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Red Snapper Permits Under Review

Gulf States may be on the road to management program solutions—determined by the states

By Advocacy Director
Shane Bonnot

At the Gulf Council meeting in late January, each of the five Gulf States submitted applications for recreational red snapper Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), which would allow the states to manage their portion of the Gulf-wide recreational fishing quota.

The EFPs, covering the 2018 and 2019 fishing years, will allow recreationally caught red snapper to be landed within certain time periods determined by the respective states. They are an excellent opportunity for each state to test their respective data collection and quota monitoring methodologies. Red snapper landings would be monitored by the states and the state seasons would close when a state’s quota is caught or projected to be caught. These studies are intended to demonstrate the effectiveness of state management of recreationally caught red snapper. The approach to the management of the recreational red snapper season varies according to the needs of individual states, with some states requiring electronic reporting and enrollment in surveys, having split seasons or weekends only landings.

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) requested 1,056,495 pounds, round weight, of red snapper to be used by the private angling and Federal for-hire components. The red snapper private angling season in state waters begins January 1 each year. Historically, the federal recreational red snapper season starts on June 1st, a time of the year

Once published, we will send an email with detailed information and instructions on how to provide public comment.

where offshore weather conditions are not favorable for red snapper fishing. TPWD, working through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, proposes to prohibit red snapper caught in Federal waters from being landed in Texas until sometime after June 1 in 2018. At that time, a season will be established allowing red snapper from federal waters to be landed. In 2019, the recreational season could possibly start prior to June 1 to take advantage of better weather conditions that occur off Texas in the winter and spring and would be determined by the state at a later date.

TPWD will host public meetings on March 27th in the Houston area, Corpus Christi and Port Isabel to review the Texas EFP. CCA Texas will send an email out to all membership, detailing opportunities to provide public comment at the public meetings and online. Your support for state management under the EFP is needed and we hope that you take the time to provide favorable comment. Thank you all for what you do to promote conservation and sound fisheries management.

Thanks to Brush Country CCA for “Brandon’s first snapper.”

Is That a Hatchery Fish?


Fish stock enhancement (introducing hatchery-reared fish into the wild) is a fisheries management tool that is used around the world to help supplement and enhance fish populations. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) operates three coastal fish hatcheries that spawn, raise and release (stock) hatchery-reared red drum, spotted seatrout and southern flounder fingerlings (young fishes 1.5 to 2 inches total length in size) into Texas bays and estuaries.

The hatchery process starts with the capture of adult fish (broodfish) from the wild to be used as spawners in a controlled hatchery setting. Red drum and spotted seatrout broodfish are sourced annually as needed from coastal waters using traditional hook and line.

Another method employed to collect red drum are longlines in offshore waters. Longline fishing is a commercial fishing technique that uses a long line (essentially a trolline) that is deployed with many hooks. TPWD employs longlines as one of several sampling gears used in the department’s continuous monitoring of Texas coastal waters. Acquiring southern flounder broodfish is a little trickier.

Hatchery staff utilize local guides and an airboat outfitted with many lights to locate flounder and then land them with hand nets to minimize injuries.

Once captured and transported to the hatcheries, a small fin clip is removed from each fish for genetic identification. Broodfish are placed into hatchery tanks and placed on a 130-day photoperiod (light) and temperature maturation/spawning cycle. After this conditioning period, broodfish routinely start spawning and can produce tens-of-thousands of fertilized eggs per night. Viable eggs are collected by hatchery staff, incubated, and hatched, and larvae are reared to fingerling size in outdoor culture ponds. In addition to volitional spawning, southern flounder are routinely strip spawned by hatchery staff to maximize production efforts.
The CCA Marine Development Center (MDC), located in Corpus Christi, and Sea Center Texas (SCT) in Lake Jackson house all the broodfish maintained for the stocking programs. Both facilities follow similar protocols for broodfish care and management. Red drum collected from the lower coast (Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, and Upper and Lower Laguna Madre) are maintained at the MDC while red drum acquired from the upper coast (Sabine Lake, Galveston, Matagorda and San Antonio Bays) are housed at SCT.

In an effort to take a conservative approach, spotted seatrout and southern flounder are kept separated at the hatcheries based on the bay from which they were collected. Fingerlings cultured from those fishes are stocked only into the specific bay where the broodfish were obtained.

Starting in 2002, research was initiated in collaboration with Texas A&M University researchers (Dr. John Gold and his research team) to develop genetic markers for identification of hatchery-reared red drum collected from Texas bays utilizing hatchery fin clip samples. Based on that genetic work, red drum collected from Texas bays can be identified as either of hatchery or wild origin. TPWD used this genetic tool as a way to assess survival rates of hatchery-reared red drum released into Texas bays.

TPWD Coastal Fisheries management staff used gill nets during the spring and fall seasons (2005-2009) to capture red drum in Texas bays for genetic analysis. Only red drum collected measuring less than 19.7 inches total length (age – 1 year old) were included in the research studies. Results from the most recent study (2014) indicated that an average of 4.6% ± 2.2% of the fish caught in gill nets were of hatchery origin, with a range of 0.28%-17.65%, depending on bay, year and season. Because there are many factors affecting fingerling survival (i.e. time of year stocked, fingerling size, stocking habitat, etc.), considerable variation was found to occur between stocking events. This powerful genetic tool was used as a scientific approach to validate that the hatchery program is contributing to the wild red drum stocks in Texas waters, and odds are “That’s a hatchery fish.”

Hatchery Fun Facts

> TPWD Coastal Fisheries Stock Enhancement Program (Coastal Hatcheries) release approximately 25 million red drum and spotted seatrout fingerlings annually in coastal waters from Sabine Lake to the Lower Laguna Madre.
> TPWD Coastal Hatcheries have year-round fingerling production, releasing red drum and spotted seatrout fingerlings from May – November and southern flounder fingerlings from December – April.
> TPWD Coastal Hatcheries care for over 120 red drum broodstock, 350 spotted seatrout broodstock and 300 southern flounder broodstock.
> Around 35 days after hatching, a flounder larvae will undergo metamorphosis as the larvae’s right eye begins to migrate. The eye remains on the outside surface of the fish, and the tissues and skeletal structures in the head break down and rebuild, allowing the optic nerve to follow the right eye to the left side of the head.
> Nearly 900 million fingerlings have been released in coastal waters from 1983 to present.
> While the production cost per fish varies with each species and the size of the fish produced, the overall cost per red drum and spotted seatrout fingerling produced and stocked by the Stock Enhancement program is approximately $0.10.
> Fingerling release sites are determined by Coastal Fisheries managers and are based on bag seine data, gill net data, and sport angler harvest catch rates from the monitoring program used to determine stocking densities.
> Red drum and spotted seatrout larvae grow an average of 1 mm/day in spring and 2 mm/day in summer.
> CCA is a proud partner of the TPWD Coastal Hatcheries and has been instrumental in the construction of facilities and development of programs.
> Sea Center Texas (Lake Jackson) is open to the public (free) and will provide hatchery tours upon request. The CCA Marine Development Center (Corpus Christi) will provide hatchery tours by appointment only. Both facilities have a visitor center and public fishing in stocked ponds.
CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust Commit $895,000 to Habitat Work in 2018

By John Blaha

CCA Texas’ habitat program, Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT), and CCA’s National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust (BCT), recently met to lay out the 2018 Habitat Work Plan. The committee reviewed numerous projects and ultimately approved $895,000 in funding for nine projects that will create over $3.6 million in habitat work covering the Texas coast from Sabine to the Rio Grande Valley.

Partnerships always play a vital role in habitat creation and restoration. CCA Texas and BCT are proud to continue working with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef (FRGVR), and Harte Research Institute (HRI).

