

# CURRENTS

June / July 2024



STAR is underway!

*Daybreak Red as STAR Begins  
Shoalwater redfish by Peter Lange*

**CURRENTS IS INTERACTIVE!**  
*This issue is equipped with clickable links. Try clicking one to open it in your browser.*

# CCA Texas Habitat Efforts Continue to Move Forward

*By John Blaha, CCA Texas Director of Habitat*

It's hard to believe but when this issue arrives, we'll be through six months of 2024. CCA Texas is once again off to a strong start due to the great efforts of the local chapter volunteers, sponsors and supporters. The CCA Texas staff looks forward to hosting the local chapter volunteers in Rockport for the annual Inter-Chapter Challenge in June. CCA Texas and its partners continue to move

*CCA Texas and its partners continue to move forward with habitat restoration and creation efforts along the Texas coast. CCA Texas has now funded over \$10.3 million in habitat efforts and has committed another \$5 million to oyster reef restoration and creation efforts along the Texas coast in areas closed to harvest.*

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## **Oyster Habitat Restoration**

CCA Texas, its partners and others are working to identify areas for restoration and creation up and down the Texas coast. Two that are currently being looked at are the Mesquite Bay complex and Caranchua Bay.

Working closely with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), Harte Research Institute (HRI), the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI), FlatsWorthy and others, areas are being identified and prioritized for restoration in the Mesquite Bay Complex.

The number one priority at this time is the Northeastern end of Ayers Reef. Although currently in design, this effort will be similar in construction to the St. Charles Bay Big Tree Unit restoration project, featuring a segmented reefing complex that allows for water flow through the reefs and protection of the existing shorelines. The early phases of engineering are in progress and will identify any necessary design changes and estimated costs. This area was identified as critical to protect an eroding shoreline that would eventually create a large breach between Matagorda Island and Ayers Reef if not protected.

The Matagorda Bay Foundation, local community residents and other organizations are looking at areas of restoration in Caranchua Bay. The Bay was closed to all harvest of oysters in





2017 after an intense commercial harvest in the years prior. Matagorda Bay Foundation has contracted with an engineering firm for the early stages of surveying to identify suitable areas for restoration and creation efforts. The long-term goal is to permit an area and begin the restoration process with a heavy community involvement much like the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Nearshore Reefing Program. Surveys should begin as this issue is released and CCA Texas looks forward to being a part of this future restoration effort.

### Nearshore Reefing

CCA Texas has contributed over \$3.6 million in nearshore reefing efforts from Sabine Pass to South Padre Island. The Friends of RGV Reef continue to create nearshore reefing habitat on a scale never seen before. Currently there are over 14,000 tons of reefing materials and two cleaned and prepared vessels waiting on the permit renewal from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for deployment. This permit is expected this summer, so it is with great hope that deployments will begin once again in the summer of 2024. The grassroots efforts by Friends of RGV Reef have been incredibly successful and set the basis for other similar efforts. Friends of RGV Reef are to be commended and the recreational fishing community of South Texas and those that visit thank you.

Sabine Pass Nearshore reefs are moving into the next phase of habitat creation. The new HI-54 Shallow Reef permit is now in place. Efforts to secure



materials of opportunity for reefing are ongoing alongside discussions on pricing and possible timetables with contractors. There are high hopes of deployments starting in late June or early July. This new site is unique given its location just off the beach of Sea Rim State Park. Located 1.9 miles off the beach, this site will give recreational anglers easy access, including kayakers off the beachfront. Friends of Sabine Reefs have done a fantastic job securing the help of local industry partners. These partners include Cheniere, Port Arthur LNG (Sempra), Motiva, Golden Pass LNG, Valero, and Dow Chemical Sabine Ops. These partners have supported the efforts of Friends of Sabine Reefs from day one. This type of support is the necessary support to make these types of efforts possible.

CCA Texas is excited to see the many habitat restoration and creation projects continue to progress and looks forward to being part of them all. 🐠



# CCA Texas Advocacy Update

By Shane Bonnot

Some developments are unfolding on various items that have strong potential to influence fisheries and habitat, some at a snail's pace and others seemingly moving at lightspeed. CCA Texas remains vigilant, actively monitoring crucial matters impacting the sustainability of our coastal resources. We would like to take this opportunity to spotlight some key issues currently on our radar.

## LNRA WATER USE PERMIT – WRPERM 13728

The Lavaca-Navidad River Authority (LNRA) has applied for and received a draft permit to divert 30 billion gallons of water annually from a designated reach on the Lavaca River for industrial, municipal, and mining purposes across several counties within the Lavaca River Basin, as well as the Colorado-Lavaca and Lavaca-Guadalupe Coastal Basins. The permit would enable the LNRA to construct and maintain a dam and reservoir impounding 240 acre-feet of water on the Lavaca River and grant authorization for the use of the bed and banks of the Navidad River (Lake Texana) to convey the diverted

water and/or store it in a proposed 16 billion gallon off-channel reservoir. CCA Texas has requested that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) provide the public with a comprehensive overview of the permit by holding a public meeting. This meeting will be instrumental in presenting detailed insights into the environmental and ecological impacts expected from the proposed activities.

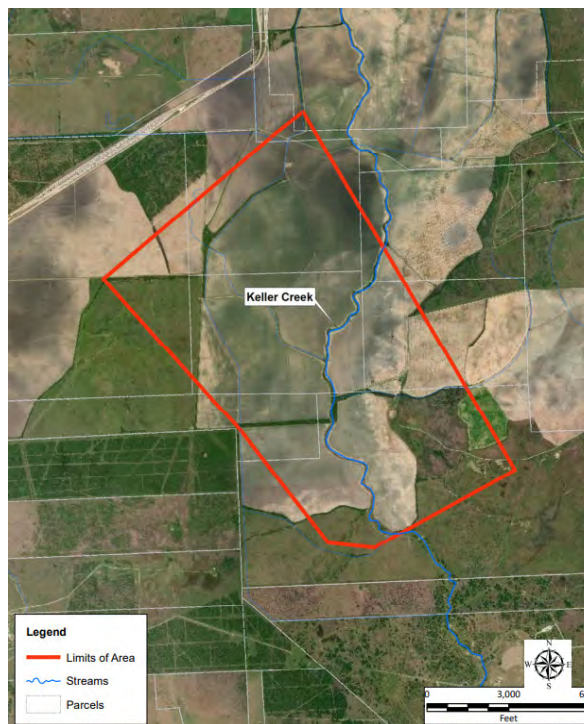
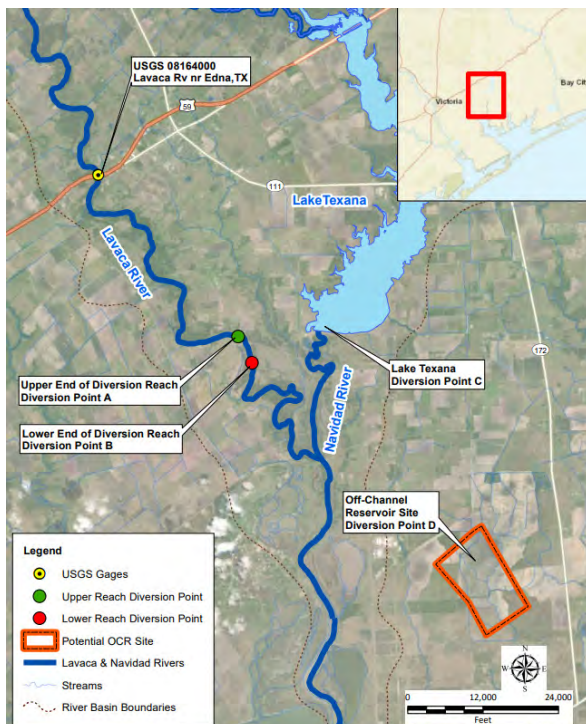
In addition to the request for a public meeting, CCA Texas has filed a contested case hearing request on this permit to address grave concerns that the LNRA and TCEQ have not identified and adequately addressed the full scope of the proposed appropriation and draft permit. Concerns include but aren't limited to the amounts, timing and diversion point or points of the proposed appropriation, the diversion dam and the off-channel reservoir, amount of freshwater inflows to

Lavaca Bay, changes to the freshwater/saltwater interface, and resulting impacts on fish, oysters and other aquatic species dependent upon the Lavaca River, Lavaca Bay and the associated coastal ecosystems.

In addition to the CCA Texas contested case hearing request, there were 62 hearing requests submitted to the TCEQ,

including requests from the National Wildlife Federation, Matagorda Bay Foundation, Lavaca River Ranch, Hilcorp, and San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper. To date, this permit application has received 118 public meeting requests, including requests submitted by State Senators Kolkhorst and

*As industrial development opportunities expand regionally and our state's population continues to surge, CCA Texas members must remain vigilant to ensure the conservation of fishery resources and maintain access for anglers. Conservation and economic development can progress together, and our advocacy need not be a zero-sum game.*





Huffman, and State Representative Lozano. [Click on this link](#) if you would like to view all comments submitted to TCEQ on this permit.

## MATAGORDA SHIP CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

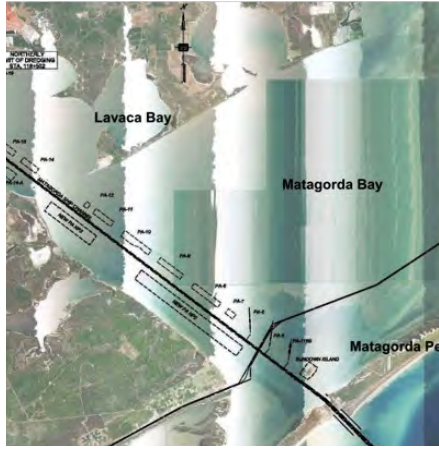
The Calhoun Port Authority and Max-Midstream have been pursuing a project to address issues with the Matagorda Ship Channel.

Constructed between 1962 and 1966, the Matagorda Ship Channel is an approximate 26-mile-long deep draft channel from the Gulf of Mexico

to Port Lavaca. This project will address the channel's insufficient width and depth, which limits vessel size and increases the potential for pilot error during times of high winds, waves, and shoaling. (Shoaling occurs when the channel naturally becomes increasingly shallow through the build-up of sediment.)

