



CURRENTS

February / March 2025

*Ghost Traps can
continue killing*

Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program / February 21 through March 2

A 22-year CCA Tradition Continues

2025 Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program

Messy, difficult, but worth it. This annual program brings dozens of volunteers to the bays, intent on the opportunity to eliminate damaging wire-mesh traps. When left untended, they are considered “abandoned ghost traps.” The traps attract new captives that feed on previous victims. Eliminating the traps also makes Texas bays safer for boaters and waders; a fouled transom or propeller can end a trip on an expensive, time-wasting note. Waders have suffered cuts from encounters with the hidden traps, many of which settle invisibly into the bottom.

The traps can be lost due to storms that move them and break the float lines, or they can simply be abandoned by trappers. At any rate, the fatal-attraction devices must be removed, if not by the owner, by volunteers willing to use muscle and time on the water. The toll is tremendous.

TPWD research has shown that a derelict crab trap can catch and kill as many as 60 blue crabs a year. But

other important bay species get involved in the cycle; more than 40 species of marine life have been included in the progression of death.

“Getting out there and pulling abandoned crab traps is one of those rare instances where you can see you’ve had an immediate positive impact on the bays,” Ronnie Luster said. “The volunteers get a real sense of satisfaction out of that. They know they make a difference.”

Luster began his involvement due to resentment the traps can have on the Shoalwater Bay ecosystem. He and wife Lyn realized the proliferation of the traps seemed exponential, from seeing a handful of traps when he began fishing Shoalwater in 1961 to hundreds. “There just got to be more and more of them,” Luster said, adding that the traps became so numerous they became a significant hazard to anglers, boaters and even retrievers used by duck hunters. “My wife and I were in my airboat, and we

“Getting out there and pulling abandoned crab traps is one of those rare instances where you can see you’ve had an immediate positive impact on the bays...The volunteers get a real sense of satisfaction out of that. They know they make a difference.” —Ronnie Luster

made a seven-mile run down Shoalwater Bay,” he said. “We counted 1,800 crab traps. I knew something had to be done.”

Getting an effective program into action was not an easy task. There were roadblocks; under Texas law, even derelict traps that may have been observed for years were still private property. Only trap owners and law enforcement officers could remove them.

Luster discovered that Texas Game Wardens were allowed to collect abandoned crab traps but had to store the traps and post notices in local courthouses. How about giving understaffed, overworked Texas Game Wardens some help from Texas outdoorsmen? He got the Coastal Conservation Association involved. After discussions and meetings, dozens of CCA members showed up to help Texas Game Wardens remove derelict traps from the waters around Port O’Connor on a winter weekend. “We had close to 20 boats involved,” Luster recalled. “We picked up 800 traps. A few weeks later, we did it again and picked up another 750. There was not a single legal trap among them.”

It took time, but CCA managed to get changes in the

law that allowed private citizens to remove derelict crab traps. In the Texas Legislative session of 2001,

a bill by State Sen. Buster Brown, R-Lake Jackson, provided a solution. The bill authorized Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to set a brief closure of all Texas bays to crab trappers. All traps in the water during the closure were designated as abandoned litter and could be lawfully removed



Ronnie Luster was named Field & Stream’s Hero of Conservation.



Ronnie Luster and CeeCee Fitzgerald prepare for a crab trap run. [Click here for an interview with Ronnie and CeeCee.](#)

by citizens.

The first closure and cleanup effort came in February 2002, planned to coincide with the slow season for commercial crabbing as well as when northerly winds often provide tides lower than normal, showing many derelict traps. That first effort, coordinated by TPWD's coastal fisheries division and supported by CCA and other sponsors, was a stunning success. Almost 600 volunteers moved across Texas bays, removing 8,000 "abandoned" traps.

The program has continued each year since, with the main volunteer effort traditionally set on the first Saturday of the 10-day closure. This year's closure of Texas bays to derelict crab traps is set for February 21 through March 2. Derelict traps encountered during the closure can be removed and placed in designated areas around the coast.

The main volunteer effort to remove traps is Saturday, February 22. TPWD designated locations in each major bay system as drop-off sites for collected traps, with many of those sites serving as gathering spots for volunteers.

Besides the CCA, Galveston Bay Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, San Antonio Bay Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provide volunteers and support for the effort.

If it wasn't for volunteers, this program wouldn't be the success it has been. Without Ronnie Luster and a handful of other determined coastal anglers, it might never have happened at all. —**Sam Caldwell**



Chris Smisek and Chester removed many derelict traps over the years.

