

CURRENTS

February / March 2024



STAR is on the way.

Volunteers like Guide Captain Wayne Davis will be refreshing Texas bays with tagged redfish. Catch just one and take a Ford truck, boat and motor home to decorate your driveway.

Photo by Javi Suarez, RGV chapter

CURRENTS IS INTERACTIVE!

This issue is equipped with clickable links. Try clicking one to open it in your browser.

Management with a Vision

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approves proposal to modify the bag limit and slot size for Spotted Seatrout.

“You either live in vision or you live in circumstance.” – Dr. Kevin Elko

This philosophy is applicable to most aspects of our lives, from career aspirations and homeownership to retirement plans and children’s college savings. The core foundation of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) is rooted in this forward-thinking mindset, explicitly outlined in our mission to conserve, promote, and enhance coastal resources for the benefit of the public for present and future generations.

Fortunately, that vision remains alive and well today, and generations to come will benefit from recent actions taken to conserve and enhance the Spotted Seatrout fishery.

On January 25, 2024, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) approved alterations to Spotted Seatrout regulations. The adjustments include reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 3 fish, tightening the slot limit from 15-25 inches to 15-20 inches, and modifying the threshold for an oversized fish from 25 to 30 inches. While the implementation date is pending, the Texas Parks

and Wildlife Department (TPWD) anticipates the rule to be in effect by the end of March. [Click here to watch the meeting.](#)

TPWD projects a potential 27% increase in spawning stock biomass over a generation of Spotted Seatrout (seven years) as a result of these changes. The department expects the benefits to amplify with time, barring external factors affecting juvenile recruitment or adult mortality.



Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director, with a CPR trout caught off the Surfside Jetty.

This collaborative effort and momentous action will leave a lasting, positive impact on the Spotted Seatrout fishery.

The TPWD received 2,851 comments on the proposed changes, with 36% fully supporting, 38% supporting and objecting to certain aspects, and 25% entirely opposed. Within the 38% group, diverse opinions emerged, ranging from preferences for different slot sizes to objections against the bag limit reduction. However, a significant portion of the comment submissions recognized a need to do something rather than nothing. Common themes within this diverse group also included a desire to retain one fish over 20 inches, support for an oversize tag, no retention of an oversized fish, concerns about excessive daily oversize catches, and worries about the proposal targeting female trout and productive breeders.

While opinions on fishery management vary, **a majority of public comments favored some form of regulation change to conserve and enhance the fishery.** Prior to the TPWC meeting, the [CCA Texas Executive Board voted to support the TPWD proposal.](#) Additionally, CCA Texas



TPWD releasing Spotted Seatrout into the Sabine Lake ecosystem.



Above: Spotted Seatrout fingerlings in holding compartment during stocking. Left: TPWD releases approximately 8-10 million spotted seatrout fingerlings across the entire Texas coast annually.



recommended no allowance for retaining oversized fish until a tag system for fish 25 inches or greater is implemented. This recommendation was communicated, written and verbally, at the January 25th TPWC meeting.

Looking ahead, TPWD plans to publish a new proposal soliciting public comment on developing a tag system for oversized Spotted Seatrout. This proposal will be considered for adoption at the TPWC meeting on March 28, 2024. If approved, the tag system, replacing the daily oversize fish allowance, is expected to be implemented in the next license year starting September 1st. Public input will play a crucial role in determining the preferred length for the tag system.



Jules Bonnot (age 11) with a healthy slot trout caught on artificial.



Corbin Primrose, CCA Texas Banquet Assistant, with a Baffin beauty that was safely released for the next angler to enjoy.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed comments, attended public hearings, or directly addressed the TPWC. This collaborative effort and momentous action will leave a lasting, positive impact on the Spotted Seatrout fishery. It also underscores the meaningful impact of grassroots engagement and your continuous participation in fisheries management.

Rocky Chase, Chairman of the CCA Texas Government Affairs Committee, aptly summarized the Parks and Wildlife Commission's decision by stating, "This decision by the Parks and Wildlife Commission displays management with a vision for the future, and the next generation of anglers owe them a debt of gratitude for their actions."

Rocky, future generations of anglers wholeheartedly concur. — Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director



SPECIES PROFILES

SPOTTED SEATROUT

(Cynoscion nebulosus)

Spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*), known as speckled trout, is a popular game fish targeted by anglers along the Texas coast. This species is a member of the drum family (Sciaenidae) and is closely related to red drum, black drum, sand seatrout, and Atlantic croaker. Distinguishing characteristics include a dark gray or green back and silvery-white below, with distinct black spots on its back, fins, and tail. The inside of their mouth is yellow; typically, they have one or two prominent canine teeth at the tip of their upper jaw.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAC ELLIOT



Habitat: Spotted seatrout reside in shallow bays and estuaries near marsh edge, seagrass beds, oyster reefs, or rock formations that attract prey items.



Salinity: Spotted seatrout are euryhaline, meaning they can tolerate a wide range of salinity, and have been found in salinities ranging from 0.2 ppt – 75 ppt.



Temperature: Spotted seatrout can live in a broad range of temperatures. They can tolerate water temperatures from 39 – 91° F if they are acclimated gradually to the extreme of these ranges. Along the Texas Gulf Coast, sudden and extreme temperature decreases accompanying cold fronts often result in mass mortalities of spotted seatrout. The rate of temperature change and acclimation period may be more important than how low the temperature drops. Thermal stress mortality occurs when they are exposed to water temperatures lower than 45° F for over 24 hours. However, fish exposed to temperatures between 45–50° F for short periods can recover and survive.



Growth: Spotted seatrout growth rates are different for males and females. Females grow faster and larger versus males in the same age class. Studies also reveal there is a high degree of variability that exists in spotted seatrout growth rates in bays along the Texas Coast. They can live to be 9 to 10 years of age and can reach lengths of more than 30 inches. Although rare, the oldest documented spotted seatrout in Texas was a 12-year-old, 25 inch male.

	AGE (VRS)									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MALE TOTAL LENGTH (IN)	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	20	21
FEMALE TOTAL LENGTH (IN)	12	16	19	21	23	25	26	27	28	29



Reproduction: Spotted seatrout reach sexual maturity as early as age one. Spawning takes place from April through September when water temperatures range from 70°– 90° F. Females can spawn multiple batches per season (9 batches per season assumed in the table below), and the number of eggs produced is dependent upon their size. Small fish are capable of releasing over 100,000 eggs, and larger females can release over 1 million eggs, per spawning event. Two-, three-, and four-year-old fish make up the bulk of the spawning population. When spawning commences, males will surround females, bumping or nudging the stomachs of females to induce them to release eggs. Once eggs are released, males will release their milt (sperm) which fertilizes the eggs. Fertilized eggs hatch in 20 to 24 hours. Research indicates that spotted seatrout spawn between dusk and dawn and broadcast spawn within coastal bays, estuaries, and lagoons. Peak spawning takes place around new and full moon periods when large tidal swings carry their buoyant eggs and larvae into shallow seagrass beds, which provide critical nursery habitat offering cover from predators and abundant food resources.

AGE (VRS)	FEMALE TOTAL LENGTH (IN)	EGGS PER BATCH	EGGS PER SEASON
1	12 in	304,495	2,740,458
2	16 in	736,001	6,624,006
3	19 in	1,249,726	11,247,530
4	21 in	1,699,232	15,293,088
5	23 in	2,242,589	20,183,297
6	25 in	2,899, 561	26,096,045
7	26 in	3,270,027	29,430,247
8	27 in	3,670,137	33,031,232
9	28 in	4,104,822	36,943,399
10	29 in	4,569,150	41,122,350

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sportfish@tamucc.edu



CCA Texas Funds \$246,204 for Habitat Restoration

By John Blaha

CCA Texas recently approved \$246,000 for two habitat restoration projects along the Texas coast. \$46,204 was funded for Phase I engineering for the **Ayers Point Reef Restoration Project on the eastern end of Ayers reef.**

These funds will emanate from the \$5 million CCA Texas Oyster Restoration Initiative. They will be combined with funds from other organizations, like the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), which they have received to execute the phase one engineering portion of this project

CBBEP and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve system (NERR) have also jointly applied for a NOAA NERRS Habitat Protection and Restoration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Competition grant for future construction.