In addition, the width of the existing turning basin also limits vessel size. The objectives of the Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project are to: Increase port efficiencies and reduce transportation costs; utilize dredged material beneficially to protect and/or restore significant ecological and historical resources; and reduce risks to life safety and local infrastructure. This will be accomplished by extending, deepening, and widening the channel to varying depths and widths.

[CCA Texas has issued a statement on this project](#) and is advocating for the wise use of dredge material for beneficial projects within Matagorda Bay to enhance fisheries, habitat, and coastal resiliency. Should the MSCIP move forward, dredge material should be used to provide ecosystem benefits on a landscape scale in Matagorda Bay. The USACE should utilize a suite of environmental restoration and creation features including in-bay marshes, beach nourishment, shoreline protection, oyster reef creation, and nesting shorebird habitat that will offset the negative impacts of this project.



## CEDAR PORT NAVIGATION AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT CHANNEL DEEPENING PROJECT

This project aims to assess the viability and federal interest in establishing a deep-water link between the Houston Ship Channel and a potential forthcoming deepwater terminal at Cedar Port Industrial Park. This initiative seeks to enhance navigation safety and efficiency in both the Cedar Bayou Navigation Channel and the Houston Ship Channel. The envisioned Cedar Port terminal offers an alternative

facility to handle projected cargo volumes, mitigating congestion in the upper Houston Ship Channel and averting delays in cargo operations. As the non-federal sponsors under authority granted by section 203 of Water Resources Development Act 2022, Cedar Port Navigation and Improvement District is preparing an integrated feasibility study and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Cedar Port Navigation District Channel Deepening Project.

During the scoping process for the development of this EIS, CCA Texas submitted comments expressing significant concerns for dredging impacts on fisheries and habitat, and if the project were to move forward, advocated for dredge material to be located within confined placement areas. [Click here](#) to view a map with proposed alternatives. Rest assured, CCA Texas will keep a watchful eye on this project and inform our members of opportunities to speak up for coastal resources.

## PORT MANSFIELD CONTAINER PORT

The [2024-2025 TxDOT Maritime Division Texas Port Mission Plan](#) outlines various projects aimed at enhancing global trade opportunities. With a total value of \$9.67 billion, these projects include \$4.34 billion for inland connectivity needs, \$1.67 billion for port infrastructure investments, and \$3.66 billion for federally authorized ship channel improvements. Of particular concern to anglers and residents of Port Mansfield is a proposal





to repair a bulkhead near a 6-acre quelling yard to accommodate container vessels, potentially altering the tranquil nature of the port. The plan also envisions extending the airport by 1,200 feet to accommodate cargo aircraft and designating SH 186 and FM 1420 as heavy haul routes to support oversized/overweight loads. CCA Texas is closely monitoring these proposed initiatives and will engage with regulatory authorities once permit notices become available.

### GULF COUNCIL JUNE MEETING

The [Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council](#) (Gulf Council) is scheduled to meet in Houston Texas, June 24-27, 2024 at the [Omni Houston Hotel](#). CCA Texas is encouraging members to attend the event, particularly on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, to provide public comment to the Gulf Council. Be on the lookout for an email with more details as we get a little closer to the meeting dates.

### OYSTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will soon announce the committee members for the Oyster Advisory Committee (OAC), which will serve as an advisory board to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Some future discussions will include the development of conservation leases, expansion of commercial leases, and regulatory tools to ensure long-term sustainability of public oyster reefs. The OAC will be comprised of no more than 24 individuals with representation from a broad group of stakeholders. CCA Texas will have representation on this committee and will continue to advocate for the conservation of public oyster reefs.



### CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI DESALINATION PLANT – INNER HARBOR

Per notice of application and preliminary decision for TPDES Permit Number WQ0005289000, the City of Corpus Christi proposes to operate a desalination facility in the

City of Corpus Christi Inner Harbor at the intersection of Nueces Bay Boulevard and East Broadway Street, with a discharge effluent in the Corpus Christi Channel, located within the Corpus Christi Bay ecosystem. CCA Texas opposes TPDES Permit No. WQ0005289000. CCA Texas recognizes that sound desalination technology is crucial in securing dependable freshwater sources for Texas but accepted marine science mandates that the intake and discharge points be located offshore to minimize impacts to the estuary. For any operation to be considered, we offer the following recommendations:

- Intake and Discharge points should be located in offshore waters to minimize the impacts on fragile ecosystems.
- If possible, intake piping for any desalination plant should be installed below the seabed via directional drilling.
- Site-specific studies of conditions at proposed locations should be conducted to identify environmental impact and risks to the ecosystem.

Implementing an offshore intake and discharge for a desalination plant offers several advantages, minimizing direct impacts on the ecosystem by avoiding the disruption of sensitive habitats and species within the estuary. Offshore intake also allows for the extraction of seawater from deeper and cleaner waters, and discharging the brine offshore disperses it in a larger volume of seawater, diluting its concentration and mitigating its impact on marine life and water quality in coastal areas. In summary, opting for offshore intake and discharge for desalination plants provides a more ecologically sound solution while still feasibly addressing freshwater needs in Texas.

### TAKING ACTION

As industrial development opportunities expand regionally and our state's population continues to surge, CCA Texas members must remain vigilant to ensure the conservation of fishery resources and maintain access for anglers. Conservation and economic development can progress together, and our advocacy need not be a zero-sum game. We encourage you to actively engage in issues that impact the health and vitality of our coastal resources. Stay alert for updates in your inbox, CCA Texas CURRENTS, CCA Texas social media, and the CCA Texas website for opportunities to get involved. Thank you for being a CCA Texas member; we appreciate all that you continue to do for our coast. Cheers to a summer full of tight lines, big smiles, and good times with those who bring you joy. 🍷





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!**

**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**

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS

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.

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COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS



# 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](mailto: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
<b>Total contributions to Nearshore Reefing:</b>	<b>\$3,656,000</b>

## 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



# SPORTFISH CENTER

CENTER FOR SPORTFISH SCIENCE & CONSERVATION



HELP US,  
HELP YOU  
CATCH MORE  
**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.





## What the 2024 CCA Texas STAR Tournament Means

**H**ere we go again! Our annual Texas Coastal tradition for anglers and their families has officially begun. For 35 years, this Tournament has given anglers from South Padre Island to Sabine and everywhere in between a chance to let God’s coastal blessings be a source of rejuvenation.

CCA has been working hard to ensure the future of our state’s marine resources we love. CCA-built hatcheries are operating at full speed, and the restoration of our precious oyster beds continues, just to name a few! This important work is thanks, in no small part, to our STAR anglers and their participation in the Tournament. Every registration and membership helps us to ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers’ access to them here in Texas. Equally as important is the fraternal bond shared by all of us rallying to “get it done.” It continues to be a driving force behind our conservation work.

STAR is just a catalyst for FUN, sharing our passion with new folks to help us make Texas home to the best fisheries in the country. This annual non-profit membership drive enables CCA to advocate for the resource and guard against those who would tear it down.

YOU make this possible, YOU inspire us, and YOU are the lifeblood of CCA!

Additionally, your support has enabled us to:

- Offer more than \$1.9 million in prizes including boats, trucks, and UTVs for the 2024 CCA Texas STAR Tournament with \$325,000 of it designated for youth scholarships. With this much scholarship

money up for grabs, be sure YOU take the kids and inspire them to be the next generation of conservationists.

- Award \$8.1 million in scholarships since 1995! How ‘bout a sample of our volunteerism that makes STAR happen?

*Tim Myers, Jeff Young, Ashley Fincannon, Ruben Chavez, Steve Horsch, Bryan Gutermuth and their team, Robert Frennea, Ben Cravens Jr, Michael Blinka, Charlotte Harris, Kathy Harris, Jackson Hooper, Kyle Harris, John Eads, Jen Blaha, Wayne Davis, Lynda Neal, Javi Suarez, Chris Johnson, Joey Lewman, Bob Brumbo, William Kinney, Michael Pletcher, Craig Johnson, Corby Robertson, Jimmy Bailey, Nick Johnson, Albert Gonzales, Paul Cason, Courtney Moore, Jonah Jacobsen, Still’s kids, Greg Young, Al Pratkan, Chris Gillman, Rick Renaudin, Tyler Renaudin, Chris Renaudin, Ainsley & Claire Young.*

I’m sure we’re missing others but these are a sample of the friends who help with STAR redfish capture and release.

And a very special shout out goes to the captains of the STAR Redfish Capture/Release team, James Heller and Carol Jones! Y’all ROCK. Every year you do unbelievable work to pull off this massive operation that requires immense organization, precision, thoughtfulness, and care in time for kickoff. If you ever wondered who’s responsible for ensuring those 126 tagged redfish are safely sprinkled up and down our Texas coastline, it’s these two and their incredible team! This is a snapshot of “how the sausage is made.” Imagine the thousands of CCA chapter volunteers who do it all for the fish, year-round. We’d love to have you jump in somewhere. Vaya con Dios!

And here’s a quick pro tip for Upper Coast anglers who survived our flooding event—yes, it will take a while for the water in the Galveston and Sabine Lake areas to “salt up” back to normal salinities, so where do the fish go? You guessed it—they will stack up near passes and jetties and surf, waiting for the freshwater to finally run out in the Gulf so they can return to their normal spots. So that means, what? Upper coast anglers have an even BETTER CHANCE to catch these special fish in the only places they can be found. Taste the water. If salty on top, stop!

Scroll to page 21 for a rundown of what's up for grabs this year. Never have we had more or bigger prizes. Get your share!

So, what’s next?! It’s up to you, get out there, fish, and create a STAR story for us to share with the world!



