickets are \$100 each, and we are only selling 400 tickets. Winning tickets will be placed back into the tumbler, so you have the chance to win as many times as your ticket is drawn. For more information, contact Ted Sunderland at (956) 463-3552 or alandapart@aol.com.

Lastly, we have our 2018 Boat Giveaway. The boat is a beautiful 22' Majek Illusion powered by a 175 HP ETEC G2, and it sits on a Coastline Tandem axle trailer. We are only selling 600 tickets, and they are \$100 each. The boat will be given away at our 2018 Annual Chapter Banquet on April 26 at the Boggus Ford Events Center. Thank you to L&F Distributors, Ron Hoover RV & Marine, and Majek Boats for helping put this package together once again. For more information, contact Louis Zimmerer at (976) 373-0799 or lmz01@yahoo.com.

**Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855**

**Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908**

Hello all. I hope everyone was able to attend our 2017 Sam Houston Chapter Annual Banquet, held on September 7. We had another great event and had a record amount of people. First off, I want to thank my board for all of their hard work in planning this great event. Tim Buhler, Chuck Godwin, Jason Adams, Jasmin Kolaja, Brittney Buhler, Josh Whittle and our Junior Members Blayne and Mason Buhler – Without your help it would not have been such a success!

If you were unable to make the banquet, I am sure you have or will hear about it. We had some great prizes handed out and some trips of a lifetime won in our live auction! Thanks to all of our sponsors – Texas Slam Sponsor: Wiesner of Huntsville; Redfish sponsors: Faust Distributing, Extreme Signs

& Rigging, Straightline Striping/Ron Tallent, Russ Sorenson- Farm Bureau Insurance, Dealer Solutions, Steely Lumber, Colt Christian, Benny D Rush, Dr. Paul Kooi, Hilltop Icehouse/Janey Wood Photography, Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, Premier Yamaha, REO Spice & Seasoning, Jerry Montgomery; Trout sponsors: Able Ammo, Texas Marine, Bill Fick Ford, Eddy Packing, Napa Huntsville, Advanced Process, D.Smith Services, Huntsville Truck & Tractor, Capital Farm Credit, Walker County Feed & Farm, TCS- Flooring and Design center, Superior Homes Custom, Courageous Renovations, 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

(www.facebook.com/CCASAMHOUSTON/) – In the near future our chapter will be planning something to help our coastal friends who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Happy Fishing and stay safe out on the water – Brandon Kolaja

**San Antonio
Mike Sarosdy 210-863-7288
urodoc@satx.rr.com**

Thanks to all who have contributed in many ways to help the folks on the middle coast who got whacked by Harvey. Chapter volunteers cooked food for thousands; helped clean up debris in Rockport, Port A and Port O'Connor; and helped with tech stuff like restoring electricity in homes. The oysters and fishery will bounce back, but Rockport and Port A will take much longer.

If you get this *Currents* before September 29, join us for our 2nd Annual Hooked on Golf Tournament at the Quarry Golf Club! Call me for last minute details. It is shaping up to be greater than our inaugural CCA Golf outing last year.

Plan to attend our October CCA Social on Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 pm at The Barn Door. CCA Texas Executive Director Robby Byers will be there to give us an update of state-wide issues including TPWD new rules on oysters and a post-Harvey overview. Our second speaker will be Capt. Wayne Davis. Capt. Wayne guides out of Port Mansfield and is also the owner of KWigglers Bait Company. Wayne's presentation will focus on "Empty Stringers Catch and Release Program". This is an initiative that Capt. Wayne is involved in to educate the public on the practice of catch and release in order to preserve the fishery for generations to come. Wayne will share his many years of experience and efforts for a healthy fishery.

September was a trying month for all in Houston and on the Texas coast, but let us count our blessings. And when life gets back to normal, remember to take a kid fishing. – Mike Sarosdy

**San Bernard
Ross Kutach 281-330-0135**

rosskutach@yahoo.com

Hello fellow CCA members and anglers! I hope all is well and that everyone is getting through this hurricane season. Our hearts go out to those who have been impacted by the devastation of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. I think it's great to see how our communities have come together to help those in need. There's no place like Texas and no place like home!

If you can find time to get on the water, make sure to look out for changes in your bay systems. Often storms of this magnitude can move things around that once were not there. Please be safe and always wear your kill switch. Also look out for diving birds. It's that time of year again in which the bait begins to leave the marsh, and the fishing under the birds can be second to none.