$10,000 – Vancouver Nearshore Reefing Site (TPWD)
Atlantis Marine Habitats has donated 40+ reefing pyramids to be reefed in TPWD’s Nearshore Reefing Program’s Vancouver site, located just off the Freeport Jetties. These pyramids will be reefed within the site at coordinates designated by TPWD. The Vancouver site was one of CCA Texas’ first deployment sites for artificial reefing. Materials within this site include an old ship, concrete culverts and rip rap, large granite blocks and 800 concrete pyramids. CCA Texas and BCT will contract directly with Lil Mo Marine Services to deploy these reefing pyramids, and this project is anticipated to be completed in March 2018.

$25,000 – Dickinson Bayou Marsh Grass Planting (TPWD)
CCA Texas and BCT continue to provide support for projects that they have partnered on in the past. This support continues when project needs arise that must be addressed in order to preserve the efforts initially set forth. TPWD’s Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration effort is one such project. The original project restored 10 acres of marsh and protected an additional 18 acres of existing marsh. Successful marsh grass plantings took place, and the restored habitat was thriving. This effort will replant marsh grasses that were damaged by the historical flooding of 2017. It is expected to be completed in 2018.

$40,000 – Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline (GBF)
This Galveston Bay Foundation-led project provides multiple purposes that restore and protect the area marsh while also providing educational opportunities to the local community. This project will create 1,200 linear feet of shoreline breakwater and provide the opportunity to restore up to 2 acres of estuarine intertidal marsh. As part of the Trinity Bay Discovery Center, the project will provide educational opportunities to area teachers, students and the community. It is projected that 800 students, 80 teachers and 65 family members
will visit this site in 2018. To date, 630 students and 65 teachers have already registered to visit the site. Other funding partners of this project include US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program.

$60,000 – Nueces Bay Demonstration/Restoration Oyster Reef Project (CBBEP)
Partnering with Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, a small two to three acre oyster reef project will be created for research, demonstration and community outreach. This effort will serve as a baseline indicator of the ability to construct and enhance existing oyster reefs within the Nueces Bay system. In addition, it will provide community outreach through education by involving local students in oyster bagging events and shell placement. This project is anticipated to reach completion in 2018, and monitoring of the site will continue into the next two to three years.

$60,000 - Baffin Bay’s Unique Serpulid Reef Habitat: Science to Advance Understanding and Conservation (HRI)
During recent studies in Baffin Bay, the serpulid reef habitat began to spark the interest of Harte Research Institute scientists and researchers. This funding will support the following:
1) Assessment of invertebrate reef communities, including density, diversity, and biomass at several reef sites over time
2) Linking changes in reef communities to seasonal and/or water quality changes
3) Conducting dietary analyses of fisheries species to assess the importance of reef communities as prey resources.

The health of the Baffin Bay system may depend heavily on the success of its rare serpulid reefs. An understanding of the ecological role of serpulid reef communities, in particular as a prey resource, will improve fishery resource management and improve our ability to conserve these rare, naturally occurring, hard-substratate habitats.

$100,000 Sabine Lake Restored Oyster Reef Expansion (TPWD)
TPWD has taken broad steps in the last several years in oyster reef creation and restoration, as well as management of this critically important habitat. This project will create additional oyster habitat in the southwest corner of the remaining 27 acres in the lease area of Sabine Reef. This funding will provide 833 to 1,666 cubic yards of reef to be laid in Sabine Lake. Early deployments of material in this area have shown success in oyster reef growth and other ecological services. This area has not been commercially harvested in 40 years, however Louisiana is considering commercial harvest in this area once again, and this step is a proactive step in offsetting any potential habitat loss on the Louisiana side of the border.

$150,000 Rio Grande Valley Reef Material Deployment (FRGVR)
Friends of Rio Grande Valley Reef continues to lead the way in supporting and reefering the Rio Grande Valley Nearshore Reef site. CCA Texas and BCT have been partners in this project since day one, and to date they have contributed $255,000 to the effort. This additional contribution of $150,000 will help FRGVR continue to deploy low and high relief materials to the site. Plans are currently in progress to deploy more low relief concrete rubble and 7,000 tons of concrete railroad ties. This will provide a high relief complex reef area that will attract many species of fish. Reefing is expected to begin in the spring of 2018. The Rio Grande Valley Reef continues to show the results of grassroots efforts of driven volunteers.

$200,000 Sabine Pass HI20 Nearshore Reefing Project (TPWD)
CCA Texas and BCT will work with TPWD and local volunteer groups to reef the newly permitted HI20 nearshore reefing site. The first phase of reefing will include 200 granite blocks, which will be reefed in the northwest quadrant of the site. The barge will be deployed in the center of the 160 acre site. An ongoing effort is in place to garner support of local industries to continue reefing this nearshore site as materials become available.

$250,000 Big Man Nearshore Reefing Site (TPWD)
With this $250,000 commitment to the Big Man Nearshore site, CCA Texas and BCT have now committed and funded over $1.5 million to nearshore reefing along the Texas coast. In addition, another $250,000 has been contributed to the research of these reefs to determine the best configurations and the ecological and economic value of these sites.

The Big Man Reef is a new 160 acre site off the Galveston coast. This site, along with its sister site, Kate’s Reef, will provide easy access for Galveston area anglers to nearshore species and opportunities. Kate’s Reef is expected to be permitted by the end of 2018, and reefing will then begin there.

The first phase of reefing at Big Man’s Reef will be the deployment of concrete railroad tiles, which will provide complex low and mid relief habitat. Reefing is expected to take place in 2018.

CCA Texas and BCT are excited to continue their Natural Partnership and work with partners along the entire Texas coast to restore and create critical habitat. For funding opportunities and project questions, we encourage you to contact Sean Stone, Building Conservation Trust Executive Director at (713) 626-4234, or John Blaha, CCA Texas Habitat Director, at (713) 626-4222 with any questions you might have.
CCA Texas Social Happenings

CCA Texas is off and running full speed ahead into banquet season! Be sure to follow us on social media, listen to our podcast “Coastal Advocacy Adventures” and visit youtube.com/CCA Texas Projects to view our habitat video page, which shows videos of our projects done in partnership with CCA’s National Habitat Program Building Conservation Trust and several other great partners.

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:
Thank you to everyone who came out this weekend and helped with another productive Crab Trap Cleanup! It’s because of our dedicated volunteers and partners that we are able to do great work along the Texas coast.

Twitter:
@TIFRTV: It’s almost that time of year again. Make sure you and your kiddos are registered to be CCA Members before the CCA Star Tournament starts!
@CCA_Texas #ThursdayThoughts

Instagram:
@cca_texas: Dr. Mark Fisher is the Director of the Science Group in the @texasparkswildlife - Coastal Fisheries Division. Swim over to our Facebook page, our website or SoundCloud, and listen in to the CCA Texas podcast “Coastal Advocacy Adventures,” as Dr. Fisher gives us a quick overview of our coastal fisheries and shares some perspectives on both Hurricane Harvey and the recent cold snaps. Lots of excellent information is shared in this quick episode!
#ccatexas #joincca #conservation

Facebook: facebook.com/CCA Texas
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Instagram: instagram.com/cca Texas
YouTube: youtube.com/cca Texas Projects
Podcast: Coastal Advocacy Adventures

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CCA Communicators Dominate Top State Awards — Again

South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center, League City, Texas — Kim Philippi, Heather Peterek, Pat Murray, Shane Bonnot and Sam Caldwell took major wins against tough competition. If you thought your TIDE magazines and CURRENTS newsletters had nice work last year, the experts agreed with you.

Category 3: Outdoor Photography, Open/1st Place: Pat Murray, “Red Sky by Morning,” TIDE Magazine. Judges’ comments: “What better way...to scan all the possibilities in our vast outdoors.”

Category 4: Outdoors Radio/3rd Place: Shane Bonnot, “Coastal Advocacy Adventures Podcast” Judges’ Comments: “Bonnot had a winner when he reviewed speckled trout in Galveston Bay.”


Judges’ Comments: Heather’s illustration: “We never want to meet an isopod, much less a giant one.”

Caldwell’s painting: “Caldwell’s work jumps out at you…screams realistic in an abstract way...”