BEST IN TEXAS







*A Very Special Thanks to our Professional Photographer  
MacElliott!*

*We are so grateful to everyone on the various release teams who took pictures and sent them to us!*

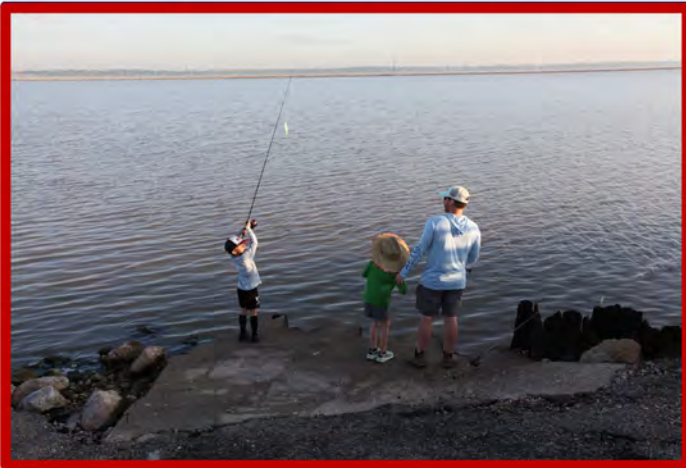




*Thanks to Jules Bonnot for joining our Galveston Release Team!*



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CCA TEXAS  
STAR



Academy  
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

PROGRESSIVE

BEST IN TEXAS

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**Thank You**  
to the  
**AMAZING Volunteers**  
who make the  
**“Tagged Redfish Release”**  
happen year after year!  
*(These are just a few of the many!)*











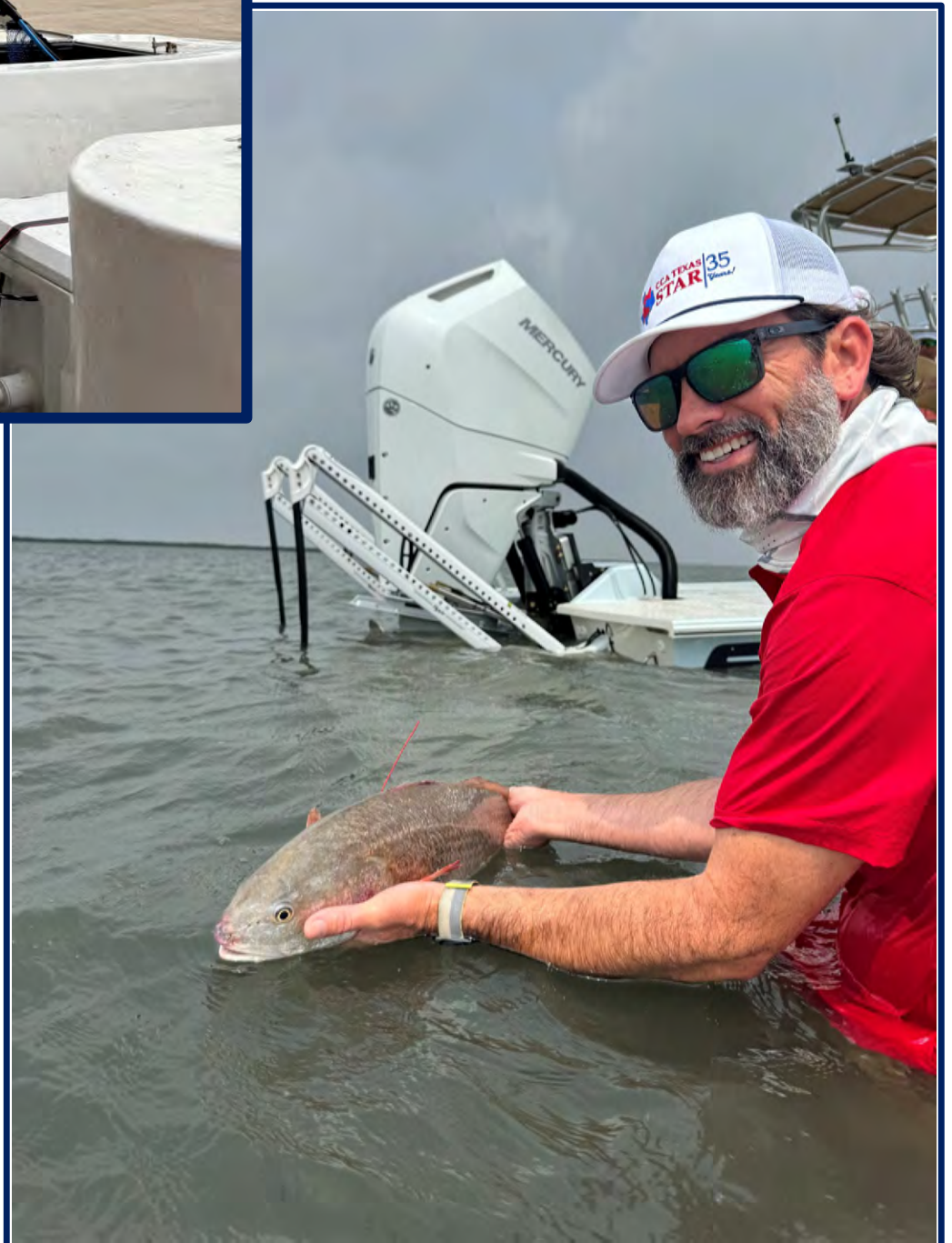






**Many Thanks  
to the  
AMAZING Volunteers  
who make the  
“Tagged Redfish Release”  
happen year after year!**

*(These are just a few of the many!)*





# OVER \$1,900,000

IN PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS 13 DIVISIONS

By entering the CCA TEXAS STAR you have a chance to win a 2024 FORD F-150 "TEXAS EDITION" XLT SuperCab, Boats, Prizes, Scholarships and more!



CATCH - CLIP THE TAG AND RELEASE!

## RED TAG DIVISION

*Texas Ford Dealer's (Red-Tagged Redfish Division)*  
 The **FIRST FIVE** red-tagged redfish caught, tag clipped, fish released & tag turned in at an official CCA Texas STAR Weigh Station, who are certified as winners, will take home a 2024 Ford F-150 XLT Super Cab connected to a Haynie 23' Amigo with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS Optimax and Coastline Trailer. The next Five eligible anglers who turn in a RED TAG will receive a Haynie 23' Amigo, Coastline trailer and 150 hp Mercury motor package.

Ages 15 & under will receive a \$25,000 scholarship and boat in lieu of truck/boat for the first 5 prizes., See Rule 15

CATCH - CLIP THE TAG AND RELEASE!

## BLUE TAG DIVISION

(Blue-Tagged Redfish Division)

The **FIRST THREE** blue-tagged redfish caught, tag clipped, fish released & tag turned in at an official CCA Texas STAR Weigh Station, who are certified as winners, will take home a 2024 22' Tran Sport Boat 220 SVT CAT (Raised Center Console), with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS Optimax and Coastline Trailer.

The following 2, will receive a \$2,000 Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card & following 5 receive \$750 Academy Sports+ Outdoors gift cards. (See Rule 17)

## INSHORE DIVISION

Eligible anglers who weigh in the **HEAVIEST** Sheepshead, Gafftop & Black Drum will take home a 2024 Shoalwater 19' Cat Boat, 115hp Mercury Motor & McClain Trailer.

There will be 4 Runner-Up prizes (Academy Sports + Outdoors in each species Category.

## OFFSHORE DIVISION

Eligible Anglers who weigh in the **HEAVIEST** Kingfish, Dorado, Ling & Red Snapper will take home a 2024 Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI Polaris Pursuit Camo, Big Tex Trailer and a STAR Special Edition Trophy



May 25<sup>th</sup> thru Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DIVISIONS

STAR is free with \$10 Youth Membership

## HEAVIEST FISH

Eligible STAR Kids ages 6-10 who weigh in the Heaviest GAFFTOP or SHEEPSHEAD can win Scholarships from \$2500 to \$30,000



Eligible STAR Teens ages 11-17 who weigh in Heaviest GAFFTOP or SHEEPSHEAD win Scholarships from \$2,500 to \$30,000

Early Bird Giveaway include a Dargel Skout Boat

Deadline 5/03/24 by midnight!

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



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For more information visit our website [www.startournament.org](http://www.startournament.org) Call 713-626-4222



## 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.



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.

## 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.

## 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>



## INSHORE

The Black Drum division is here to stay. With an intense battle all summer long for 1<sup>st</sup> 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



## 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=VZjysTu7-kc>

## PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



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*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.

We are grateful for their generous support for 35 years, and we know that we can always count on them. If you want to support those who support the things we love, scan this QR code to let Mercury know if you're interested in repowering.







*STAR Platinum Print*  
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SELL OUT FAST!**

## STAR PLATINUM SUPPORTING STAR STUDENTS

Your contribution through STAR Platinum directly funds \$325,000 in scholarships annually for STAR Youth winners – which makes you the real STAR!



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BY ANASTASIA MUSICK

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# Leaving It Better Than You Found It

## TOWA: Conservation Messaging, Today and Tomorrow

*Texas Outdoor Writer's Association 2024 Conference, Rockport-Fulton, Texas, May 11:* Coastal Conservation Association joined with Dallas Safari Club to co-sponsor the 2024 TOWA's Excellence In Craft Awards.

This year, the EIC awards centered around a new emphasis on recruiting and aiding young communicators. Thanks to longtime Texas Parks and Wildlife photographer Earl Nottingham and his friends in the statewide 4-H program, two photography categories were added to the contest. This action required renaming the entire program. It is now the TOWA Youth EIC Awards sponsored by DSC and CCA.

The Dallas Safari Club (DSC) has sponsored the Texas Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA) Youth Writing Awards for more than 10 years. By incorporating the Texas Brigades this year, entries jumped from a smattering of high school English students to almost 300 outdoor career-oriented young people.

Special Thanks are extended to DSC Executive Director Corey Mason for working with TOWA in recent years, and thanks to Texas Brigades Executive Director Natalie Wolf for collaborating with TOWA.

CCA's Executive Director Robby Byers and President Pat Murray liked the idea of TOWA's Youth Participation program, and joined sponsorship of the EIC program.

At the culmination of the TOWA Annual Conference, held May 10-12 in Rockport, Texas, the TOWA Board of Directors considered more categories for the youth competition. DSC Ex. Dir. Corey Mason has already committed to raise DSC's commitment.

