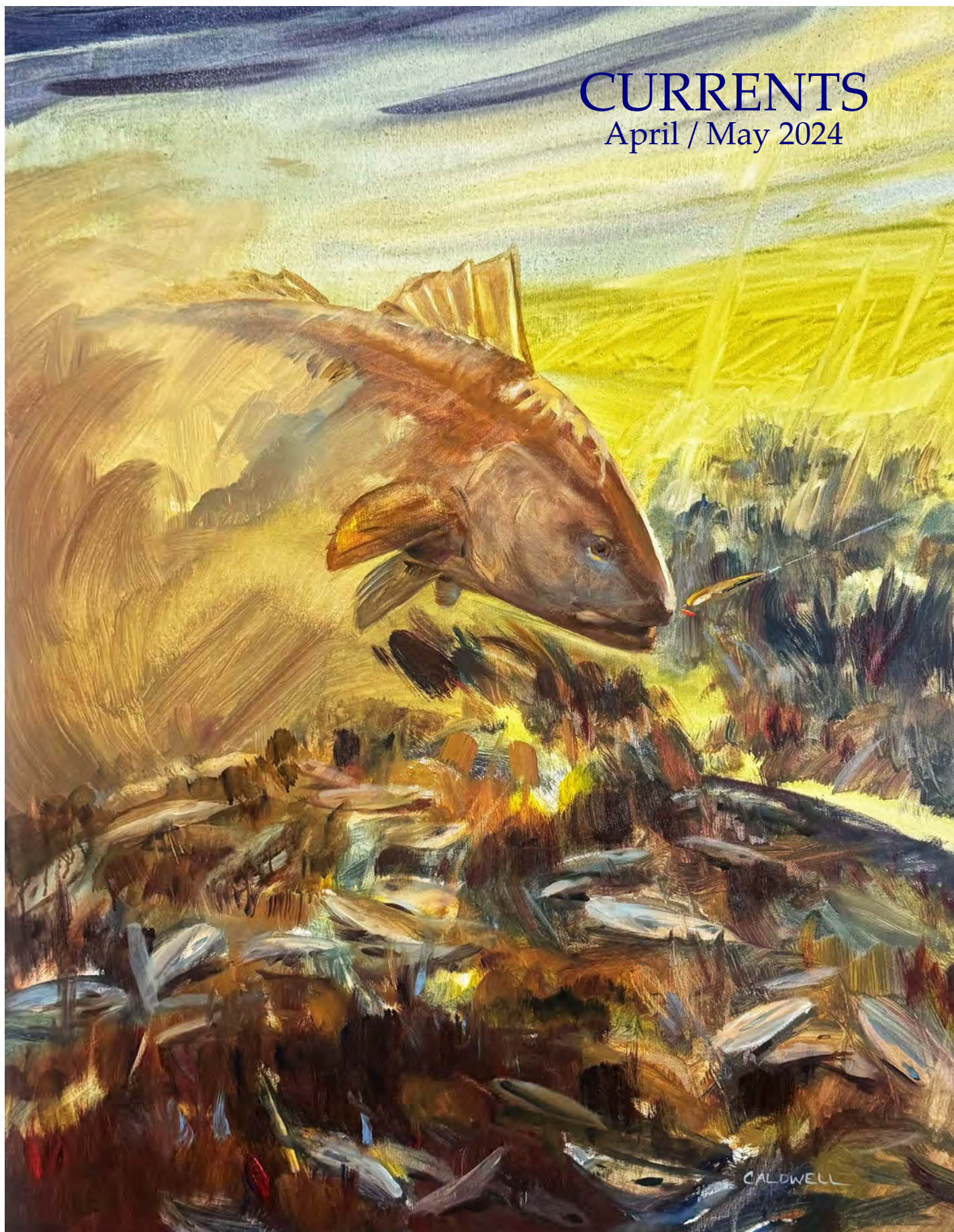


CURRENTS

April / May 2024



Bedrock Red on Gold Spoon
Oil painting for CCA San Antonio
by Sam Caldwell

CURRENTS IS INTERACTIVE!

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

Respect the Resource and Respect One Another

By John Blaha, CCA Texas Director of
Habitat

The Texas Gulf Coast offers some of the most diverse, healthy and used waters along the entire Gulf Coast. The Upper Coast features areas with deeper waters in some areas, bays with lots of oysters, bays that often receive a lot of freshwater runoffs from the Sabine, Trinity, Brazos, and Colorado rivers, industrial and urban development neighbors, and heavy use by the area recreational and commercial fishing populations.

As you move down the middle coast towards Port O'Connor, Rockport and Corpus Christi, the bays begin to become shallower although deeper waters still come into play, you see more seagrass habitat, and you still have an abundance of oysters in some areas, less industrial neighbors, and still heavy use by the area recreational and commercial fishing populations. Further down the coast through the Upper Laguna Madre, Baffin Bay, Nine-Mile Hole and Lower Laguna Madre, you see miles and miles of shallow water flats, seagrass beds, few oyster reefs, very little freshwater runoff, practically no industrial neighbors and until you reach the far end of Lower Laguna Madre, not many urban development neighbors. But you still see heavy use by the area's recreational and commercial fishing populations. What is the common theme above? **Heavy use by area recreational and commercial fishing populations.**

Many predict the Texas Gulf Coast population will double in the next twenty years. Can the resource and

fellow anglers handle this continuing population explosion along the Texas Gulf Coast? The keyword to this concern and growing trend is simply RESPECT. As recreational anglers and conservationists, we want to continue to fish and enjoy what the Texas coast has to offer every day we can. Respect the resource, respect the efforts to conserve and protect the resource, and respect one another.

2024 marks 47 years for Coastal Conservation Association Texas. We all know the story of how CCA Texas started from the desire of a handful of recreational fishermen who turned the tide and made the coastal resources of Texas bountiful and healthy once again. A big part of that effort was simply RESPECT. Respect for the resources at their hands and the desire to see those resources flourish for their generation and generations to come. It was a long and hard road traveled to first get licenses and limits established for redfish, in both recreational and commercial fisheries in 1979, and eventually game fish status for redfish and speckled trout in 1981.

Along with the establishment of game fish status for redfish and speckled trout came the ban of gill nets in Texas coastal waters.

While respect between the commercial and recreational fishermen was lost, these early conservationists earned respect at the Texas State Capitol and their efforts led to the tide-turning legislative actions in these early formative years of the organization. Although respect may still be lost between some of the early parties in those early years, one must respect the efforts and the accomplishments of a few determined individuals which has now grown to over 70,000 members. These efforts truly saved the Texas coastal resources enjoyed by so many today.

Going back to the common theme in the opening paragraph, people are not leaving the Texas coast, they are coming at it full speed ahead. The sale of new boats, tackle, and other fishing equipment continues to grow. The development continues to grow at incredible paces in some

*If the resources are to survive,
it is going to require respect of
the resource and
conservation-minded actions.*



areas. The number of people on the water grows every year, and yet we still have the same amount of fishable water and resources. If the resources are going to survive, it is going to take respect of the resource and conservation-minded actions. Adhering to limits, maybe only taking what you need for a meal on a given day, and teaching new and young anglers the benefits of conservation are all part of the respect to maintain the fishery. Operating our boats in prudent manners goes a long way as well. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. So many of the newer boats can run in areas never thought imaginable. Respect the habitat and fishing areas you are running in and do unto others as you wish they would do unto to you. As our populations grow, our fishable areas will only continue to shrink, so keep that in mind as you start each fishing adventure. Take this all a step further and get active with a local CCA Chapter and help be a part of the effort to ensure our resources for the future and help instill the common trait needed...RESPECT.

Respect also goes a long way before you even get on the water. It begins in the morning at the gas station, at the ramp and on the dock. Start the day off right. If the lines are long at the gas station, move your boat and vehicle after you gas up. Throw your ice bags in a garbage can instead of placing them over a bollard, which will eventually blow away in the parking lot. As you get to the dock, stage in the proper area to get your boat ready for launching, not after you've backed halfway down the ramp. As you back down the ramp, turn your headlights off so you don't blind others. Park where you are supposed to park and in the direction you are supposed to park. If a parking lot is not striped, pay attention to the flow of traffic in the ramp area and do not block the drive-through, especially half the ramp. If the particular ramp you want to use is full, maybe you need to go



Respect also goes a long way before you even get on the water.

to another one close by if there is one. It is pretty ridiculous what some people do at public ramps. Do not be that person. If you launch your boat early at a public ramp, do not block dock space for long periods of time. Other people have the right to use these ramps and docks as well and they are not your personal dock. Anchor out off of the dock and allow others to use the dock space freely. When your friends or customers show up, pull in and pick them up. This is all common sense, and you should be able to look at yourself in the mirror at the end of the day knowing you did the right thing without having to justify any action to yourself.

Technology and communications change continually and so does the amount of knowledge we have available to us. Social media is a big part of this growth which also seems to create a splintering effect amongst our fellow anglers at times. Everyone has a different level of skill and knowledge. Everyone has a different style and tactic. If it works for them and they are excited to share, applaud them and constructively offer other ideas and ways, but don't berate and tear them down. Some of the exchanges seen on social media directed to our fellow recreational anglers are simply disappointing. Use social media to help others and to educate your friends and family about conservation projects and coastal advocacy efforts. The more we educate one another on good stewardship and conservation measures, the better off our resources will be for us and our kids. Be responsible in these areas and again...Respect!

CCA Texas is excited and optimistic, as we move into our 2024 fundraising season. Look for events in your

local area and if you are interested in becoming an active volunteer, please reach out to CCA Texas at 713-626-4222 and our office staff will point you in the right direction. Thank you all for your continued support and remember... RESPECT the Texas coastal resources and your fellow anglers.