Category 7: Outdoor Publication— Under 25,000: 2nd Place: Heather Peterek / Rising TIDE Magazine. Judges’ Comments: “Photos, Articles and Activities, Oh My!”

Category 8: Outdoor Publication— Over 25,000: 2nd Place: Pat Murray, TIDE Magazine 3rd Place: Sam Caldwell, CURRENTS Newsletter. Judges’ Comments: “TIDE...excellent photography; the cover photo was priceless...” CURRENTS: “Accomplishes its mission in a professional and informative manner.”

Category 10: Outdoor Column/Opinion Writing — Honorable Mention, Pat Murray, TIDE Magazine: “Don’t Forget to Fish.” Judges’ Comments: “How simple can you say it.”

Category 12: Magazine Feature — Honorable Mention, Heather Peterek, TIDE Magazine: “Catch, Cook, Eat.” Judges’ Comments: “…good recipe…the lifeblood of magazine features.”

Category 14: Outdoor News Reporting—3rd Place: Shane Bonnot, CURRENTS Newsletter / “Sustainability of the Oyster Fishery.” Judges’ Comments: “Shane Bonnot covers the impact of HB 51 on the Texas Oyster Fishery like morning dew lowering over the bay.”

Category 16: Outdoor Webpage—Kim Philippi and Heather Peterek seized all the awards in this important outdoor news category. 1st Place: Kim Philippi, “Building Conservation Trust Website” 2nd Place: Heather Peterek, “Coastal Conservation Association Website.”


Join Hank Williams Jr, Eddie Money, Molly Hatchet and 3,000 of your closest friends for a great musical evening.

Tickets available at ccatexas.org or shrp.com
April is a month I look forward to along the upper coast because of the changes. Water temperatures are rising, baitfish are showing up by the thousands and the fish will eat a lure.

The Galveston Bay system is full of man-made structure that I focused on in March and will continue to do so through April and May. Dredged canals, boat docks, rock walls, concrete drains, bulkheads and concrete inlets get my attention. High concentrations of bait gather at these points, and gamefish follow. A run and gun method of fishing catches these buffets and will load the boat with fish.

Not all boat docks or canals hold fish and bait, so you have to find them. In a day’s time, my Mercury motor will let me cover 20 spots to find the best fishing and I don’t want anyone with that kind of negativity around me!

Later in the morning, I’ll start working grass beds farther out from the shore, watching for slicks and bait action. If I have boat fisherman and the winds are kind, I like to drift a 55-acre reef that we call the new Half Moon Reef. In the spring it can produce plenty of action and a nice box of fat speckled trout. Top waters work great early but live shrimp under a Mid-Coast popping cork is the real ticket.

The past couple of years, May has produced a good number of big trout drifting the east end of East Matagorda Bay. Once again, look for schools of bait and small slicks. Plastic on 1/4 or 3/8 ounce lead heads or live shrimp under a popping cork with a three foot leader work best. Make long drifts until you mark fish.

May also marks the time when I start fishing for tripletail in West Matagorda Bay. The best way to catch them is to be standing in my boat with your check in my pocket. Hey, I just call ‘em the way I see ‘em. Regardless of what you do, you can’t go wrong fishing Matagorda in April and May. Give me a shout and we’ll go fishing. — Capt. Tommy Countz

(281) 450-4037 tcountz@sb.global.net

As the temperatures rise in south Texas, so does the water level and the wind speed. The flats will soon be teeming with baitfish, and predators will follow. Trout and redfish will be found near the largest concentrations of bait and will be hungry.

There are several keys to successfully targeting these fish on the flats. The number one key is baitfish. Find the bait and you will find the fish.

The wind tends to dictate where to search for bait. When the wind speeds exceed 20-mph, my search is shallow. These waters will hold fishable water clarity and offer more opportunity for daily success. Grass lines adjacent to sand flats are a great option. Also, look for areas with grass and potholes. If the bait is there, so are the fish. Patience is necessary as well. While fishing amongst large concentrations of bait, you must slow down and plug away. After all, there is plenty of competition in the water.

I like to start my days throwing a top water lure. The Spook One Knocker is a great choice. Remember that each day is different, so try varying retrieves until you find the one they like. If the surface bite is not on, I’ll switch over to soft plastic rigged on a 1/16 or 1/8 leadhead.

When the wind speeds are light, try deeper grass beds. Often the bait isn’t visible in these areas. Shrimp and piggy perch hide in these grass beds and attract trout and reds. Soft plastics bounced near the bottom will work great for these fish.

With the warmer weather comes the larger crowds. Remember to be courteous to other fishermen and fellow boaters. Respect the fragile resource, and practice catch and release. Only keep what you intend to eat. — Captain Danny Neu

(979) 942-0165 dneutcharters@yahoo.com

Abandoned Crab Traps:
16 years of CCA Successes

Ronnie Luster — Volunteers were able to remove more than 1,040 abandoned, derelict, or lost crab traps from the San Antonio Bay system alone. Statewide this year, some 1,600 traps were collected and destroyed. What a great job Allan Berger and Dan Alonso carried out in San Antonio Bay area. San Antonio Bay Foundation Executive Director Dan Alonso secured funding to hire Daniel Flying Service of Tivoli to conduct an aerial survey. There were more than 1,000 traps after this many years of picking traps up in the same area. This just demonstrates how important it is to continue the program annually. There will be abandoned and ghost traps, as long as commercial crapping is permitted.

Norman Boyd — Volunteers came from all parts of Texas. Many organizations volunteered time and private boats in the annual cleanup effort of San Antonio Bay. Statewide, some 203 volunteers participated with 44 boats. GPS coordinates from an aerial survey helped concentrate efforts. Since 2002, volunteers have removed 32,705 abandoned traps from Texas waters.

Bill Moore — As usual, the Port O’Connor CCA chapter was on hand at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Docks to assist on Saturday, February 17. The chapter provided lunch for all who showed up. Thanks to all who participated, both at the docks and on the water. Also a special thanks to Norman Boyd of TPWD for the use of their facilities and their assistance.
The 29th Annual CCA State of Texas Anglers’ Rodeo Early Bird Registration Deadline is FRIDAY, APRIL 27!

Spring tides and summer day dreams seem to be the constant theme this time of year. Another constant is change, and this year’s STAR Tournament is no different!

This year we are pleased to announce Evinrude will be joining us as the newest CCA Texas STAR partner! Evinrude has stepped up to sponsor all three Trout Division boats, the Early Bird boat and the Member Bonus Drawing boat! Be on the lookout for great things to come from Evinrude for CCA members, and don’t forget to check out their G2 technology.

We have another very exciting announcement in the STAR world. We are officially rolling out the brand new STAND-ALONE 2018 CCA Texas Guides Division in STAR. Eligible guides will be putting their best efforts forward to help put you on the best fish that they possibly can, not only so you win in STAR, but so they can have their chance to win a Mowdy 26’ CAT, Mercury 225 hp ProXS outboard and custom Coastline trailer. When you win, they can win! Talk about giving your guide a great tip... Check out www.startournament.org for more details on rules and eligibility.

Note: The addition of the CCA Texas Guides Division does not affect any other STAR category, and guides are still excluded from participating in the rest of the tournament.

Remember, to be eligible to WIN one of $1,000,000 in prizes being offered in Texas’ largest, richest, summer-long fishing event, you must be a CURRENT member of CCA, in addition to being registered in the 2018 Texas STAR tournament. CCA membership is $35 annually, and the 2018 STAR Tournament fee is $25, for a total of only $60. Remember though, YOUNG ANGLERS FISH STAR FOR FREE. Anglers between the ages of 6-17 can register for STAR for free with a $10 CCA “Youth” annual membership. We want to help get all young people out on the water, and we wouldn’t be able to offer our CCA “Youth” members the chance to win one of $1,000,000 in prizes for FREE if it wasn’t for our great sponsors. To be eligible to fish STAR for free, “Youth” members MUST BE at least 6 years of age in 2018 and under age 18. It is the “Youth” members responsibility to make sure their CCA membership is current and that they are registered for the current year STAR tournament.