More than \$6500 in awards to aid education plans went to young communicators in 2024 – and the fun is just starting!

Youth writing award winners were: 1st place – **El-liette Stewart**. 2nd place – **Emery Tompkins**. Honorable Mention – **Shaylyn Franke**.

Youth Wildlife Photography winners were: 1st place – **Michael Skulteti**, 2nd place – **Autumn Webb**, Honorable Mention – **Autumn Webb**

Youth Photography, People in the Outdoors Winners: 1st place – **Colby Dohnalik**, 2nd place – **Jaxon Hohensee**, Honorable Mention – **Madeline Alvarenga**

Directions for entering the TOWA 2025 Youth Excellence In Craft Awards are forthcoming. –**Herman Brune**, *Chairman of the TOWA Board*



*Pictured above: Emery Tompkins, Second Place Outdoor Writing. Shaylyn Franke, Honorable Mention Outdoor Writing. Madeline Alvarenga, Wildlife Photography, Honorable Mention.*

Longtime TOWA member Wyman Meinzer, State Photographer of Texas and TOWA President Jeff Lichon presented the TOWA Youth EIC Awards sponsored by CCA and DSC.

On left, Shelly Archer of TOWA congratulates Chester Moore for his award as a Content Curator. Moore received a Youth Award at 19 that enabled him to move ahead in outdoor journalism. He is now Editor-In-Chief of Texas Fish & Game Magazine.



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©2023 TINCUP WHISKEY, DENVER, COLORADO. PLEASE DRINK TINCUP<sup>®</sup> WHISKEY RESPONSIBLY.



# Caught Redhanded!

Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

While working an NRDA patrol recently out of the Port Aransas jetties, wardens checked a recreational boat coming from federal waters into state waters and located twelve illegally imported red snapper. Citations to multiple fishermen issued.

On May 15 while performing Turtle Excluder Device compliance inspections on commercial gulf shrimp boats, Texas Game Wardens assigned to Calhoun and Victoria Counties were working near the Port O' Connor. At this time, they observed a gulf shrimp boat entering Matagorda Bay through the Port O'Connor jetties. The Gulf boat was traveling to the Port of Palacios after returning from shrimping in Louisiana waters. During their boarding, the wardens inspected the freezer hold of the boat, where it was discovered to hold several bags of flounder and one cobia. The wardens determined that the crew possessed over their limit of flounder and that the cobia had been illegally caught. Citations and civil restitution are pending.

March 2nd while on NRDA patrol, wardens encountered a vessel coming into Texas waters illegally importing snapper. Cases filed and resources seized.

Wildlife Resources were donated to those in need.





# Gulf Identification Guide



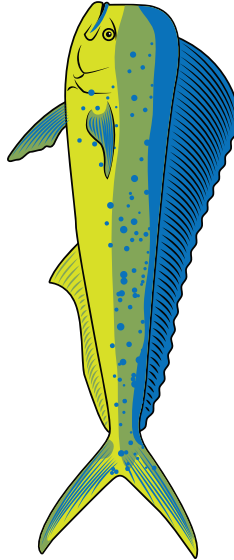
**Tito's Bloody Mary**



**Grouper**



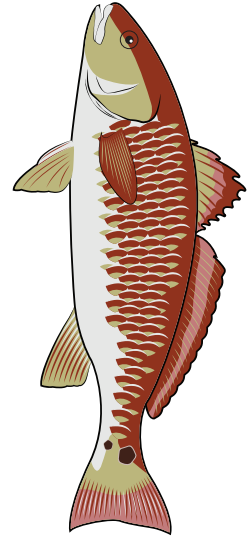
**Tito's Martini**



**Mahi-Mahi**



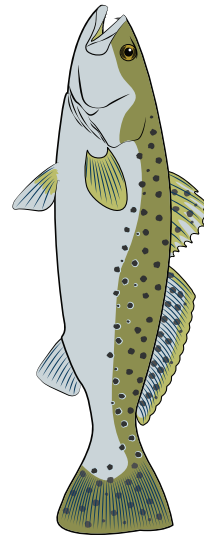
**Mo-Tito**



**Redfish**



**Tito's Salty Dog**



**Speckled Trout**



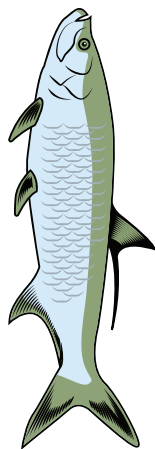
**Tito's Screwdriver**



**Tito's All-American Lemonade**



**America's Original Craft Vodka**



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**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.

Impacto lens technology that provides the highest level of durability.

## 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

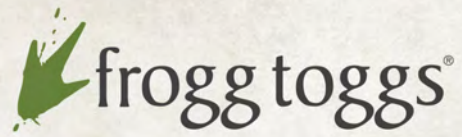
Heavy-duty shell material with a water-resistant external pocket and a ventilated mesh padded shoulder strap.



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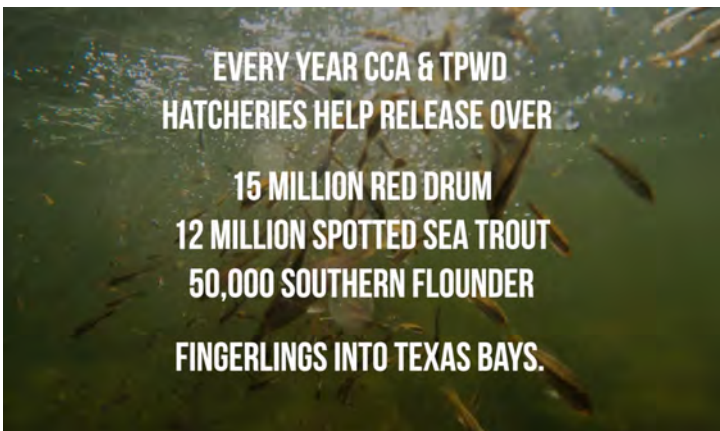


# Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be

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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## 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](http://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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**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 60,000+ members is time consuming and expensive.

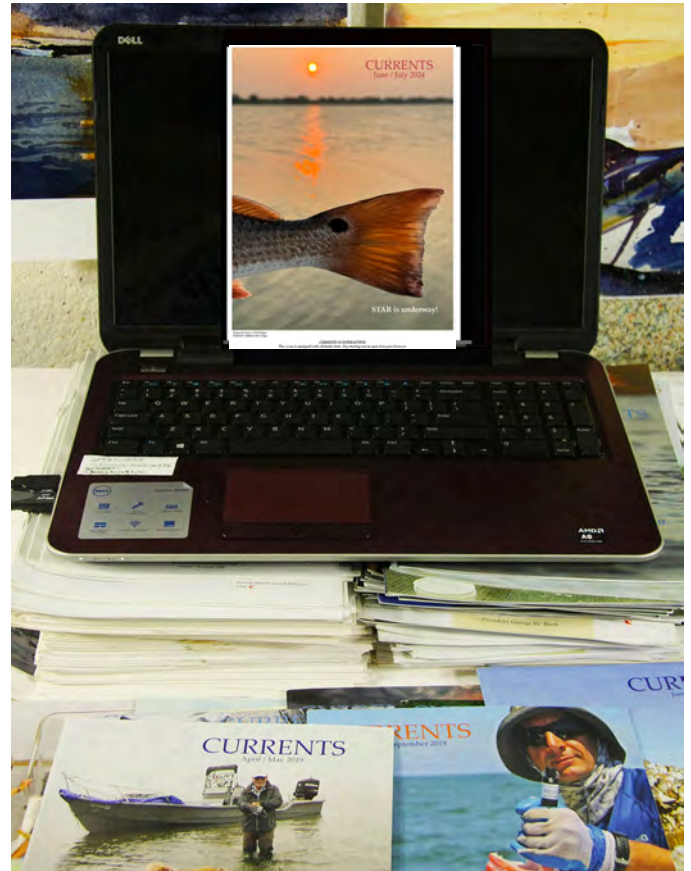
The online CURRENTS newsletter requires no printing nor postage, and delivery is almost instantaneous. An email to members contains a link, with the full newsletter a click away.

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.

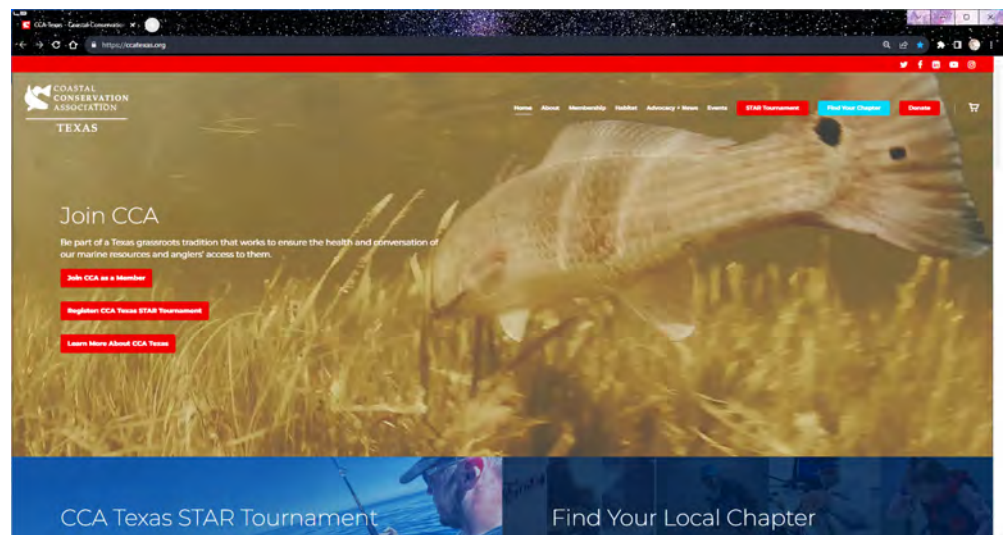
[Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



*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](http://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

FACEBOOK



Join over 33,000+ Texas anglers by FOLLOWING our CCA Texas Facebook page to be the first to know about important updates, check out incredible photos, and watch amazing reels and videos! LIKE us on Facebook TODAY and help us out by sharing our posts!