This will be the first project and the top priority area as identified by members of the Mesquite Bay Complex Oyster Restoration Initiative.

CCA Texas and the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) have been long-time partners in several projects. The **Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection Project** is in Phase III of construction and CCA Texas has funded \$200,000 to help



Members of Harte Research Institutes Coastal Conservation & Restoration Lab on hand for observation while out in the Aransas Bay system completing oyster reef surveys.

This will be the first project and the top priority area as identified by members of the Mesquite Bay Complex Oyster Restoration Initiative.

extend the shoreline protection by an additional 300 plus feet.

The funds will be allocated from the grassroots fundraising efforts of local chapters for the Building Conservation Trust (BCT) Texas habitat

fund. CCA Texas has now funded \$430,000 to the restoration efforts to protect the sensitive Oyster Lake estuarine system, located at the very west end of West Galveston Bay.

CCA Texas looks forward to the lasting, positive impact these conservation efforts will bring and the continued critical partnerships that will help restore Texas's coastal habitat.



Contractors place rock cultch into the St. Charles Bay Big Tree Unit reefing area. Each reef bed is checked continuously through construction to ensure proper amounts of material are placed and settled properly.

CCA TEXAS: LEADERS IN OYSTER REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

PROJECT

FUNDED AMOUNT

OYSTER REEF CREATION - ST. CHARLES BAY (ROCKPORT)	\$711,250
OYSTER RESTORATION - EAST GALVESTON BAY	\$500,000
MESQUITE BAY OYSTER REEF MONITORING (HRI)	\$225,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - DEEP REEF SABINE LAKE	\$215,000
SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM	\$152,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - PEPPER GROVE / GALVESTON	\$130,000
HRI OYSTER RESTORATION SITE LOCATOR MAPPING STUDY	\$120,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - ARANSAS BAY	\$75,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - COPANO BAY	\$75,000
NUECES BAY DEMONSTRATION OYSTER REEF	\$60,000
GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION OYSTER RECYCLE TRAILERS	\$10,000
SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM TRAILERS	\$10,000
FUNDS APPROVED AND EARMARKED FOR OYSTER RESTORATION AND CREATION IN AREAS CLOSED TO HARVEST ON THE TEXAS COAST	\$5,000,000

TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT AND COMMITTED TO OYSTER RESTORATION AND CREATION

\$7,283,250

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas Projects

1. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000
2. Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef	\$1,061,000
3. Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass	\$ 906,000
4. Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)	\$ 711,250
5. Nearshore Reefing—Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
6. Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000
7. *** Shoreline Stabilization - Oyster Lake (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 430,000
8. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man & Kate's Reef	\$ 329,000
9. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
10. Dagger Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)	\$ 250,000
11. Mesquite Bay Oyster Reef Monitoring (HRI)	\$ 225,000
12. Oyster Restoration—Deep Reef Sabine Lake	\$ 215,000
13. Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda	\$ 200,000
14. Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR	\$ 200,000
15. Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Program	\$ 152,000
16. Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 150,000
17. Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Moses Lake (Galveston Bay)	\$ 138,000
18. Baffin Bay Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study	\$ 135,000
19. Oyster Restoration—Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT)	\$ 130,000
20. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)	\$ 125,000
21. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study	\$ 120,000
22. Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou	\$ 100,000
23. Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi	\$ 100,000
24. Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville)	\$ 95,000
25. Marsh Restoration - Brazoria & San Bernard Wildlife Refuge	\$ 91,000
26. Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
27. Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
28. Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside)	\$ 70,000
29. Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island	\$ 70,000
30. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates	\$ 70,000
31. Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
32. Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef	\$ 60,000
33. Newcomb Bend Marsh Restoration (TPWD)	\$ 50,000
34. Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport)	\$ 50,000
35. Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
36. Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphree WMA	\$ 50,000
37. Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County)	\$ 50,000
38. Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration	\$ 50,000
39. Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration	\$ 50,000
40. *** Ayers Reef Restoration Reef Project Phase I	\$ 46,204
41. Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston)	\$ 42,000
42. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline	\$ 40,000
43. Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protections and Oyster Reef Enhancement	\$ 30,000
44. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)	\$ 24,000
45. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 20,000
46. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)	\$ 15,000
47. Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Programs Trailer	\$ 10,000
48. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass	\$ 5,600
49. Building Conservation Trust's Texas Habitat Fund (BCT & CCA Texas Secured Funds)	\$ 399,066

** 2024 Projects Contributed to as 02/06/24

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2024: 10,375,120

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

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust Nearshore Reefing Support	
• Sabine Pass HI20 (2021 deployments: Culverts & pyramids)	\$ 906,000
• Rio Grande Valley (2021 deployments: Railroad ties & boats)	\$ 861,000
• Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
• Galveston Big Man & Kate's (2021 deployments: Pyramids)	\$ 329,000
• HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
• Matagorda	\$ 200,000
• Corpus Christi	\$ 100,000
• Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
• Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
Total contributions to Nearshore Reefing:	\$3,456,000





CCA TEXAS
STAR



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PROGRESSIVE

35th Annual CCA Texas STAR

What's in Store for 2024

Every year saltwater anglers from Brownsville to Beaumont enter STAR for the opportunity to WIN BIG. Thanks to our incredible sponsors and their willingness to offer fabulous prizes and scholarships as the best "lure" available in Texas saltwater, the 2024 STAR will be our best ever! When performing our yearly assessment of our prize offerings, we knew something was up when our costs kept skyrocketing (like everything else), and yes—inflation has affected us all—but when faced with a tough decision, we decided to keep all the amazing prizes our members have come to love. NO downsizing, thanks to our sponsors!

In fact, after that annual review, we found our STAR Tournament prizes are valued at more than \$1,940,000. Yowzer!

With that said, here's a quick rundown of what's out there for grabs this year:

For the first time, our friends at Haynie Boats will now be providing their hottest new boat model as part of the truck/boat prize packages for the first five Texas Ford

Haynie Boats will now be providing their hottest new boat model as part of the truck/boat prize packages for the first five Texas Ford Dealers RED TAG Division winners.

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And, of course, you know the Texas Ford Dealers continue to offer us a mind-boggling five brand-new 2024 Ford F-150 SuperCabs to pair with your new Amigo when you catch one of those first five special red tags!



Go fishing and pass it on. Just don't be the angler who pulls a tag out of the water but doesn't enter STAR. You may know someone who has made that mistake, we see those folks every year.

There is ample evidence to show that fishing heals what ails



The Haynie Boats 23' LSC SuperCat known as the Amigo. This is not the actual boat, just a representation of the Amigo.

you. And most folks fish to be with friends and family. As you read this, we have been through a dreary time both with the weather and global events that bring us down. In response, The STAR Tournament Committee has chosen to light it up during this Early Bird Registration period. Everyone knows about the Dargel Skout boat, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer GRAND PRIZE Package that's given away to one lucky Early Bird Registrant, but the Committee wants us to offer more even opportunities to WIN BIG during this Early Bird period! What do they have up their sleeve? Y'all will find out soon enough! All you need to do is keep your eyes peeled on your email inbox for more details. We can't wait for you to find out!

As always, we're also offering \$325,000 in scholarships available for lucky Texas youth! Most are aware that the CCA Texas STAR Tournament is our annual membership drive in hopes of getting our kids hooked on the great Texas outdoors. Yep, it is a fun, wholesome recreational event with massive prizes for everybody...but we need those kids to become the next generation of recreational angler conservationists. For Texas to maintain the best fisheries in the country, we need their help. STAR provides these valuable scholarships to get 'em on the water fishing and enjoying Texas' marine resources to understand why they need to be conserved. Once they start catching, the fish do the rest of the work for us. Just one 20" redfish will handle the in-house marketing for CCA, and we will likely have a future conservationist. ALL kids on the final STAR leaderboard will receive scholarships from \$2,500 to \$30,000, enabling them to go to any accredited college, university, technical or trade school, or vocational training program. Can you imagine the fish stories that come out of this Division?