Abandoned crab trap removal program takes dangerous traps out of the Texas bay systems each year.



Tags for Trout – Texas Leads the Way for Spotted Seatrout

By Shane Bonnot

In the previous installment of Currents, we detailed [recent alterations in bag and slot limits for Spotted Seatrout](#), a beloved icon of Texas’s coastal fishing scene. Since the late 1970s, this majestic species has evoked passionate support for conservation efforts, a movement that has only gained momentum over the past two decades, marked by intensified fingerling stockings, habitat restoration, and a series of regulatory adjustments.

In a decisive move in late January, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) approved the proposal to lower the daily bag limit to three fish, coupled with a slot limit spanning 15 to 20 inches, and allowance of one fish 30-inches or greater as part of the 3-fish bag. This revision superseded previous regulations, where anglers could retain a fish exceeding 25 inches per day, with a bag limit of five fish and a slot range of 15 to 25 inches. **These regulatory modifications, effective since March 26th, are forecasted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to bolster spawning stock biomass by a substantial 27% over a single generation of trout.**

Following swiftly on the heels of these changes, on March 28th, the TPWC endorsed a tagging system tailored for oversized Spotted Seatrout. This innovative measure, slated for implementation in the upcoming license year, will exclude oversized Spotted Seatrout from the daily bag limit. Beginning September 1, 2024, anglers will be required to utilize a tag, included with their fishing license, to retain a single fish 28 inches or greater on an annual basis. Additionally, anglers will have the option to procure a bonus tag for a nominal fee of \$3, facilitating the retention of a second oversized fish per annum. This tagging protocol mirrors the existing framework governing red drum, underscoring its significance for the recreational fishing landscape along the Texas coast.

Throughout the regulatory deliberations spanning from late 2023 to March 2024, [CCA Texas steadfastly advocated for the implementation of a tagging system targeting Spotted Seatrout measuring 25 inches or greater](#)—an earnest endeavor to strike a harmonious balance between conservation imperatives and angling opportunities. It is no secret that many anglers want to see more trophy fish in their bays, and some feared a regression in Spotted Seatrout populations once temporary regulations,

enacted in the aftermath of the February 2021 freeze, were rescinded. This sentiment was overwhelmingly expressed during the TPWD annual public hearing held in August 2023 and at subsequent public comment opportunities. While signs of regional recovery (lower coast) have surfaced post-freeze, [recent TPWD spring gill net surveys](#) reveal diminished catch rates compared to pre-freeze levels, both in terms of coastwide averages and within specific bay systems (e.g., Matagorda Bay and San Antonio Bay).

Beginning September 1, 2024, anglers will be required to utilize a tag, included with their fishing license, to retain a single fish 28 inches or greater on an annual basis.

In an effort to balance conservation and opportunity, the TPWC judiciously refined the proposal, lowering the threshold for oversized tagging from 30 inches to 28 inches, a decision underpinned by considerations of biological impact and pragmatic simplicity. “Biologically, the impact is de minimis—we’re talking 2 inches,” asserted Dakus Geeslin, deputy director of the TPWD coastal fisheries division, during a pivotal commission session.

Initially, the proposed regulations would have imposed a moratorium on the harvest of oversized Spotted Seatrout during the interim period between rule adoption and implementation on September 1, effectively prohibiting their capture until the tagging system was operationalized. However, the commission opted for a modified simplistic approach, preserving the extant daily bag limit (including the provision for one fish over 30 inches) until the issuance of tags. Geeslin articulated the rationale behind this decision, suggesting that maintaining the status quo until September 1 would have negligible repercussions on the Spotted Seatrout population.

Statistical insights gleaned from TPWD’s creel surveys provide further context, revealing that while larger trout constitute a minority within the Spotted Seatrout population, they hold immense value for us saltwater anglers. By safeguarding these prized specimens and preserving their presence in our coastal waters, we extend invaluable opportunities for anglers to hook their dream catch. Geeslin underscored this sentiment during a public hearing, expressing optimism that **sustained protection of larger trout would not only fortify their numbers but also enhance the likelihood of anglers encountering a trophy-worthy specimen—a testament to the enduring allure of Texas’s vibrant fishing heritage.**



Trophy Trout Data

By Shane Bonnot

The five-year average of TPWD's creel surveys before the February freeze of 2021 indicated that based on an annual average of about 350,000 spotted seatrout, .01% of fish landed by anglers were greater than 30 inches, .08% were larger than 28 inches, and 0.71% were larger than 25 inches.

Back of the napkin math would tell you that equates to about 50 trout greater than 30 inches, 300 trout greater than 28 inches, and 2,493 trout greater than 25 inches are observed in TPWD creel surveys. Fishery-independent data (gill net surveys) show similar trends with 0.40% larger than 30 inches, 2.3% larger than 28 inches, and 9.1% larger than 25 inches.

Public Comments
(916 comments as of 3:00 pm 3/27/2024)

Spotted Seatrout: Length of Oversized

Agree (421)	46%
Oppose (383)	42%
Neutral (112)	12%

Change length to 25"
No oversize harvest
Does not want bonus tag
Does not want tag system
Government overreach

Item 1 - Slide 9

Public Comments
(916 comments as of 3:00 pm 3/27/2024)

Spotted Seatrout: Tag and Fee

Agree (429)	47%
Oppose (361)	39%
Neutral (126)	14%

Does not want tag system
No oversize harvest
Does not want bonus tag
Bonus tag fee should be higher
Government overreach

Item 1 - Slide 8



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.



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)									
	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

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

SPORTFISH CENTER
CENTER FOR SPORTFISH SCIENCE & CONSERVATION

For more information scan code or email:
sportfish@tamucc.edu



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.



STEALING YOUR FISH. 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**



Catches from illegal fishing of red snapper in Gulf of Mexico is estimated to be **greater than the entire recreational allocation.**

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Panga style fishing boats, large totes and 3-4 man crew.



STEALING YOUR FISH. 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**



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**

• Rio Grande Valley	\$1,061,000
• Sabine Pass HI20	\$ 906,000
• Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
• Galveston Big Man & Kate's	\$ 329,000
• HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
• Matagorda	\$ 200,000
• Coprus Christi	\$ 100,000
• Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
• Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
Total contributions to Nearshore Reefing:	\$3,656,000

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

A Natural Partnership



BUILDING CONSERVATION TRUST
CCA's Habitat

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS
Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

- Sabine Lake Deep Reef Oyster Restoration
- Sabine HI20 Nearshore Reef
- Sabine Lake Oyster Reef Expansion
- J.D. Murphree Breakwater
- East Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
- Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline
- Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration
- Moses Lake Shoreline Restoration
- Sportsmans Road Wetlands Restoration
- Big Man's Reef
- Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration
- Snake Island Cove Marsh Restoration
- Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization
- Vancouver Nearshore Reef
- Cow Trap Lake Shoreline Stabilization
- San Bernard NWR Shoreline Stabilization
- Matagorda Nearshore Reef
- Port O'Connor Nearshore Reef
- HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study
- Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration
- HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator/Mapping Study
- Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration
- Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration
- St. Charles Bay Oyster Restoration
- Aransas Bay Oyster Restoration
- Goose Island Marsh Restoration
- Copano Bay Oyster Restoration
- Aransas Bay Debris Removal
- Nueces Bay Marsh Restoration
- Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates
- Nueces Bay Demonstration/Restoration Oyster Reef Project
- Corpus Christi Nearshore Reef
- Baffin Bay's Unique Serpulid Study
- Port Mansfield Nearshore Reef
- Rio Grande Valley Reef
- Bahia Grande Restoration

● Completed
● Upcoming
● Ongoing

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CENTER FOR SPORTFISH SCIENCE & CONSERVATION



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HELP YOU
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TARPON



Scan the **QR code** or visit <https://bit.ly/3ISW9AF> to contribute to our research on juvenile Tarpon habitats. Your data will help shape conservation strategies and ensure better fishing opportunities for future generations.



**CCA TEXAS
STAR**



BEST IN TEXAS

Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

PROGRESSIVE

*Be a WINNER even before our
35th Year of the CCA Texas
STAR Tournament Starts!*

Did you know that the CCA Texas STAR Tournament could award **over \$1,900,000** in prizes and scholarships at the end of the summer after 100+ days of fishing fun? Offering YOU--your shot to win any of our incredible prizes like....18 boat packages, 5 Ford trucks, 5 Polaris UTVs and \$325,000 in scholarships for the kids! But it can be hard to get into the STAR spirit, especially with everything going on around us in the world.

In response, the volunteers on the STAR Tournament Committee said, "Let's start this year with something new—how about some getaways so our members can find some relief from the anxiety we're feeling!"

As CCA's Advocacy Director says: Peace with a purpose—go fish. No matter what's going on in your world, heed those words! And give yourself an opportunity to win a free chance to escape with your 2024 STAR Tournament entry. When last we spoke, we mentioned something is coming, and you've been seeing them in your email inboxes...GIVEAWAY GET-AWAYS!

We've already announced a few winners, but there are six total up for grabs, not counting the grand prize boat package!



Early Bird Getaway Giveaways

- Winner** - Hills of Texas Lodging | 3/26/24 | Larry M.
- Winner** - Bourgeois Fishing | 4/2/24 | Robert L.
- Winner** - Kentucky Red River Gorge | 4/9/24 | Jeff K.
- Winner** - Hot Springs Arkansas: Announced 4/16/24
- Winner** - ????: Announced 4/26/24
- Winner** - ????: Announced 4/30/24

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EARLY BIRD Getaway Giveaway PRIZE REVEAL



BEST IN TEXAS



Red Tag Division

The top **five** eligible winners will take home a Ford F-150, **NEW** 23' Haynie Amigo, 150 hp Mercury motor, and a Coastline Trailer package. The next **Five** eligible winners will take home a 23' Haynie Bigfoot, 150 hp Mercury motor, and Coastline Trailer packages.