**f** Congratulations to our GREAT friends at the Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycling Program and the Harte Research Institute on holding their first successful restoration event of 2024! The result?

- 👉 10 tons of shell
- 👉 3 hours
- 👉 120 volunteers
- 👉 1600 bags
- 👉 1 new reef

CCA Texas is proud to fund \$162,000 to support the Sink Your Shucks initiative, including two new trailers and repairs to an existing one! Way to go y'all!

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



**f** 🌸 Happy Mother's Day 🌸 to those incredible women who pass down their love of the outdoors to our next generation of anglers. Thank y'all for all you do and enjoy your very special day!

👤: Amanda Wood and Lauren Bonnot

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**



**f** 🎣 OFFICIAL 🎣 Our 2024 CCA Texas STAR Tournament has begun!

Best of luck and tight lines to all our registered anglers who will be competing for their share of more than \$1,900,000 in prizes all summer long in our two tagged redfish, inshore, offshore, and scholarship divisions. Y'all have fun and be safe out there!

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!**





## CCA Texas on Instagram

We officially passed our goal of 20,000 followers! Thank you to everyone who helped us get there..now it's on to 30,000! 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!

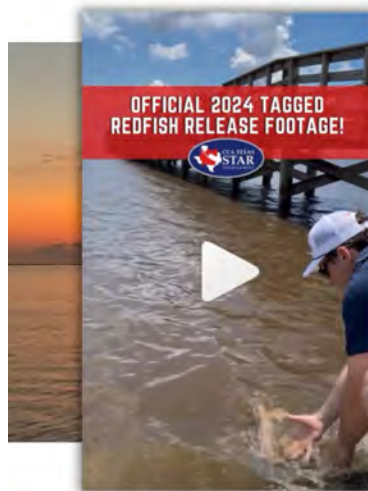
## INSTAGRAM



Y'all check out these little Southern Flounder feeding! The TPWD Coastal Fisheries Hatchery Program recently surpassed 1 Million Southern Flounder fingerlings stocked in Texas since its inception!

CCA Texas is PROUD to support this amazing program that has made tremendous strides in the last 15 years...and it's only gaining momentum!

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!**

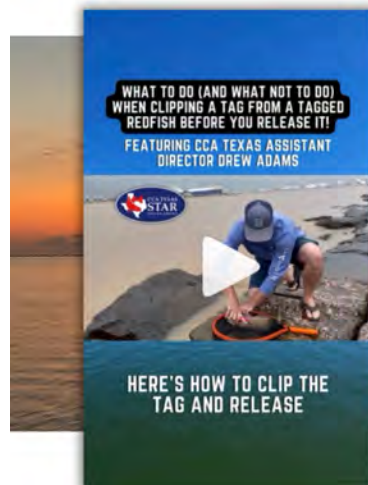


### \* ANNOUNCEMENT \*

from our CCA Texas @startournament: The first tagged reds are in the water 🐟

The 2024 CCA Texas STAR Tournament officially kicks off on Saturday, May 25th at 6AM. If you catch one of these tagged reds before then, please RELEASE IT so that a lucky angler can catch it once the Tournament starts to win their share of more than \$1,900,000 in prizes including boats, trucks, UTVs and scholarships. No claims until the Tournament officially starts!

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!**



In what has become an annual CCA Texas tradition, here's Assistant Director Drew Adams on what to do (and what NOT to do) when CLIPPING a tag from a 2024 CCA Texas @startournament tagged redfish before you RELEASE it in order to claim your prize. You're going to want to watch this video all the way through...trust us 😊

**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**

**Live look  
at Monday coming  
for all of us...**

**👁️: Danno Wise**

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**X**

**From John P. Lopez  
@LopezOnSports:**

**First-time ever @CCA\_Texas STAR  
Tournament releases a potential  
\$120,000 tagged redfish and a  
green-tag redfish (year's supply of  
Lone Star) somewhere on the Texas  
coast. Context clues are abundant.  
Only on the Bite Me podcast.**

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS  
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**X**

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**Alvin-Pearland  
Rex Richards**

[alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com](mailto:alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com)

**Our 2024 CCA Alvin/Pearland Banquet is right around the corner! It will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland.** We will be serving a delicious steak dinner by Joe's BBQ, have a Sportsman's Raffle including guns, optics, and coolers, have live and silent auctions, as well as numerous raffles. This is an awesome event you won't want to miss. Reserve your spot now!

We would like to thank **Waypoint Financial** and **Dashiell Corp.** for being Texas Slam Title Sponsors for this year's event! We are glad to have you both back on board this year!

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 or email us at [AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com](mailto:AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com).

We have enjoyed hosting our Anglers' Night Out events this year. Many thanks to Capt. Steve Hoyland from Hoyland's Adventures, and Capt. Chuck Uzzle with WakesNDrakes.com, for coming out to speak at our April and May meetings.

Our upcoming Anglers' Night Out events will be held on Tuesday, September 3 and Tuesday, October 22.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca](https://www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca) or go to our chapter website at <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/alvin-pearland/>. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events! Don't forget to bring a friend, or even better, a kid!

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

The kids are out of school and Summer is upon us in Rockport! As STAR tournament begins Memorial Day weekend, and tourists start arriving to the coast, our local Chapter members are working hard advocating conservation & sustainability in our community.

Babes on the Bay 25th Anniversary on May 17-18, 2024, was a HUGE success! It was a fantastic weekend of fishing, live music, vacation giveaways, a huge success for our vendors, and more! Best Girl's Weekend ever! We had 1003 lady anglers and 295 Teams from 13 states compete this year, including Texas, Colorado, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Tennessee and Wisconsin. We had Guided, Non-Guided, Artificial, Any Bait, Fly Fishing and Babettes Divisions. We were thrilled to have 32 Babettes participate in this year's tournament and 27 Fly Fishing Anglers, making up 19 Teams. You can view all the results on the Fishing Chaos App and our social media! Always keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates and details for team photos for purchase. Our website is [babesonthebay.com](http://babesonthebay.com), where you can find future tournament info and sponsorship details. We made a big change in the boundaries this year to relieve pressure on our local fisher, photos of GPS coordinates are on our website. This tournament is a catch and release tournament to help preserve our local fishery for generations to come. Thank you to a HUGE GROUP of AMAZING Aransas Bay CCA volunteers, this could not be done without you! We can't wait to host you all next year for another fantastic weekend of fishing and camaraderie, the dates are May 16-17, 2025. If you are interested in being a 2025 Sponsor, or have any tournament questions, please contact Tournament Director, Jen Blaha, Tournament Director 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 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, Jen Blaha, Tournament Director at (361) 205-0182 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 Banquet on May 9 was a huge success with the continued support of our sponsors, donors, supporters and volunteers. The Austin chapter was able to raise over 1.5 million dollars to continue the mission of CCA! We want to thank everyone who supported, contributed and attended our sold-out banquet! We would not be able to raise this amount without all of your support. We look forward to brainstorming for next year's banquet and bringing new and exciting raffles and games for everyone to enjoy.

Austin CCA was honored to host Ernst "Hunter" Toepfer V as our special guest at this year's banquet. Six-year-old Hunter is the youngest angler in the history of Texas Parks and Wildlife's Angler Recognition Program to earn a Saltwater Elite Angler Award. In recognition of his accomplishment, Danny Shaw with Operation Game Thief presented Hunter with a Lifetime Texas Fishing License. This will be his first year of eligibility to participate in the Star Tournament. Hunter is registered and ready to compete! Congratulations Hunter! Congratulations to our 2024 Boat Raffle Winner... Ray Brown! We appreciate everyone that bought tickets for



*Congrats to our 2024 CCA Austin Boat Winner: Ray Brown*

we plan on making this a yearly event. We will be updating you with more information as details are confirmed. If you have any questions or would like more information about getting involved with the Austin CCA chapter please contact Jason Magdalena, President at [jason.magdalena@gmail.com](mailto:jason.magdalena@gmail.com) or Cheryl Smith, banquet and raffle sales, at [cherylcceaustin@gmail.com](mailto:cherylcceaustin@gmail.com).



*Hunter Toepfer receiving his Saltwater Elite Angler Award*



*CCA Austin 2024 Board*

the chance to win the 25' Haynie Magnum boat and to our boat sponsors S .Watts Group, Denbow Company, Inc, Coastline and Haynie Custom Bay Boats.

**CCA Austin will host our 2nd Hooked on Clays Shoot on October 3, 2024.** We had such a great response last year

**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**

Summer has arrived early, along with a ton of rain. 20" here in CS in the last couple weeks. Hope everyone has survived the deluge.

Our chapter had a fish fry in April and a hamburger cook-out in May. We enjoyed visiting, telling fish stories, and good food.

We have about 10 members going to the CCA Inter-chapter Challenge. We know they will have fun. Our next chapter meeting is in October. Plans will be in the next chapter news and emailed out to our members. If you want to receive emails about chapter activities, please let John Ben or Carson Vecera know, and you will be added to our email list.

Please mark your calendar for our **2025 CCA Brazos Valley Banquet: March 7**. The funds made help to save our waters and fish for future generations. Enjoy your summer. Take someone fishing/catching...they will appreciate you with huge smiles.





*Participants at the 2024 Baffin Bay Experience*

**Brenham**

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

**Brush Country**

**Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037**  
**brendagballard@hotmail.com**

In May, the Texas Brigades, in collaboration with the Bringing Baffin Back™ initiative, hosted the first Baffin Bay Experience at Kaufer-Huber Memorial Park in Riviera. Texas Brigades Experiences are free, single-day events that provide opportunities for youth from across the state to experience the outdoors and learn about various conservation topics.

Participants ages 9-17 spent the day exploring Baffin Bay with volunteers, including scientists, educators, local resource managers, and fishing guides. Campers rotated through stations that focused on fishing, boating, water quality, birding, and watershed dynamics.

