

CURRENTS

October / November 2021



*Flounder Regulation Changes
Redfish, Trout Stocking Updates*

Blake and Kelly Harris on a daybreak wade near the old Coast Guard Station. Photo, Sam Caldwell / Olympus T-G 5

Flounder Season Reminder

Way back in May of 2020, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) adopted changes to flounder regulations in efforts to help the struggling population. You may remember that effective September 2020, the minimum size was increased from 14 to 15 inches. At that same meeting, the TPWC also voted in favor of a fall closure to allow spawning females to migrate to the Gulf. However, they decided not to make that rule effective until 2021, citing consideration of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule change was likely forgotten by a few anglers, hence this reminder.

Flounder Regulations

Daily Bag: 5 fish

Min Length: 15 inches

Max Length: No limit

Daily bag is 5 fish except

Nov 1 - Dec 14

(fishery closed; bag limit = 0).

Possession limit = the daily bag.

The TPWC also directed staff to: 1) Move towards real-time reporting of commercial landings to ensure that all flounder landed under a commercial finfish license are reported to the department, and 2) Further study a potential slot limit for the fishery to increase spawning

biomass. In closing discussions, then Vice-Chairman (now current Chairman) Arch H. "Beaver" Aplin of Lake Jackson provided supportive comments on the continued need to provide some relief to the fishery through the flounder stock enhancement program. Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director, provided comments to the Commission citing concerns for the continued declines and need for action to conserve southern flounder. "CCA Texas appreciates the Commission taking action that considers what is best for the resource while remaining sensitive to the economic impacts that the current pandemic has had on recreational fishing guides, anglers and businesses supportive of the recreational fishing industry," stated Bonnot. "Over the past 15 years our membership has donated over \$1 million to support larval research and flounder stock enhancement.

"We are committed to continuing efforts that will improve this fishery and provide opportunities for the recreational angler." You can read our full press release on the regulation changes by clicking [here](#) and [reading this article](#) to get a sense of the flounder struggles across their geographic range.

"So, from November 1 through December 14, you can fish for flounder, but you must let them go. Practice catch and release; Let them spawn during this critical part of their journey to the Gulf of Mexico." 🐟



Elane Dailey of the Aransas Bay chapter and John Blaha, CCA Texas Habitat Director, practiced catch, photo and release on these beautiful breeding-size flounder.

Coastal Hatcheries Stocking Update

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Enhancement has been firing on all cylinders this summer, releasing over 23 million speckled trout and red drum into Texas bay systems (see Figure 1). Going into the production season, which typically starts in mid-April, hatcheries received an outpouring of support from groups and individuals such as CCA Texas, West End Anglers, Bayou City Angler and TPWD volunteers. Couple that support with professional biologists and technicians motivated to fulfill their mission and great things are bound to happen.

To top things off, TPWD staff have been taking additional measures to increase stocking locations and recruitment of fingerlings, including utilizing vessels to place fingerlings directly into estuaries with optimal conditions for survivability. TPWD staff have stocked fingerlings directly into Big Pasture and Goat Island in East Galveston Bay as well as Christmas Bay, Bastrop Bayou, Greens Lake, Nicks Lake and Salt Lake in West Galveston Bay. East Matagorda Bay has seen boat stockings directly adjacent to Brown Cedar Cut, the backside of Redhouse Reef and the southside of the Spoil Islands near Flounder Cut. And of course, the Laguna Madre Bay systems have seen their fair share of boat stockings in prime seagrass habitat as we have highlighted in [this video](#).

Septembert hrough November are typically great months for trout spawning in the hatcheries, so as TPWD enters the final months of their fingerling production season, you can expect that trout stockings will substantially increase.

The objective of CCA Texas is to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of our coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. We are proud to support TPWD Coastal Fisheries in their efforts to enhance our fisheries

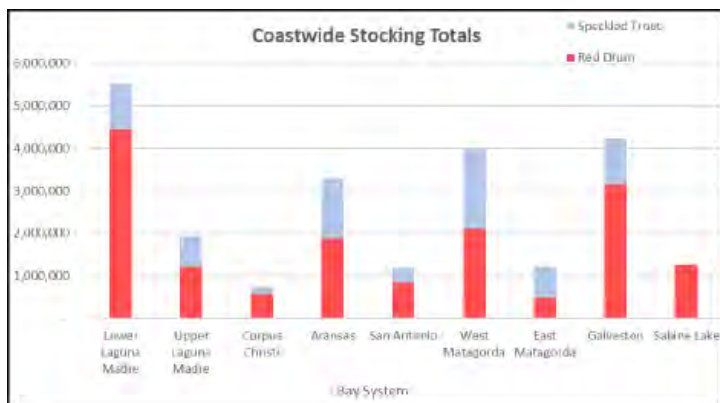


Figure 1: 2021 TPWD Coastal Stocking Totals through mid-September



- [\\$152,000 in donations to replace pond liners and heat exchangers](#), 17 summer internships in 2021 and many dedicated hours of volunteer service by CCA Texas members – these endeavors generate change, increase output and make a difference for coastal resources. This is who we are, this is what we do. Great job team! — **Shane Bonnot**



TPWD technician (Jessica) and CCA Texas intern (Austin) are all smiles as they stock fingerlings into East Matagorda Bay. Picture by Jerry Domingues

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas Projects

1. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000
2. ** Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass	\$ 906,000
3. Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef	\$ 861,000
4. Nearshore Reefing—Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
5. Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000
6. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man & Kate's Reef	\$ 329,000
7. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
8. Dagger Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)	\$ 250,000
9. Shoreline Stabilization - Oyster Lake (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 230,000
10. Oyster Restoration—Deep Reef Sabine Lake	\$ 215,000
11. Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda	\$ 200,000
12. Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR	\$ 200,000
13. Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 150,000
14. Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Moses Lake (Galveston Bay)	\$ 138,000
15. Baffin Bay Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study	\$ 135,000
16. Oyster Restoration—Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT)	\$ 130,000
17. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)	\$ 125,000
18. Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)	\$ 125,000
19. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study	\$ 120,000
20. Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou	\$ 100,000
21. Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi	\$ 100,000
22. Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville)	\$ 95,000
23. Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
24. Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
25. Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside)	\$ 70,000
26. Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island	\$ 70,000
27. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates	\$ 70,000
28. Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
29. Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef	\$ 60,000
30. Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport)	\$ 50,000
31. Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
32. Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphree WMA	\$ 50,000
33. Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County)	\$ 50,000
34. Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration	\$ 50,000
35. Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration	\$ 50,000
36. Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston)	\$ 42,000
37. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline	\$ 40,000
38. Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protections and Oyster Reef Enhancement	\$ 30,000
39. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)	\$ 24,000
40. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 20,000
41. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)	\$ 15,000
42. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass	\$ 5,600
43. Building Conservation Trust's Texas Habitat Fund (BCT & CCA Texas Secured Funds)	\$ 399,066

** 2021 Projects Contributed to as 2/28/21

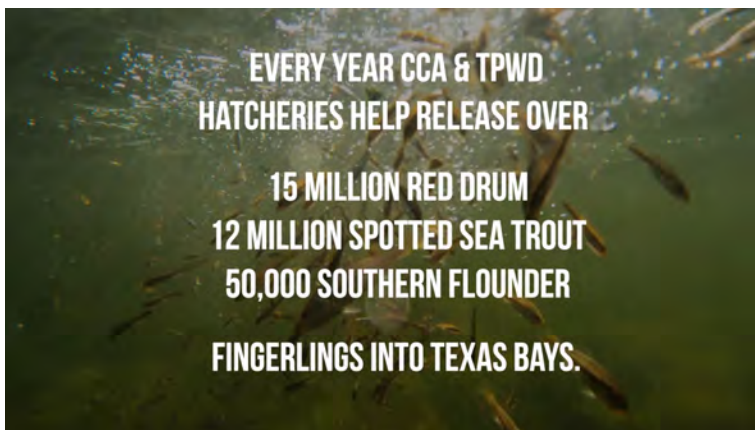
TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2020: \$8,814,666

If you are interested in contributing to our Habitat program,
Contact John Blaha at jdblaha@ccatexas.org

Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be

Hatcheries were an early priority of CCA. Enhancing populations was crucial, but replacing a large percentage of cold-stricken gamefish proved to be a primary benefit of the hatcheries.

Once again, CCA and TPWD are filling the need to mitigate trout, redfish and flounder mortalities. Take a brief voyage with a CCA /TPWD hatchery as technicians replace trout fingerlings. Here's a link to a recently-released video that will provide an idea of the process: [click here](#).





Presenting the NEW CCA Texas license plates!



We are incredibly excited about this new, updated design which proudly displays our CCA logo to show everyone you're a conservation-minded Texas angler.

Get yours TODAY by going to ccatexas.org and clicking the link on the homepage.

For each plate sold, CCA Texas will receive \$22 which will be crucial support for our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. Additionally, by purchasing your CCA Texas license plates for your SUV, truck, car, or trailer, you'll also be raising awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts each time you're out on the road!