PROGRESSIVE

So, don't wait. If you are a member reading this, you will probably enter anyway. Do it NOW---to make sure you are eligible for the EARLY BIRD. Only those entered by **FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024**, will be eligible for the EARLY BIRD Drawing Grand Prize: The Dargel Skout boat, Mercury motor, and McClain trailer package...and maybe some other surprises along the way. Heck, even if you don't fish at all this summer, just by entering you'll be in the MEMBER BONUS Drawing for another Dargel boat package! Or your child (for a mere \$10 bucks) will be in a drawing for a \$25,000 scholarship...unless he or she wins another scholarship in the competition!

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Too many prizes to keep track of. Renew your membership and ENTER NOW! And thank you for supporting CCA. With your help, we are making a big difference.

**CCA's STAR
Tournament has now
provided \$8,100,00 in
college scholarships
to youth from all
over Texas**

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



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Photo courtesy of Mac Elliot

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Leaving It Better Than You Found It



Christmas Bay Crab Trap Removal Day Coming Up

Hello, Team. Exciting news for our CBF traps, the Third Saturday of February. That's February 17 beginning at 8am. Upon advice from the Brazoria County Rescue Squad, we are moving the Crab Trap event to the Brazoria County Boat Ramp and San Luis Pass Park. We will collect traps from 8am-12pm, then break for lunch and get back on it from 1:30pm - 5pm. — **Jim Olive** 281-802-3597.

Outdoor artist Sam Caldwell will participate in our event. He is donating two of his great watercolor prints. One for the team that gathers the most traps and a second to the individual with the most interesting story about

Christmas Bay Abandoned Crab Trap Day, 2022.

bringing a trap into the boat, or anything else interesting. There are rumors that Country Western Singer Kevin Black may also attend.

The Nature Conservancy is sending volunteers from Corpus Christi. We will do two sessions on Saturday, one AM and one PM. As always, the Gulf Coast Rescue Squad will be in attendance along with Brazoria County, Andy Lubetkin with his boat (S). We start promoting this event next month. Should be one of our best attended.

Tight lines! — **Jim Olive**
San Luis Pass County Park
979-233-6026 / sanluis@brazoriacountytx.gov

The crabbing closure period is Friday, Feb. 16 through Sunday, Feb 25, 2024.

Help is needed throughout the closure, but Saturday, February 17 will be the main mobilization day, with Saturday February 24 as the bad weather backup. Please save the dates on your calendars.

Volunteers are needed out of Palacios, Port Lavaca, Indianola, Port O'Connor, Seadrift, Austwell, and Rockport. As in 2023, boats are requested to use a free cell-phone-based app, **Field Maps**, to mark locations of each trap removed. This data is essential to reducing trap dereliction. Signup is required to obtain requisite ID's and training will be available.

Contact Allan: allanrberger@outlook.com or call 713-829-2852 for assisting out of Port O'Connor, Charlie's, Seadrift, or Austwell.

Contact Janet: info@lavacabay.org or 361-920-0818 for assisting out of Port Lavaca.

Contact Bill: bbalboa@matbay.org or 361-781-2171 for assisting out of Palacios or Matagorda.

Contact Katie: katie.swanson@utexas.edu or 361-749-3106 for assisting out of Rockport.

It will be fun again! Thank you for your help. — Allan Berger.



One of the earliest crab trap removal days.

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Caught Redhanded!

Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

Several recent cases deserve special mention as examples of the wide range of service Texas Game Wardens provide.

—**Ronnie Luster**, CCA Liason with Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

On December 5, 2023, Matagorda County Game Wardens filed on a commercial gulf shrimp boat for possessing (72) flounder in closed season and (2) Turtle Excluder Device violations. Cases Pending.



On January 16, 2024, Region 4 Wardens patrolled the Upper Coast during the cold weather event to assist Coastal Fisheries with sea turtles stunned by the low temperatures. Many stunned turtles were rescued by Wardens and transported to biologists for rehabilitation.



On January 30, 2024, a Matagorda County Warden filed on two people for possessing nine undersized black drum. Cases pending.



Texas Game Wardens, Serving Texans since 1895



Law Enforcement Off the Pavement

Gulf Identification Guide



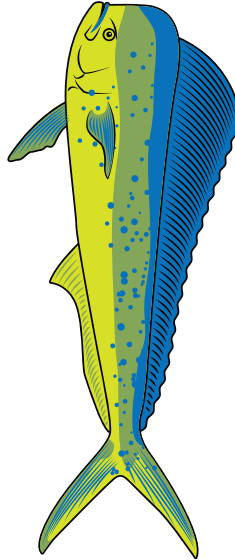
Tito's Bloody Mary



Grouper



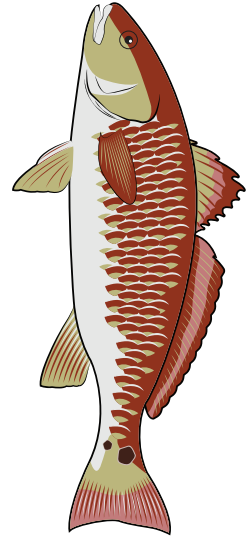
Tito's Martini



Mahi-Mahi



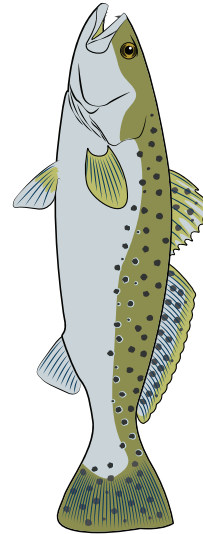
Mo-Tito



Redfish



Tito's Salty Dog



Speckled Trout



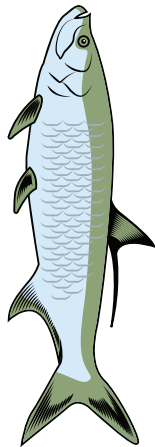
Tito's Screwdriver



Tito's All-American Lemonade



America's Original Craft Vodka



Tarpon



Tito's All-Time Favorite



Flounder



Tito's American Mule

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marucci x CCA

As a proud partner of CCA, Marucci strives to enhance the outdoor experience by offering high-quality products that not only meet the needs of enthusiasts but also contribute to the conservation efforts championed by CCA.



In partnership with CCA, Marucci's Limited Edition Lifestyle sunglasses feature an engraved CCA logo on the lens and custom design on the temples.

100% UV protection from the sun's harmful rays.

Ri-Pel™ scratch-resistant lens coating repels dirt, oil and water for use in all weather conditions.

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OMERO 2.0

Lightweight frames provide all-day comfort for everyday activities.



GANCIO 2.0

Large, fully-wrapping frame for a secure fit during outdoor activities.



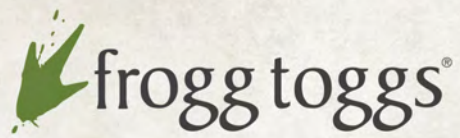
CCA DUFFEL

Heavy-duty shell material with a water-resistant external pocket and a ventilated mesh padded shoulder strap.



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TEXAS



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 recent video that will provide an idea of the process:

[CLICK HERE](#)





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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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1. Show everyone you're a conservation-minded Texas angler.
2. Raise awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts each time you're out on the road.
3. Support our work of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. For each plate sold, CCA Texas will receive \$22.

Order yours TODAY by [CLICKING HERE](#).

If you already have CCA Texas plates with the previous design, you can definitely keep them, but you also have the opportunity to get the new one by going to your local county tax assessor-collector's office and ordering a replacement for \$6.50.

Help out CCA Texas and upgrade your car, truck, or trailer by [CLICKING HERE](#) to get your custom CCA Texas plates TODAY at MyPlates.com.

Your friend in conservation, —**Robby Byers**
Executive Director CCA Texas



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.