Blue Tag Division

The top **three** eligible winners will take home a 22' SVT (CAT) Tran Sport Boat with a raised center console, 150 hp Mercury motor, and Coastline Trailer packages. Not to mention the Thousands of dollars in Academy Sports + Outdoors gift cards awarded to the next 7 eligible anglers.



INSHORE

The Black Drum division is here to stay. With an intense battle all summer long for 1st place, we had more lead changes than ever before. You won't want to miss out on this action. Black drum, gafftop and sheepshead, the top three eligible winners in each of those three species, will take home a 19' Shoalwater boat, 115HP Mercury motor, and McClain trailer package. The next four anglers will receive an Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.



OFFSHORE

Those eligible offshore anglers who bring in the largest Ling, Dorado, Kingfish, and Snapper will bring home a Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFi Pursuit Camo UTV with a Big Tex Trailer. The next four anglers will receive an Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, STAR awards \$325,000 in scholarships to those young anglers who will be the future of our precious resource. Nothing is more fun than watching the little ones with their first redfish on the line, then it's over, and on to the next kid! Mom and Dad, what better way to get you more time on the water than by bringing the kids along? For \$10 bucks each, they are in a drawing for a \$25,000 scholarship, whether they catch something or not. All the studies show that time spent on the water with family and friends is the #1 reason people fish. In today's times,

we need that special bonding that families provide. Good for the soul!

Even better, the Tournament Committee decided to "spread the wealth" across ALL five places in both the STAR kid (10 and under) and the STAR teen Divisions (11-17) so that the action could get more intense and rewarding, but make sure you read Rule #9 before you get on the water. First place in each will now get a scholarship of \$30,000, then \$20,000, \$15,000, \$7,500, \$2,500. No longer are these valid for just "college and universities" but also "accredited technical and trade schools, and vocational training programs." Add to that the scholarship contracts for the winning kids will be paid directly to the chosen schools, so NO taxes to pay, Mom and Dad. Win, win, and win some more.

Check out the segment ABC 13 did on the 2022 STAR Scholarship award ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjbQMIKTTIY>

Guides Division

It is the hope of Texas STAR and CCA Texas to be able to reward Texas Fishing guides who support marine conservation and empower them to help recruit more anglers into the CCA mission through this division.



The winner will bring home a Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI Pursuit Camo UTV with a Big Tex Trailer. For more details, go to <https://www.startournament.org/about-star/guides-division>

CCA's STAR Tournament has now provided \$8,100,000 in college scholarships to youth from all over Texas

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS





Thank you Mercury Marine!

Our friends and partners at Mercury Marine were the first-ever CCA Texas STAR partner in 1990. They recognized the future benefits of our mission in marine conservation, even before it became popular.

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Hundreds of Derelict Crab Traps Removed from Coastal Bays

Every February, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department closes the bays to commercial and recreational crabbing for a 10-day period. This temporary closure enables removal of derelict traps which continue to entrap and kill crabs, fish, and turtles.

"It's very important to remove these old traps because they not only kill crabs and fish, they're also navigation hazards and unsightly litter," said Allan Berger, Chair of San Antonio Bay Partnership.

Other organizations leading the search efforts in their respective bays were the Christmas Bay Foundation, Galveston Bay Foundation, Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve, Lavaca Bay Foundation, and Matagorda Bay Foundation. Volunteers and organizations included USFWS Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, TPWD Coastal Fisheries and Game Wardens, local chapters of the Coastal Conservation Association, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, Guadalupe Blanco River Trust, San Antonio River Authority, International Crane Foun-



ation, Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalists, Dallas Zoo, Lavaca-Navidad River Authority, and Texas Conservation Alliance.

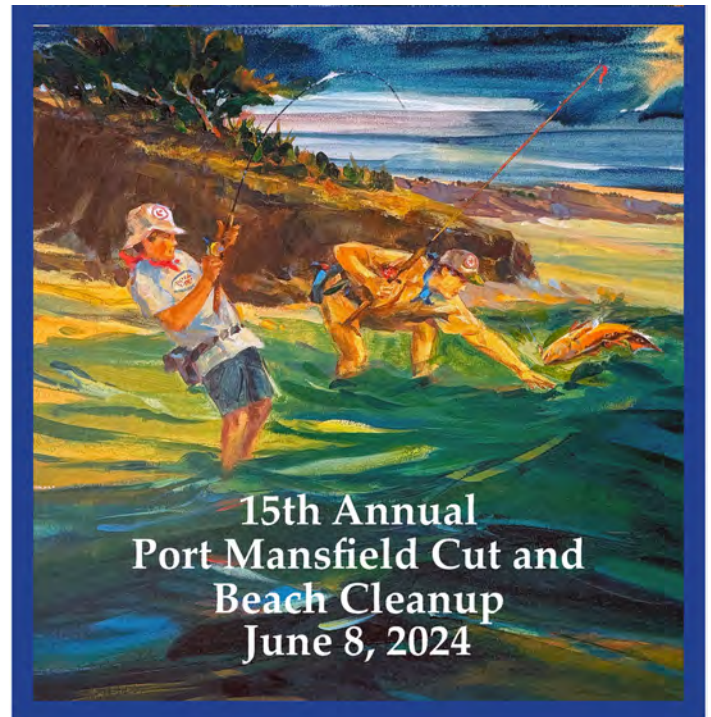
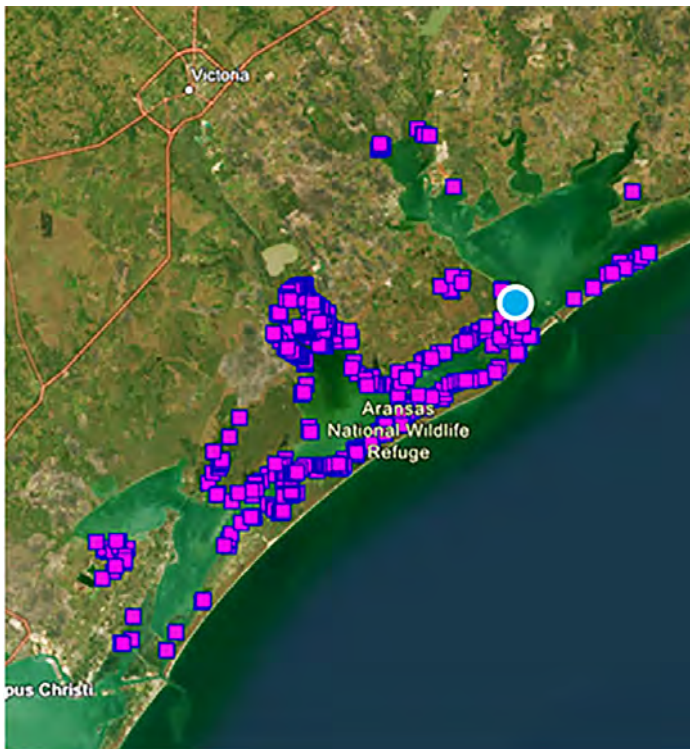
This is the fourth year that a cellphone-based app was used to collect data on each removed trap.

The derelict crab clean-up effort was supported with funds obtained by TPWD from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and from a grant obtained by SABP from Restore America's Estuaries. Local funding was also provided by the GBRA and the SARA.

If you want to be included in the early planning for next year, contact Allan Berger at AllanRBerger@outlook.com.

2024 Abandoned Crab Removal Program
Summary Statistics for Mid-Coast

Bay System	Traps Removed	Loose Floats	Boat Days	Participant Days	Participants Hrs
Aransas	201	26	19	46	80
San Antonio	554	517	31	127	842.5
Matagorda	145	0	14	31	155
Total Mid-Coast	900	543	64	204	1077.5



SAVE THE DATE! Two nights lodging for all volunteers, while supplies last. First come, first served! Kicking off with a big hearty breakfast buffet, sack lunch on the beach, collector's Tee shirt by Sam Caldwell and finishing with a Taco party that night at Blues Chill & Grill.

My parents, Miller and Kathie Bassler, started this event in 2008 and have given their heart, soul, time and talent to cleaning up the beautiful beaches and waters of this South Texas paradise. They personally coordinated the clean-up of over 70 tons of trash since they started this event 14 years ago. — **Brooks Bassler**

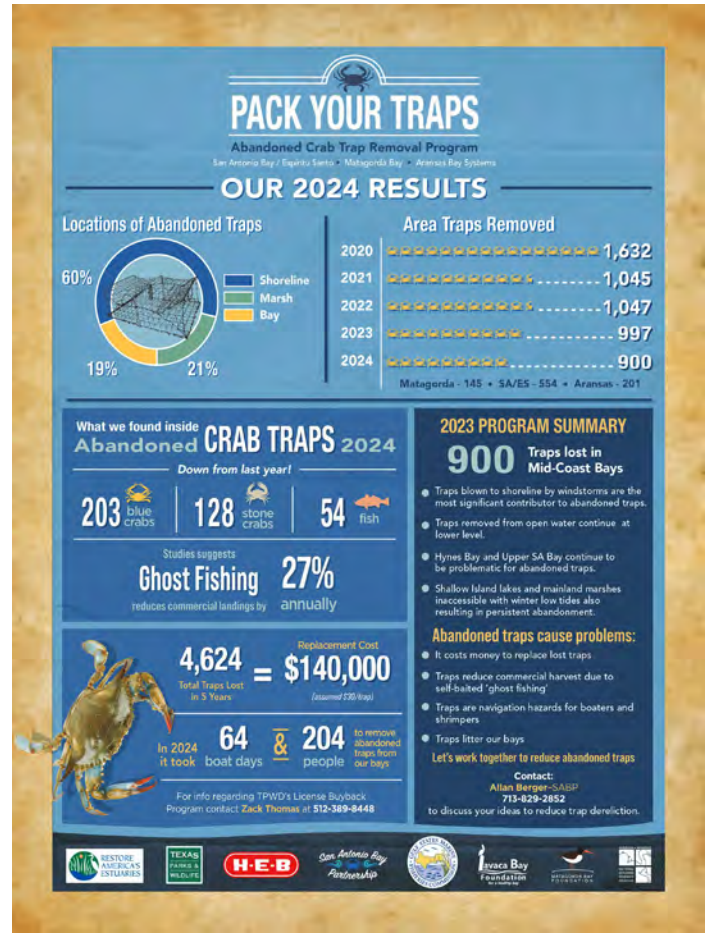
To donate, click on the fishermen above. To attend, text Kathie Bassler: 979-204-5185 / or email, kathieb@basslerenergyservices.com. To be a sponsor, email Brooks at brooks@bbstexorleans.com