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You must return this form via email, phone or by mail to the CCA Texas office completely filled out to receive your gift.
Contact: 713.626.4222 | lifemember@ccatexas.org (This offer is NOT available online)

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To have your gun delivered to Academy Sports + Outdoors, write the store address in the FFL portion below. For questions regarding Academy Sports + Outdoors, contact Mylinda Jones at (281) 646-5908.

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Caught Redhanded! Reports from TP&W Game Wardens

On August 24, 2021 shortly after midnight, a Galveston County Game Warden received a call reporting people using a gill net at East Beach on Galveston Island and keeping speckled trout. The warden quickly responded to the location and met up with the caller.

The caller stated that the individuals were still on location and actively working a gill net. With the information provided, the warden was able to quickly locate the individuals who were actively working a gill net. After a short period of time, the individuals began to pull in the gill net and pack up their gear to head home for the night.

The warden then made contact with six individuals once they got to their vehicles. Upon investigation, it was discovered that a gill net was the only device used to catch the fish and none of the individuals possessed a fishing license. In total, a 150 quart cooler was seized containing 37 speckled trout, 8 sharks, 8 black drum, 7 sheepshead, 7 ladyfish, 1 red drum and various other species. Multiple citations and warnings were issued. Case pending.



Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895



Law Enforcement Off the Pavement



CCA Texas has had an excellent, long-standing partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens. They play an absolutely critical role in protecting our Texas wildlife resources for everyone to enjoy. As part of our partnership, CCA Texas has funded TPW Game Warden summer internships for many years. These TPW Game Warden internships are intended to help encourage our youth to pursue a career in fish and wildlife law enforcement. The program has been very successful in giving students an accurate idea of what a conservation-related career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department entails and we are proud to be part of it. Below are letters from this year's recipients.

Marco Pena: I am a Junior Agribusiness Major at Texas A&M University. This summer I had the tremendous honor of working as a Texas Game Warden Intern in Cameron County. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for so generously funding this position as well as the other coastal internships. I cannot fully express how grateful I am to have had this opportunity, I learned so much working with Texas' best and there are countless experiences I will never forget!

One of my favorite encounters was when I was on patrol with Warden Colby Hensz checking saltwater bank fishermen. There were about 20 fishermen and they all had their limit of red drum on stringers in the water. We were going from stringer to stringer measuring the fish when we came upon this makeshift stringer one fisherman had rigged up with 3 fish. Colby bent over and simply grabbed the end of the strap and before we knew it the fish swam away. I will never forget the look on the fisherman's face as well as some of the profane language he used as he watched his fish swim free! There was nothing we could do at that point, fortunately the fish were biting that day and the fisherman had landed 2 more slot reds by the time we left the scene. I will never forget this contact as well as countless

others that I had throughout my internship that was all made possible by CCA and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Thank you again for your generosity, this internship truly was one of the greatest experiences of my life. *Marco Pena, Texas Game Warden Intern*

Kyle Deaton: I cannot express how appreciative I am to have had this experience. The opportunity I was afforded this summer is invaluable. I'm now a member of CCA and because of the wonderful experience I have had, I plan to be member in perpetuity. Hopefully my donations and membership dues in the future will help pay for more summer internships.

I got to learn and experience so much from catching and releasing alligators, enforcing fish and game laws, to conducting friendly water safety checks. The internship has only cemented my goal to become a Texas game warden. Some of my summer consisted of very informative learning experiences such as checking commercial shrimp boats, or gigantic yachts after a fishing tournament. I learned so many of the rules and regulations that will hopefully help me down the road. Other parts of the summer consisted of general public interaction at boat ramps, docks and out in the bay. The times with the general public are what I thoroughly enjoyed as the personalities ranged from nice to crazy. Sometimes it could be a family that wanted to take a picture with the game warden. Other times it could be a guy who happens to have illegal drugs in his possession. You really never knew what you would come across. None of these experiences could have been possible without the CCA and for that I am eternally grateful. *Thank you, Kyle Deaton*

Brittany Pena: I was honored to be placed in Brazoria county under Captain Brandi Reeder and want to thank the Texas Game Wardens and the CCA for allowing me to participate in the paid Coastal County Game Warden internship. Working with all five of the Brazoria county wardens and some of the Matagorda wardens this summer was full of fun, informational and helpful tips getting me ready for my next step in life. Each day was something different, learning how to adapt and overcome in situations to have the best outcome, from water safety checks to checking shrimp boats in the gulf and bay to OGT on the beach. *Thank you again for a great opportunity, Brittany Pena*

Garrett Watts: I want to thank CCA for funding my internship with Texas Parks and Wildlife. This summer I was a coastal law enforcement intern located in Corpus Christi. I really enjoyed every minute of it, which was feasible thanks to you. I got to experience first-hand some of the good you do during one of your youth fishing tournaments in Port Aransas. The kid fish was one of my favorite days working this summer because I felt like a professional fishing guide and really enjoyed seeing the smiles on the kid's faces as they were pulling in tons of trout on our huge and safe boat. When I wasn't working. I spent a lot of time on the water trying to catch a tagged redfish which is still out there swimming somewhere, so I would also like to thank CCA for motivating me to fish as much as I did. I had many unique opportunities afforded to me over the summer that were all possible due to your generous funding. I learned so much and gained invaluable experiences in the last few months that all lead back to you.

Again, thank you so much for funding the coastal law enforcement interns. I write this letter to inform you just how much of an impact you have made on me. *Sincerely, Garrett Watts*

John R. Masterson: I first want to say thank you for everything you do for our great state of Texas and the nation, I have always believed in your mission. I have been a member of the CCA for over two years now and to see this opportunity and be able to be a part of it was a real honor. I am proud that I get to write you and tell you thank you for the incredible opportunity that you funded which gave me the chance to stand next to Texas Game Wardens and learn from them.

I learned so much about what it means to be a Game Warden from a firsthand experience in the field. I loved every day on the job. I saw how much bigger the world is, talked to hundreds of people I never would have talked to before and had the privilege to make sure everyone was safe and operating

their vessels safely. One of the greatest experiences was when I had the honor to serve our state on July 4th making sure Texans were safe. Which I believe was the best way to honor the Fourth by serving our community and I did it as an intern for Texas Game Wardens.

I would like to share a document with you that covers my experience. It's my field notes for every day that I worked and learned from the Wardens of Harris County. However, I want to include one experience in this letter. The first time I learned about the Texas Game Warden internship is a story I would like to share. On March 5, I got an email asking if I wanted to renew my membership and if I would enter the Star Tournament for the Early Bird Drawing to win a boat. On March 5 at 11 :45 AM I renewed my membership and entered the Star early bird drawing. On March 5, just 17 minutes later, I got an email from TPWD Weekly News Digest, and while reading it I discovered for the first time the summer internships for the Law Enforcement Division which is funded by the CCA. It was at that moment I knew I was going to apply for the internship.

It seemed like a "meant-to-be" type of moment. I donated to the CCA on the same day it rewarded me by giving me an incredible opportunity. I say it was "unique" to me because so much of the time I am giving of myself, my time and resources and I never look back, never expect anything in return, but this time it was different. It was like a door opening right before me for a dream that I have had for a long time.

Furthermore, this opportunity gave me so much knowledge and I am truly thankful for everything. It has rewarded hard-working individuals and given them a chance to be a part of their dreams. On behalf of all the other Interns I would like to say you gave us more than we could have ever dreamed of.

Thank you, John R. Masterson - Harris County Intern

CURRENTS Editor: *John not only wrote this note, he also kept a careful recounting of his field notes during his tenure.*



CCA Corpus Christi Chapter Member Wins Special Award

Kudos are in order for Cale Kruger, a Corpus Christi CCA chapter member, who earned the Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year award for 2020.

The award was presented to Cale by the South Texas Council of Boy Scouts of America. Cale's project was a seagrass restoration of the Portland, Texas shoreline in Corpus Christi Bay. Cale obtained the necessary permits and authorizations from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, while Belaire Environmental supplied the seagrass plants.

Cale was recognized for his leadership, community service and the project's beneficial value to the environment. Congratulations on your achievement Cale! CCA Texas is proud to call you one of our own. —**Troy Williamson**





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Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

CCA Texas' financial responsibilities and goals are ongoing. For the time being, publishing the CURRENTS newsletter requires the internet. There are excellent reasons, with cost being primary.

For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a 37-page, full color newsletter to 67,000 members is time-consuming and expensive.