As you make your plans to head off to stock up on gear and register for STAR if you haven’t already, be sure to be on the lookout for a very special bonus from our great sponsor Academy Sports + Outdoors, where you can find any gear you might need and register in person in one quick stop.

2018 Early Bird Drawing! Remember if you sign up by April 27 at midnight you are automatically entered into our “Early Bird” prize drawings. We are again offering the awesome GRAND PRIZE of a Dargel 210 Skout with a 150 hp Evinrude E-TEC G2 and a McClain trailer. See a list of some of the other great “Early Bird” prizes that we are offering below! (2018 STAR early bird drawing deadline to enter is April 27.)

Early Bird Grand Prize
Dargel 210 Skout, 150 hp EVINRUBE E-TEC G2 and McClain Trailer

PLUS 20 More Great Prizes:
9.9 hp Mercury Kicker Motor
Three (3) rod and reel combos
Thermo-Electric Travel Cooler & Warmer
Fifteen (15) CCA Special Edition Posters

CCA Texas Membership Benefits— On top of helping to make this event what it is, our amazing sponsors continue to add value to your CCA Texas Membership. Remember to take advantage of the following benefits our sponsors provide you with your CCA membership!

Ford X-Plan Pricing— CCA Texas members will again have the great honor from 1xas Ford Dealers of using X-Plan pricing, for just a $39 membership, any CCA member can purchase (or lease) a Ford vehicle at Ford employee pricing! Depending on your chosen vehicle, this could save you $100s or $1,000s! Our Ford Partner Code is 9 is CCA 61; go to www.fordpartner.com if you are considering a purchase.

Academy Sports + Outdoors— CCA Texas members are invited to visit Academy Sports + Outdoors and get $10 off* a $10 gift card in May just in time for fishing season! Thanks again to Academy Sports + Outdoors for this great benefit...and sponsoring THREE $25,000 SCHOLARSHIPS, PLUS ALL OF THE RUNNER-UP PRIZES!

Whataburger - CCA Texas members yet again get to enjoy delicious Whataburger coupons in the June/July issue of Currents.

Texas Fish & Game Magazine “Bonus Online Subscription!” - Not many people can say no to free stuff, and Texas Fish & Game Magazine is again offering a FREE one-year (12 issues) online subscription to all 2018 CCA Texas STAR participants. This subscription gives you access to the latest and most in-depth outdoor information anywhere. Whether you are lying in bed or sitting in the office, you will always have access. Include your email address on your registration form to receive your free subscription! If you prefer the print version, don’t worry! You can still receive a print version, along with online access, for only $8 a year (vs. $17.99). Be on the lookout in your email or mailbox for details on how to activate this offer! If you have any questions regarding your past or current subscriptions, please call (800) 725-1134, or email subscriptions@fishgame.com.

Tilson Homes $1,000 in Free Upgrades! Every CCA Texas member who purchases a Tilson Home is eligible for $1,000 in free upgrades, such as ceramic tile, hardwood floors, cabinets and more. See their ad in the CCA Texas Currents newsletter for more details or call 1 (866) 540 6710.

2018 Prize Line-Up— Our goal has always been to keep S1AR fees as reasonable as possible. We would not be able to do this without our great sponsors! In 2002, we were able to begin offering youth (ages 6-17) the opportunity to fish the tournament for FREE! This year marks 29 years we have been blessed to offer members of all ages amazing prize packages and college scholarships. This year’s tournament will be no different, as we will be offering another spectacular prize line-up! This includes over 100 prizes, such as trucks, boats, motors, trailers and $325,000 in college scholarships in the following categories:

Texas Ford Dealers Redfish Division — 1xas Ford Dealers continue to make this division the “Best in Texas!” The first five registered S1AR participants who catch a tagged redfish will receive a tough 2018 Ford F-150 Texas Edition truck to tow their awesome Haynie 23 Bigfoot, rigged with

a Mercury ProXS OptiMax sitting on a Coastline trailer. The next five anglers will receive the same boat, motor and trailer package. Registered young anglers not of legal driving age who land a STAR tagged redfish, will receive the boat package plus a $25,000 college scholarship, in lieu of the truck.

**Trout Division** — Again this year, upper, middle, and lower coast region winners will each drive home with an awesome Mowdy 22’ V boat, 150 HP Evinrude motor and Coastline trailer (Eight pound minimum weight, please release all fish under 28”).

**Offshore Division** - Hoffpaur Auto & Outdoor Store is back again providing anglers who land the heaviest kingfish, durado and ling an awesome Polaris Ranger Crew 570 EPS UV in Polaris Pursuit Camo on top of a Big tex 25sa trailer to cruise around in when you’re back onshore!

**Inshore Division** — Registered anglers who turn in the heaviest flounder, gafftop and sheephead will get to drive off into the sunset pulling a new Sholwater 19’ Cat boat with a 115 HP motor, all on top of a McClain trailer.

**StarKid Division** (ages 6-10, $150,000 Total):
- **Flounder Division** - $50,000 scholarship for heaviest flounder!
- **Gafftop Division** - $50,000 scholarship for heaviest gafftop!
- **Sheephead Division** - $50,000 scholarship for heaviest sheephead!

**StarTeen Division** (ages 11-17, $175,000 Total):
- **Academy Sports + Outdoors Trout Division** - $25,000 scholarship for heaviest trout in upper, middle, and lower coast divisions! (Minimum weight requirement of six pounds for entry)
- **Inshore Division - Gafftop, flounder, and sheephead** - Anglers with heaviest fish in each category will receive a $25,000 college scholarship!

**NEW** CCA Texas Guides Division —
It is the hope of Texas STAR and CCA Texas to be able to reward Texas fishing guides who support marine conservation, and empower them to help recruit more anglers into the CCA mission through this new division. The winner of this division will take home a 26’ Mowdy CAT with a 225 hp Mercury ProXS and Coastline trailer. See www.startournament.org for more details and eligibility requirements!

**THE PRIZES DON’T END THERE!**
First through fourth runners up in all divisions will receive various gift cards from our longtime partner ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS! Youths Member Drawing. All youth STAR participants (age 6-17) are eligible for a bonus drawing for a $25,000 college scholarship, even without wetting a line!

Member Bonus Drawing. One lucky STAR entrant will also take home a brand new Dargel 210 Skout, 150 HP Evinrude E-TEC G2 motor, and McClain trailer simply for registering!

For more information, go to www.startournament.org. Thanks for supporting CCA Texas and the STAR Tournament!

In 2018, STAR will have reached $6,500,000 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!
During the past summer in Calhoun County, game wardens in District 1 filled multiple cases while patrolling state waters in the Gulf of Mexico. During their patrols they also found some gill nets just off the Matagorda Island beach.

While on patrol, Aransas County Game Wardens made contact with an individual in possession of 11 undersized spotted seatrout taken with a cast net. The largest fish was less than 9” in length. Criminal cases and restitution were filed.
TUNE IN:
CCA Texas Sponsors TV Series

Premiers April 5
Thursdays 10:30pm-11:30pm
Fridays 5-6pm
Saturdays 7-8am

Watch Us Online
Alvin-Pearland
Rex Richards
alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

By the time you are reading this, quite a bit will
have already happened with the Alvin/Pearland
Chapter in 2018. We will have already had two
"Anglers’ Night Out" events, elected a new
Chapter President and set the date for our 2018
Fundraising Banquet!

First off, we would like to thank Emery
Sadler for leading our Chapter as President for
the last three years – Great Job Emery! Second,
we would like to welcome our new Chapter
President, Rex Richards. This is his first time
at this post, so the chapter should be in good
hands!

Thanks go out to the Sea Center Texas
Hatchery Crew and Capt. Steve Gremillion of
'Grem’s Guide Service' for coming out and
speaking to our chapter in February and March.
We have additional “Anglers’ Night Out”
events scheduled for the first Tuesday of the
month on April 3, May 1 and June 5. The meet-
ings will be at Spring Creek BBQ in Pearland
and will begin at 7:00 pm. Come earlier if you
plan to eat.