On March 16, Christmas Bay Foundation volunteers woke up to small craft advisory warnings. We sheltered in the comfortable San Luis Pass Park building, Lauren and Kathie of the Nature Conservancy drove up from Corpus Christi. The Gulf Coast Rescue Squad was there with their armada of air boats and crews. Most of the Christmas Bay Foundation Board was there including Andy and Cyndy Lubetkin, Eric Boatman and John Blankenship along with Brazoria County personnel including Mike Mullenweig, Director of the San Luis Pass County Park, Nathan Murphy Parks Education Director.

On Sunday, we had better luck. The rescue squad retrieved four and the CBF crew retrieved four. Pretty good haul considering that we have pulled traps for the past 20-plus years with the first few years of filling up 40-foot dumpsters, and now few and far between. The program is working and we hope to see you at next year's event to keep the count low. —Jim Olive



Opening day of Derelict Crab Trap Removal. Volunteers of the Christmas Bay area sheltered in the more comfortable quarters of the San Luis Pass Park building, along with mascot Jasmine.



Crab Trap Removal 2024, overall results



Photos, Sam Caldwell

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Caught Redhanded!

Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

On May 15, 2022, Matagorda County Game Wardens Aaron Koenig and Colten Anderson conducted a boarding of a commercial gulf shrimping vessel inbound through West Matagorda Bay. During the inspection Warden Koenig found 2 frozen packages wrapped in numerous layers of tied plastic grocery bags. After cutting through the multiple layers of plastic Warden Koenig found the packages to contain 26 shark fins from multiple species of shark. After a brief interview the boat captain and one of the deckhands were placed under arrest and transported to the Matagorda County jail. Class B charges and restitution are pending.



Texas Game Wardens have concentrated their efforts in Calhoun County on the commercial oyster industry with multiple compliance patrols performed in the recently opened TX18 oyster



zone in Lavaca Bay. In the span of four days, a total of 25 commercial oyster vessels were boarded and inspected. Wardens issued 12 citations with 12 warnings for the violations of undersized oyster cargo and untagged oyster sacks. Two arrests are pending for possession of undersized oyster cargo for a 3rd Offense (Class B Misdemeanor). 6,710 lbs. of oysters (61 sacks) were returned to the reefs in Lavaca Bay as a consequence of undersized cargo. Cases and arrest warrants are pending.

In early February of 2024, Texas Game Warden Elizabeth Guevara responded to a call from several concerned fishermen

on a local pier in Port Lavaca. Upon arriving, Warden Guevara contacted an individual in possession of two oversized black drum. The suspect was issued citations and will be responsible for payment of fines and civil restitution upon conviction.



Gulf Identification Guide



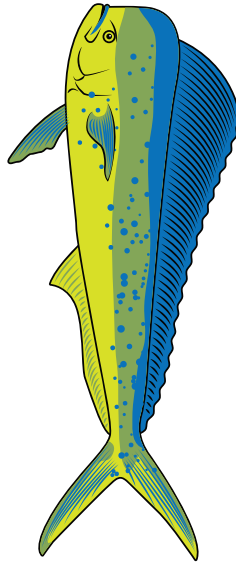
Tito's Bloody Mary



Grouper



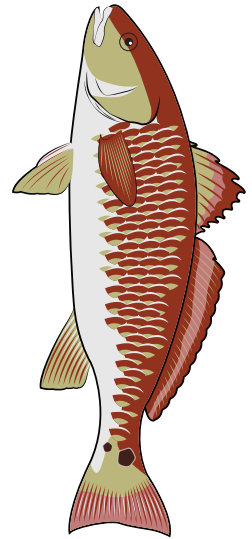
Tito's Martini



Mahi-Mahi



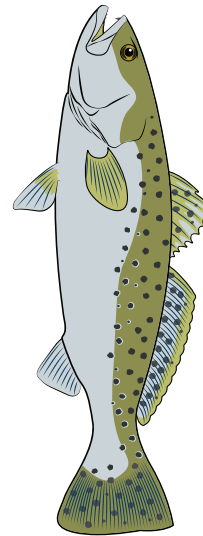
Mo-Tito



Redfish



Tito's Salty Dog



Speckled Trout



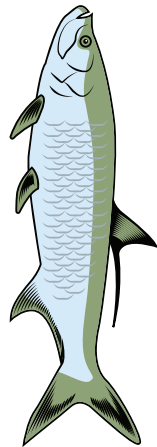
Tito's Screwdriver



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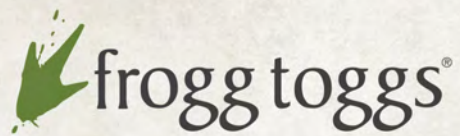
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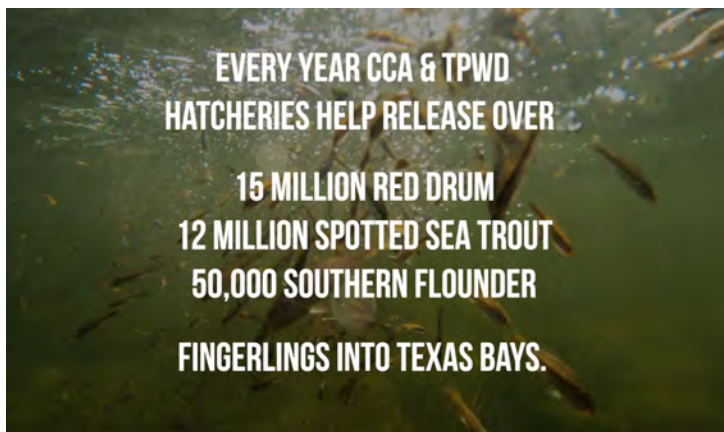


Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be

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](#)





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!

Supporters of CCA Texas

I have my NEW CCA Texas license plates. Do you have yours?

If not, you can order our NEW CCA Texas license plates with an updated design that proudly displays our CCA logo for everyone to see.

[CLICK HERE](#) to get yours today. Why?

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



Illegal fishermen target red snapper, sharks and red drum, using primarily **long lines and gill nets** which often hook or entangle endangered sea turtles.



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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.

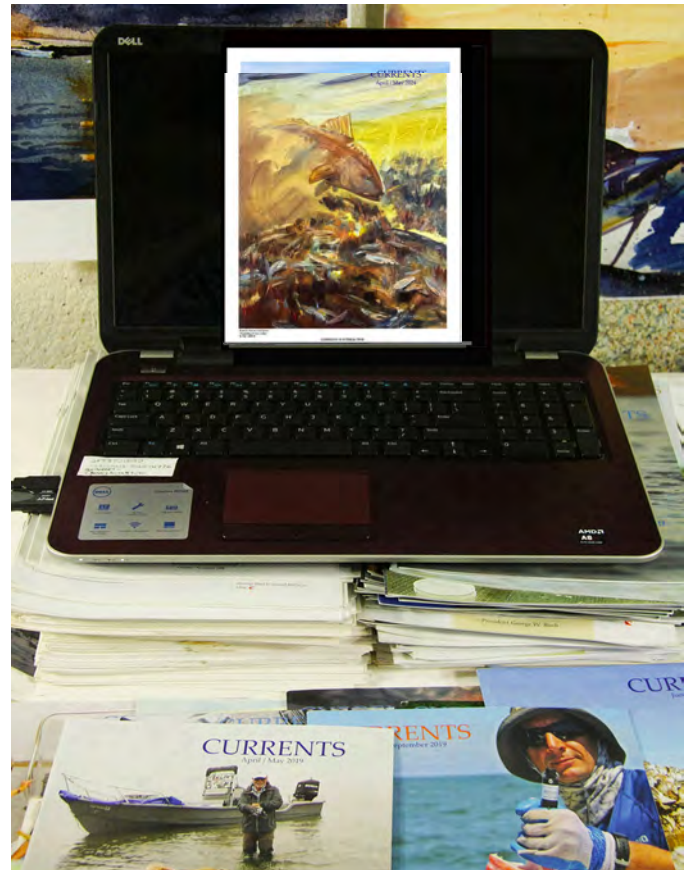
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a full-color newsletter to 75,000+ members is time consuming and expensive.

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.