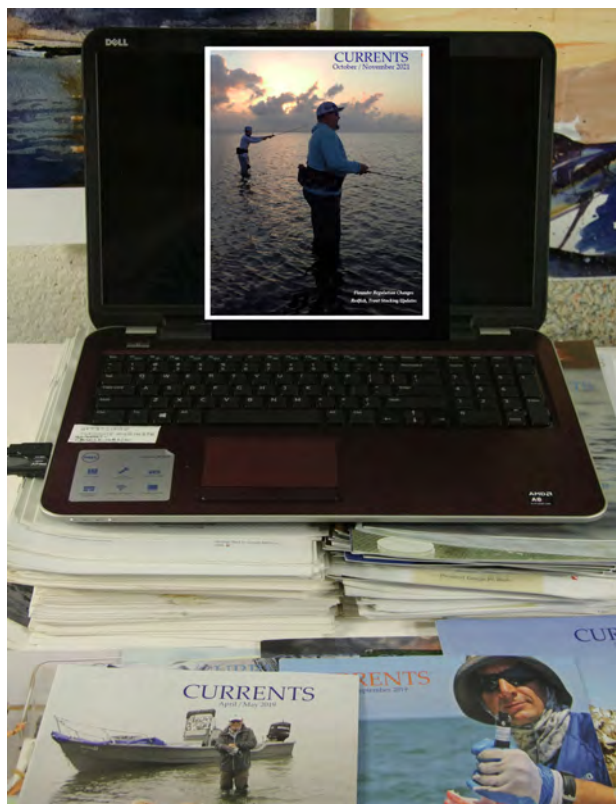
The online CURRENTS newsletter requires no printing nor postage, and delivery is almost instantaneous. An email to members contains a link, with the full newsletter a click away.

Apart from the cost difference, there are reasons a member could appreciate an internet version of the publication.

- An e-newsletter can be opened in seconds. Articles can be accessed rapidly. Images can be viewed large. Text can be enlarged for easier reading, blocked, copied and shared. Past issues are a click away on the CCA Texas website.
- A favored article can be forwarded to others, or readily accessed later instead of having to search through stacks of magazines.
- Links can be used to connect to advertisers, as well as cross referencing other articles, writers, photographers and artists.
- A link to the CCA website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast.
- Photos can be larger and more numerous, allowing for

more of the membership's Great Photos to be shared.

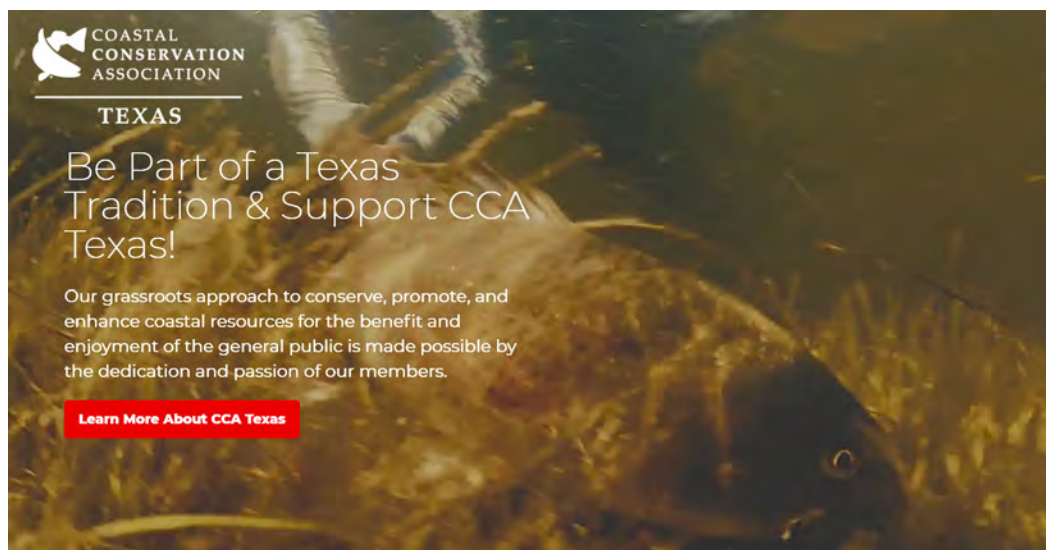
- In the Social Media Happenings section, links directly open up to posts on our social media platforms.
- **Another big plus—your CURRENTS Newsletter is now as close as your laptop or your cellphone.**



A great way to enjoy indoor time and stay in touch with the outdoors—the CCA Texas website is at your service.

You'll find news and information about chapter events, advocacy and breaking news, plus videos of the progress we're making along the Texas coast. Need a guide? Want to enjoy a CURRENTS feature from years back? Check in with the STAR program?

Go to ccatexas.org and bookmark it now.



In 2015, the U.S. Coast Guard estimated over **760,000 red snapper** were **illegally fished in Texas** and U.S. waters by the lancha fleet from Mexico.

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Are You Following CCA Texas on Social Media?

The BEST way to stay informed on the latest with CCA Texas is by connecting with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We regularly post photo and video updates on our 50+ local chapters, conservation projects, member photos, and advocacy efforts to keep you informed and engaged. Since our last CURRENTS, we've posted video highlights of our 2021 Laguna Madre Spotted Sea Trout Fingerling Release with Texas Parks and Wildlife. It reached over 27,000 people and when shared by Texas Parks and Wildlife, it was viewed over 73,000 times!

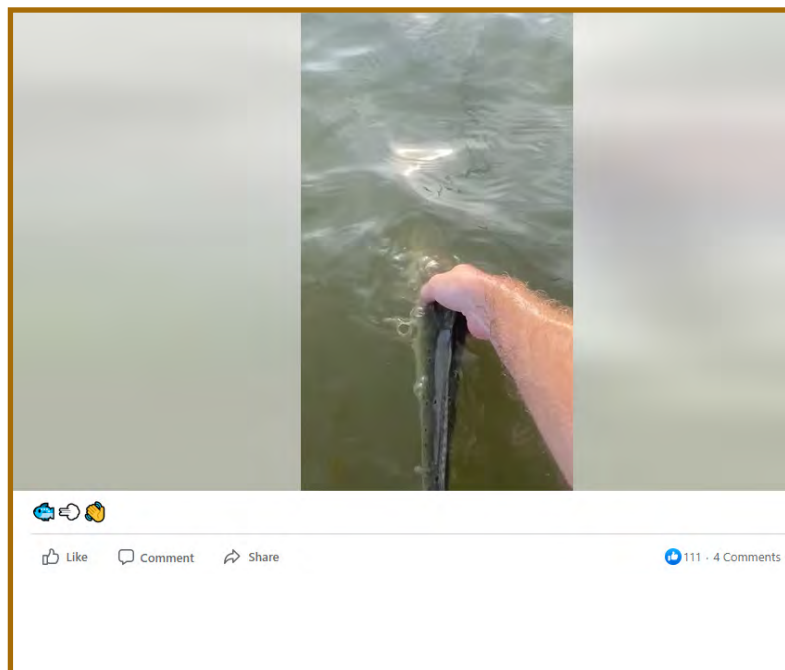
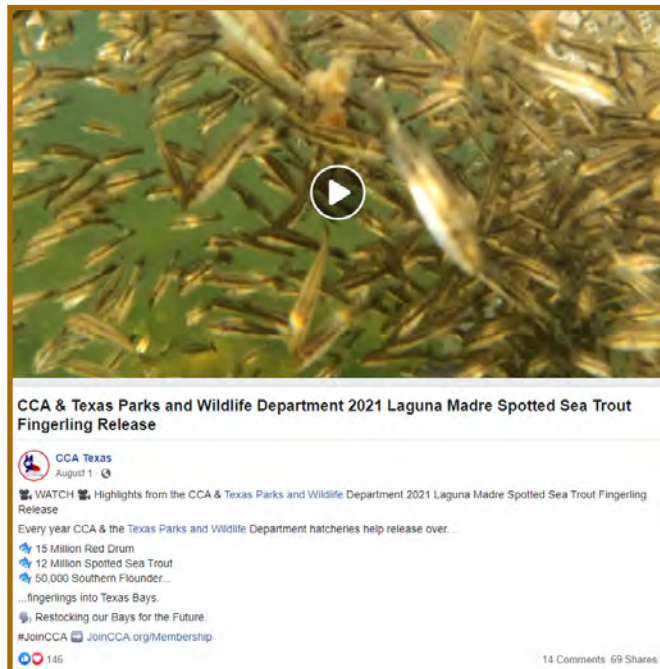
Our following is **GROWING FAST**, so join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Every **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** helps.