The 2018 Alvin/Pearland Chapter Annual
Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, June 21,
2018 and will be held at the Knights of Colum-
bus Hall in Pearland. All the banquet details
have not been finalized at this time, but we do
know that we will be serving a delicious steak
dinner by Joe’s BBQ, having a “Sportsman’s Ral-
fle” that will include guns, Engel Coolers and 13
Fishing Reels, and have live and silent auctions,
as well as numerous raffles. This is an event you
won’t want to miss. Mark your calendars now!

If you would like to purchase banquet tick-
ets or Sportsman’s Raffle tickets, reserve a table
for your group/company or make a donation
to our event, please contact Erich Schneider
at (713) 626-4222 or email us at
AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com.

The best way to stay up to date with our
latest Chapter Events is to follow us on Face-
book at www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca,
or go to our chapter webpage at
www.ccaatx.org/alvin-pearland. We are
looking forward to a great 2018. We hope to see
you at one of our events –Don’t forget to bring a
friend, or even better, a kid! – Rex Richards

Aranasas Bay
Bud Kittle 210-279-7309
erneystkittle@gmail.com
Registration for Babes on the Bay is up and run-
ning smoothly! Online registration is used exclu-
sively for this tournament at
www.babesonthabay.com. Remember, one
person registers the entire team. Make sure every-
one’s correct information is provided. The last
day for regular registration is April 15, 2018. All
registrations received after this date and prior
to the April 30, 2018 cutoff date will pay a late
registration fee, so get ‘er done soon. This year’s
Babes on the Bay Tournament is May 18-19 at
Fulton Harbor.

Also, mark your calendars for the Annual
Aranasas Bay Chapter Banquet on August 4,
2018. This year it will be at Camp Aranazru.
Catch ‘em up – Bud

Austin
Josh Cook 512-656-2964
josh@cookrealestatetexas.com
Fellow CCA Members – your wait is nearly over!
The 2018 Austin Chapter Annual Banquet,
presented by Covert Chevrolet, is just around
the corner. Mark your calendar, purchase your
table, and plan to rally for your organization
on May 10, 2018. It was through your support
that the Austin Chapter was able to break the $1
million revenue mark again in 2017. There will
be top-notch food, drinks for all and Charlie Rob-
ison on stage. Up for grabs will be exotic trips,
tons of guns and fishing gear, Yetis, boats, trucks
and over $100,000 worth of raffle items. With all
that on the agenda, the evening will prove to be
exciting. Go to www.ccaustin.org for table and
ticket sales. Seating for this banquet is sure to
sell out, so don’t delay in purchasing your spot!

A special thanks goes out to all of our
generous sponsors. It’s through their commit-
tment to CCA that the Austin Banquet shines
like no other. Space constraints don’t allow us to
acknowledge all of our sponsors in this newslet-
ter, but please take a minute and check out the
complete list of sponsors at
www.ccaustin.org. These folks support the mis-
sion of CCA, and as members of CCA we should
all support their businesses as often as possible.

Shallow Sport has done us proud once
again. Our banquet raffle boat – a 24-foot SCB
Recon, is equipped with an Evinrude G-2
300HP outboard! She has a raised console, a
YETI 125 qt cooler and many other extras, and
sits atop a custom Coslantine tandem axle au-
tomobile trailer! Go to www.ccaustin.org, buy
a ticket, and she may be yours on May 10! Or, if
you find yourself in Buda, visit Cabela’s and get
a first-hand look – she’s sitting out front. There
are limited tickets for a chance to win this be-
ty. So, once again, I suggest you don’t delay!

One final word – be sure to “Like” CCA
Austin on Facebook
facebook.com/CostalConservation
AssociationAustin), and spread the word. See
you on May 10! – Josh Cook

Brazoria County
Welcome new president Dan
Johnson 979-481-3907
djohnson@sparklingclean.com

The 2018 Brazoria Chapter County Annual
Fundraising Banquet is just about to take place
this year at the DOW Academic Center on Fri-
day, April 6! I’d like to extend a big thank you to
all of our sponsors and donors who are helping
make this banquet our best yet! As always, if
anyone is interested in joining our chapter board,
we are always looking for extra hands on deck.
This is a great time to get involved, as we are
working on some new things to offer our com-
munity, and we would love your help. Give me a
call if you are interested. – Dan Johnson

Brazos Valley
John Ben Strother 979-220-1738
jbsunlimited@yahoo.com

Brenham
Brandon Marth 979-277-0151
brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net

Please join us for the 24 Annual Brenham Chap-
ter Banquet on Thursday, April 26, 2018! The
event will be held at 5:30 pm at the Silver Wings
Ballroom and will feature a crawfish boil. For
more information, or to purchase tables/tickets,
contact Brandon Marth at (979) 525-9328 or
brenhamironworks@sbcglobal.net, Rick Hutch-
erson at (979) 451-2323 or rickyhutchens@yahoo.com, or Taylor Rick at
(713) 626-4222 or trick@ccatexas.org. We hope to
see you there! – Brandon Marth

Brush Country
Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037
brendagballard@hotmail.com

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

Central Houston Todd Buster
713-545-1897
tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

The 42nd Annual Central Houston Chapter
CCA Banquet will be held on Thursday, April
26, 2018! We’ve got some exciting changes for
this year’s banquet that we are confident will
make it an even better event. This year we are
raffling a Polaris 900 crew courtesy of Tommy
Vaughn Auto Country & Polaris (photo is not ac-
tual Polaris being raffled). 300 tickets will be
sold at $100 each. If you’re interested in purchasing
raffle tickets or a table, please contact Todd
Buster (tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com) or
Ian Beliveau (ibeliveau@donatominxbrown.com).
– Ian Beliveau

Colorado Valley
Eugene Ulrich 979-249-7425
zeke.ulrich@gmail.com

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Our chapter
recently held a General Membership Meeting
with Capt. Aaron Laine from Brush and Bay
Outfitters. He shared some great fishing tips and
locations with us. We also enjoyed great fellow-
ship and some delicious refreshments spon-
sored by Brown Distributing, Aqua Beverage
Company and V&S Sausage Company.

Our chapter board is very busy planning the
2018 Colorado Valley Chapter Annual Ban-
quet, which will be held at the K of C Hall in
La Grange on Friday May 18 starting at 6:00
pm. Please get your tickets/tables early because
we usually sell out early, and it promises to be
a very fun night again this year! You can con-
tact the following people for tickets: Eugene
Ulrich at (979) 249-7425, Trish Kubena at (512) 581-2588, Rusty Kubena at (512) 581-2878, Gary Janda at (979) 966-2082, Danny Olenick at (979) 249-6851, Dave Fehlker at (512) 468-6782, Kendall Rohde at (979) 966-9688 or Kenneth LeFrance at (512) 332-6917. There also is an electronic order form on our chapter page on the CCA Texas website (www.ccatexas.org/colorado-valley). We are also selling raffle tickets for some great prizes, so contact any of the above persons for them as well. We truly wish to see you at the banquet, making it a great success. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! – Eugene Ulrich

Corpus Christi
Jake Herring 361-244-0258 jakcherring@hotmail.com

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

The Dallas Chapter would like to thank Mariner Sails for hosting our General Membership meeting on March 1, 2018. The Texas Game Wardens came out and kept us all entertained with their stories and answered members’ questions. At the meeting, we were excited to welcome some new faces to the chapter, and we look forward to their continued involvement!

We are all getting excited to celebrate at the 37th Annual Dallas Chapter Banquet set for April 26, 2018. It will be held at a new location, at 6500 Cedar Springs in Dallas near Love Field. We have been fortunate to secure some amazing trips, including an Alaskan fishing trip with Westwind Tugboats, Argentina dove hunts, golf at Southern Hills, billfishing in Panama and Guatemala, and many others. Individual and table tickets are now for sale and can be purchased by contacting Drew Adams at dadams@ccatexas.org.