**REPORT
ILLEGAL
FISHING!**

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SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.**

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:

Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife > **800.792.4263**

Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard > **361.939.0450**



PHOTO: TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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 full-color newsletter to 75,000+ 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 many reasons a member can 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, readily accessed later instead of having to search through stacks of magazines, and printed for reference.
- Links can be used to connect to advertisers, as well as cross referencing other articles, writers, photographers and artists.

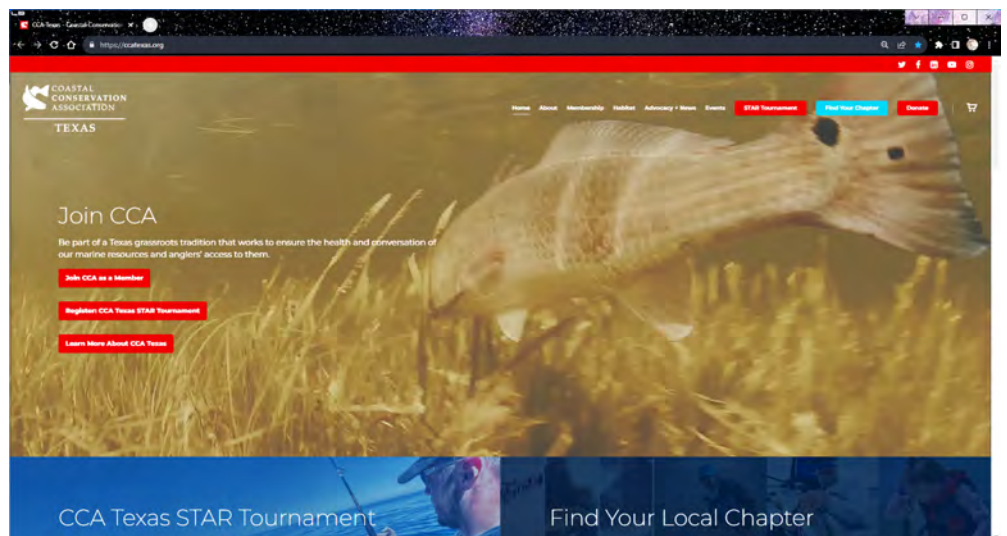
- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast. [Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



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.



Follow CCA Texas on Social Media!

The BEST way to stay informed on the latest with CCA Texas is by FOLLOWING us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter/X. We regularly post photo and video updates on our 60 local chapters, conservation projects, member photos, and advocacy efforts to keep you informed and engaged.

Our following continues to GROW FAST, so join thousands of CCA Texas members around the state by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter now! Each time our members FOLLOW CCA Texas and LIKE our posts, it helps to raise awareness for CCA and our conservation efforts. And don't be shy, share our posts with your friends and family and encourage them to FOLLOW us as well!

Featured Social Media Highlights

Join over 32,000+ Texas anglers by LIKING our CCA Texas Facebook page to be the first to know about important updates, see awesome photos, and watch cool videos! LIKE us on Facebook TODAY and help us out by sharing our posts!



Shoutout to CCA Texas Central Houston Chapter member Joseph Lewman who caught and released this big ol' red down in Baffin! It took about an hour to land, and he ended up about a quarter mile away wading through chest and waist-deep waters!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies' Bringing Baffin Back Initiative aims to find solutions to the water quality problems that are contributing to the decline in the health of Baffin Bay which requires reliable sampling equipment and boats.

CCA Texas is proud to fund \$80,000 for this Haynie 23' Big Foot bay boat to ensure HRI staff can carry out the Bringing Baffin Back Initiative's goal of restoring and conserving the "jewel" of the Texas coast.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



Beautiful Baffin.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



CCA Texas on Instagram

We're just about 600 followers away from our goal of 20,000! Help get us there! If you aren't following us already, add our @cca_texas page to your feed and encourage your friends and family to follow us along with you! FOLLOW us on Instagram TODAY!

INSTAGRAM




A PLAY IN III ACTS

ACT I: THE BURN




A play in III acts from our CCA Texas @startournament!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS REEL ON INSTAGRAM!




I AIN'T HERE FOR A LONG TIME...



I ain't here for a long time...I'm here for a good time 🎵

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS REEL ON INSTAGRAM!

We've got a red on the run! 🐟👏

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON INSTAGRAM!



CCA Texas on TWITTER/X

Get important recreational angling-related news and updates filtered into your feed by following us on Twitter / X! In addition to posting our own updates, we make sure to repost content that we know you want to see! FOLLOW us on TODAY!

TWITTER



Matagorda

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No better feeling when that rod bends and you hear that reel burning!

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**Alvin-Pearland
Rex Richards**

alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

Hello and happy 2024 from Alvin Pearland CCA! As this update is being written, we have just scheduled our 2024 chapter board planning meeting. If you think you may have an interest in supporting our chapter by serving alongside us on the board, please reach out to find out what is involved and what it takes to get plugged in.

We have set the date for our **2024 CCA Alvin/Pearland Fundraising Banquet. It will be held on Thursday June 20, 2024 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland.**

We are still in the planning stage, but as usual, you can plan on a fun -filled evening of friends, food, and good old-fashioned fundraising! If you have a company or product you would like to showcase at our event, please reach out to discuss options. Stay tuned for more details soon.

We will be hosting Anglers' Night Out events again this year. They will be held at Big Horn BBQ in Pearland. The dates are April 2, May 21, September 3, and October 22. Stay tuned for details and the speaker line-up.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca> or go to our chapter website at <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/alvin-pearland>. Wishing you good fishing from your Alvin Pearland Board!



Aransas Bay chapter says, "Can't wait to have all the ladies back at Babes on the Bay in 2024!"

**Aransas Bay
Michael Ferri 361-790-4404
txsprig@yahoo.com**

Let's roll 2024! Our Aransas Bay volunteers are ready and excited about all the great things happening in Rockport-Fulton! We are thankful for your dedication and hard work throughout the year!

We have our annual Crab Trap clean up at Goose Island State Park coming up on February 17, meeting at 9 a.m. to help TPWD clean up the abandoned crab traps! Our local crew has a blast on this mission, we would love to have you join the fun! Don't miss a day of beachcombing at the **Billy Sandifer Beach Clean Up Saturday, March 24 at Padre Island National Seashore.** We all love to enjoy our Texas beaches, let's do our part to make a difference! Get with one of our committee members for details!

Our annual banquet will be here before you know it! **The Aransas Bay CCA Banquet is April 6, 2024 at Fulton Convention Center.** Tickets are for sale and we expect it to be a sold-out event once again! Raffle tickets for the 6-seater golf cart from Copano Carts are on sale NOW! Come see us at LaMardi Gras February 9-10 in Lamar and Oysterfest in Fulton March 7-9! Second through fifth place tickets win big too, so don't miss out!! Our Banquet is an exciting evening of fundraising for Texas Coastal Conservation, and we sell out QUICK! Thank you to our sponsors for this event: **Salemi's Ace Hardware, Guild Mortgage, Tackle Town and Big Tree Realty!** For questions regarding the Banquet and raffle ticket sales, email jdblaha@ccatexas.org or contact President, Mike Ferri at (361) 790-4404 or Jane Jackson, Secretary at (210) 240-7722.

Follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for the latest details!

Babes on the Bay is May 17-18, 2024. Registration IS OPEN and we are back for our **TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY** year, with another fantastic weekend of fishing, live music, vacation giveaways, vendors, and more! Best girl's weekend ever! We have Guided, Non-Guided, Artificial, Any Bait, Fly Fishing and Babette Divisions! Ladies, book your guides and reserve your hotels ahead of time! Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram for updates and details. The link is on BABESONTHEBAY.COM to register through the Fishing Chaos App! Read the rules, we have made a change in the boundaries this year, photos are on our website. **This tournament is a catch and release tournament to help preserve our local fishery for generations to come.** We can't wait to host you all once again for a fantastic weekend of fishing and camaraderie. If you are interested in being a 2024 Sponsor, or have any tournament questions, please contact Tournament Director, Jen Thomasson, at (361) 205-0182 or Janelle Weller, Asst. Tournament Director at (830) 998-5989. For Vendor info, please call Tina Frick at (210) 508-6281.