San Antonio Bay Partnership Annual Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

Volunteers and Boats are needed to Remove Abandoned Crab Traps from the Texas Mid-Coast region on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Group opportunities will also be available from February 24 - March 2, 2025.

Targeted Shorelines will include San Antonio & Espiritu Santo Bays, Lavaca Bay, Aransas Bay & Matagorda Bay.

We'll celebrate our success with dinner and refreshments. The informative presentations and entertainment at POC Community Center on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 5:30 pm-9:00 pm. (See RSVP below)

Click on the link and submit the form if you are interested in volunteering. Follow-up calls and communications will be sent to the email address you supply on this form.

Link to Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program Sign-up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffoK_AxLFbVdw78fY8wc-Ldxnfx3j12ZEbeej-PMaatTb7Bw/viewform



Christmas Bay Crab Trap Removal program- get all the information and register here on FACEBOOK

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=892411989770363&id=100070047091987&rd_rdr



The 2024 Christmas Bay crew sheltered in place with Jasmine, the San Luis Pass mascot. Thanks again to the Nature Conservancy's Kathy Sweezy and Lauren Hutch Williams. Again, the Gulf Coast Rescue Squad will be in attendance along with Brazoria County. Tight lines! —**Jim Olive**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Secures Significant Victory for Oyster Conservation

By Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) adopted proposed amendments to the Statewide Oyster Fishery Proclamation that accomplishes a suite of actions, providing positive change for the oyster fishery, including the establishment of a Certificate of Location (CoL) program for restoration activities, opportunities for expansion of the CoL program for commercial oyster production, allowance for siting of CoLs on degraded oyster beds, and modernization of administrative processes for the CoL program ([read the entire proposal preamble here](#)).

At the TPWC meeting, Chairman Jeffrey Hildebrand emphasized that while existing commercial CoLs cover a mere 2,318 acres, all situated in Galveston Bay, they contribute over 20% of Texas's annual harvest on average. He also followed up with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff, directing them to find ways to expand the commercial CoL program with the intent of providing greater relief to public oyster reefs.

CCA Texas [supported the proposal](#) and has [publicly advocated for the expansion of commercial CoLs and the need for restoration CoLs](#) for several years. Additionally, our [article](#) from the last edition of CURRENTS highlights the need for CoL expansion and provides additional recommendations for a path to a sustainable oyster fishery.

"For quite some time, we have requested restoration Certificate of Locations (CoL), and along with State Senator Lois Kolkhorst and State Representative Todd Hunter, fought to help pass the legislation needed to turn this concept into a reality," stated Rocky Chase, Chairman of the CCA Texas Government Affairs Committee. "The more we can facilitate oyster restoration, the better. Having restoration CoLs will enhance opportunities and encourage investment in restoration efforts, greatly benefiting our coastal fisheries and angler opportunities to enjoy our valued resources."

This approach helps protect oyster reef complexes, emphasizing their ecological and structural importance in coastal ecosystems.



Commercial oyster fleet dredging oysters from Mesquite Bay Complex

The CoL program can be a bit complex, but it's helpful to think of it as a type of lease from the state. For restoration CoLs, organizations such as non-profits, research institutions, and NGOs can lease degraded areas of up to 100 acres to carry out oyster restoration activities, following active use criteria set by TPWD. During the lease term, these areas will be closed to commercial oyster harvesting. Commercial CoLs, on the other hand, follow similar criteria as restoration CoLs, but they grant the leaseholder exclusive rights to harvest oysters within their leased area.

Within the oyster community, it is well understood that CoLs are meticulously managed to promote sustainable harvesting. This includes the strategic placement of cultch to provide vertical relief on the reef, which supports the recruitment of oyster larvae for future harvests. This deliberate approach stands in stark contrast to the melee that occurs on public oyster reefs. Combined with a robust oyster license buyback program, the expansion of CoLs will reduce the oyster fishery's dependence on public

reefs. "Expansion of CoLs is a necessity for oyster reef conservation, offering a viable off-ramp for commercial oyster fishermen solely reliant on the public reef oyster fishery," said Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director. "We are pleased that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and department staff recognize the importance of this program and the opportunities it will provide to the oyster industry."