The 3rd Annual Hooked on Clays sporting clay tournament has been set, and it is scheduled to be held Friday, July 27, 2018 at the Dallas Gun Club. Feel free to contact me for inquiries about the tournament.

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. – Matthew Scherer

East Texas
Welcome new president Dr. James Norman 936-554-3165 jnorman7@uddenlink.net

Fort Bend
Donnie Powers 281-850-9023 dpowers11450@gmail.com

Well, spring is right around the corner, which means that we are hard at it trying to finalize all the details for this year’s Fort Bend Chapter Annual Banquet! Make plans to come out and see us at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on Thursday, April 19, 2018. The crew from Me & Bubbleaux’s will be serving up a shrimp and sausage boil with all the trimmings.

This year’s big raffle features a Sea-Doo GTI SE 130 with custom fishing rack and cooler on a Triton trailer, a Sig Sauer 1911 .45ACP Texas Gold Edition, a Remington Versa Max 12ga., a Browning X-Bolt Stainless Stalker in 6.5 Creedmoor, a Beretta A300 Outlander 12ga., a Sig Sauer P320 compact 9mm, and a Winchester XPR Hunter .243 bolt action. For raffle tickets or info, please contact me at (281) 850-9023 or

Blake Tumlinson at (979) 332-2236. For pre-sale banquet tickets, contact Kyle Johnson at (713) 545-1147. We are looking forward to having another great turn out!!

We are also starting to make plans for our Annual Kid Fish Tournament, as well as Fishing on the Bay. We will announce dates, times, etc. as plans are finalized.

The Fort Bend Chapter meets on the second Thursday of the month at The Swinging Door in Richmond. We welcome all who are interested in attending. For details, feel free to contact me via phone text at (281) 850-9023 or email at dpowers11450@gmail.com – Donnie Powers

Fort Worth
Brad Wallace 817-988-8926 brad@northtexasmarine.com

The Fort Worth Chapter Board of Directors hosted our first ever Spring Crawfish Boil on March 28, 2018 with live music by Erik Willis! This was a change from what we have done for years, providing everyone with a fish fry at a local brewery, so please give us your feedback. MOPAC Events Center was a gracious host and a great new venue to share with our members. We hope you had as much fun as we did!

Thank you to all who were able to make it out as we gear up for the main event - the 2018 Fort Worth Chapter Annual Banquet at Joe Ts. This year’s banquet will be held on May 3, 2018. Reach out to our President - Brad Wallace (brad@northtexasmarine.com), Assistant Director - Taylor Reick (800-626-4222), or myself - John Black (jonathan_black@mi.com) for any questions about the banquet. We have a few sponsorship opportunities available, as well as tables to be filled. We hope you can come out and join us for some incredible live and silent auction items and trips, as well as few fun raffles to be held! – John Black

Galveston
Dr. Ken Ellis 713-962-7731 drkenellis@aol.com

Happy Spring to all! I have a lot of information to share. Our Galveston Kids CCA Tournament is cancelled last year due to Hurricane Harvey. Many people along the Texas coast, and many in our backyard, lost everything and many in our backyard, lost everything and many in our backyard, lost everything. As we slowly made it a great success. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! – Eugene Ulrich

We are looking forward to having an interesting speaker who knows her subject in depth. She is with the Galveston Bay General Meeting.

We will have many great trips to award by doing a drawing for. These will be handed out at lunch. Food, drinks and dead fish will be provided to the kids. The tournament is limited to the first 50 kids, so get be sure to sign up ASAP!

Our Annual Ladies Tournament that was cancelled last year due to Hurricane Harvey will be held on June 22-23, 2018 at Pelican Rest Marina. There will be a Captains Meeting on Friday, and fishing and awards will take place on Saturday.

If that is not enough from your hardworking chapter, the Galveston Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on July 28, 2018 at Moody Gardens! Tickets are available at $100, $150 or $250 for 10 anglers. That evening we will also be giving out the winner of our boat, a 22’’ Mowdy modified V tunnel, with a 4 stroke 150 HP Suzuki, totally rigged up on top of a Coastaline aluminum trailer – Only 400 tickets to be sold! Purchase yours soon before they are all gone.

If you have questions about the tournament, please contact me via phone/text at (713) 499-6869. A robust Sportsman’s Raffle will be our big-ticket item at this year’s banquet. For more information about raffle tickets, please contact T’Noya at ramey.joseph@gmail.com. Go Fish! – Joseph Ramey, (409) 892-3323

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

The Greater Sugar Land Chapter Annual Banquet is just around the corner! It will be held on April 5, 2018 at the Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Rd. in Stafford. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and dinner (crawfish or fried catfish) will be served from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. We will have many great live and silent auction and raffle items. We hope to see you there!

I’m T’Noya Thompson spoke at our February General Meeting. She is with the Galveston Bay Foundation and reviewed their Annual Report Card with us. You can access the report card at www.galvbaygrade.org. T’Noya was a lively and interesting speaker who knows her subject in detail. We all thoroughly enjoyed her presentation! We have a number of upcoming Kid’s Fishes:

Golden Triangle
Welcome new president Joseph Ramey 409-892-3323 ramey.joseph@gmail.com

Today is a beautiful day in the Golden Triangle area…. and it’s about time! Goodbye Harvey, goodbyedelco, from us now. As we climb out of the winter slumber, let’s not forget those affected by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey. Many people along the Texas coast, and many in our backyard, lost everything and were displaced from their homes and remain displaced today.

The Golden Triangle Chapter just hosted our Annual Angler’s Night Out on February 20, 2018 at the Beaumont Events Center. If you didn’t make it out this year, we hope to see you at next year’s event. The ANO is an opportunity for our board to encourage growth among the community. It is a night to step out of the house, talk about fishing, eat dinner and have some fresh air化石. Dickie Colburn informed local anglers about the happenings on Sabine Lake and Galveston Bay. Attendees dined on prime rib and the trimmings from Blue Dave’s BBQ. Crying Eagle Brewing Company and Galveston Brewing Company provided a few tastings from their respective breweries. We are fortunate enough to still have some of the original board members who founded the chapter active today, including Dickie Chauvin, with West and Capt. Dickie Colburn informed local anglers about the happenings on Sabine Lake and Galveston Bay. Attendees dined on prime rib and the trimmings from Blue Dave’s BBQ. Crying Eagle Brewing Company and Galveston Brewing Company provided a few tastings from their respective breweries.

We are always welcoming new board members to our chapter, and if you would like to be more involved in CCA Texas, please contact me at ramey.joseph@gmail.com. Go Fish! – Joseph Ramey, (409) 892-3323
March 24 at Missouri City Community Park
- May 5 at Mark McGrath Muni Park in Meadows Place
- June 2 in New Territory
We need all the help we can get, especially at the Missouri City and New Territory events. Please let me know if you can help out. My cell phone number is (713) 819-5534 and email is rbailey@robertbaileypc.com.