Now that the CCA Texas STAR Tournament is complete, we would like to announce the winner of the Middle Coast Teen Trout Division, Junior Board Member Dayne Macha of the San Bernard Chapter! We were pulling for you all summer and are so very proud of you.

Our chapter will be hosting our second social event of the season on October 26 at the American Legion Hall in East Bernard at 6:30 pm. A steak and lobster dinner will be served, and Leslie D. Hartman, Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader for TPWD will be discussing the bay systems of East and West Matagorda. Seats are limited, so call today! Contact William Wilcox at (281) 753-1445 to reserve your seats.

The San Bernard chapter will be hosting our Annual Banquet on the last Thursday of February 2018. As always, we will have pre-sale raffle tickets for this event, and they should be hitting the streets soon. We are finalizing the details on the prizes, so stay tuned. Until then, stay safe, tight lines and fish on! – Ross Kutach, ross.kutach@yahoo.com, (281) 330-0135

**San Gabriel
John Melnar 512- 497-8284**

**San Jacinto
Jim Wilson 713-828-7639**

**Southwestern
Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228**

**TAMU
Ian Kocher 512-632-9222
ikocher12@gmail.com**

**Texas State University
Travis James 832-909-5833**

**Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 832-571-7638**

Tri-County



Special Gift for New
LIFE MEMBERS
brought to you by

ENGEL
COOLERS

THE Original HIGH PERFORMANCE COOLER COMPANY



For a limited time, a CCA Texas Life Member
(\$1,000 + \$25 shipping) can receive
a 123 qt. Engel Cooler OR an 80 qt. Engel
Cooler with 4 (30 oz.) Engel Tumblers
Tax Deductible amount: \$430

Please expect 3-4 weeks for delivery. No P.O. Box addresses

You MUST return this form to the CCA office completely filled out to receive your gift (This offer is NOT available online.)

CCALifeMember APPLICATION

Name _____

CCA Member ID# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Method of Payment \$1,025.00

☐ Cash ☐ Check Credit Card : ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please Choose ONE of the
following Options:

☐ 123 qt. Engel Cooler
OR

☐ 80 qt. Engel Cooler
& 4 (30 oz.) Tumblers

CCA Texas | 6919 Portwest Dr., Ste. 100 | Houston, TX 77024
Phone 713.626.4222 | afritchman@ccatexas.org | www.CCATexas.org



A RUM INSPIRED BY POSSIBLY THE WORLD'S GREATEST ADVENTURER.

Papa's Pilar is an award-winning high-end sipping rum inspired by Papa's spirit for adventure. Crossing the Caribbean in his yacht, the Pilar, Papa's restless spirit and sea-faring exploits inspired us to rediscover the finest rums from his favorite ports of call. In true Hemingway spirit, the Hemingway Family donates 100% of their profits from Papa's Pilar Rum to charity.

LIVE RESPONSIBLY. DRINK RESPONSIBLY. HEMINGWAYS®, PAPA'S PILAR® AND NEVER A SPECTATOR® ARE TRADEMARKS OF HEMINGWAY LTD. NEW YORK, NY 10001. © 2016. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE ART OF SMALL BATCH DISTILLING

WE PROUDLY
SUPPORT THE
CCA
TEXAS



REDFISH SIPPER
1.5 OZ DRIPPING SPRINGS ORANGE
1.5 OZ CRANBERRY JUICE
3.0 OZ ORANGE JUICE

**SPECKLED
TROUT COOLER**
2 OZ DRIPPING SPRINGS GIN
PINEAPPLE JUICE
SPLASH OF GRENADINE



**TASTE AWARD WINNING DRIPPING SPRINGS
VODKA AND GIN ON A DISTILLERY TOUR.**
Book Tickets at www.drippingspringsvodka.com



Distilled and bottled by our twin spirits in dripping springs, TX. Vodka 80 Proof, Orange 70 Proof, Gin 65 Proof.





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.

Despite popular myths,
bananas possess no fish-frightening powers.

Just vitamins. And potassium.

So go ahead.

Bring your snack aboard.

Forget superstition. You have science.
You have the clarity of 580 technology.

COSTA | 

Christian Hildebrand 830-534-2730

Trinity Bay
Gerald Payne 281-728-6278

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

Trinity Valley
John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528

West Houston
Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434

West Texas
Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499

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 McDonnold



Longtime CCA donors Capt. Scott Sommerlatte and flyfishing instructor/guide Anthony Grice send a tournament redfish back for future duties.