Thank you to a huge group of amazing Sponsors for your continued support of CCA Texas Aransas Bay! **Salemi's Ace Hardware, Rockport Tackle Town, The Reserve at St. Charles Bay, Waterloo Rod Company, Yeti, Smith Optics, La Pesca Lodge, Reel Skipper, Turtle Box, Orvis Swan Point Landing, L&F**



Aransas Bay ladies, left to right: Jenae Evans with a beauty on fly! Abigail Bagley, and Jess June with a winning smile!

Distributing, Rockport Marine, Goin' Coastal Outfitters, Poor Man's Country Club, Chris's Marine, Reel Sportswear, Big Tree Realty, Guild Mortgage - Shelley Sammons and Sandy Oaks Kennel, The Fly Trap, Goose Island Flats, Grundens, Sage Fly Rods, and By the Bay Vacation Rentals! We appreciate you!

If you are interested in joining the CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter, please contact President, Mike Ferri at (361) 790-4404, Vice President, Bill Burge at (713) 828-3823 or Secretary, Jane Jackson at (210) 240-7722. We have a wonderful crew here in Rockport-Fulton and would love for you to join us!

Austin

Jason Magdalena 512-789-6207

Jason.magdalena@gmail.com

CCA Austin Chapter is creating new ways to introduce CCA and their mission to the Austin area. We had our first Hooked on Clays last September which was a big success. The board has decided this will be an annual event. We hosted a Whiskey Tasting in February at Warren Wildlife Gallery. There were a variety of raffle games and prizes for guest to participate in and enjoy delicious food from Verdes Mexican Parrilla and taste popular and rare bourbons.

We want to thank LCRA Parks for hosting our Board Retreat at Matagorda Bay Nature Park. The accommodation was great in the beach bungalows with fully equipped kitchens, private bedrooms, and a large outside deck with gas grill. It was great getting together to talk about new ways to promote CCA and their mission. We enjoyed a friendly fishing tournament after our meeting and a few bragging rights for a few!

We are months away from our **Annual CCA Austin Chapter Banquet on May 9, 2024!** You can purchase your table or individual tickets at ccaaustrin.org. Boat and gun raffle tickets are available for \$20 each or 6 for \$100 or 22 for \$300. You do not have to be present to win. If you are interested, please call (512) 662-0006 or email cherylccaustin@gmail.com. You can view more information and a picture of the boat on our website ccaaustrin.org.

We would not be able to raise the funds needed for CCA without the support of our Sponsors: **Covert Bastrop, W.E. O'Neil, S. Watts Group, Denbow Company Inc, Hoffpaur, LawnPop, Zox, Rambo Materials, Poncho, Capital Reyes Distributing and Lone Star Beer, Golf Cart King, BCS Concrete Structures, MoveCorp, Warren Wildlife Gallery, LCRA Parks, Bobcat of Austin, Magpul and Cyber C2.** We appreciate your

continued support.

If you are interested in learning more about the CCA Austin Chapter, please contact Jason.Magaladlena@gmail.com.

Bastrop County
Cole Williams 512-913-3684
colew65@yahoo.com

Brazoria
Kim Lamont 979-482-1456
KALamont@dowcom

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

It is with a heavy heart, to report that 2 of our members have gone to a better fishing hole. Now they are both reeling in the big ones. Chip Manning owner of C&J's Barbecue and Quinten Henry, our best seller for years of sponsorships. We will honor them both at the upcoming banquet.

We started the year off with a meeting, we gathered to plan the March 1 banquet. If you would like to help, our next meeting is Jan 23 at C&J's Barbecue.

Our banquet is March 1, 2024, at the Brazos Center in Bryan, TX. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Hope you will join us for a fun evening of camaraderie, dinner, drinks, live and silent auction, and a raffle.

To buy a table, program ad, or tickets go to: ccatexas.org/events/2024-brazos-valley-banquet.

We truly appreciate your support, in helping insure a future for the marine life. For questions contact: John Ben Strother at (979) 220-1738 or Carson Vecera at (713) 626-4222.

Even though cold weather has arrived, almost ice fishing weather....take a kid or friend fishing.

Brenham
Ryan Saunders 979-251-2389
ryansaunders1@att.net

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

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Our chapter board is very busy preparing for our **upcoming banquet which will be held on March 21, 2024 at the KC Hall in La Grange**. We will serve a steak and shrimp meal prepared by the Knights of Columbus team. It is always excellent along with plenty of refreshments. It promises to be a great evening event. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Please contact any of the following people to get your tickets and please get them early: Danny Olenick at (979) 249-6851, Trish Kubena at (512) 581-2588, Gary Janda at (979) 966-2082, Dave Fehlker at (512) 468-6782, Rusty Kubena at (512) 581-2878 or Eugene Ulrich at (979) 249-7425. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

Come and Catch It
Jared Brumme 210-825-9088
Jared.brumme@yahoo.com

Corpus Christi
Cody Roesner 916-531-0078
cbroutfitters@yahoo.com

2024 is off to a great start here in the coastal bend! Winter fishing is HOT here in the Laguna Madre, with good numbers of solid trout being caught (and released). Anyone who spends time on the water will find it hard not to notice the hard work being put in by TPWD and CCA to protect our angling future and help our fishery recover from the 2021 freeze!

We are excited to host our **46th Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the American Bank Center**. We are pleased to announce that long-time sponsor **Flint Hills Resources** has committed to be our title sponsor again this year for Banquet and our Poco Rojo Kid Fish! Thank you, Flint Hills Resources, for your continued support of CCA and our community.

We expect this event to sell out so please let us know ASAP if you would like to purchase tickets, sponsorship or reserve a table. For questions or to purchase table/tickets for the banquet please contact Heather at ccacorpuchristi@gmail.com or call (361) 882-5199.

Mark your calendars for upcoming 2024 events: **Chapter Banquet – March 7, 2024, and Babes on Baffin Tournament – October 11-12, 2024**. As always, let us know if you're interested in volunteering!

Dallas
Kyle Marmillion 214-437-3468
marmillionkyle@gmail.com

We are off to a great start planning this year's banquet! **The CCA Dallas Chapter Annual Banquet will take place Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 6 p.m. at On The Levee**. This year, we are planning for over 400 people to attend and our table sales are already open. Sponsorship opportunities are available as well.

If you are interested, please reach out to our Erich Schneider at eschneider@ccatexas.org or purchase tickets on our [chapter webpage](#).



CCA DALLAS
ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 | 6:00 PM

On The Levee
1108 Quaker St. | Dallas, TX 75207

\$150 INDIVIDUAL TICKET
\$1,200 TROUT TABLE
Table for 8 guests.

\$3,000 REDFISH TABLE
Table for 8 guests with preferred seating, table gifts for each guest, recognition on the CCA Dallas website and social media.

\$5,000 MAHI TABLE
Premium table for 8 guests with preferred seating, premium gifts for each guest, personal cocktail waitress, and a full-page ad in Banquet Program.

\$10,000 TITO'S TABLE
Premium co-branded gift for each person, premium seating, dedicated cocktail server, and premium program advertisement.

PURCHASE FROM: CCATexas.org/Dallas

2024 CCA DALLAS SPONSORS

Sponsors listed: Tito's Handmade Vodka, MILES & MILES OUTFITTERS, Kawasaki, SAWGRASS, BERETTA Gallery, Ariner-Sails, ANGELS ENVY BOURBON WHISKEY, PROGRESSIVE POWERSPORTS, and OHB.



CCA Dallas Chapter President Kyle Marmillion, Past Chapter President and Board Member Greg Resnansky pictured with our Miles and Miles partners securing trips for our 2024 banquet at the annual Dallas Safari Club Exposition.