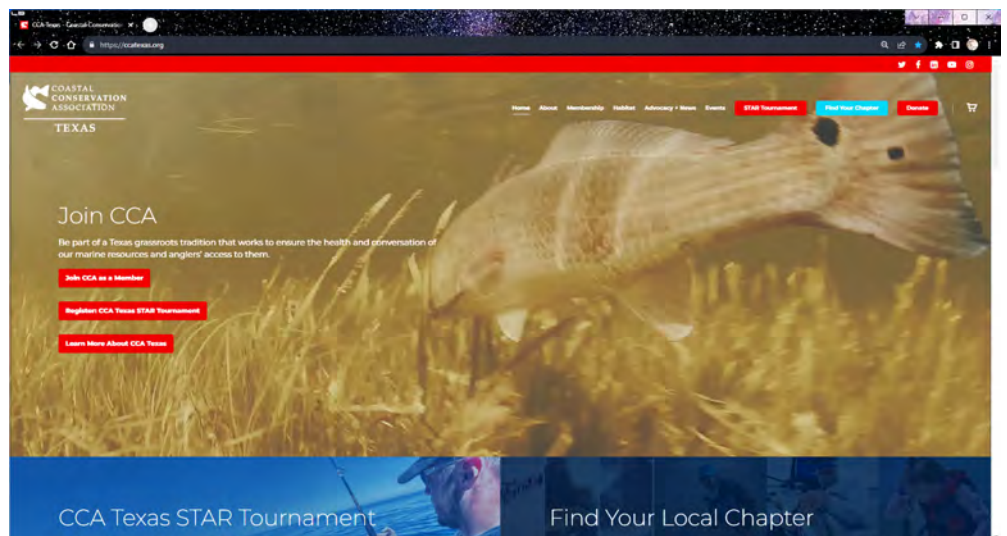
- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast. [Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



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 / X](#) 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 33,000+ 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!



Out of office.

📍 East Bay, Texas

👤 Ross McFall

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!




➔ Conservation in Action ➔

📍 29th Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup
Padre Island National Seashore

"We can tell you that our volunteers cleaned 30 miles of beach in a single day!" -Friends of Padre

Shout out to our Aggiedland Chapter for getting down there and helping to conserve our marine resources!
Good Bull Ags 🙌

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!

CCA TEXAS: LEADERS IN OYSTER REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

PROJECT	FUNDED AMOUNT
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - FT. CHARLES BAY (BROOKHURST)	\$711,250
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - EAST GALVESTON BAY	\$500,000
MUSKOGEE BAY OYSTER REEF MONITORING/BIOM	\$225,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - DEEP REEF MARINE RESERVE	\$215,000
BIKE YOUTH RESERVE OYSTER REEF RESTORATION	\$152,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - PINEAPPLE GROVE (EALYBAY)	\$130,000
BIKE OYSTER RESTORATION REEF LOCATOR MAPPING STUDY	\$120,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - ARANSAS BAY	\$75,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - COAHUILA BAY	\$75,000
MUSKOGEE BAY DEMONSTRATION OYSTER REEF	\$40,000
GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION OYSTER REEF	\$10,000
BIKE YOUTH RESERVE OYSTER REEF RESTORATION	\$10,000
FUNDS APPROVED AND FARMASSED 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

The oyster 🦪 is so much more than just a fishery; it is a crucial foundational component of our bays' ecosystem. They filter the water while providing shoreline stabilization and habitat for marine wildlife like fishes, crabs, and shrimp...along with other numerous valuable ecosystem services.

CCA Texas understands how critically important the oyster is to our state's coast, which is why we've committed over \$7 million dollars to oyster restoration and creation. Healthy oyster reefs mean a strong and sustainable coastline now and in the future.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



CCA Texas on Instagram

We're less than 250 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!](#)

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WHEN YOUR BUDDY'S GOT SOMETHING ON THE END OF HIS LINE HE'S TRYING TO LAND...

Can't blame a friend for trying! 🤝

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**A bright, sunny day on the Texas Coast...
...Hitting those potholes downwind...
...It doesn't get any better than this.**

Agreed!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!

FUNDING OVER \$7 MILLION TO BUILD AND RESTORE VITAL OYSTER REEFS

CCA TEXAS HAS STEPPED UP

👁️ WATCH 👁️ 80% of oyster reefs have disappeared. The oyster is so much more than just a fishery; it is a crucial foundational component of our bays' ecosystem. CCA Texas understands how critically important the oyster is to our state's coast, which is why we've stepped up by funding over \$7 million to build and restore these vital oyster reefs. #JoinCCA and help us build more habitat today for fish tomorrow.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO 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 Twitter / X TODAY!](#)

TWITTER



X Hopefully, **St. Patrick's Day** brings y'all better luck than this... 😞

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!



X "The sand flats of the Lower Laguna Madre in deep South Texas are regarded by many as an almost sacred place to fish."

Born and raised in Los Fresnos, Texas, Eddy Arenas knows these waters well. Get his insight on how he fishes them.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!



X We hope you and your family have a wonderful and Happy Easter!

📍 Rockport, Texas

👁️: David Marshall

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!

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**Alvin-Pearland
Rex Richards**

alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

The Alvin Pearland Chapter Board has been busy planning for 2024! We have been working to organize our Anglers' Night Out meetings and getting our Fundraising Banquet details lined out.

We have confirmed our dates for our upcoming Anglers' Night Out events! They will be held on Tuesday, April 2, Tuesday May 21, Tuesday September 3, and Tuesday October 22. The meetings will be held at a Big Horn BBQ in Pearland. The speakers will begin at 7 p.m. Come earlier if you want to visit, hang out, and grab a bite to eat!

The speaker for April is going to be Capt. Steve Hoyland from Hoyland's Adventures. He will be discussing the ins and outs of making a trip of a lifetime to Costa Rica. The May speaker is going to be Capt. Chuck Uzzle of wakesndrakes.com and he will be discussing fishing and current updates for the Sabine Lake area.

Our 2024 CCA Alvin/Pearland Annual Fundraising Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, June 20 and will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland. We will be serving a delicious Steak dinner by Joe's BBQ, having a Sportsman's Raffle that will include guns, coolers, and optics, live and silent auctions, as well as numerous other raffles. This is an event you won't want to miss. Reserve your spot now! Banquet Tickets are \$75/person, \$120/couple, \$20/kids. Reserved/Sponsor tables start at \$700 for 8 guests. All adult tickets include a CCA membership. Sportsman's Raffle Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. If you would like to purchase banquet tickets, reserve a table for your group/company, or make a donation to our event,

please contact Carson Vecera at (713) 626-4222, email us at AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com, or visit our chapter webpage at ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca or go to our chapter website at ccatexas.org/alvin-pearland.

We hope to see you at one of our events! Don't forget to bring a friend, or even better, a kid!

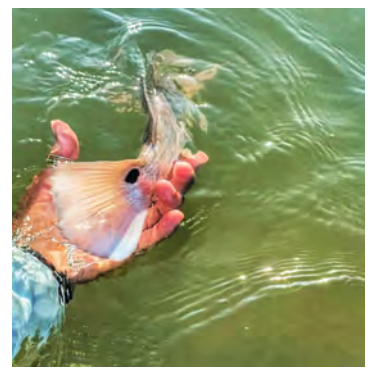
**Aransas Bay
Michael Ferri 361-790-4404
txsprig@yahoo.com**

Spring has sprung in Rockport-Fulton! Our Aransas Bay volunteers are pumped up about another fantastic year! We are thankful for all of their dedication and hard work throughout the year!

Our annual SOLD-OUT banquet will be here before you know it! **Aransas Bay CCA Banquet is April 6, 2024 at Fulton Convention Center.** We still have raffle tickets for sale for the 6-seater golf cart from **Copano Carts!** 2nd through 5th place tickets win big too, so don't miss out! Our banquet is an exciting evening of fundraising for Texas coastal conservation, and we can't wait to see you all soon! A HUGE thank you to our sponsors for this event: **Salemi's Ace Hardware, Copano Carts, Guild Mortgage, Tackle Town, Silsbee Ford/Lakeside Chevrolet and Big Tree Realty!** For questions regarding the banquet and raffle ticket sales, email John Blaha at 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. Early registration is OPEN and goes until April 15. 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 Babes on the Bay 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**



Left: Teresa Johnson enjoying a windy Spring Day in Rockport / center 2 photos: The Lalendorff boys on a Spring Break trip with Capt. Greg Weller / right: @wellerandwateroutdoors.



Left: April Alvarado & Danno Wise / left-center: Cierra Borak with a nice Redfish on Fly / right-center: Gary Johnson having a great day on Aransas Bay / right: Huge thanks to our Tackle Town Family and all they do for CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter & Babes on the Bay

Skipper, Turtle Box, Orvis Swan Point Landing, L&F Distributing, American Bank of Rockport, Goin' Coastal Outfitters, Poor Man's Country Club, Reel Sportswear, Big Tree Realty, Guild Mortgage - Shelley Sammons and Sandy Oaks Kennel, The Fly Trap, Goose Island Flats, Grundens, Sage Fly Rods, Tow Boat US 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

Our **45th Annual Fundraiser Banquet is only a few weeks away on May 9th**. We want to thank all of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers. Our success would not be possible without all of your continued support.

There is still time to purchase your boat and gun

raffle tickets for the 25' Haynie Magnum Boat and the 10 x Guns. Please contact Cherylccaustin@gmail.com for more information on how to purchase your tickets. The cost for each raffle is 20.00 each, 6 tickets for 100.00, 22 tickets for 300.00 and 40 tickets for 500.00. The winner will be drawn on May 9th at our banquet. You do not have to be present to win.

Austin CCA is continuing to create new events to attract people to learn more about CCA and help spread the mission and raise funds for our future generations.

Our 2nd Annual CCA Clay shoot is scheduled for October 3, 2024. We will be sending out more details later this summer regarding sign-up and times.

If you are interested in learning more about Austin Board of CCA please contact Jason Magdalena, President at jason.magdalena@gmail.com or Cheryl Smith at cherylccaustin@gmail.com.