Our General Meetings are the first Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm at Otto’s Barbecue in The Fountains Shopping Center in Stafford. Hope to see you at our meetings! – Robert G. Bailey

Greater Woodlands

Charlotte O’Dell 832-368-8263 chocatacharlie69@gmail.com
Save the date for the 11th Annual Greater Woodlands Chapter Banquet on May 31, 2018! We’ve outgrown the banquet venue that we have used for the past several years. This year it will be held at The Springs Event Venue, located at 14135 Laramie Trail, Montgomery, Texas 77316. We will still have the same good time you’re used to having at our banquets, and maybe you’ll make some new friends and have an even better good time this year! Please “Like” our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CCAGreaterWoodlands) and regularly check our CCA Texas chapter page (www.ccatexas.org/greater-woodlands) for further details! – Charlotte O’Dell

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

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

Heart of the Hills
Kelly Parks 210-669-3732 bucksdelucks@yahoo.com
Jared Esley, friend of Heart of the Hills Chapter Vice President Blake McCarter, took this photo while fishing in Freeport, Texas. Tight lines to all! – Randy Plummer

Hill Country
Miles Engelke 210-260-8968 engelke@pe-svcs.com
Welcome, Hill Country Chapter CCA members and Board of Directors! Believe it or not, it’s time for our chapter to kick it into gear. The following is an outline of our events for 2018:

> March 6: Our first Directors Meeting
> April 7: Crawfish boil at Rio Cibolo Ranch that was purchased at the 2017 Hill Country Chapter Annual Banquet by Bill Baldwin of B-Comm Constructors
> April 8: 8th Annual Social at the Red Barn in Seguin, Texas. Advanced tickets only, call Dawn Koehler for information at (210) 573-1143
> May 15: Our first General Meeting (Speaker to be announced)
> June 2: Spring tournament for Hill Country Members only. For more information call Cameron Kallies at (830) 560-6936 or Augusta Kallies at (210) 249-1601.
> June 8-9: ICC Tournament
> July 24: General Meeting (Speaker to be announced)
> August 16: 2018 Hill Country Chapter Annual Banquet at the Civic Center in New Braunfels, Texas. For ticket information call Todd Thetford at (830) 660-8825.
> October 23: Final General Meeting for 2018 (Speaker to be announced)

As of this writing, our meeting and tournament sponsors are as follows: CEMEX, Creative Eyewear, FAPCO, Fishers of Men RV Park, KGNB KNBT, 1st. Source Digital, Redfish Bay Boathouse Redfish Wills, Sandollar Resort, Stay Tuff, Whitaker, and Power Engineering Services. We are in process of scheduling:

> Board of Directors Fishing Trip with Stace Vercher
> Fish Fry for 50 for Kassi Jaroszewski
All General Meetings will be held at the Elks Lodge in New Braunfels, Texas. Look for newsletters and e-blasts for information on these meetings.
I am looking forward to an exciting year with our chapter. Cast me a call if you would like to get involved or be a sponsor! Treasure the Trips – Miles Engelke

Houston Homebuilders
Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395 jreid@newmarkhomes.com

Houston Real Estate
Dale Couch 281-953-2510 dcouch@txlmortgage.com

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 jake@aubainesupply.com

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

Lower Colorado
Stephen Zapalac 972-244-6633 stephen.zapalac@capitolfarmcredit.com

Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148 oscar@shallowsportboats.com

Mainland
Eric Minor 409-370-7379 eric.minor@anico.com

Matagorda Bays
Chad Hensley 979-543-2734 Chadwayne73@yahoo.com

I am happy to report that the Matagorda Bays Chapter is in full swing for the year! We have finalized a raffle boat and are waiting for print tickets. This year’s boat will be a two-tone grey fully rigged 24’ Transport XLR 8 powered by a 300 HP Suzuki. The boat sits on a double axle Coastline Trailer. Donny Tran and the guys at Tran Sport Boats did a great job rigging the boat. Be on the lookout for the boat around the area and a chance to buy a ticket. If you are not in the area to purchase a boat ticket, give Wesley Smolik a call at (979) 543-2753.

Mark your calendars for the Matagorda Bays Chapter Annual Banquet on June 28, 2018 at the El Campo Civic Center!

The chapter’s 13th Annual Lil’ Salties Fishing Blowout is scheduled for May 12, 2018 at the Matagorda Harbor. Chapter members should be receiving entry forms in the mail. Parents, be sure to get them filled out and mailed back ASAP so we can plan another awesome tournament. Last year we had a great turnout, with 235 kids coming out for a day of fun. Every entry receives a prize bag, trophy and t-shirt. If you are interested in donating to this great event or have any questions, contact Lynn Staff (lstaff@yahoo.com) or Thomas Gold (tagold@elc.net). Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the chapter! – Chad Hensley, (979) 543-2734

"Yikes!" Great Action and Humor Photo by Jared Easley of Heart Of The Hills chapter.
Mid Coast
Danny Goyen 361-564-7471
goyenfishing@yahoo.com

Hello CCA members! It looks like we made it through the winter with only one isolated fish kill from freezing temperatures – and that was only in Pringle Lake out of Port O’Connor. Thank goodness!

There has also been a significant amount of rainfall in the middle coast area, which will make – and already has made – a positive impact on springtime fishing. Go take advantage of some great fishing!

A special thanks goes to TPWD and Alan Berger for heading up the recent Crab Trap Cleanup on the middle coast. 996 abandoned crab traps were picked up at Charlie’s Bait Camp, the Port O’Connor Rock and the Austwell-Tivoli boat ramp. This is significantly more than last year. Thanks to all who helped from our chapter and all over our coast.

The 2018 Mid Coast Chapter Annual Banquet is only a few short weeks away! Please join us for a great evening of fundraising on April 27, 2018 at the Victoria Community Center. We still have a few tickets left to sell for our 22’6 Seafoam Green Mowdy boat with a 175 HP Suzuki motor and Coastline Trailer. This boat will be given away at the event. There will only be 700 hundred tickets sold at $100 each. Call Danny Goyen at (361) 564-7471 or David Jenkins at (361) 648-9185 if you are interested in purchasing a last minute ticket. A big thanks goes to those who bought one after reading the last CURRENTS article. From all of us at the Mid Coast Chapter, God Bless! – Capt. Danny Goyen

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

Northwest Houston
Rob Sziy 832-971-1989
sziy@sbcglobal.net

Hi Folks – It’s that time again for our Annual Member Appreciation Fish Fry on April 3, 2018, so everyone come hungry! I’m sure if you have been to one of our Fish Fries, you know the fish is outstanding. This time we are having not one, but two, guest speakers. They both work for Mt. Houston Marine. Tyler Nelson grew up fishing the Texas Gulf Coast with 10 years of experience in the industry. He started working at Mt. Houston Marine in 2009 part-time while still in college at the University of Houston. Tyler received a degree in business and began working full-time for Mt. Houston Marine in 2012. Our second speaker, Mark McKenzie, also grew up fishing the Texas Gulf Coast and has 40 years of experience in the industry. He started at Mt. Houston Marine helping with boat shows in 2010 and started full-time in 2015. It will be held as usual at Houston Distributing, 7100 High Life Drive off Cuten Road in the Stein Room starting at 6:30 pm.

Mark your calendars for our 2018 Annual Kid Fish! It will be held on May 12, starting at 7:00 am, fishing until 11:00 am, with lunch and prizes to follow afterwards. It will be held at the Sylvan Beach Park – Fishing Pier in La Porte. Many thanks to Harris County Precinct 2, The City of La Porte and Linda’s Bait & Tackle for their continued support of this annual event.

Please remember that we are always happy to accept donations for our Annual Kid Fish Program. Let us know of your desire to donate anytime by contacting a director. If you wish to help with our Kid Fish, Fish Fry or Annual Fundraising Banquet, we invite you to become a director, and join us every first Tuesday of an ODD month. Our next Board Meeting is May 1, 2018. Our sincere thanks to both Houston Distributing and Academy Sports + Outdoors.

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

The Orange County Chapter Annual Banquet will be held on August 9, 2018 at the Orange County Convention and Expo Center. Save the date, and we hope to see you there!

We have moved our meetings back to Robert’s Meat Market & Steakhouse, the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. Meetings are open to all members and those who wish to join.

– Scott Bandy, scottbandy77@yahoo.com; Louis Moore, louis_moore@yahoo.com; Davis Dixon, ddixon149@yahoo.com

Port O’Connor
Bill Moore 361-983-4690
wildbm@tisd.net

The 2018 Crab Trap Removal is now history. The POC chapter was on hand at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Docks to assist on Saturday, February 17. The weather turned out to be beautiful, and it was just a great day to be out on the water. The chapter provided lunch for all who showed up. Thanks to all who participated, both at the docks and on the water. Also a special thanks to Norman Boyd of TPWD for the use of their facilities and their assistance.