Fort Bend
Thomas Welch 832-628-0130
twelch@aegislifesafety.com

Hello everyone, 2024 is here and we are ready for another great year! Starting off the new year, your Fort Bend CCA committee members have been planning the 38th Annual CCA Fort Bend Chapter Banquet. This year we will be raffling off another boat for our Grand Prize, a Trans Sport 16' Baby Cat with a 75 Suzuki and Coastline trailer. There are also chances to win a Weatherby 6.5-300 with CCA logo, a Waterloo Rod with a Lews Custom Lite, a Turtlebox Speaker, and Vortex Viper 10x42 Binoculars! Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100, bundle deal is PRESALE



**38th Annual
Fort Bend CCA Banquet
& Boat Raffle**
Thursday, April 11, 2024
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds



2024 Trans Sport 16' Baby Cat w/ 75 Suzuki w/ Coastline Trailer. Plus chances to win a Weatherby 6.5-300 w/ CCA logo, Waterloo Rod w/ Lews Custom Lite, Turtlebox Speaker, and Vortex Viper 10x42 Binoculars.

\$20.00 Each
(6) Tickets \$100 PRESALE ONLY

Need not be present to win

For Raffle Tickets Call: Jim Black (979) 240-5010
Banquet and Table Tickets Call: Troy Burditt (281) 725-8569
Banquet Chairman: Chris Easterling (281) 702-4376
Chapter President: Thomas Welch (832) 682-0130
CCA AD: Carson Vecera at cvecera@ccatexas.org

ONLY! For boat tickets please contact Jim Black at (979) 240-5010, Thomas Welch at (832) 628-0130, Chris Easterling at (281) 702-4376, or any of the Fort Bend CCA committee members you may know personally.

As usual, our gracious sponsors and donors are doing all they can to help make this year's banquet a huge success. **Our banquet is scheduled for April 11, 2024.** Location and more details can be found on the CCA website listed below. If you would like to become a sponsor or would like to donate, please contact the names listed above. Your support is greatly appreciated. For table reservations and banquet tickets you can contact Troy Burditt at (281) 725-8569 and he'll get you fixed up. Hope to see you all there!

Lookout for upcoming information on this year's annual Fort Bend CCA Kidfish event, held in Matagorda TX. Date, flyer, and information about the event coming soon and will be posted at <https://matagordabay.com>. Remember to keep the waterways clean and be respectful to your fellow anglers. Hope to see you on the water!

Fort Worth
Beau Redwine 817-291-1890
beauredwine9@gmail.com

Greetings from the Fort Worth Board. We hope that you enjoyed some time with your family over the holidays and had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Last fall we held a very successful fish fry for our local members, and we are grateful for those of you that joined us for a fun evening of fellowship and camaraderie. As we are gearing up for warmer weather our attention is turning to the **Annual Banquet on May 2, 2024 at Joe T. Garcia's** in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards. Between now and then we will be adding information about the Spring Crawfish Boil. Please check out our social media pages for updated information and make sure our emails are not going to your spam folder. We always appreciate your unwavering support and enjoy seeing you at all of our events. Here's to 2024 and another successful season of raising money for the fish!

Galveston
Lawrence Walker 832-444-0911
lpwalk62@icloud.com

The Galveston CCA Board held our first meeting of 2024 on January 22. After watching the "H-E-B Our Texas, Our Future Films: Redfish Revival" together, we elected Brooke Wilson as our new Secretary and closed in on key dates for the year, so have a look below and mark your calendars for a few of our upcoming events!

First, the **Galveston CCA Annual KidFish will be May 11 at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island, Galveston.** It's a FUN/FAMILY/FREE FISHING EVENT, and we really enjoy hosting it! Keep an eye on our website for upcoming details: ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/Galveston.

Next, we are renewing **Galveston CCA Reels and Heels Women's Fishing Tournament.** It will be held on **Saturday, June 22** with the Captain's Meeting Friday night, June 21. We'll have the flyer with details also coming to our website.

And finally, our first Anglers Night Out members meeting is being planned for February 19. Bd on the lookout for emails and website communications. Cheers and hope to see you out there soon!

Golden Triangle
Heath Thompson 409-937-4139
Heath.b.thompson@gmail.com

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

Welcome to 2024 and it's going to be a great year for CCA Texas and The Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter.

You won't want to miss our **Annual Banquet to take place on Thursday April 4, 2024 at The Stafford Centre** featuring a great meal, adult beverages and a night of good ole fashioned fun and FUNdraising. There's still time but don't wait long to get your tickets since the last two years have resulted in a sold-out crowd.

Stay tuned for the Annual Chapter Presidents Cup to take place May 4 in Sargent, Texas. Kid Fish events are planned for Sienna, Riverstone, New Territory and Missouri City communities. Next one is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11 at Sienna.** This past year's events hosted



over 100 participants at each event. I encourage any of you to attend one of our Kid Fish events and you won't be able to erase the smile from the kids when they catch their 1st fish from your mind.

Also planned for the Fall of 2024 will be our Annual Anglers Night Out Chapter Membership Drive with this year's event being a Casino Night. It will be a fun-filled night, you can bet on it. More information to come.

I would like to give a Texas Size shout out to each board member for your continued support throughout the year. Your efforts don't go unnoticed. 2024 will be our best year yet. Until next time, tight lines and Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler.

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.ccahaysco@gmail.com

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

Howdy from the Heart of the Hills! Hope your 2024 is off to a great start. Join us for an **Anglers Night Out on April 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Dog and Pony Grill in Boerne.** We'll have a speaker (to be announced), drinks, appetizers and maybe even a few raffles. Hope to see you there!

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

Hill Country
Miles Engelke 210-260-8968
mrengelke1957@gmail.com

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

8th Annual
2024 Houston Homebuilding CCA Banquet
Thursday, September 5, 2024
Saint Arnold's Brewing Company
2000 Lyons Avenue
Houston, Texas 77020

<https://ccatexas.org/events/2024-houston-homebuilding-banquet/>

SAINT ARNOLD
 PATRON SAINT OF BREWERS

Houston Real Estate
Kirk Laguarta 713-515-3830
KLaguarta@landadvisors.com

Katy
Lyn Goldman 713-591-8550
lgoldman@contrexenergy.com

Laredo
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Live Oak
Denise Krc 979-733-3358
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Lower Laguna Madre
Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148
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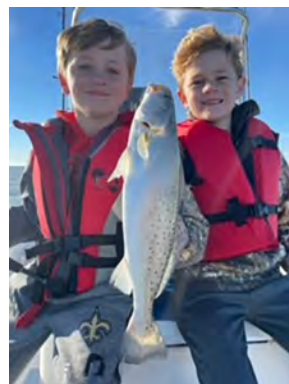
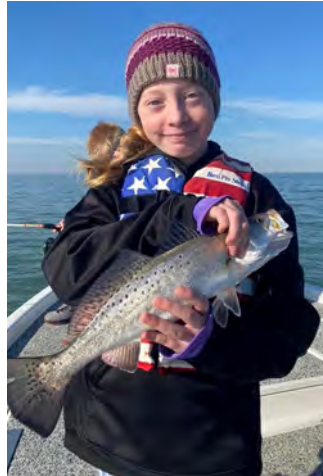
Mainland
Trey Mitchiner 281-636-2165
treym642004@aol.com

Join us for an Anglers' Night Out on March 12, 2024 CCA Texas-Mainland Chapter will have Justin Russell with Bite & Fight Angler Lures talking about the lures He makes for Saltwater and Freshwater. Your first beer is on us.

On April 6, 2024 we will be selling our 2024 15-Gun Raffle Tickets at Big Crawfish Bash at Mainland City Centre.

On April 19 and 20 we will be at Fishing Tackle Unlimited (Gulf Freeway) selling our 2024 15-Gun Raffle Tickets.

Recent catches from some of our Mainland CCA member's kids.



On May 3, 2024 will be our 2024 Banquet at The Doyle Convention Center in Texas City, TX.

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date.