FACEBOOK

CCA Texas on Facebook

Head over to our CCA Texas Facebook page and LIKE us today to stay informed on all the latest CCA Texas news with special photo and video updates and informative links! LIKE us Facebook TODAY! @CCATexas <https://www.facebook.com/CCATexas>

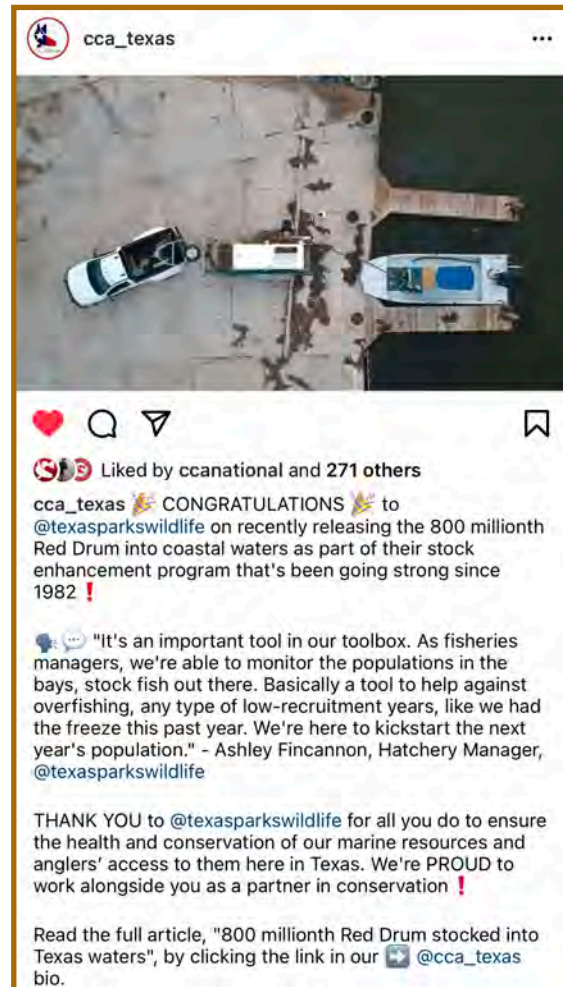
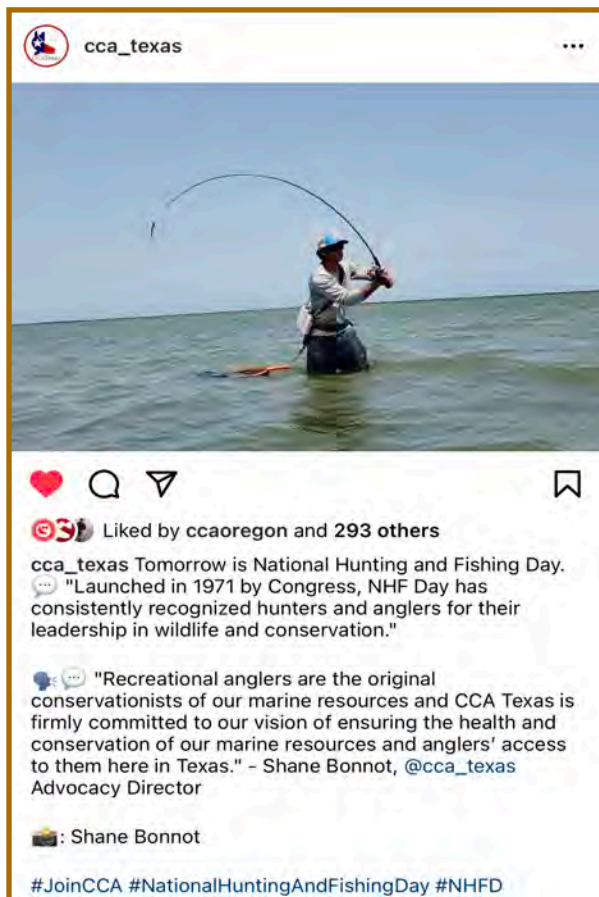




INSTAGRAM

CCA Texas on Instagram

We just reached our goal of 13,000 anglers following us on Instagram, but we are NOT stopping there. Help us get to 15,000 followers by adding us to your feed to see CCA member-submitted photos and videos that you will NOT want to miss. [FOLLOW us on Instagram TODAY!](#)



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Get important recreational angling-related news filtered into your feed by following us on Twitter. In addition to posting our own updates, we make sure to Retweet and Favorite Tweets that we know will help to inform you. [FOLLOW us on Twitter TODAY!](#)



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Hope you are all enjoying the cooler weather! We are definitely looking forward to Fall fishing & the reopening of Cedar Bayou this October. Cedar Bayou makes a huge impact on our fishery in Rockport-Fulton, thank you Aransas County for the continued push to open this important fish pass.

Mark your calendars! We now have a date set for our annual Aransas Bay Banquet on Saturday, April 2, 2022, which will be held at the Fulton Convention Center. Tickets and table sales will open after the first of the year.

Babes on the Bay will be held on May 13-14, 2022 at Fulton Convention Center, registration opens the first week of January!

Stay tuned on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates for Aransas Bay CCA and Babes on the Bay. Whether you're on the water or in the field, enjoy the great outdoors!

The Aransas Bay chapter sent some fine photos this time, so the Editor used them all, large.




Upper left: Elane Daily with flounder on artificial. Right: Sarah Grave Bosenbury.

Below: Elaine Dietz with redfish on fly.

Top of page 21: John Blaha casting into the sunset.




John Blaha working the sunset. Photo by Jen Thomasson, Aransas Bay Chapter.



BRUSH COUNTRY CHAPTER

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brendagballard@hotmail.com
 We are excited to host our annual fish fry and auction this year. Come join us Nov. 3rd at the K.C. Hall 2623 in Kingsville, TX for good food and fun!

Centex
Si Hanna 254-723-1922
shanna@rdoequipment.com

Central Houston
Todd Buster 713-545-189

tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com

The Central Houston Chapter is preparing for its 46th Annual Fundraiser. **The 2022 event will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at the Goode Company Armadillo Palace.** We will be raffling off another Sabine Skiff Micro Versatile, powered by a 30 hp Tohatsu, and sitting on an aluminum McClain Trailer. Watch out for details on purchasing tickets. We are also working on some exciting Anglers' Night Out events for fall 2021 and spring 2022. Details to come soon. If you are interested in getting involved in the chapter, please contact Coleman Todd (coleman@ccatexas.org) or Todd Buster (tbuster@busterandcogdellbuilders.com).

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

Corpus Christi
Valerie Chilton 405-831-4158
vkchilton@gmail.com

Another successful banquet is in the books! Banquet chairman Barrett Fines got us back on track for 2021 and we are ready to keep the party going! We want to thank each and every one of you for joining us this year and look forward to seeing you at other events.

We also want to thank our 2020 CCA Corpus Christi Chapter award winners. First, we paid tribute to our fallen board member, Gene Hybner, who was a member of CCA for 41 years. The TPWD Game Warden of the Year was awarded to Kyle Hendley of Region 8, who has been a critical part of not only the local team, but across the state and also deploys during natural disasters and search and rescue events (as he did recently during Hurricane Nicholas). The TPWD Biologist of the Year is Faye Grubbs, the Upper Laguna Madre Ecosystem Leader. She has coordinated the CCA sponsored internships for over 10 years now, strengthening the conservation ties between TPWD and CCA. The Conservationist of the Year goes to Dr. Kesley Banks, Chapter Secretary and Postdoctoral Research Associate for the Harte Research Institute, and coordinator for Sharkathon and the Texas Shark Rodeo. Kesley's research has added to our understanding of best practices for our artificial reefing program conducted by the CCA Texas Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) program and our partner TPWD. Our Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Troy Adler, who is a past president and an active board member for the local chapter for many years. Troy has helped innovate our chapter, recruit new members, and positively encourage our efforts through his tenure and actions.

The **2021 Babes on Baffin all women's fishing tournament is October 8-9, 2021 at Marker 37 Marina** and we excited for our

new catch-photo-release tournament this year! The last day to sign up is **October 6, 2021**. No registrations will be accepted at the Captain's Meeting. Registration info can be found at babesonbaffin.org.

We are excited to bring back our annual **Poco Rojo kids fish event on October 23, 2021 at the CCA Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff**. Keep an eye on your email for more info. And last, but not least....the **2022 banquet has been set for March 24 at the American Bank Center**. We hope to see you there! Let us know if you're interested in volunteering! For questions, contact Heather at ccacorpuschristi@gmail.com or call (361) 882-5199.

We would like to thank all of our **2021 banquet sponsors** for their donations and support.

Gold Sponsors: Academy Sports + Outdoors, Andrews Distributing Company, Inc., Flint Hills Resources and L&F Distributors. **Silver Sponsors:** Corpus Christi Cycle Plaza, Majek Boats and Premier Yamaha Boating Center. **Bronze Sponsors:** Access Storage, Anderson Alexander, Berkeley Eye Center, Blackhorn Environmental Services, Boat Stop Storage, C&S Plating & Bumper Recycling, Center for Sportfish Science & Conservation, Citgo, Cooper Outdoor Advertising, Global Pipeline, Grunwald Printing, Gulf Coast Marine, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Lamar Advertising, LJA Engineering, Mark Ray, Mike's Marine, Neesen Automotive-Kingsville, Ohmstede LTD, OmniSource, Pipe Pros, Refined Technologies, Inc., Ron Hoover Marine, Roy's Bait & Tackle, Roy's Kayak Shop, Sentinel Integrity Solutions, Stewart Title, Total Oilfield, UT Marine Science Institute, Valero Energy Foundation and Wahoo Metal Works

Dallas
Jason Gray 214-384-4164
Jason.Gray@hilltopsecurities.com

The Dallas chapter held it's 40th Anniversary Banquet on September 16. We had



record breaking revenues and would like to thank all attendees, sponsors, donors and board members that made it possible. We had over 140 silent auction items, 30+ raffle packages and 29 live auction prizes that included pistols, shotguns, fishing gear, trips to Costa Rica and Cabo San Lucas, a kayak and a Kawasaki Mule.