Bastrop County

Cole Williams 512-913-3684

colew65@yahoo.com



2024 CCA Brazos Valley Banquet

Brazoria
Kim Lamont 979-482-1456
KALamont@dowcom

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

Brazos Valley Chapter had an awesome banquet on March 1, 2024, with over 450 attending. Our team worked extremely hard to make this year a success and raise money for our future costal fisheries. We appreciate the following team members: Scott Sig, Scott Carey, Randy, Justin, and Chad Boenigk, Matt and Cindi Hannes, Ben Beyer, Jim Ragsdale, Mark Fitzjerrell, John Ben Strother, and Bess Bruton. Plus other members who came to help set up and work that evening. We appreciate Carson Vecera, an awesome director who is always there to lead us forward and his team who worked the night of the banquet.

Our sponsors are the best and there are too many to name here. C & J Bar-b-que did an outstanding job catering our pork chops and sides. Cocktails 4U and Jack Hilliard Distributing Company quenched everyone's thirst. We appreciate the years of support from Burdett and Sons who provides amazing auction items. We honored two members we recently lost: Quentin Henry and Chip Manning. Their presence was missed at the banquet, but we knew they were there in spirit. Thanks again to a successful and fun banquet! Our next chapter meeting will be in April, check your email for details. Take a child or friend fishing...it may change their life.

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

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

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

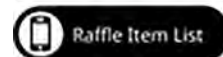
Spring has officially arrived on the Texas coast! Spring fishing patterns are in full swing and now is the best time of the year to come down and visit the third coast. Anyone who spends time on the water in our area will find it hard not to notice the hard work being put in by TPWD and CCA to protect our angling future!

We hosted our 46th Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, TX. The banquet was an overwhelming success and set several chapter records! Thank you to all our sponsors and those who attended the banquet.

We will hold the drawing for our Sow Trout Mega Raffle sponsored by L&F Distributors on May 1, 2024. We still have tickets available, scan the QR code for more information.

We are excited to have **Flint Hills Resources** on board as a major sponsor for our chapter events this year! They have graciously committed to being the title sponsor for our Banquet, Anglers Night Out's and Poco Rojo Kid Fish. Thank you, **Flint Hills Resources**, for being our partner in conservation!

Upcoming 2024 Events: **Sow Trout Mega Raffle Drawing – May 1, 2024**, and **Babes on Baffin Tournament – October 11-12, 2024**.



*QR code for
 2024 Corpus
 Christi Raffle*

For any questions regarding chapter events or volunteer opportunities please email Cody Roesener at cbroudfitters@yahoo.com.

As always, let us know if you're interested in volunteering!

Dallas

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

Fort Bend

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

Fort Worth

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

Happy Spring to all of our wonderful readers and local members. Two things that we wanted to provide an update on: our upcoming **Annual Crawfish Boil on March 28, 2024** and our **Annual Banquet at the historic Joe T. Garcia's in the Forth Worth Stockyards on May 2, 2024**. The crawfish boil is our treat to you, our members, so come on out and enjoy some bugs and beverages. Be on the lookout in your email for updates and pricing/ sponsorship opportunities for the banquet. There will be lots of great raffle prizes and live auction items! Looking forward to seeing you at one or both of the events!

Galveston

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

Golden Triangle

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

Greetings from the Golden Triangle Chapter! I hope everyone is as happy as we are that spring and summer are upon us. The weather has been great and has provided anglers plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy our Texas resources. We would like to extend an invitation to everyone for our **CCA Golden Triangle Chapter Annual Banquet on May 23, 2024 at the Beaumont Civic Center**. Please contact a member of the chapter or go to our [chapter webpage](#) for table and ticket options. We also hope that you have been able to spend time on the water with friends and family. Enjoy what we are blessed with here in Texas. Cheers!

Greater Sugar Land

John Breland 281-808-2969
geauxingfishing@yahoo.com

Greater Woodlands

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

Join us for our 17th Annual CCA Greater Woodlands

Annual Banquet on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at The Springs, 14135 Laramie Trail, Montgomery, TX 77316. Go online to buy your table or tickets today: ccatexas.org/events/2024-greater-woodlands-banquet. See you there!

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! Please join us for an **Anglers' Night Out on April 18, 2024 at 5:30pm at Dog and Pony Grill**, 1481 S. Main St., Boerne, TX 78006. Jensen Smith from Harte Research Fisheries and Ocean Health will be our guest speaker. We'll have drinks, appetizers and raffles. Hope to see you there!

Helotes

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

Howdy CCA Helotes, it's been a while since we've had an update. The chapter held our 7th annual banquet on March 21, 2024 and boy was it a huge success. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors:

Burnin' Bush, Premier Yamaha San Antonio, Tietze Plumbing, Academy, Texas Lawman Security, Mesa Equipment, DeWinne Equipment, Burkholder AC, Frost Bank, Ron Hoover RV and Marine Centers San Antonio, Ortho SA, OSA Advanced Rehab & Sports Center, Lone Star AC and Heat, and Crawford Power Source Electric.

I also want to thank the fantastic venue, **Pedrotti's Ranch**, which under the watchful eye of Anthony Pedrotti made sure our every need was met. The food and service were outstanding. I can't recommend them highly enough.

Thank you to Brittney Clay for wowing us with her rendition of the National Anthem and to the Harlan High School AFJROTC color guard for presenting the colors. Also, a big thank you to the great Mayor of Helotes, Richard Whitehead, who gave a very appropriate and timely invocation.

Next, I need to thank all the committee members that spent countless hours preparing and planning the event: **Nathan and Karen Lutz, Tyson and Shandlyn Gaenzel, Angie and Madelyn Rayburg, Pat and Judy Mitchell, John and Karen Botter, Mike and Amy Mullholland, Mark Schofield, Bob and Caitlin Mitchell, Matt and Melanie Murray, Don and Nancy Castro, Sam Santos, Lisa Sanchez, Joel Lutz, Mack Rigby, Charles and Vicky Sablatura and Jerry Nunnely**. I don't want to brag, but after 30 plus banquets at various chapters, this is one of the best operations in CCA Texas. Congratulations to our crew on another very successful banquet.

Lastly, I want to thank all our attendees. You know, it's pretty hard to have a fundraiser without a generous group of folks. The Helotes community is strong and gets behind worthy causes on a regular basis.

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

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

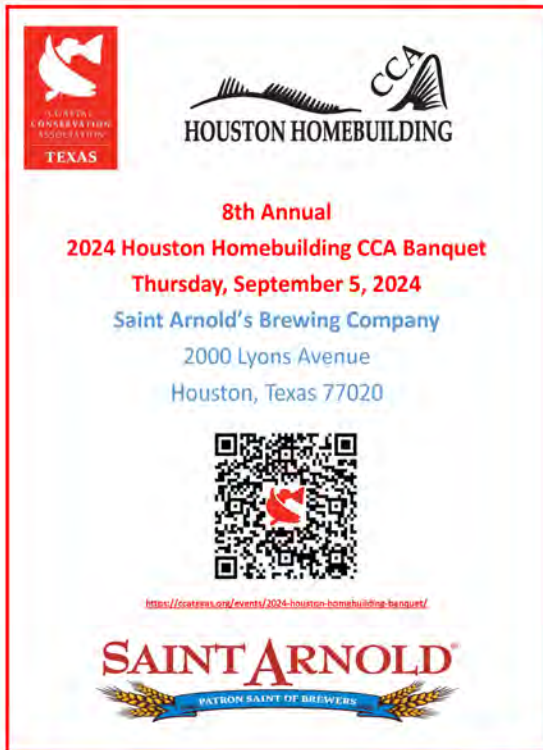
Live Oak
Denise Krc 979-733-3358
liveoakchaptercca@gmail.com

Lower Colorado
Anthony Kimmey 979-241-2239
anthonykimmey@ymail.com

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

Mainland
Trey Mitchiner 281-636-2165
treym642004@aol.com

On April 19 and 20 we will be at Fishing Tackle Unlimited (Gulf Freeway) selling our 2024 15-Gun Raffle Tickets. On **May 3, 2024 will be our Annual Banquet at The Doyle Convention Center in Texas City, TX.**