SERIOUS COOL



HIGH PERFORMANCE COOLERS, BACKPACKS, DRYBOXES, AC/DC FRIDGE FREEZERS & TUMBLERS

ENGEL Coolers high performance coolers & drinkware are built for more than just keeping things cold. Rugged, durable, and heavy duty. When the heat cranks up, ENGEL is here to cool things down.

ENGEL
THE Original HIGH PERFORMANCE COOLER COMPANY



Phone 561-743-7419 • www.engelcoolers.com

Great Foods Recipes sponsored
by Costa Del Mar
Liz Hewitt, Editor

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 Tsp. garlic powder
- ½ Tsp. 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.*



LARGEST POLARIS DEALER IN TEXAS



www.hpolaris.com | 866.522.8793

2114 Hwy. 84 • Goldthwaite, TX 76844

Store Hours: Monday-Friday: 8a - 6p

Saturday: 8a - 5p

Sunday: Closed



Hoffpauir
Outdoor Superstore



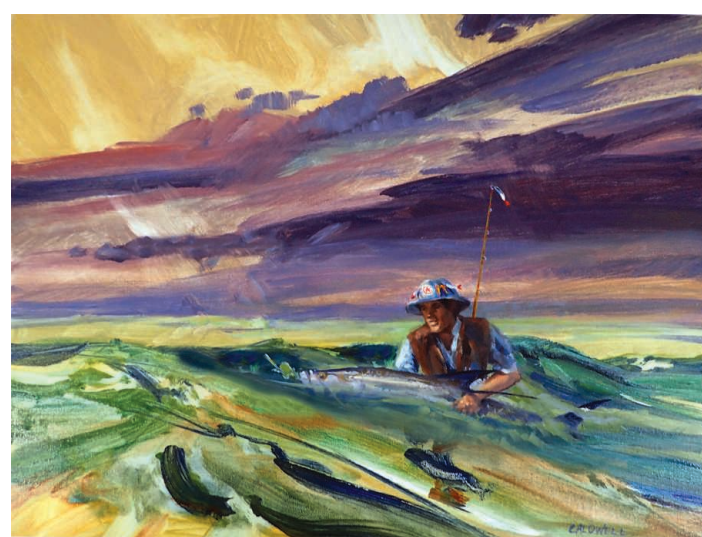
BEN KOCIAN

Fine Art, Fishing Lure Art Cases,
Humorous illustrations, Collectables



(Port-O'Connor) Boat Ramp Parody
18"x 10.75" \$ 100

BenKocian.com



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.



www.samcaldwell.com

Texas State Artist 2004

DU State Artist 2010-2011

Dallas CCA Sportsman Conservationist 2015

2016 Perry R. Bass Wall of Fame

281-455-9390

A deal worth looking into.



**Tilson supports
CCA Texas.**

With FREE upgrades
worth \$1,000 toward
anything in our design
center for members!

Like you, Tilson is committed to preserving our world for future generations. That's
why we'd like to thank all CCA Texas members for your efforts with a special offer.
Visit our website, call, or stop by one of our model home centers and speak with a
sales consultant to see what Tilson can build for you.

TILSON
Family Owned Since 1932

1.888.540.6705 | www.Tilson-CCA.com

Gulf Coast Angleton, Houston, Spring, Katy, Bryan

Central Texas Boerne, San Marcos, Georgetown

North Texas McKinney, Midlothian, Weatherford

Offer available for new contracts only. Not retroactive. Cannot be combined with any other offers.
To qualify for discount, you must present the original ad and bring in your current CCA membership card.



Tilson Homes is a proud supporter of the CCA Texas and the STAR Fishing Tournament.





Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Suite 100 / Houston, TX 77024

CURRENTS NEWSLETTER

October / November 2017

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TEXAS
PERMIT 2532



Bedrock of the Bays: oyster health enhanced by signing of House Bill 51



U.S. Coast Guard

Air & Sea Rescue

National Response Center: 800-874-2143
Port Isabel: 956-761-2668
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:
boating emergencies, chemical and
oil spills: 361-888-3162
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
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.
PRINT 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.

NEW TIDE / Star: \$10 _____
Members 17 and under only Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
Same as above, plus "FREE" STAR Tournament entry. Age: _____ Date of birth: _____

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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