CCA Brush Country was proud to support the event, and donated fishing equipment to support the fishing station, including rods and reels, fishing line, hooks, and popping corks. Campers cast off Kaufer-Huber's pier and caught a number of fish.

The Bringing Baffin Back™ Initiative is a partnership between the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program. It represents a sustained commitment to improving the health of Baffin Bay and its surrounding watershed.

The Texas Brigades is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides a variety of educational programs, including 5-day summer camps, an advanced Wildlife Intensive Leadership program, and single-day Experiences.

Other supporters and volunteers included: La Pesca Lodge, the Coastal Bend Audubon Society, the Nueces River Authority, the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD #356, Kleberg-Kenedy AgriLife-Extension, Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens, the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation, the Reel Baffin Bay Country Store, and the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

**Centex**

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

**Central Houston**

**Todd Buster 713-545-1897**  
**tbuster@busterandcgdellbuilders.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**

**Dallas**

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

The CCA Dallas Chapter was at Clay Shooters Supply in Dallas on May 22 for an Anglers' Night Out. Several dozen people attended the event, sharing tacos and cold beverages while looking at the great products Clay Shooters Supply has to offer. Thank you to Clay Shooters Supply for having us out and thank you Tito's for providing the beverages.

We are also getting ready for our **2024 CCA Dallas Chapter Annual Banquet, scheduled for September 26 at On the Levee**, 1108 Quaker St. in Dallas. Individual tickets and tables are on sale now. This year is looking to be bigger and better than ever, and we hope to see you there.

Thank you to our 2023 banquet sponsors. Miles & Miles Argentina, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Progressive Powersports, Sawgrass, Angels Envy, Beretta Gallery, Irving Tool & Mfg. Co, Mariner Sails, Hobie, Lone Star AG Credit, Clay Shooter Supply, Cannon Republic Feed and Fiber, Xtreme Trophy Fishing, Mac Lawson & North Texas Beef, Walker Hairston, Oak Highlands Brewery, and Mi Cocina.





CCA DALLAS  
ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 | 6:00 PM

On The Levee

1108 Quaker St. | Dallas, TX 75207



Scan QR code for tickets

**\$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](http://CCATexas.org/Dallas)



Tito's



Handmade  
VODKA

SAWGRASS



MILES & MILES  
OUTFITTERS



ANGELS ENVY  
BOURBON WHISKEY

2024 CCA DALLAS SPONSORS

Kawasaki



**Fort Bend**  
**Thomas Welch 832-628-0130**  
[twelch@aegislifesafety.com](mailto:twelch@aegislifesafety.com)

**Fort Worth**  
**Beau Redwine 817-291-1890**  
[beauredwine9@gmail.com](mailto:beauredwine9@gmail.com)

**Galveston**  
**Lawrence Walker 832-444-0911**  
[lpwalk62@icloud.com](mailto:lpwalk62@icloud.com)

In spite of the higher than usual wind, we had 86 young anglers turn out on Saturday, May 11 for our Galveston CCA 2024 KidFish at Seawolf Park on Pelican Island, Galveston!

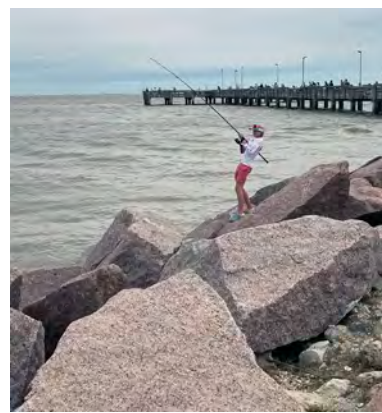
Great times and some great fishing - and catching! Most proud of all of the excellent releases, too.

Upcoming Events: Anglers Night Out - Join CCA Galveston on June 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. for Anglers' Night Out at Beerfoot Beach Bar in Galveston. Urs and Larry the Weather Guy from Saltwater Recon will inform and entertain us again with amazing videos from their cameras (one of which is now on our deck on Tiki Island) along with Larry's outlook for Hurricane Season and other weather-related trends. We will provide some YAGAS appetizers, and you can grab a refreshing beverage from the great selection at Beerfoot Beach Bar. Hope to see you there!

Heels & Reels Women's Fishing Tournament is coming in June! See the information poster on the next page. Thanks to our 2024 sponsors and providers ... and there's plenty of room on our banner for more: Service Corporation International (SCI), EZCruise Parking - Galveston Area, General Contract Services, Inc. - Tiki Island, Ellington Custom Homes - Galveston Area, Boyd's One Stop - Texas City Dike, Hooked Up Baits - Veteran Owned, Treasure Island Trophies - Galveston, and Seawolf Park - Pelican Island, Galveston. Hope to see y'all out on the water!

**Golden Triangle**  
**Colby Plaia 409-658-1075**  
[colbyplaia@gmail.com](mailto:colbyplaia@gmail.com)

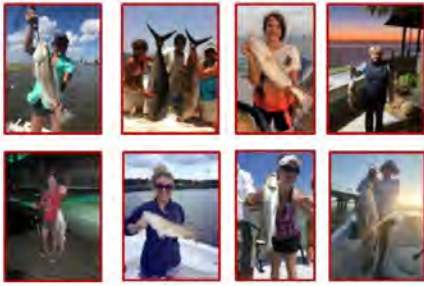
Greetings from the Golden Triangle Chapter. As always, we have started summer off with our annual banquet and thanks to your support, it was a hit! We had a fun night and can't thank you enough for joining us in the name of conservation. We look forward to seeing you again next year. As far as fishing goes, right now is a perfect time to get on the water. Although we have had a lot of freshwater runoff in our lakes, fishing has not



Galveston 2024 Kidfish, Seawolf Park  
1st place: Wyatt Reynolds, 35.5" Redfish / 2nd place: Ryland Binion, 32.5" Black Drum / 3rd place: Hunter Pratt, 24" Gafftop / 4th place: Ethan Fong, 23.25" Gafftop / 5th place: Dominic Medellin, 21.75" Gafftop



**SAVE THE DATE! REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON FOR THE RETURN OF THIS GALVESTON BAY WOMENS' FISHING TOURNAMENT!**



**Schedule Of Events**

**FRIDAY JUNE 21ST, 2024**

**6:00pm to 10:00pm**

Kick off at "The Lodge", 323 Tiki Drive, Tiki Island, 77554

**7:00pm**

Mandatory Captain's Meeting

**8:00pm**

Best Team Costume Contest with Awards presented Friday Night

**SATURDAY JUNE 22ND, 2024**

- Fishing starts 30 minutes prior to sunrise. (Time will be announced Friday Night)
- All lines out at 3:30 PM
- All submissions must be completed by 4:15 PM
- Results will be updated online
- All Cash Pot & Award Winning teams must report to committee table in the front of Tiki Island (location to be determined) no later than 4:30 PM to collect prizes. Must be in person.



For Questions about **Rules & Registration**, please contact:  
 ➤ Luke Denton 713-626-4222 (ldenton@ccatexas.org)

For Questions about **Sponsorship**, please contact  
 ➤ Lawrence Walker 832-444-0901 (lpwalk62@icloud.com)  
 ➤ Brenda Bock 713-304-8742 (bbock2@comcast.net)

**REGISTRATION, CATCH MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE UNDER REVIEW AND WILL BE COMMUNICATED SEPERATELY**

**More information to come at <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/galveston/>**

21, 2024 and we will post more information soon with further details. Have a fun and safe summer and be sure to enjoy our Texas resources! Cheers!

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



*A packed house at the 2024 Annual CCA Greater Sugar Land Banquet*

The Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter has had a busy start to the year hosting our Annual Banquet and I am proud to say was the best banquet yet. A huge shout out to our sponsors: **Molson Coors, Houston Distributing, Craig Mechanical, Marlin Commercial Services, Elevators of Beaumont, and Brocken Compass Outdoors.** And add a shout out to each of our table buyers and everyone who attended. You helped us make a record night and that would not of happened without your continued support. Please save the date for our **Annual Banquet for next year: Thursday, April 3, 2025.**

We also wrapped up a Kid Fish event at Sienna with close to 100 participants. It was our first time in Sienna and it didn't disappoint as we had a great day filled with smiles all around. **Our next Kid Fish event is planned for Riverstone Community Saturday, October 19.** This past year's events hosted over 100 excited future fishermen. You won't be able to erase their smiles from your mind when you see the kids catch their 1st fish. Volunteers are welcome and we would love to see you there.

Saturday May 18, we ventured down to Sargent and East Matagorda Bay and hosted our Annual Presidents Cup Fishing Tournament. This is always a great bonding opportunity as we raise funds for our Kid Fish events. Stay tuned for the picture of the winner with the Presidents Cup Trophy. Special thanks to **Bob and Sandra Hrachovy** for hosting the Friday Night's Captains Meeting and to **Bob and**

slowed down. Be sure to enter STAR and bring a kid fishing. Coming down the line we would like to invite you and your family to join us for our third annual Beach Cleanup at McFaddin beach. It will be held on September



*Some shots from the 2024 CCA Golden Triangle Banquet*





*Left & Left-Center: winners from the latest Kid Fish at Sienna, Right-Center: Greater Sugar Land Board Members setting up for the Kid Fish event at Sienna, Right: it's all about families at Kid Fish events!*

**Barbara Hillard** for hosting the weigh in and awards ceremony and social following the tournament.

Also planned for **Thursday, November 7** will be our **Annual Anglers' Night Out Chapter Membership Drive** with this year's event being a Casino Night. All you need to do is purchase a new or renew your membership into CCA and you will receive access for all the table games that feature, craps table, poker tables, blackjack tables, roulette tables and 3 slot machines. Use your winnings for your chance to win prizes in the silent and live auctions. With your new or renewed membership, you will also receive a friend catfish meal with all the trimmings. **The Anglers' Night Out will take place at**

to be our best year yet.

If you would like to get involved with the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter, feel free to contact me or attend one of our Board Meetings. We take the summer off to spend time with our families and **our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11 at Los Gallitos** (12030 Murphy Road in Stafford) **starting at 6:30 p.m.** We would love to have you join us. 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**



*Sienna Kid Fish winners from Saturday, May 11, 2024*

the **Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall 702 Burney Road in Sugar Land. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.** for a good time, you can bet on it.