As the weather warms up, and the north winds calm, come see us or visit some of our banquet sponsors. If you would like to get involved with the chapter and/or banquet, contact us in POC, “Where it all began.” – Bill Moore

Prairie
Patricia Walters 979-885-7464
manager@wprprint.com

Looks like spring is upon us – What a relief after the winter we had! On February 9, we held the Prairie Chapter Annual General Membership Meeting/Chili Dinner at the Cat Spring Hall. We had a great turn out, with current and new members in attendance. Our guest speaker was Lee Hall, local Texas Game Warden for Bellville and Austin County. He talked about a game warden’s duties that help all people in all areas – including the sportsman. Also, we had a wonderful chili dinner prepared by Scott Hinze of Hinze’s BBQ catering. After everyone finished eating, we had a $1 raffle drawing. A big thank you to Brian Weaver of CCA Texas and our sponsors who donated raffle gifts. And thank you to everyone who helped put together this event!

Please join us for the 21st Annual Prairie Chapter Banquet on April 5, 2018 at the Cat Spring Hall. The night will consist of a great meal of prime rib and shrimp with all the trimmings. The meal ticket includes the meal and a year membership to CCA. We will have a live auction with Mark Switzer as the auctioneer of Switzer Auction Services, and a silent auction with some awesome items. Also, there will be a $5 raffle with some great gifts that are donated by Academy Sports + Outdoors, CCA and local Sponsors.

There will be a lot of new things happening this year at the banquet. We still have tickets available for our Sportsmen’s raffle. For $20 you will have a chance to win a $500 Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card, watermelon rod and concept reel, 80 qt Engel cooler, 9mm glock pistol and a beretta A300 12ga shotgun. I hope to see everybody at the Banquet. And good fishing to all! Thanks – Ron Chess, (979) 525-9254

Redfish Bay
Norman Oates 361-758-0266
noates@cableone.net

Rio Grande Valley
Louis Zimmerer 956-373-0799
Lzm01@yahoo.com

Sabine-Neches
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
darin@jorgensenmarine.com

THANK YOU SABINE-NECHES CCA MEMBERS! Another banquet, another sold out event! We had a great night of fundraising at the 2018 Sabine-Neches Chapter Annual Banquet! This year we were at a different venue, courtesy of Hurricane Harvey, but it didn’t stop our chapter members from coming out and having some hot crawfish and cold drinks, all in the name of conservation!

I cannot thank our sponsors enough for their continued support of our chapter: Classic Chevrolet (Anthony Toups), Evinrude, Pete Jor-
gensen Marine (Boat Guys), American Airboat (More Boat Guys) MCT Credit Union, Huntsman, Kieschnick Industries, Inc., Golden Pass LNG, Specialty Paint, Del Papa Distributing (Bud Guys), Giglio Distributing (Miller/Coors Guys) and the list goes on! Shane Chesson and the crew at Pure Cajun — Thanks for the top notch crawfish again! Now it's time to get on the water! Tight Lines to all! — Darin M Johnson

Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908
bkolaja@huntsvillett.gov
Hello all! Looks like spring is finally here. With sunshine in the forecast, and the water temperatures continuing to rise, the fishing reports continue to be great. Please remember to check out our CCA Sam Houston Chapter Facebook page (facebook.com/CCASAMHOUSTON) for updates, and feel free to post your fish pictures. I hope everyone gets a chance to get out on the water and make some memories. If you are interested in becoming a part of our chapter, please contact Brandon Kolaja at (281) 797-6908. Get out on the water, and Happy Fishing! — Brandon Kolaja

San Antonio
Rick Neitzel rick210-771-7807
tassisneitzel@aol.com
Springtime is finally here, and I hope that you have been doing some fishing and catching! Hopefully you were able to join us for our 5th Annual “Hooked on Clays” sporting clays shoot on March 23, 2018. Everyone had a great time, and the food was fantastic! It’s time for early Bird Table buyers who buy on or before April 16 will receive one entry per table for an Uncle Henry lever action .410 rifle. Banquet Chair Robert Lozano, along with his committee, has put together another fantastic banquet. Please come join us for a fun evening with food catered by Don Strange. This year’s Boats is a 2018 Shallow Stalker Cat 204 RC with a 150 Evinrude motor and an Aluminum Coastline trailer, thank you Gulf Coast Marine. As always, we will have the silent auction, $5 raffle, Cutting Board Auction and live auction, along with our big ticket raffle items. We are planning our next Chapter Night Out on Wednesday, June 20 at the Barn Door Restaurant at 6:00 pm. We will have one speaker for the evening: Leslie Hartman, Matagorda Bay Ecosystem Leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will discuss “Lion Fish.”

Parting Shot
Houston, February 20 — West Texas CCA chapter leaders Craig McDonnald and Roger Letz joined a full house for the State Board Meeting. How far is it from West Texas to Coastal Texas? Chapter President Craig McDonnald told Exec. Dir. Robby Byers it was, "About nine hours and a speeding ticket." The chapter will be celebrating their 15th Chapter Banquet on April 25.
A Special Gift for New Life Members

CCA Texas and Simms Fishing Products have teamed up for a very special offer to CCA members.

For a limited time, anyone who becomes a CCA Texas Life Member ($1,000 + $25 shipping) will receive a beautiful Simms jacket emblazoned with the CCA Life Member logo on the left sleeve. Tax Deductible: $444

Your life membership with CCA will help us continue our important coastal conservation work in Texas. Supporters like you allow our team to work at our State Capitol and on our coast everyday to ensure the long-term well-being of our critical marine resources.

Together with Simms Fishing Products, we strive to secure that the wonderful fishing we enjoy across our coast today is available for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support of CCA.

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Important: Send jpegs, and include name of subject, title, your name, as well as the names of anyone in the photo. Email jpegs to: sam@samcaldwell.com

Give us your best shot, and keep CUkRENTS an award-winning newsletter.

Want to share even more of your Great Photos?
Limited space means we can use only a few photos, but here is a good option for your Great Photo: send it to CCA via our Social Media. See Page 6 for connections to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Every entry there will also be an entry in the Currents Great Photos Competition.

Featured this issue — Adam Gilvarry, who has provided CUkRENTS with a number of Great Photos, mostly CPR. Paraphrasing Adam: “The release is as great as the catch.” Gilvarry’s images are usually in your face closeups, shot with a wide-angle GoPro camera from his kayak. He is also a photographer after CCA Communication Director Kim Philippi’s heart, since most of his work can be seen on his Instagram page: #lovetherelease

There are now a wide variety of "Tough" cameras on the market that can stand up to the abuse inherent in saltwater use. Surprisingly, your cell phone can be among them. Check the Great Photo Page next issue. — Photo Editor

Until next time: #redfish #lovetherelease #catchandrelease #texas #gulfcoast #thirdcoast #portmansfield #simmsfishing #drumspots #redfishdistrict

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REDFISH ON THE HALF SHELL

Two versions by Chris “Camo” Smisek, who says Halfshell Redfish is so simple, even the CURRENTS editor couldn’t mess it up.

Roll your own.

Catch a redfish. Clean the redfish and fillet, leaving the skin on. No need to scale, just wash thoroughly. Lay fillets down on baking sheet with skin side down. Score the flesh 1” apart at least ¼” deep diagonally in both directions to form diamond shapes. Dry fillets with a paper towel.

1. Oyster Sauce Version
Salt and pepper the fillet and spread generously with oyster sauce over the entire flesh of the fillet. Sprinkle with dried minced onions.

2. Candied Jalapenos with Cream Cheese Version
Salt and pepper the fillet. Spread softened cream cheese over the fillet completely. Sprinkle candied jalapenos generously over the cream cheese.

Cook fillets skin side down on medium high grill. Cover for 15 minutes and check for desired doneness. Take fillets off when almost done, and let sit for five minutes. Serve with veggies and/or beverages of choice.

Wild Things

Louie Bond, Everyone’s favorite person at Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine. This brand-new Informal Portrait 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
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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

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.oigt.com

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LIFE MEMBER: $1000 CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four $250 installments. $25 for shipping.
STAR ENTRY FEE: $25 Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
NEW TIDE: $10 TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.
CONSERVATION MEMBER: $50 A portion of the proceeds go towards CCA’s National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes exclusive Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine, set of CCA and state fish decals.

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