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/>

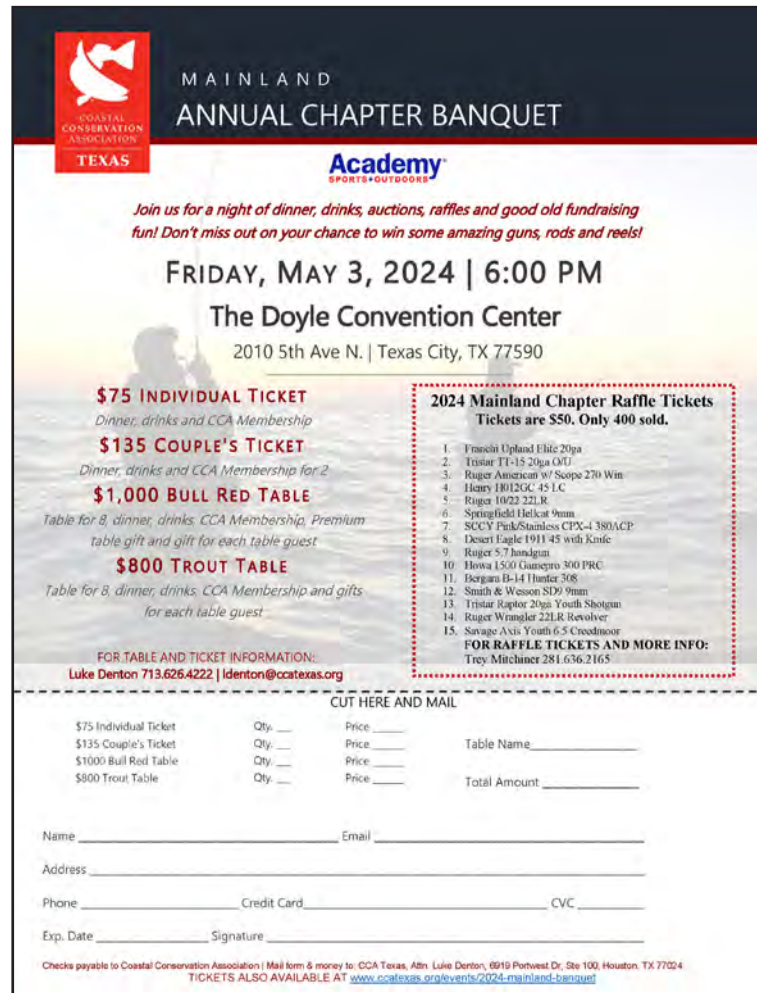
SAINT ARNOLD
 PATRON SAINT OF BREWERS

Houston Real Estate
Kirk Laguarda 713-515-3830
KLaguarda@landadvisors.com

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

Laredo
Maggie Puig 956-645-0031
Mepuig78@yahoo.com

Lee County
Jake Horne 979-540-6117
jake@aubainesupply.com



MAINLAND ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET

Academy
 SPORTS + OUTDOORS

Join us for a night of dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles and good old fundraising fun! Don't miss out on your chance to win some amazing guns, rods and reels!

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024 | 6:00 PM
The Doyle Convention Center
 2010 5th Ave N. | Texas City, TX 77590

\$75 INDIVIDUAL TICKET
 Dinner, drinks and CCA Membership

\$135 COUPLE'S TICKET
 Dinner, drinks and CCA Membership for 2

\$1,000 BULL RED TABLE
 Table for 8, dinner, drinks, CCA Membership, Premium table gift and gift for each table guest

\$800 TROUT TABLE
 Table for 8, dinner, drinks, CCA Membership and gifts for each table guest

2024 Mainland Chapter Raffle Tickets
 Tickets are \$50. Only 400 sold.

1. Franchi Upland Elite 20ga
2. Tristar TT-15 20ga O/U
3. Ruger American w/ Scope 270 Win
4. Henry H012GC 45 I.C
5. Ruger 10/22 22LR
6. Springfield Hecks 9mm
7. SCCY Pink/Stainless CPX-4 380ACP
8. Desert Eagle 1911 45 with Knife
9. Ruger 5.7 handgun
10. Howa 1500 Gauspero 300 PRC
11. Deciana H-14 Hunter 308
12. Smith & Wesson SD9 9mm
13. Tristar Raptor 20ga Youth Shotgun
14. Ruger Wrangler 22LR Revolver
15. Savage Axis Youth 6.5 Creedmoor

FOR RAFFLE TICKETS AND MORE INFO:
 Trey Mitchiner 281.636.2165

FOR TABLE AND TICKET INFORMATION:
 Luke Denton 713.626.4222 | ldenton@ccatexas.org

CUT HERE AND MAIL

\$75 Individual Ticket	Qty. _____	Price _____	
\$135 Couple's Ticket	Qty. _____	Price _____	Table Name _____
\$1000 Bull Red Table	Qty. _____	Price _____	
\$800 Trout Table	Qty. _____	Price _____	Total Amount _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Credit Card _____ CVC _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Checks payable to Coastal Conservation Association | Mail form & money to: CCA Texas, Attn: Luke Denton, 6919 Portwest Dr, Ste 100, Houston, TX 77024
 TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT www.ccatexas.org/events/2024-mainland-banquet

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

Matagorda Bays is excited to announce our upcoming 2024 events schedule and we are looking to have another record setting year for fundraising. We are extremely proud of every chapter board member and how they seek out new and innovative ways to make our chapters kidfish, banquet, boat raffle and tournament a better experience for the chapter members and CCA Texas supporters

WIN A BOAT
MATAGORDA BAYS CCA

@MatagordaBaysCCA

Drawing
June 27th, 2024
EL CAMPO CIVIC CENTER

Haynie 25 Magnum
With Suzuki 350HP TRP

Raffle Tickets

1 - \$20
6 - \$100
20 - \$300
40 - \$500

2024 Sponsors

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NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN Call for tickets: Or Text

2024 events schedule: Lil' Salties KidFish - **May 11, Chapter Banquet and Boat Raffle** - June 37, and the Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup – TBD.

Our blue and white 2024 Haynie Magnum 25 powered by a Suzuki 350hp is being displayed at multiple locations in and around EL Campo and if you made it by the fishing show this February it was right at the front entrance. Chris's Marine and Haynie Boats did another fantastic job putting this boat together and tickets are currently being sold by our board members and at surrounding locations! You can reach out to any of our board members to purchase raffle tickets, please contact us for more information.

The chapter has two great sponsors for 2024, that continue to support us year after year, and we want to give a BIG shout out to **ILS Capital** and **Capital Farm Credit**. Your support is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Please check out our [Facebook page](#) and [chapter webpage](#) on the CCA Texas website for any and all boat raffle and banquet updates. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

Mid Coast
Elisa Carter 830-305-6418
elisacarter@hotmail.com

Meet your CCA Mid Coast Chapter President: Elisa Carter Hello! My name is Elisa Carter and I am the new president for the CCA Mid Coast Chapter. I am a retired administrator with 28 years of my life dedicated to educating the children of Texas and mentoring teachers to be their finest. After retiring, my husband and I sold our home in Lavernia and moved to our forever home in Goliad. We are blessed with 2 children and 2 grandchildren. I have been a CCA member with different chapters for over 25 years and am passionate about nature, wildlife, and conservation. I love, love, love the outdoors and regardless of the weather, I'd rather be out



New CCA Mid Coast Chapter President Elisa Carter

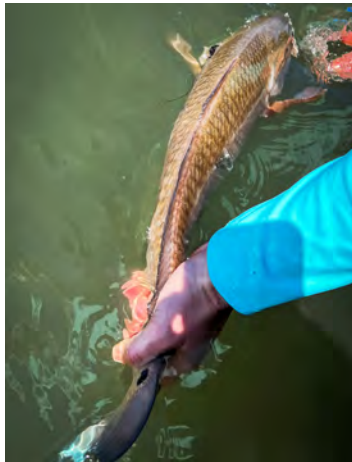
than in.

The chapter has been busy with planning for the **Annual Banquet, which is to take place on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Club Westerner in Victoria, TX.** I look forward to teaming up with you all to make this a GREAT chapter and develop new friendships! If you need to get a hold of me, you can always email me at elisacarter@hotmail.com.

North Texas

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

CCA North Texas, with Presenting Sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka, will hold their banquet April 18, 2024 at 3R's Ranch in Prosper, Texas. Individual tickets are \$100 and include dinner, drinks, and membership to CCA. Trout sponsor tables are available for \$1,000 and include a reserved table with seating, dinner and drinks for eight people, CCA memberships, hats and koozies for everyone at the table, and recognition in the banquet program. Bull Red sponsor tables are available for \$2,500 and include everything in the Trout table package, plus a Turtlebox speaker for the table buyer and premium gifts from Bubba for everyone at the table.



Shot of a red being released by Lyné Donovan in Aransas Bay

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 Tito's Handmade Vodka cocktails, Epic Western

canned tequila cocktails, beer, wine, and a full bar. Live and silent auctions, plus multiple raffles will give guests ample opportunity to buy or win fishing and hunting trips and premium outdoor gear while supporting CCA's critical mission to conserve our coastal habitats. Don't miss the party! For tickets and information, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at brian@firstlightprint.com or CCA Assistant Director, Taylor Rieck at trieck@ccatexas.org.

Northwest Houston

Jerry Goss 832-457-7535
jerry.goss@lexitaslegal.com

Orange County

Zach Johnson 409-594-0525
wzachjohnson@gmail.com

Port Lavaca

Eric Ellison 361-983-4690
fishingsalt@yahoo.com

Port O'Connor

Hank Lippold 832-499-1067
hanklippold@gmail.com

Prairie

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

Redfish Bay

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

Sabine-Neches

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



Left: Taylor Rieck, Darin Johnson and Anthony Toups at the 2024 CCA Sabine-Neches Banquet / Right: A view of the packed house at the 2024 CCA Sabine-Neches Banquet.

Greetings from the Sabine Neches Chapter! We had our 26th Annual Banquet on March 7, 2024! Another successful event in the books! Thank you to all that came out!

Special thanks to **Anthony Toups and Classic Chevrolet GMC** for the 16th year of title sponsorship! Thank you to our continuing partnership with **Shane Chesson and Pure Cajun** for the great food and service, **Del Papa Distributing** for the ice-cold beverages, **Patriot Airboats, Kieschnick Industries, Specialty Paint, Better Built Metal Building, Golden Pass LNG, Pipken Ranch and Giglio Distributing**. The list goes on and know we appreciate everyone who made it out! Last but not least, thank you to the chapter volunteers for their hard work and dedication! Time to fish! Tight lines to all!

Saltgrass

Buck Stobart 409-782-7934
stobartbuck@yahoo.com

Sam Houston

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

San Antonio

Tom Akin 210-313-4860
tom.akin@adkf.com

San Gabriel

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

Southwestern

Veronica Oliver 830-765-6228
ronnimoliver@gmail.com

TAMU

Aidan Downs 210-753-1777
prestonhigg@gmail.com

Texas State University
Matthew Poston
Mattposton22@gmail.com

Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 832-963-5215
mrmaddox04@gmail.com

Tri-County
Justin Putz 210-585-0401
putz.stx@gmail.com

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

Greetings campers, goodbye winter, hello spring. Enjoy this weather while we can because the furnace is warming up.