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 continues

**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**



The poster features the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Texas logo on the left, which includes a white bird silhouette on a red background. To the right is the Houston Homebuilding logo, consisting of a stylized roofline and the letters 'CCA'. The central text reads: '8th Annual 2024 Houston Homebuilding CCA Banquet Thursday, September 5, 2024 Saint Arnold's Brewing Company 2000 Lyons Avenue Houston, Texas 77020'. Below this is a QR code with a red CCA logo in the center. At the bottom is the Saint Arnold logo, which says 'SAINT ARNOLD' in a large, serif font with 'PATRON SAINT OF BREWERS' on a blue banner below it. A URL is provided: <https://ccatexas.org/events/2024-houston-homebuilding-banquet/>

**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**

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



*A few weeks ago, some Katy Chapter CCA teammates went to a U of H basketball game when they played Texas Tech. From back to front: Warren Lowery, Lyn Goldman, Preston Roobaert, Tim Brouillette.*



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

It's time to have fun at the 16th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter Banquet. Get your tables and tickets NOW for the Annual CCA Lower Colorado Chapter Banquet! The event will take place on **Friday, August 2, 2024 at the Bay City Civic Center** (201 Seventh Street, Bay City, TX 77414). Doors open at 6 p.m.

Sponsorships are available but get swept up fast so don't wait to pitch in and get your company's or your name "in lights" for: Koozie, Tumbler, Hat, Board Shirt, Louis Vuitton Poker Chip Challenge, Guides Cup, Title and Live Auction.

Platinum Sponsor Tables start at \$2,500, Gold at \$1000, and Silver at \$500 for tables of 8. Individual tickets are \$50 and kids 17 and under are \$15.

Spread the word and invite friends and family for an evening of great food, fun and a chance to win some great



auction and raffle items. Just get in touch with one of our members or Blake Burnside at [bburnside@ccatexas.org](mailto:bburnside@ccatexas.org).

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

**Mainland**  
**Trey Mitchiner 281-636-2165**  
**trey642004@aol.com**

We hosted our Annual Banquet on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with a great turnout! We look forward to the 2025 Banquet, stay tuned for date and more details soon.

On July 9, 2024 we will have SaltWater Recon at our next Anglers' Night Out at Spring Creek BBQ in League City. In August will be our next Kid Fish, stay tuned for more information. We will release the date on our [Facebook page](#) soon.

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

Unfortunately, Matagorda bay's local areas have missed out on some much-needed rain this past month, but mother nature has brought the spring winds in full force. Even with the high winds and cloudy weather dampening our Lil' Salties Tournament, we had a great turn out and we are looking forward to our next chapter events listed below!

2024 Events Schedule: **CCA Matagorda Bays Chapter Banquet & Boat Raffle - June 27 / Jim Ehman Memorial Guides Cup - September 30 – October 1.**

The 18th Annual Lil' Salties Kid-fish was a great success once again. A total of 148 kids and their parents participated in the tournament. The kids enjoyed a day full of fishing where they caught a plethora of fish species, battled in the casting contest, and ate a good meal cooked by the chapter board members. Because of our gracious sponsors, which our chapter is extremely grateful to have, every child that entered the Lil' Salties received a free shirt, fishing pole, fishing sun buff, bag of fishing goodies, tackle box and a wholesome meal...But the most important prize they received were the memories made



Some of the amazing little anglers at the 2024 CCA Matagorda Bays Lil' Salties KidFish



with their family and friends while fishing! The winners pictures explain it all!

If you are a current CCA Texas member and would like to participate in next year's Lil' Salties, please choose Matagorda Bays CCA as your home chapter and you will receive the entry forms in the mail or over email next year!

This year's Matagorda Bays raffle boat was built by Chirs's Marine of Aransas Pass, Texas by Chris Coulter and has an estimated value of over \$100,000. The 2024 25' Haynie Magnum with Coastline Trailer and 350HP Suzuki TRP is on display at local vendors around the community. Matagorda Bay's would like to extend great appreciation to our 2024 Boat Sponsors: **CAPITAL FARM CREDIT & ILS CAPITAL!**

Raffle tickets are available to purchase by contacting any of our board members or at the following local businesses: Prasek's Family Smokehouse, Chris's Marine, Superior Motor Parts, The Shot Spot, Hoffer's Auto, Johnny's Sport Shop, Rice Farmers Co-Op & Mr. Tire (El Campo), United AG General Store, VonDerAu Ford. If you would like to purchase boat raffle tickets over the phone, please call or text Jason Beery at (979) 578-1106.

We have numerous table sponsorships available for this year's banquet on June 27 and if you would like more information about these sponsorship opportunities, please contact us or visit the [CCA chapter webpage](#).

Matagorda Bays CCA Banquet Table Sponsor Levels: Gold - \$1,800, Silver - \$1,400, and Bull Red - \$800. Please check out our [Facebook page](#) and [chapter webpage](#) on the CCA Texas website for all boat raffle and banquet updates. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

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

That's a wrap! The CCA Mid Coast Chapter wrapped up their annual banquet Thursday, May 9. A HUGE thank you goes out to the Mid Coast Chapter board members: Tracy Jurek, Nancy Rivas, Bill Williams, Rod Graci, Wade Harrell, Bran-dan Frederick and Rolando Cantu for all of their time and efforts in helping to make this year's banquet a success! And of course, we can't forget Coleman Todd for guiding us through the process. The banquet was held at the historic hidden gem Club Westerner in Victoria, Texas owned by James Villafranca and Debbie Escalante. Patrons enjoyed pecan crusted chicken with sides along with peach cobbler, all made by S & J Catering from Goliad, Texas. The crowd was big and the giving even bigger! Thank you so very much for your generosity! We hope you all enjoyed your time there and look forward to coming together again next year! Be on the lookout for exciting opportunities to raise conservation funds with this chapter in the upcoming year. The board members have such GREAT ideas and I am ready to put them into action!



*Photos from the 2024 CCA Mid Coast Chapter Banquet*

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

CCA North Texas held our second banquet on April 18 at 3R's Ranch in Prosper and it was a great success for the new committee! Fundraising was up substantially from our first banquet in June 2023. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka, and thanks to table sponsors Ryan, LLC, Matt Scherer, Wallace Accounting & Advisory, Brandon Industries, Finstalker, Rockmoor Roofing, Larry Patterson, Glenn Garfield, and Firstlight



*Left: Tablescape at the 2024 CCA North Texas Banquet, and group of attendees at the 2024 CCA North Texas Banquet*



Printing & Graphics.

NTX also held an Angler's Night Out just prior to the banquet, with guest speaker AJ Minns of Blackjack Point Oyster Co. in Rockport giving a talk on oyster mariculture and its ecosystem benefits. Thank you, Sitka Gear Dallas for hosting! Stay tuned for details on upcoming Angler's Night Out events. If you would like to join the North Texas



committee, please contact chapter President Brian Donovan at [brian@firstlightprint.com](mailto:brian@firstlightprint.com) or CCA Assistant Director Taylor Rieck at [trieck@ccatexas.org](mailto:trieck@ccatexas.org).

**Northwest Houston**  
**Jerry Goss 832-457-7535**  
[jerry.goss@lexitaslegal.com](mailto:jerry.goss@lexitaslegal.com)

**Orange County**  
**Zach Johnson 409-594-0525**  
[wzachjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:wzachjohnson@gmail.com)

**Port Lavaca**  
**Eric Ellison 361-983-4690**  
[fishingsalt@yahoo.com](mailto:fishingsalt@yahoo.com)

It's getting close to our annual banquet for the Port Lavaca CCA Chapter and we have some new and exciting things happening this year! Everyone please come out and join us on **Friday, August 9, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Bauer Community Center** in Port Lavaca right next to the causeway. We will have some great food and unique items for the raffle and unique auction items to bid on and win. Not everyone wins the auction or raffle but we all win in the end, with the time spent with family and friends helping to support the CCA for the fishery of today and tomorrow. So, come on out and support the local Port Lavaca CCA chapter, let's make this another amazing year!

Dinner for this year will be a fish and shrimp dinner made fresh on site by local legend, Cathy's. \$1,000 – Bull Red Table, \$750 – Trout Table, \$500 – Flounder Table, \$60 - Individual tickets. We look forward to seeing you all there.

**Port O'Connor**  
**Hank Lippold 832-499-1067**  
[hanklippold@gmail.com](mailto:hanklippold@gmail.com)

**Prairie**  
**Patricia Walters 979-885-7464**  
[manager@wpprint.com](mailto:manager@wpprint.com)

What an evening! On March 28 we celebrated our 26th CCA Annual Banquet at the Austin County Fair Convention Expo Building. The meal for the event was catered by Mikeskas BBQ and served prime rib, chicken breast, shrimp and all the trimmings. After the meal the live auction started with prints, hunting and fishing trips and much more and also the silent auction with some great items to bid on.

One of the most popular game was the cap and card game, there were 7 guns and caps each cap had a playing card attached if your card was drawn you won that gun. We also had the premium raffle if you purchased a \$300, 500 or a \$1000 ticket pack you have a chance to win one of eight guns. And there was the golden ticket only 5 65qt yeti coolers were sold in the live auction 1-5



*The Prairie Chapter Banquet Committee*

chance to be a winner of the golden ticket if drawn you have a choice of a Browning 7mm, Vortex viper scope, Vortex spotting scope or a Vortex binocular. One of the other games was the porker chip challenge only 100 chips this year we had 2 porker chip games the winner will have their choice of 2 Louis Vuitton or a Benelli CCA logo rifle. We also had the \$1000 raffle pack bonus ticket only 10 \$1000 packs each buyer will get a CCA Waterloo rod and a ticket for 1-10 chance at a CCA Life Membership and a Weatherby rifle.

We would like to thank all the sponsors and donors for their support. And thanks to all the board members for all their help in making this a great success.