We look forward to membership recruitment at future Anglers Night Out events. Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CCADallas) at CCA Dallas and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/CCADallas) @CCADallas for information. We hope everyone enjoys fall fishing trips and keep those lines tight!

East Texas
Dr. James Norman
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jnorman7@suddenlink.net

Fort Bend
Blake Tumlinson 979-332-2236
Btumlinson86@gmail.com

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

Galveston
Corey Carpenter 832-671-8980
corcarp1@gmail.com

Golden Triangle
Joe Winston 830-624-6570
Joe.winston@heroesonthewater.org
Greeting from the Golden Triangle Chapter! Summer is just about over in Texas and I know we are not the only ones that are happy about that. Cool weather is just around the corner and that means fishing is about to get even better. Here on our end of the coast we have been working diligently to plan our yearly banquet. It will be **October 7th at the Beaumont Civic Center**. We have made sure that it is going to be a fun night with great food and plenty of prizes to be won. So, bring the family and come



The 2021 CCA Dallas Banquet was a huge success!

out and join us for a night to celebrate conservation. If you would like to purchase a table or an individual ticket, please contact Drew Adams at dadams@ccatexas.org or buy them [online here](#).

Greater Sugar Land
John Breland 281-808-2969
geauxingfishing@yahoo.com

The Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter has been busy, we hosted our Anglers Night Out event on Wednesday September 22 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Sugar Land. Attendees were treated to a free catfish dinner provided by the Knights of Columbus, live entertainment by Ted Lee and Ken Reynolds and a very entertaining guest speaker Chicken Boy aka Joe Moughon of Chicken Boy Lures. Every new or renewing member who signed up at the Anglers Night Out were put into a drawing for a Full Day Guided Fishing Trip provided by Bryce Michel of Matagorda Topwater (topwatermatagorda.com). Congratulations to new member Scott Sessions. There were numerous winners in our bucket raffle taking home some very good prizes. Very proud to say we gained over 20 new members to the Greater Sugar Land Chapter and CCA Texas. Many thanks to Gary Blanchette and the crew from the Knights of Columbus for the outstanding friend catfish dinner and excellent hospitality.



CCA Greater Sugar Land new member winner of a guided trip



Kid Fish events are always a blast.

We also hosted a very successful Kid Fish event with Missouri City at the Missouri City Community Park. We would like to thank Adam Loffers with the Missouri City Recreation Department. Over 30 future CCA members attended the Kid Fish and were treated to a hot dog meal following the awards ceremony. If you haven't ever attended a Kid Fish event you should because the smiles on the kids faces leaves you with an eternal Kodak moment. Thanks to all the volunteer who helped make this event happen.

Next is our Annual Presidents Cup fishing tournament to be held Saturday, November 13 in Sargent Texas. If you would like more information on the tournament contact us at greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com and follow us on Facebook [CCA Texas Greater Sugar Land Chapter](#). Tight Lines and La Les La Bon Temps Roulle

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte O'Dell 832-368-8263
choctawcharlie69@gmail.com

Guadalupe Valley
Adam Arroyo 361-350-0026
Ctown75@aol.com

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

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

We've been having fun in the Heart of the Hills! Ford of Boerne was the title sponsor for our 2021 banquet at Don Strange Ranch on September 16. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed our shrimp boil. Cookies and cupcakes were provided by H-E-B. Cold beverages were donated by Ben E. Keith, Coral Spirits & Company and Dos Equis. Bull Red Sponsors were Aqua-Man Water Conditioning, Stephanie & Louis Gawlik, DeWinne Equipment Company, The Beckel Group, DD Exotics, Westward #4 Shooting Club, Kendall County Roofing, Randy Herrera Design, Ken Moore KTM Cabinets, Bill Reed, and Williamson Roofing. Trophy Trout Sponsors were Ron Dwyer, Thomas Rusch, GBMB Insurance Agency and JAJ Construction. Thanks to all who participated in the live auction and raffles, and to Academy Sports + Outdoors for their many donations. The following volunteers made this event possible - Claude Aaron, Blake McCarter, Lisa Parks, Randy Plummer, Darrell Steubing, Craig Tietze, Sandy Tietze, Weston Tietze, Tom Wayland and the CCA crew from Houston - great job everyone!

If you weren't able to attend, check the CCA Texas [website](#) under "Find your chapter" to keep up with Heart of the Hills events! Until next time...tight lines!

Helotes
Johnny Rayburg 210-535-6810
jrayburg@sbcglobal.net

Howdy CCA Helotes members, fall is here and the fishing patterns should be changing. Hopefully you can get out and enjoy some of the cooler weather and catch a bunch of fish.

The board members are still working to make sure we are ready to host another great banquet in 2022. **Don't forget to save the date: March 24, 2022.** We'll be back at Pedrotti's Ranch and we'll have plenty of room for you to invite all your friends.

The Helotes Cowboy Christmas Parade is still a possibility. We could use a little help if you'd like to be in the parade. This year it's December 11, 2022 at 7pm. Reach out to a board member or contact me if you are interested. Don't forget to take a kid fishing, it'll put a smile on their face and yours.

Hill Country
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Houston Homebuilders
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Houston Real Estate
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KLaguarda@landadvisors.com

Katy
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Laredo
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Lee County
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Live Oak
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Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148
oscar@shallowspportboats.com

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



20th Annual Jim Ehman's Guides Cup Champions (L to R; Brian Walters, Capt. Kyle Chandler, Trent Tomanek, & Blair Pfardrescher)

20th Annual Jim Ehman's Guides Cup Champion Captain Kyle Chandler



**Matagorda Bays
Chris Bird 979-257-6508
cbird1493@gmail.com**

This Fall we held the 20th Annual Jim Ehman's Guides Cup on September 28th at the Matagorda Harbor Bait & Tackle. This year's Captains meeting was held at the Poco Playa Fish Camp the night before where all fishermen and guides enjoyed quality food and comradery. This was the 2nd year we utilized the phone app, Fishing Chaos, which has been an astounding success in allowing our teams to measure and submit their catches without killing a single fish! A total of 18 guides participated this year and we would like to thank each of them for their commitment to conservation:

Capt. Stan Sloan, Capt. Will Fuller, Capt. Floyd Ciruti, Capt. Glenn Ging, Capt. Michael Kubecka, Capt. Dustin Appling, Capt. Patrick Gardner, Capt. Kenny Hauff III, Capt. Jason Finley, Capt. Kyle Chandler, Capt. Cody Vacek, Capt. Ozzie Arnold, Capt. Tommy Alexander, Capt. Charlie Paradoski, Capt. Kevin Kosik, Capt. Caleb Rush, Capt. Jerry West, Capt. Kit Caston and Capt. Nick Mosely.

20th Annual Guides Cup Results:

1st Place – Team Kyle Chandler (120")
2nd Place – Team Jason Finley (112.5")
3rd Place – Team Dustin Appling (106.5")



From the MidCoast chapter: Sunset over San Antonio Bay

Below: CCA Mid Coast Chapter President Wade Harrell during the Annual POC Shoreline Clean-up.



Matagorda Bays Chapter is proud to announce that Chris's Marine and Haynie Boats of Aransas Pass is the 2022 Boat Raffle builder! We have placed our chapter order for an "Ice Blue" Haynie 25 Magnum with the following accessories and motor (Stay tuned for when ticket sales will begin). Tournament Seats, flush lids, extended gunnels, gunnel lights, painted console, graphics package, C-Top, powder coating, 80qt. engel cooler, dual 8ft power poles, custom upholstery, BT Stereo System with HT4 amp, Garmin 94SV, swim platform, Coastline tandem trailer, and for a second year in a row... a 400HP Mercury Verado! Matagorda Bays - Conservation Quote: "Don't go fishing to escape your life, go fishing to live your life." --Anonymous

Please visit our Facebook page and chapter webpage on the CCA Texas website for all chapter updates. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

**Mid Coast
Wade Harrell
361-935-1125**

wcharrell@hotmail.com

Doesn't that cooler north wind feel nice? Looking forward to great fall and winter fishing! We had some of our board members participate in the 2nd Annual Port

O'Connor Shorelines Clean-up organized by the San Antonio Bay Partnership on September 18, 2021. It was a great time, and I would encourage other chapters to participate in a clean-up on your area or come join us next year! I think you'll find it very rewarding.

We continue to work to build our Mid Coast chapter back up post-COVID and we are starting to host regular monthly in-person meetings again. Please keep a look-out for upcoming events and plans for our 2022 banquet next spring by liking us on [Facebook](#) and checking out our [CCA Mid Coast Chapter webpage](#). We need CCA now more than ever as our fishery recovers from the 2021 freeze event! Please practice conservation while you are out on the water and practice catch and release!