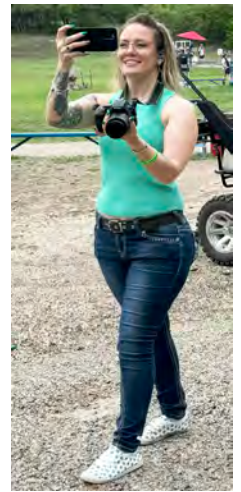
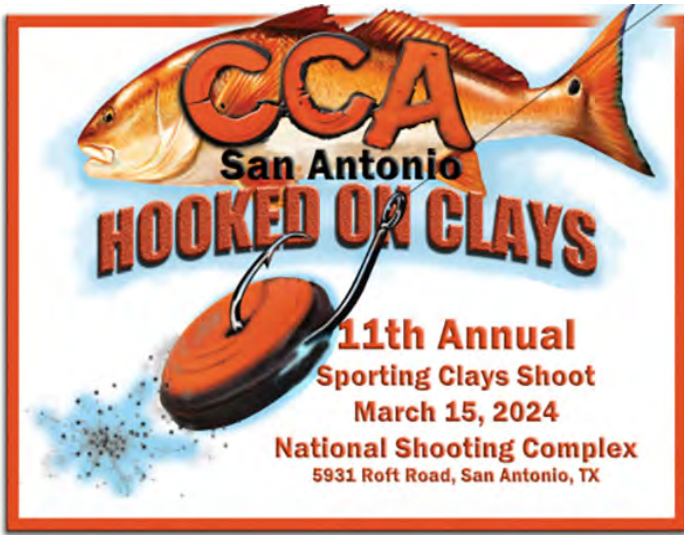
Grab your calendar for us please. **The Trinity Bay Banquet will be Friday, August 23, 2024, at Armenta's Reception Hall** located at 825 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX. Even though Armenta's is a bit far from Trinity Bay, the hall has offered us so much more room than anywhere else we could find. Get your table by May 31 and get your name in a drawing for a \$500 raffle pack. It will be a blast as always. Come see us.

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

West Houston
Ruben Delgadillo 281-808-1434
Castaline@icloud.com

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





Photographer Jessica Yuen-Hernandez collected many images. To view her folder, click this link: <https://1drv.ms/f/s!Alh0n2gcICEugp0Ukugcmv1Oqyr1g>

San Antonio's 11th Annual Sporting Clays event was a success, with good weather and easy-breaking clay targets for most shooters. The CURRENTS team did not win First Place, but probably was not in last place. Shooting by the Youth team was impressive. Food by Da-Cajun Way was great. There was a lot of fine CCA swag in the Silent Auction possibilities.

The CURRENTS team will get in shape earlier in 2025.



Upper Coast

Capt. Ralph Frazier

Shoreline explosions, brighter day

As I write this article for CURRENTS, the new limits on trout have gone into place. May be a while before we get a definite answer, but it has to help the resource.

As April warmth takes over from Old Man Winter, the Galveston Bay complex will see shad, glass minnows and brown shrimp become more available for the big predator fish. That means more predictable action in our shallow regions. All you tough waders will hit shorelines early and will hopefully find topwater action. Tie on your favorite topwater and practice the old walk-the-dog trick. One big explosion can make your day much brighter. My favorite go-to lures will be Bass Assassins and rigs with Gulp. However, the old standard live shrimp offering will dependably produce specks and reds in the nearshore drop-offs.

Trolling gently alongside feeding birds can fill that three-trout stringer early. But that leaves room on the stringer for redfish, sheepshead, black drum and whiting. I've noticed that my customers like catching lots of fish, and the less-famous species make excellent table fare.

As the water warms, remember the surf and jetties, where action can be continuous if you are a cautious wader and boater. Of course, you will always consider the safety of your crew and have an eye out for other fishers who may need help. So, get out in these great spring days. Practice conservation, remembering that the big spotted ladies and over-size reds need careful handling as you release them for further duty. Good idea for the resource: take a young person fishing. —**Capt. Ralph Frazier**

281-337-0321 Ralph2fish@aol.com

Middle Coast

Capt. Gordon Taylor

Best months on the water?

In my opinion April and May are two of the best months to get out on the water. Spring Break is over, the weather is still cool enough, summer vacations haven't started, and the crowds are minimal on the weekends.

Live shrimp will be my preferred bait for April and May while targeting the shorelines and finger guts in Redfish Bay. Popping corks with about a two foot drop and a 4/0 hook with live shrimp works best for just about any angler from the kids to the adults due to the visibility of watching the corks. If we have light winds, I will head out to the platforms in Corpus Christi Bay to freeline shrimp for trout, sandtrout, sharks, and the occasional oversized redfish. The jetties in Port Aransas should also be working for a variety of fish including trout, reds, sheepshead and Spanish mackerel.

The baitstands will start having a variety of baits such as live shrimp and mullet. Also, make sure to remember the new trout regulations that went into effect on March 26. Keep only three trout measuring 15-20 inches. You can tag a trout 30" or over, but I encourage my clients to release the bigger trout after taking a picture.

Take advantage of these two months with the nice weather and get out on the water with the entire family, especially the kids, before the vacations and summertime crowds start heading down here. Also, make sure to keep applying sunscreen and drinking plenty of water. Most people have a tendency to not notice these two items due to the nice weather during this time while fishing! —**Capt. Gordon Taylor** 561-319-0099 taylorgj60@gmail.com

Lower Coast

Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr.

Time to store those waders!

As March fades into memory and April begins, the trout fishing on the Lower Coast has been excellent. With the advent of the new law—or actually returning to the common-sense limit of three trout limits, it can only get better.

Late in March, we had several 9.5-plus specks come to the net and of course, be returned after high-fives and photos. Pictures are great, and the Currents photo editor wants pics for the newsletter, but it's so important to be careful with those big spotted ladies. Tougher redfish have been the mainstay since the freeze and are in good numbers in shallow regions.

My go-to lures: shrimp are now coming in from the Gulf, so rig accordingly. We've had success with the Norton array of lures. I have affection for Norton's Sand Eel red and white paddle tails beneath an 8-oz jig head. Try the Kellywiggles; strawberry and white, bull minnow on Norton Lazerheads. Never NOT try a topwater, especially early in the morning on a shoreline. I like the Super Spook white and silver and Bozo the Clown. An explosion at dawn is a great way to start the day.

As May takes over, consider drifting and sight casting those long stretches of shallow, gin-clear water. Care for your catch and your crew, remembering young anglers in a moving boat MUST wear safety vests.

Always leave it better than you found it. A good way to do that is to join the Bassler Cleanup Crew for the June 8th Cut and Beach Cleanup out of Port Mansfield. —**Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr.** 956-966-0719 shallowcharters@gmail.com



Photos from 2009, second year of the Port Mansfield Beach and Cut Cleanup. Anglers watch as guide Rene Hinojosa Jr. is in charge of a green turtle release. Photos, Sam Caldwell / Olympus TG4

Capt. Rene with a CPR red in mid-March 2024.

Josie's Shrimp Burritos

Josie's Mexican Food has been a dining destination in Port O'Connor since the 1980's. Here's a favorite recipe from Josie's granddaughter, Eloisa Covarrubias. Eloisa says measurements aren't precise because they were taught to use your heart and common sense in every dish.

Three or more tortillas / 8-10 shrimp / shortening / flour / chili powder
salt / garlic mix / onions / tomatoes / jalapenos / soy sauce / cheese / beans

Grill the shrimp with fresh onion, tomatoes and jalapenos. When cooked, add soy sauce. Reserve the gravy. Place tortilla on plate, add spoon of beans, then the shrimp mixture. Roll over, add gravy and cheese. Place in oven until cheese is melted to suit the chef. Serve on a hot plate with extra tortillas.

Josie's is located at 610 Adams in Port O'Connor, Texas.



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt



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you found it: an
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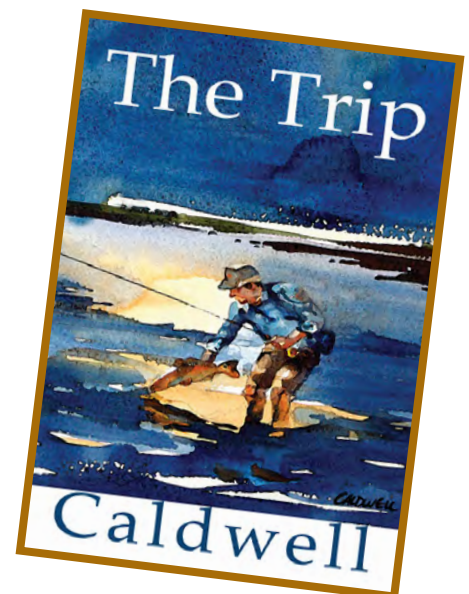
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lesson at the Third Bar.
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Thanks for great Web Design by Michael Klasno / 442-340-3947



Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

April / May 2024



BEST IN TEXAS

U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

National Response Center: 800-874-2143
Port Isabel: 956-761-2668
Corpus Christi / Marine Safety Office:
boating emergencies, chemical and
oil spills: 361-888-3162
Port Aransas: 361-749-5217
Port O'Connor: 361-983-2616
Freeport: 979-233-3801
Houston, Galveston: 409-766-5620
Sabine: 409-971-2195

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

Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov

To focus on fishing and boating, visit

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



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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____ (Member ID for renewing members only) _____ EMAIL _____

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

- MEMBER: \$40 _____ Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
- ASSOCIATE: \$20 _____ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
- LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 _____ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
- 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