And a big thanks to Mark Switzer for being our auctioneer. And thanks to the following people Rodger Garrett, Lance Johnson, Shannon Culpepper, Les Evans sound system, and a big thanks to Taylor Rieck and his CCA staff for making this a successful banquet.

Another great big thanks to Wittenburg Printing and their excellent staff for donating their services.

Our annual kid fish in will be in August and the date will be announced soon. Thank You for attending our 2024. Banquet and see you in 2025!

## **Redfish Bay**

**Rio Grande Valley**  
**Javier Suarez 956-330-9788**  
[javier@eastcapeboats.com](mailto:javier@eastcapeboats.com)

Greetings from the Rio Grande Valley Chapter! We had our 44th Annual Banquet on March 1, 2024, at the Mission Event Center, and what an amazing event it was with a record turnout. We would like to give special thanks to the banquet items sponsors: **L&F Distributors, L&G Concrete, Payne Auto Group, Ron Hoover RV & Marine, Texas Tops Truck Accessories, The Sportsman, Luby's of McAllen and Pharr, Clark Chevrolet and Clark – Knapp Honda, East Cape Boats, Tow Boats US Arroyo – Port Isabel, Four Paws Animal Hospital, Lone Star National Bank and Rental World!** We would also like to thank everyone who made it out and supported us. Finally, thank you to the chapter board members and volunteers



for their hard work and dedication! Our success would not be possible without the dedicated support of all the sponsors, attendees, donors, and volunteers!

At this time, we would like to give a huge thank you to **L&F Distributors** for becoming the first Multi-Year Exclusive Title Advertiser of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnership for conservation efforts.

We would also like to thank **Shallow Sport Boats** for helping us with the 2025 banquet boat raffle. The boat is a 21ft Sport with an eye-catching color combination of Polar Ice with Oyster stripe. This model comes with the new deluxe raised platform console design, a white 175hp Suzuki motor and an aluminum tandem axle. The 2025 raffle will also have additional prizes of a Texas Parks and Wildlife Lifetime Fishing & Hunting License, CCA Lifetime Membership with Gun of the Year, Simms G3 Guide Waders, Simms G3 Guide Wading Jacket, Turtlebox, and a pair of Simms G3 Guide Wading boots. The raffle tickets are priced at \$50 each, 3 for \$100 or 20 for \$500. Make sure you stop by our booth at the Texas Hunters and Fishing Expo on July 19th, 20th, and 21st to get your tickets.

In closing, we are having our 4th annual Hooked on Clays Skeet Shoot at the Mission Skeet and Trap Club on October 5, 2024. We will be giving away some awesome prizes, which include custom belt buckles sponsored by Lone Star National Bank. Please make sure to sign up, you won't want to miss it.

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I would like to thank everyone who helped make the 22nd Annual CCA West Texas Chapter Banquet a big success. Thanks to our loyal table sponsors that made this event possible. Thanks to Erich Schneider and the CCA crew for making my job easy. Also in attendance was our special guest Robby Byers who came to check out how it's done in West Texas.

I would also like to give a huge shoutout to Enviro Resources, LLC, cooking team. Our banquet would not be possible without the generous contributions of Enviro Resources. This is their 7th year in a row to provide awesome shrimp and crawfish for everyone. Thanks to the Landry Brothers for making this possible. 🍤



*Billboard sighted near Rockport-Fulton*



## Upper Coast

**Capt. Ken Terry**

### *Slot redfish, game-on experience*

Brutal flooding in May, but the bay will soon regain its salt levels and fish will again be tugging on lines. With a light breeze and minimal chop on the water, anglers should look for and target feeding fish that can be detected by small “slicks” and “sweet watermelon” smells. Early morning wades in areas having shell and sand can also be an excellent choice. Anglers should identify areas holding pods of mullet or other bait sources.

It just doesn't get any better than chunking that topwater lure in the low light. Work the lure in various ways; I personally like the small twitch and sit method. Either way can entice a toothy trout or bruiser slot redfish for a game-on experience.

As always, working areas of rocks for reds, sheepshead and black drum can be a popular method, especially if you have youngsters aboard. If fishing along or near the shipping lanes, be mindful of ship waves. Don't forget that you can enter the STAR Tournament anytime, but now is better.

Finally, with the heat, stay hydrated. Utilize 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 before releasing those trophy fish. — **Captain Ken Terry**  
281-389-7090 **CCA Trinity Bay Board**  
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There's a tag in that redfish the lad is releasing—yours?  
Photo by Mac Elliott.

## Middle Coast

**Capt. Chuck Naiser**

### *Tailing reds in both months*

Wahoo! Sweet corn in June, ripe melons in July and tailing reds in both months. Whatever spring brought you as fishing challenges, be it wind or unusual low water levels, they should now be less problematic. I key on two things—water level and wind direction. Calculating the daily tide becomes more effective in choosing a location.

July is either hot, dry and boring or a holy terror. The daily slow loss of water creates a feature-less system to work with. No current - no fish! Afternoons become opportunities for other coastal activities.

I never have been a huge summertime trout fisherman. I save that for the fall and winter. Redfish on the flats, under birds, and spartina grass shorelines were my “hot month” targets. I learned many years ago to land a redfish quickly before it was exhausted as releasing a red in 90-degree water is certain death.

With more people on the water and more of the anglers skilled in their efforts, catch and release is essential for the future of our fishery. That trite old phrase of releasing to freezer-burn rings true. Cook what you catch before vacuum packing.

I see videos of fish cleaning that are disturbing. The fact that you can clean one at warp-speed has nothing to do with how much edible fish you are discarding. The best part of a redfish is the throat and belly flaps - great table fare. Boil and make into fish cakes or half shell the throat.

Stay safe and Take a Kid Fishing!  
—**Captain Chuck Naiser** *A dedicated flyfishing guide, he loves flyfishing the flats all year-round.*  
361-230-9392 [info@flatsworthy.com](mailto:info@flatsworthy.com)

## Lower Coast

**Capt. Danny Neu**

### *Photos last longer than fillets*

As the south Texas heat settles in on the Lower Laguna Madre, Summertime fishing patterns begin to develop. We experienced unusually low tides this past Spring and now our temperatures are soaring. This pushed our fish into the deeper waters quickly this season.

When targeting speckled trout, I look for active bait over deep grass. Shrimp, pinfish and mullet have been abundant in these areas close to deep water access. Tidal flow and wind driven currents can help tremendously during these hotter months. Redfish have also been showing up with the trout out deep.

I'm catching most of my fish on small soft plastics danced over the grass and through the potholes. An LSU-colored Norton Sand Eel Jr. has been my go-to for years. This lure on a 1/8 oz jig head is highly effective. On days where we wade fish, a gold spoon works great for the redfish. We've also had great success throwing the Mansfield Knockers topwaters. The fish will crush this thing! However, with all the recent high winds, floating grass has limited the use of topwaters lately.

Now is the time to get the kids on the water. Been seeing quite a few already. Most schools are out for the Summer. Time to make some memories on the water. Take lots of pictures. Photos last longer than fillets. — **Captain Danny Neu**  
Port Mansfield Texas 979-942-0165

[dneucharters@yahoo.com](mailto:dneucharters@yahoo.com)



Retro photo from 2011: This tailing red—or hungry trout? liked a Clouser. Photo by Sally Black.



# Sauteed oysters with Ernie Sauce

*Like a thousand other CCA members, the CURRENTS Editor looks forward to the San Antonio banquet each year. One reason is Don Strange's sauteed oysters. Here's the classic recipe—oyster shells optional.*

## *Makes 24 half-shell servings*

Drain 24 or so oysters, reserving  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of the oyster liquid; pat oysters dry with absorbent paper towels and set aside. Prepare the *Ernie Sauce*. Melt the butter in a heavy-bottomed 3-quart saucepan over medium heat. When the butter is sizzling, add the flour all at once, stirring vigorously to blend. Cook, stirring constantly, for 3 to 4 minutes. Combine all remaining ingredients and add to the butter roux, whisking to incorporate. Bring the mixture to a boil to thicken, then reduce heat and cook for five minutes. Keep sauce warm while preparing oysters.

Dredge each oyster in the seasoned flour and shake off excess. Melt butter in a heavy bottomed 14-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add the oysters. Cook, stirring gently, just until the oysters begin to curl at the edges, about 3 to 4 minutes. Take care not to overcook them. They should still be quite soft.

Arrange oyster shells on individual plates. Using a slotted spoon, place an oyster in each shell. Spoon some of the Ernie Sauce over each oyster or pass the sauce separately; serve at once.



*With thanks to Melissa Aguirre and Brian Strange  
[brian@donstrange.com](mailto:brian@donstrange.com)*

*Great Recipe Editor Liz Hewitt*

## INGREDIENTS

24 shucked oysters, shells scrubbed and reserved if desired. 4 cups all-purpose flour, seasoned with 2 tablespoons finely ground black pepper and 2 tablespoons kosher salt  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter.

**Ernie Sauce** /  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound (1 stick) unsalted butter / 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup freshly squeezed lemon juice / 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce /  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup A-1 Steak Sauce /  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup reserved oyster liquid /  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup dry white wine.



*Waiting in line for these sauteed oysters at the 2024 San Antonio banquet.*





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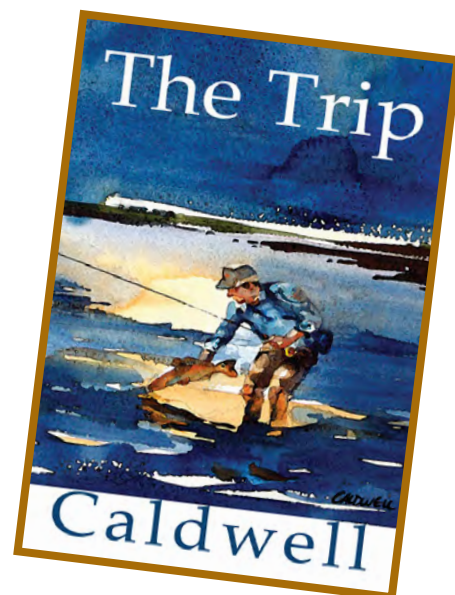
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# Coastal Conservation Association

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



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