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

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

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

**Port Lavaca
Eric Ellison 361-983-4690
fishingsalt@yahoo.com**

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

We have our date booked for our 2022 banquet so be sure to put it on your calendar! We will be holding our **banquet on Saturday, March 26, 2022**. Be on the lookout for email communications of when tickets go on sale later this year. See you next time in

POC "Where it all began."

Prairie

Patricia Walters 979-885-7464
manager@wpprint.com

Redfish Bay

Norman Oates 361-758-0266
noates01@gmail.com

A big thank you for the support and attendance at the Redfish Bay Chapter Annual Banquet! Special thanks to our board, John Blaha and Houston staff, and Chris's Marine (Title Sponsor). We had the highest attendance and revenue that we have ever had at our banquet! This would not be possible without our many sponsors who donate the raffle and auction items. Also, the table sponsors and other attendees bring their own type of support to the success of the banquet by purchasing the raffle tickets and bidding on the many auction items. We appreciate each and every one of supporters and attendees!

We look forward to continued success next year. The **banquet date for 2022 is Saturday evening at 6 p.m. on May 21st, 2022 (mark your calendar!) at the Aransas Pass Civic Center.** We hope you will join us! We will do everything in our power to make it a fun event!

Our **Beeville Fish Fry is scheduled for Thursday evening October 14, 2021.** This is another fun event to support CCA Texas. It is very similar to a banquet, with meal, beverages, raffle, silent auction, and live auction. Hope to see you there!

Rio Grande Valley

David Deleon
956-533-8374
david_deleon2@yahoo.com

Sabine-Neches

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

Sam Houston

Brandon Kolaja
281-797-6908
bkolaja@huntsvilletx.gov

San Antonio

Robert Lozano 210-632-4246
robertolozano129@yahoo.com

Well, we did It! Our 2021 CCA San Antonio banquet was a monstrous success. The Freeman Expo Hall was in full bloom with the sound of laughter, conversation and fun being had by all. The food was incredible and what a great variety of cold beverages. Packed patron tables celebrated our CCA San Antonio chapter and supported the much-needed social fundraiser. The seven big ticket raffle items had patrons buzzing

including a 1996 Ford Bronco, (2)pk BOTE LONO Aero kayaks, (2)pk Jackson kayaks w/trailer and a 23' AVID Center Console Bay Boat. The high energy generated by attendees bidding on the silent auction items, and stuffing raffle ticket boxes for the coolest items around, was electric. Our live auction was viewed on huge LED screens while the voice of our auctioneer Nick Hinze filled the hall selling dream trips. Bucket lists and hopes of all our bidding patrons were filled with local and international trips: Cabo with Redrum Charters for Marlin, Butterfly Peacock bass in Del Ray Beach with Capt. Thadeus and hunts in Texas and around the world. Oh, and not to forget our special acquisition: The Crown Royal Throne. The Tito's Special Hat Raffle was new this year and a big hit, everyone was a winner! Thanks to Jessica from Tito's. Our event showed with the hard work of CCA San Antonio banquet committee and our participants we had a strong return after the bizarro world of 2020.

A huge thank you to our loyal patrons and sponsors for making our event a celebration of what CCA represents. Again, big thanks to Gulf Coast Marine, Jordan Ford, Groomer's Seafood, Don Strange Catering and Events, Maximum Altitude, Silver Eagle Beverages, Frost Bank, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Academy Sports + Outdoors, H-E-B, Twin Liquors Fine Wine & Spirits, TG Canoes and Kayaks, Boone Dox trailers and Southwest Trailers.

Stay tuned for upcoming mixers, general membership meetings and events planned by our energized committee members. Check on our [Facebook](#) for future events and be sure you are on our mailing list. Please be safe. Keep those lines taut and take the family fishing. Best from our CCA family to yours!

San Bernard

Ross Kutach 281-330-0135
rosskutach@yahoo.com

San Gabriel

John Melnar 512-497-8284
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Southwestern

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TAMU

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Texas State University

Travis James 832-909-5833
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Tomball/Magnolia

Matt Maddox 832-963-5215
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Tri-County

Justin Putz 210-585-0401
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Trinity Bay

Jayo Washington 281-960-7064
jayowash@comcast.net

Even though we struggled to deal with the headwinds of COVID concerns for this year's banquet, we want to send out a heartfelt thank you to this year's sponsors and attendees of our banquet in August. Special thanks to **Platinum Sponsor, Sunbelt Valve Services, Title Sponsor, SMP Supply and Title Sponsor, Topwater Energy Solutions. Koozie Sponsor Salty Texan and Visor Sponsor The Boat Yard** made sure we had the swag our attendees look forward to. The Crab Craps table, sponsored by **Property Tax Compliance Resources**, was busy all night. Thanks to **Dr. Thomas J. Friedt** for sponsoring the Louis Vuitton poker chip game. It was so much fun watching the excitement and/or the devastation every time a chip was drawn.

We also couldn't support our fishery like we want without our statewide sponsors, Engel, Tito's, Rhineland Cutlery, White Claw Seltzers, Rebecca Creek Whiskey, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Costa, Building Conservation Trust and CCA Texas Star Tournament.

Lastly, thanks to all the table sponsors and all the attendees enjoying the new venue. It was so great to have all the extra room on the floor.

As Gerald always says, "It's never too early to start," so we are targeting Friday, August 26, 2022, to do it over again. Now that we know we have extra room, look for us to bring back margarita machines and a couple new games. Till next time, if you want to get involved with the board or join our wonderful sponsors call me.

Trinity Valley

John Hebert Jr 936-334-2528
jjhebert@imsday.com

West Houston

Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434
ruben@liftpull.com

The West Houston Chapter will have a general membership meeting in mid-November. Details will be released in the coming weeks. For further information call Branon Pesnell at (225) 405-1515.

West Texas

Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499
Craig@McDonnold.net





Daybreak Wade, by Sam Caldwell.

CCA Auction Trips

Many donated trips are won at CCA auctions each year. Here are photos from two.

Kelly and Blake Harris enjoyed a trip to Port O'Connor as guests of Chris Smisek, Bob Brumby and Sam Caldwell. Pictured are Chris Smisek, Kelly and Blake Harris. The fish-finding mascot is Chester. Painting by Sam Caldwell. Photo by Bob Brumby

Below are Tina and David Frick. They won a trip at the Aransas Bay CCA banquet this year with Capt Wright Taylor in Florida. Tina and David are huge supporters of CCA Texas and also volunteers in charge of the vendors for Babes on the Bay. —**Jen Thomasson**





What was labeled as 'A STAR of Different Colors' has finally come to a close. The year presented many different struggles that the tournament had to overcome, but STAR volunteers were able to pull off a very successful tournament. Nobody can put the 2021 STAR experience in words better than the man who has been the STAR Director since inception, Bill Kinney:

"The 32nd annual STAR is a tribute to YOU, and the righteous pride we all feel as true conservationists. Following the deadly freeze, CCA Texas had to act fast, all hands on deck, to build a new STAR plan to help our impacted species, especially speckled trout. Radical moves were required, right then, to offset the damage done. We knew our passion to fish is strong, but did we have what it takes to catch....and not keep? The results are in. We are winning! No one anywhere could match the magnificent restraint CCA anglers demonstrated in behalf of our precious resources. You held back, without government intervention in most cases, to give these fish a break....sensing that our combined efforts would sooner accelerate recovery back to the highest saltwater gamefish populations in the country. Coupled with quick action and stepped-up hatchery releases of 4.8 million speckled trout since the freeze, our mutual angling restraint proves yet again the CCA mission statement is solid. We, as CCA members, are indeed dedicated to the conservation of marine life. Kudos to every single one of you. We are headed the right direction, and faster."

As a testament, our first Catch/Clip/Release format was a resounding success. Thanks to your support almost 55,000 folks fished the tournament. NEW anglers coming into our sport continues strong. More kids hit the water (Note: a special thanks to you parents for ensuring the next wave of future conservationists). Yes, we are aware many would like to see the return of more actual competition versus only tagged-fish catches. As we await results from the TPWD fall gill-net surveys, we will determine which species can safely return. It is likely you can expect a 2022 hybrid of this year's model as these fisheries recover.

Nonetheless, the credit this year goes to you, our members. Since inception, CCA has sought to educate our angling base on both the perils of overfishing and the benefits of marine conservation. YOUR response, in our drastic time of need, is the best there is. No matter what, we are FOR THE FISH.

With over triple the number of tagged fish released, tournament action kept us hopping this year. A record 37 tagged fish were caught with winners capturing more big prizes than ever.

CCA Texas and STAR would like to thank our fine sponsors 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."