Matagorda Bays
Jason Beery 979-578-1106
jwbeery@yahoo.com

Mid Coast

North Texas
Brian Donovan 214-402-3825
brian@firstlightprint.com

CCA North Texas will hold their banquet April 18, 2024 at 3R's Ranch in Prosper, Texas. Individual tickets are \$100 and include dinner, drinks, and a CCA membership. Bull Red sponsor tables are available for \$2,500 and include a reserved table with seating for eight, a Turtlebox speaker for the table buyer, plus CCA membership, hats, and premium gifts for everyone at the table. A Presenting Sponsor table is available for \$5,000 and includes all items in the Bull Red sponsor package, plus private cocktail service, first service for dinner, a pair of Smith sunglasses for everyone at the table and Presenting Sponsor recognition on all social media and email communications, the chapter website and the banquet program.

3R's Ranch is a secluded private event venue in the heart of Prosper. Food will be provided by Rudy's Barbecue, and we will have beer, wine, and a full bar. Live and silent auctions, plus a raffle will give guests ample opportunities to buy or win fishing and hunting trips, and premium outdoor gear while supporting CCA's critical mission to conserve our coastal habitats. For tickets and information, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at brian@firstlightprint.com or CCA's Taylor Rieck trieck@ccatexas.org.



Lyne Donovan in Rockport with a nice Red.

Northwest Houston
Jerry Goss 832-457-7535
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Orange County
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Port Lavaca
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Prairie
Patricia Walters 979-885-7464
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On January 24 we held our chili appreciation dinner at the Cat Spring Hall we had a great turn out the speaker for the evening was the TPWD Austin County Game Warded Mike Novak he talked about the fishing and hunting state regulations and more. After his presentation we had the bucket raffle. Thanks to CCA and Prairie Chapter for donating the raffle items. Thanks to **Hinze BBQ** and catering for preparing the chili for the event and again it was awesome.

On March 28, 2024 we will be hosting our 25th Annual CCA Prairie Chapter Banquet that will be at the Austin County Fairgrounds. If anyone is interested in purchasing a table or becoming a sponsor contact Patricia at (979) 877-5598 or email at wpprintpat@sbcglobal.net. Thanks for all your support!

Redfish Bay

Rio Grande Valley
Ruben Arcaute 956-453-6966
rjarcaute@gmail.com

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

Greetings, we are in full Banquet mode at this time of year. Save the date for **Thursday, March 7, 2024 for our 26th Annual CCA Sabine-Neches Chapter Banquet at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur, Texas.** Once again, our friends at **Classic Chevrolet/GMC** have stepped up and been our Title Sponsor the banquet - the 15th year Anthony Toups and his team have done this for our chapter and we can't say THANK YOU enough! We look forward to another sold out event this year! Del Papa and Giglio Distributing will have the cold drinks and Shane Chesson and his crew with Pure Cajun Specialty Foods and Catering will have the hot crawfish! What a great night for fundraising! We look forward to seeing you there!

Saltgrass
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Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908
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San Antonio
Tom Akin 210-313-4860
tom.akin@adkf.com

As we begin 2024, San Antonio is prepping for its **45th annual banquet on May 2, 2024!** Our Chapter began in 1979 as the 3rd Gulf Coast Conservation Association Chapter, well before the GCCA became Coastal Conservation Association.

My history with CCA dates to 1981, when Bob Thoma

recruited me to assist with accounting and whatever else he could talk me in to doing. At that time, Billy Osborn was our banquet chair, and Bob was Billy's CFO and was likewise recruited. And a big thank you to Bob, who has been donating a dove hunt at his ranch south of San Antonio for 39 consecutive years - which we estimate has brought in over \$200,000 to CCA! This trip is probably the longest running live auction package in CCA!

The San Antonio Chapter has a long history and some great conservationists serving as Chapter Presidents and Banquet Chairs, many of whom have also played active roles with CCA Texas, National and other conservation related associations. Robert Powers played an active role in the San Antonio chapter for years and then moved on to lead the San Antonio Chapter of Quail Coalition (while still supporting CCA every time we call). Pat Cowles made a run as banquet chair and President, now serves on the Chapter's executive Board while also serving as Treasurer of Texas Sport PAC. Liz Hewitt, Jimmy Gibson, Mike Sarosdy and Robert Lozano each served as banquet chair and President, are still active with our Chapter, and also serve in various capacities on the CCA Texas and CCA National Boards. Some of you might recognize the name Mitch Brownlee, who served as Banquet Chair and President in the late 1990s. And oh yes, just rolled off as CCA Chair after serving 6 years in that position. Doug Boyd served a couple of tenures as banquet chair and Chapter President, and while remaining active with our Chapter also served with NOAA, the Gulf Coast Council, and CCA Texas. And lastly, the late Chris Smisek served the San Antonio Chapter for many years and continued to serve the Chapter while also playing a big role in CCA Texas. Many other names, but too little space.

We now have a superior group of younger Chapter members leading us, and San Antonio is poised to continue its tradition of being in the top CCA Chapters both in terms of banquet attendance and contribution to the bottom line. So, a big thank you to our Chapter's current leaders during the banquet season, including Brandon Stellges, Chair and Brandon Carpenter and Rick Neitzel, co-chairs. As well as our other past Chairs & Presidents, and current committee members! We all have big shoes to fill.

San Bernard
Jeremy Compton 281-961-0262
jcompton@detconsultinginc.com

San Gabriel
David Singleton 512-848-6555
southwestland@gmail.com

As winter fades, we look forward to the spring fishing season. Our focus is now on the **Annual CCA Banquet, scheduled for Thursday, August 1, 2024.** The preparations are underway, with our team actively engaging sponsors to enhance the event and collaborating with CCA to stay abreast of current trends. Our efforts also extend to strengthening the San Gabriel Chapter.

We encourage your involvement in these endeavors. For those interested in learning about the 2024 CCA San Gabriel Chapter, seeking sponsorship opportunities for the banquet, or wishing to engage with our chapter, please contact Chapter President David Singleton or Banquet Chair Jeff Bible at aggieangler93@gmail.com for more information.

The San Gabriel Chapter is a vibrant group that covers Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, Leander, and many other awesome places in Williamson County. We always want to grow our team and welcome you to join us.

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring and warmer weather, we look forward to sharing more time outdoors and on the water. Your continuous support and participation make our chapter thrive, and conservation efforts succeed. Here's to a season of great catches, warmer days, and stronger connections. Stay safe and tight lines.

Southwestern
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Texas State University
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Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 832-963-5215
mrmaddox04@gmail.com

Tri-County
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Castaline@icloud.com

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

2023 was a great year for the West Texas CCA Chapter. Save the date: We are looking forward to a great one in 2024. **Our banquet will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at the Midland Country Club at 6:00 p.m.** We are very fortunate to have our crawfish cooking team, The Enviro Resources Cooking Team, again for another year. They donate their time to travel from Erath, LA to Midland to bring us some of the finest shrimp and crawfish around and our banquet would not be nearly so successful without their efforts. I would like to congratulate Jacob Landry, co-owner of Enviro Resources for becoming the new House Representative in District 49 of Louisiana. Congratulation Jake.

Please come join us for cocktails, crustaceans and comradery. Tables for our 2024 banquet are available: Bull Red (10 Top) \$3,000, Trout (8 Top) \$2,000, individual tickets \$150. For tickets and to reserve your table, please contact: Craig McDonnold (432) 682-3499 or Erich Schneider (713) 626-4222. We're looking forward to seeing everyone there for another great year.



Ladies of the Aransas Bay chapter are looking forward to another great Babe's On the Bay Tournament.



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Upper Coast

Capt. Ken Terry

Finicky fish need persuasion

February will be cold and slow, but slow sinking lures and a methodical wade along a leeward shoreline can be the ticket to a yellow mouthed speckled trout with much girth and color. Look for signs of bait. A few mullet in an area can indicate good water. Wading broken shell with a bit of a soft bottom near ditches and drains can produce some favorable outings.

On days having lighter winds, long boat drifts using soft plastics can be effective. Finicky fish will tell you how they want a meal presented.