One often overlooked area of STAR is the critical role that our great weigh stations serve. For all of your hard work this year we thank: **SGS Causeway in Port Arthur, Sportsman Supply in Sabine Pass, Stingaree Marina in Crystal Beach, Linda's Sylvan Beach Bait & Tackle in La Porte, West End Marina in Galveston, Surfside Marina in Surfside Beach, Matagorda Harbor Bait & Tackle in Matagorda, Indianola Fishing Marina in Indianola, The Fishing Center in Port O'Connor, Terry's Seaworthy Maine Supply in Fulton, Woody's Sport's Center**

in Port Aransas, Roy's Bait & Tackle in Corpus Christi, Westican Outdoors in Kingsville, Harbor Bait & Tackle in Port Mansfield, and South Shore Bait & Tackle in Port Isabel.

After thirty-two amazing years of STAR, we have been blessed to be able to award Texas youth \$7,475,000 in college scholarships to youth from all over Texas, with angling abilities of all levels. The credit for all of the lives changed through STAR scholarships rests solely in the hands of our great sponsors. Without the support of these sponsors year in and year out, this great event that hosted almost 55,000 Texas anglers would not be possible. We only ask that you reward our great partners for showing that they care about, what you care about! To learn more about the tournament (rules, prizes, entry, etc.) or our sponsors, simply head on over to www.startournament.org. What could be a better gift to someone than the chance to win part of way over \$1 million in prizes and scholarships? Sign up now!

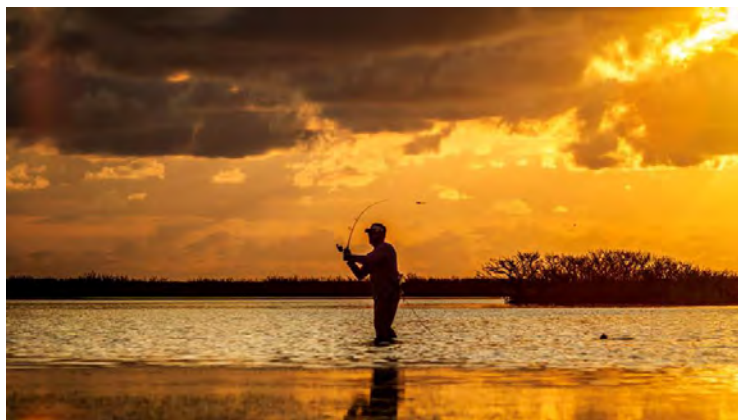
CCA Texas STAR once again partnered up with our beloved title sponsor, Academy Sports + Outdoors to put on another STAR Photo & Video Contest towards the end of the tournament.



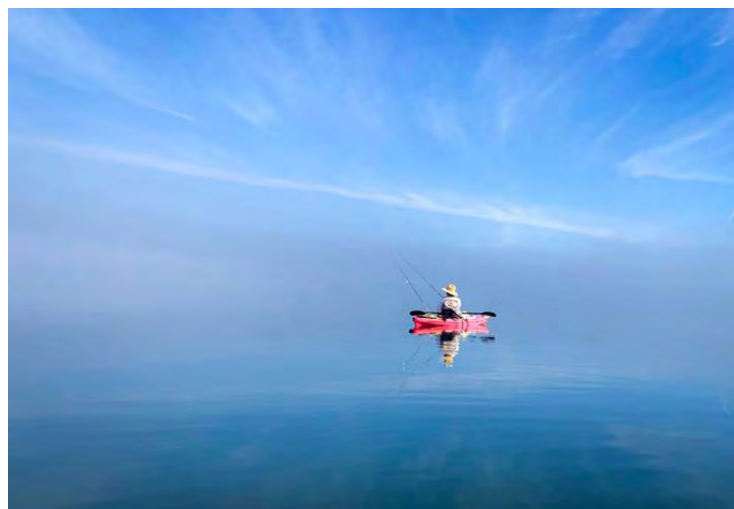
Presenting this year's winners! Winning Photos

FIRST PLACE, Nathan Greak- *This photo was taken during an extremely calm morning out on Baffin Bay, which is a rare sight to see as many will tell you. Me and three other buddies took advantage of this calm morning and loaded our gear in the boat and headed towards the ramp. As we pulled to our first wade we all jumped out of the boat with excitement and eagerness to take advantage of such a calm day. One of my buddies was first to cast a line out, and BOOM, almost as soon as his lure hit the water, he stuck into a solid 25 inch trout. Now an old wise fishermen will always tell you it's bad luck to catch a fish on the first cast, but that was far from true on this day. In a matter of 30 minutes we had caught another 5 trout reaching the measurements between 24-25 inches. And that was just the beginning of the day, we went on throughout the whole day, and all BS aside, caught another 30+ plus keeper trout, all of which were released to help the species after such a harsh winter.*

Winner 2021 Photo Contest - \$500 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card



Devin Kleinfelder – Sight casting reds under a painted sunrise
2nd Place 2021 Photo Contest - \$200 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card



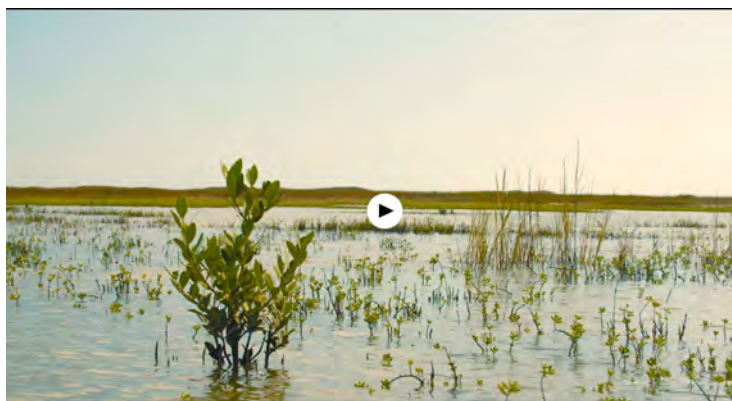
Kim Evaristo – Morning fog burning off
3rd Place 2021 Photo Contest - \$50 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card

Winning Videos

Luis Almendarez - Titled "12 O'CLOCK" is a mini short film showcasing some fly fishing & sight casting with narration explaining what it means to sight cast here on the South Texas Coast.

Winner 2021 Video Contest - \$500-Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card

Please click on the image below to go to our website and view the video.



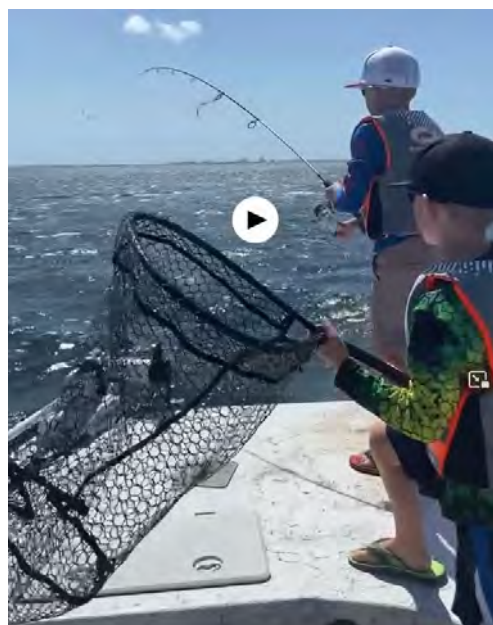
Gilbert Alex Alaniz – Live Red Fish Release in slow motion
2nd Place 2021 Video Contest \$200 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card

Please click on the image above to go to our website and view the video.

Emmett Wagner – 7 yr old son Emmett catching 32 1/4 in Red all by himself. In South Padre

3rd Place 2021 Video Contest - \$200 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card

Please click on the image above to go to our website and view the video.



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!



BEST IN TEXAS

Ford X-Plan Pricing- CCA Texas members will again have the great honor from Texas Ford Dealers of using X-Plan pricing. For just a \$35 membership any CCA member can purchase (or lease) a Ford vehicle at Ford employee pricing!!! Depending on your chosen vehicle, this could save you \$100's or \$1,000's!! Our Ford Partner Code # is CCA61; go to www.fordpartner.com, if you are considering a purchase.



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 2021 CCA Texas STAR participants. This subscription gives you access to the latest and most in-depth outdoors information anywhere. Whether you are lying in bed or sitting in the office, you will always have access. So be sure to 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



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Upper Coast

Capt. Walt Kalinowski

Adjust and enjoy the trip

The arctic blast of 2020: our huge upper coast complex fared better than most of the Texas coast, thanks to many deep regions and Gulf water inflows. The resource suffered, but we're seeing evidence of full recovery. In late September, several "cold" fronts have already moved through. An early winter? Large numbers of small trout and flounder are schooling and apparently moving toward Gulf passes. Maybe the fish are getting smarter or adjusting to the rules of Mother Nature. We'll do the same and enjoy the trip.

Several adjustment suggestions for October and November: 1) You don't have to get on the water at dawn—traffic and launching early is tough, and it's the cool time of the year. 2) Charts, whether paper or phone app are invaluable. 3) The phone app MYRADAR has allowed me to consider and avoid local weather problems. 4) Gather your fishing gear early. I like top waters all day, at least in shallow areas. Try my favorite, a Skitterwalk medium, slow. For deeper regions, try Hoagies, very slow. 5) Before you go, check those trailer axles and TPWD requirements. 6) On the water, you will have weather gear for all, and consider the safety of your crew. 7) Consider the most important value of your trip: the resource.

We suggest sending the big spotted girls and spot tails back over 20 inches. Mother Nature, and future Texas fishermen would appreciate it. Stay safe, take time to enjoy life. —**Capt. Walt Kalinowski** 713-304-7091 capwalk@yahoo.com

Middle Coast

Capt. Scott Null

Your favorite time of year to fish?

If I had to choose one month to fish, it would be October 15 through November 15. The crowds of summer have dispersed, the weather is typically outstanding, and the fish are feasting in anticipation of leaner times to come. As I write this, we have just enjoyed the first cool front, a good one for September. Between that and the refreshing flush the bays received from hurricane Nick, the fall season should be kicking into gear. The redfish will be prowling the marshes searching maturing shrimp as those tasty crustaceans prepare to migrate to the bays and eventually offshore.

Early on, smaller schools of reds will be pushing the shoreline cord grass dislodging shrimp from their hideouts. As the fronts continue to roll through, the shrimp will start gathering in the marsh lakes where schools of reds and trout can be found working them over. Flounder will be stacking up on the marsh drains to prepare for their own migration and feasting on the abundant bait.

With each passing front, more and more of those shrimp will move into the bays. This is when fishing the birds will pick up. Large schools of trout will push the bait to the surface as they feed, attracting the attention of every seagull in the vicinity—along with a whole bunch of boats. If we all ease in by drifting or employing a trolling motor everyone can get in on the action. Don't plow in on the big motor or push too tight to the school and they'll stay up longer.

So, the weather is cooler, the crowds have thinned and the fish are biting. It doesn't get much better. —**Capt. Scott Null**
www.Captainscottnull.com Capt. Scott guides the POC area on fly or conventional tackle, from poling for reds to chasing tarpon on the beachfront. He's also a leader on the [Bite Me podcast](#)

Lower Coast

Capt. Bryan Robinson

Mother Nature adjusts—again

Coming up in October, we can expect higher water levels. Reds will be schooling up on sand beds and posting up to go back offshore. Conditions will be good depending of course on Mother Nature's cold fronts. A day or so after one of the big ones, conditions can be just right for drifting, watching and sight casting to hungry reds. As we have eased along the flats recently, we're seeing a few big trout and lots of reds from 18" to 22".

Rain in the Lower Laguna Madre region has been abundant—some 19" above normal. Maybe that's why the bait fish numbers and the blue crab hatch has been fantastic. We're seeing some monster blue crabs. Fly fishermen should score with crab imitations. Reelers should do likewise when choosing lures; match the crab hatch might be a good slogan. Of course, dedicated top-water afficianados can expect their favorite lures to produce, while remembering that slow is cool in the cooler conditions.

As October fades into November, bigger tides will be along, pushing the gamefish back into the flats. Shrimp patterns and crustacean look-alikes on heavier jig heads, moved slow and slower will be good choices.

Of course, the freeze hurt the LLM, but the prospects for an excellent recovery are apparent. Making that happen is in our hands. We'll remember to practice CPR and encourage friends to send the big fish back for further duty. —**Capt. Bryan Robinson**
956-241-5520 bryandrobinson@yahoo.com
Captain Bryan is a longtime CCA member, a past President of the RGV chapter, and has served on the CCA State Board of Directors.



Photo by Devin Kleinfelder – Sight casting reds under a painted sunrise. Second Place, 2021 STAR Photo Contest.



Rainbow Lodge: The Trip book signing.

Sold out, thanks to many CCA members who took home remarked copies of my book, and Herman Brune's book, *The Lost Rider & Friends*.

We had a special guest at the Rainbow Lodge book signing. This handsome lad is Braylon Alan Groover. His Dad is a Major in the Marines. Photo by his grandfather, Merland Albert.

My thanks to a special place, Rainbow Lodge.—**Sam Caldwell**

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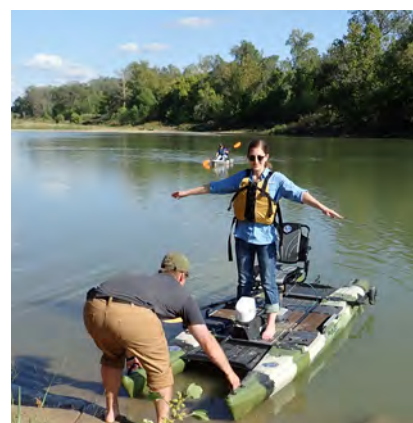
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For full details and directions, drop by the TOWA website:

<https://towa.org/stampede/>

—Michael Bennet, TOWA President



Texas Dove/Quail w/wild rice

For four, if you're a good shot. I like a cast iron skillet for initial cooking and an oven for final touches. Cut 1 jalapeño into 4 strips, and cut 4 slices of bacon in half. To prepare birds: top each with 1 strip of jalapeño and some shredded cheese, then wrap entire bird with 1/2 piece of bacon. Next, secure with a skewer or toothpick. Continue until all breasts are wrapped.

The wild rice takes the longest to prepare, but worth it. 1.5 cups wild rice and 4.5 cups of water heated to a boil. Add rice, reduce heat to a simmer, cover and cook for 45 minutes. While the wild rice cooks, heat three tablespoons of butter and three of vegetable oil. You'll save this for the gravy.

Season the quail or dove with salt and pepper and brown the birds for two to three minutes per side in the hot oil. You aren't trying to cook the game through at this point, just browning the surface for flavor. To assemble the dish, pour the gravy over the rice and stir the two together. Nestle the browned birds into the rice then place the dish into a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Serve with your favorite veggies and a beverage from the Texas Hill Country. —**Sam Caldwell**



Gulf Identification Guide



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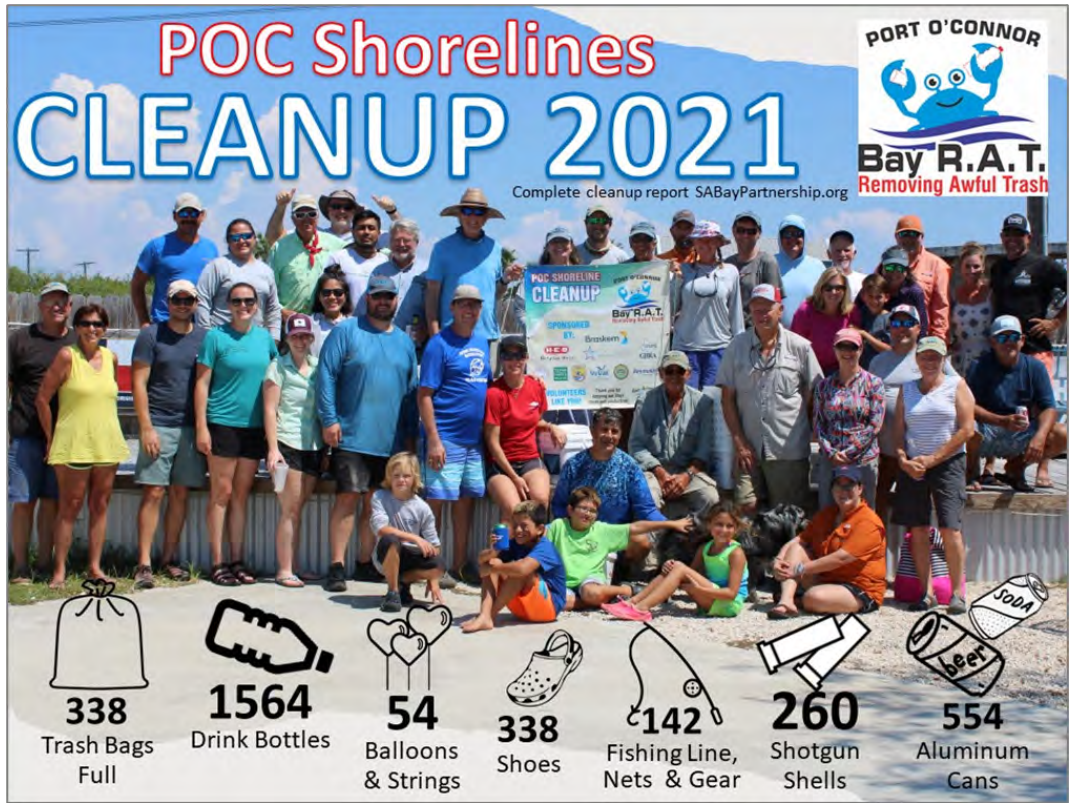
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Great work, Team!

Attached is a summary report of the effort, as a visual. We received several good suggestions on how to do better and will incorporate those ideas into next year's event.

Thanks for caring about the Bay, and demonstrating your commitment. —Allan Berger



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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

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www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat

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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



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