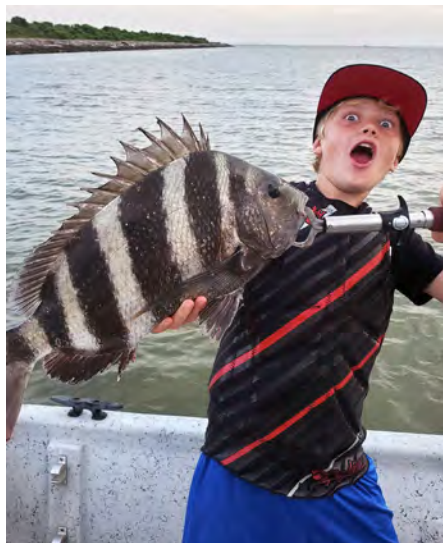
Moving into March, live bait under a popping cork can be a good option when targeting speckled trout and redfish. A popping cork attached to a 3-to-4-foot 20lb test mono leader with a small slit shot and #2 kahle is a popular rig.

As the tides begin to push water and bait into the bay, shallow areas with shell and rock formations can be prime locations to target, especially when there are signs of bait fish or fish slicks.

The STAR Tournament is quickly approaching. Get everyone signed up. As always, use good judgment and be courteous to your fellow fishermen both at the launch and on the water. Wear your engine kill-cords and take memorable pictures for CURRENTS use before releasing those trophy fish.

—**Captain Ken Terry** CCA Trinity Bay Board Member since 1996 281-389-7090

www.fishingtrinitybay.com



Great Photo, Humor Category. Young man fishing with Terry's Guide Service recently. Note the colorful life vest.

Middle Coast

Fish shallow or deep with Team MacNaughton

For kayak fishing enthusiasts

Congratulations! The Aransas Pathways, kayak launches and amenities are at your fingertips. Maps are available free by visiting www.aransaspathways.com

Whether trolling along the shallows, targeting the mangrove shorelines, or venturing further into the bay's expansive waters, anglers can expect a diverse range of encounters that will leave them in awe of the area's natural wonders. With the spring transition, targeting points coming into the marsh and mangroves, finding the drains that lead out will set you up for a successful day. A lightweight jig head, with a good swim plastic will get the job done. If you find yourself in darker waters, the roach is always a good back up. I have found success using the Texas Rattler jig heads.

Cruising shorelines is an easy process. Target those areas closer to mouths and openings into the back waters. Spring time feeders cruise and ambush at those points.

Staying informed about wind patterns, tidal phases, and any potential weather fluctuations is crucial for ensuring a safe and enjoyable kayak fishing experience. Be sure you have a float plan in place and a good strategy if the weather turns. I recommend paddling with a friend for safety. As an added measure ALWAYS wear your life jacket. You don't need it, until you need it.

—**Jenn McNaughton**

Go deep or wade?

As the waters warm up, trout and redfish will be plentiful in the mid-bay reefs and marsh drains in Aransas Bay and Saint Charles Bay. As spring takes over, I suggest using Texas Rattler Jigs paired with Down South Lures. I have had great success with an assortment of color choices: Texas Roach, Plum, and Big Pappa Pearl, in Supermodel have caught fish. Corky, fat boys and topwaters are staples for your tackle box and should produce good fish.

Lower Aransas bay will now be producing good trout in 3-4 feet of water, but find grass! I suggest using Texas Rattler jigs with Chicken On A Chain paddle tails in these environments. The specialty rattle in the jig and the live look of the eye, really brings on a strike.

I hope this forecast of what to expect as spring arrives brings you bountiful catches and beautiful memories. Don't forget to wear your life jacket and if you get the chance, TAKE A KID FISHING!

—**Captain Josh MacNaughton**

Pure South Fishing Charters / 281-701-5506
championsoutdoors@gmail.com

Lower Coast

Capt. Reanna DeLaCruz

The thrill of the season!

Some of the most challenging and rewarding fishing occurs during the winter and into early spring here in The Lower Coast. The cool water temperatures, low water levels and continuous cold fronts will keep the activity amongst our game fish consistent.

As late winter forms into early spring, baitfish activity will increase, bringing the shrimp that have migrated in late fall back into our estuaries. Redfish, speckled trout and flounder will find cover in shallow grass beds, dropoffs and guts to attack their prey. Fishing these types of structure with positive signs of baitfish is crucial. Swirls, slicks, small baitfish jumping and pelicans are all important signs to look for when deciding where to fish during late winter to early spring.

Lures of choice depend on the water clarity. The rule is, dark hues for darker water and light hues for clearer water. Here in the Lower Coast, we throw a lot of Custom Corky's, MirrOlure Little John's with a 1/32oz hook as well as suspending twitch baits. The most important factor when deciding what lure to throw is making sure you have confidence in it. Confidence is key when looking to catch the fish of a lifetime!

Keep an eye out to help another boater in need. It could be you another time. Remember to keep what you need and release the rest. As always tight lines!

—**Capt. Reanna DeLaCruz**

Ba in Bay Adventures / 512-962-6041
captainreannasbaffinbayadventures.com



Great CPR Photo. Cap'n Reanna by Cap'n Mike McBride.

Mahi Mahi Creamy Chowder

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped / 1 branch celery, finely chopped / 2 tablespoons salted butter / 2 tablespoons flour / 2 cups milk / 2 cups heavy whipping cream / ½ teaspoon salt / ¼ teaspoon pepper / ¼ teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning / ¼ teaspoon ground thyme / 1 ½ lb pan seared Mahi Mahi cut into small cubes

Prepare the Mahi by seasoning it with salt, pepper and Old Bay Seasoning generously on both sides. Pan fry on med high heat in butter and olive oil, turning only once, when browned. Remove from pan and set aside.

In a 5 quart dutch oven, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and celery. Saute for 2-3 minutes, adding garlic the last minute. Add flour, mixing with the vegetables, then, slowly add milk and cream, stirring constantly. Add salt, pepper, Old Bay seasoning and thyme, continuing to stir till simmering. Reduce heat and continue to simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Allow soup to cool a bit. Gently fold in the Mahi Mahi. Heat through and serve warm.



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt



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Old Sport joins Mr. Boudreaux in the Chafalaya

Old Sport contends with alligators, puldeaux, swamp rabbits, racoons, nets, trotlines and game wardens but enjoys Miz Boudreau's etouffee. Let the bone temps roulette.

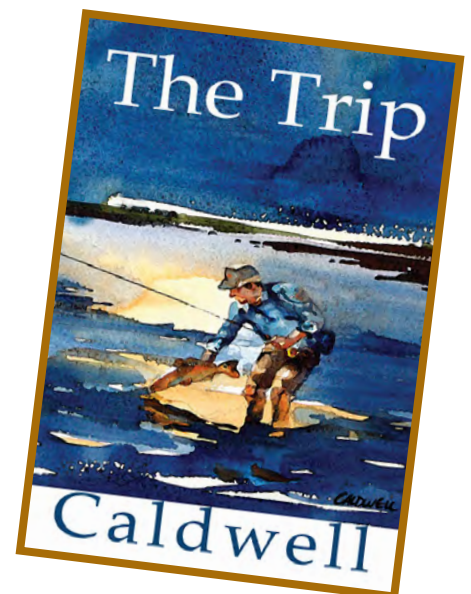
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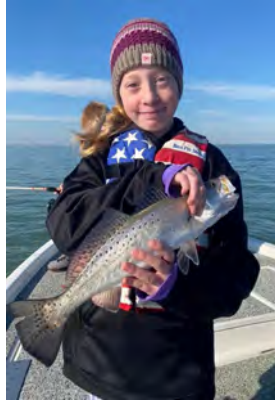




Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

February / March 2024



Take a kid fishing, and always remember safety vests.



BEST IN TEXAS

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Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:
boating emergencies, chemical and
oil spills: 361-888-3162
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas.

Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov

To focus on fishing and boating, visit

www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat

Operation Game Thief



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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

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- STAR ENTRY FEE: \$30 _____ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
- YOUTH: \$10 _____ TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.
Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
- CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 _____ A portion of the proceeds go toward CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes exclusive Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine and set of CCA and state fish decals.

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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