The adopted amendments balance ecological restoration, regulatory clarity, and stakeholder engagement, positioning Texas as a leader in sustainable oyster fishery management. Future

investments in CoLs for oyster restoration and commercial interests will leverage the immense benefits oysters provide to water quality, biodiversity, shoreline protection, and carbon sequestration. Furthermore, by addressing both conservation and oyster industry concerns, these regulations will yield significant environmental, economic, and coastal community benefits over time.

Moving forward, continued collaboration with stakeholders is encouraged to ensure the long-term success of future restoration efforts. To that end, CCA Texas has [pledged \\$5 million specifically for oyster reef restoration](#) and intends on utilizing a significant degree of the funds under the CoLs umbrella when possible.

"Thank you to TPWD staff for their thoughtfulness in the development of these recently passed regulations," stated Bonnot. "I'm sure CCA members will be excited about the chance to restore some of their favorite historic reefs to their former glory by means of the CoL program."





YETI BUILT FOR THE WILD.

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

A Natural Partnership



1. Sabine Lake Deep Reef Oyster Restoration
2. Sabine H120 Nearshore Reef
3. Sabine Lake Oyster Reef Expansion
4. J.D. Murphree Breakwater
5. East Galveston Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
6. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline
7. Dickinson Bayou Marsh Restoration
8. Moses Lake Shoreline Restoration
9. Sportsmans Road Wetlands Restoration
10. Big Man's Reef
11. Bird Island Cove Marsh Restoration
12. Snake Island Cove Marsh Restoration
13. Oyster Lake Shoreline Stabilization
14. Vancouver Nearshore Reef
15. Cow Trap Lake Shoreline Stabilization
16. San Bernard NWR Shoreline Stabilization
17. Matagorda Nearshore Reef
18. Port O'Connor Nearshore Reef
19. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study
20. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration
21. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator/Mapping Study
22. Matagorda Island Marsh Restoration
23. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration
24. St. Charles Bay Oyster Restoration
25. Aransas Bay Oyster Restoration
26. Goose Island Marsh Restoration
27. Copano Bay Oyster Restoration
28. Aransas Bay Debris Removal
29. Nueces Bay Marsh Restoration
30. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates
31. Nueces Bay Demonstration/Restoration Oyster Reef Project
32. Corpus Christi Nearshore Reef
33. Baffin Bay's Unique Serpulid Study
34. Port Mansfield Nearshore Reef
35. Rio Grande Valley Reef
36. Bahia Grande Restoration



CCA Texas and Building Conservation Trust Nearshore Reefing Support

• Sabine Pass Nearshore Reefs	\$1,503,500
• Rio Grande Valley	\$1,068,000
• Port O'Connor	\$ 700,000
• Galveston Big Man & Kate's	\$ 329,000
• HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
• Matagorda	\$ 200,000
• Coprus Christi	\$ 100,000
• Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
• Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
Total contributions to Nearshore Reefing:	\$4,260,500

CCA Texas: Leaders in Oyster Reef Conservation and Restoration

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FUNDED AMOUNT</u>
• Oyster Reef Creation - St. Charles Bay (Rockport)	\$ 711,250.00
• Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay	\$ 500,000.00
• Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Program	\$ 352,000.00
• Mesquite Bay Oyster Reef Monitoring (HRI)	\$ 225,000.00
• Oyster Restoration - Deep Reef Sabine Lake	\$ 215,000.00
• Como Lake Dana Cove Oyster Restoration & Creation	\$ 400,000.00
• Oyster Restoration - Pepper Grove / Galveston	\$ 130,000.00
• Ayers Point Reef Creation Shoreline Protection	\$ 126,204.00
• HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study	\$ 120,000.00
• Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay	\$ 75,000.00
• Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay	\$ 75,000.00
• Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef	\$ 60,000.00
• Galveston Bay Foundation Oyster Recycle Trailers	\$ 10,000.00
• Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Program Trailers	\$ 10,000.00
• Funds Approved and Earmarked for Oyster Restoration and Creation in areas Closed to Harvest on the Texas Coast (Balance of \$5,000,000 commitment)	\$ 4,713,796.00

**Total Dollars Spent and Committed to \$ 7,723,250.00
Oyster Restoration and Creation**

CCA Texas has been and will remain at the forefront of sustainable oyster management practices, the creation of the Texas Cultivated Oyster Mariculture program, and the restoration and creation of oyster reefs along the Texas coast.

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA Texas Projects

1. Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration	\$1,600,000
2. *** Nearshore Reefing - Sabine Pass	\$ 1,503,500
3. Nearshore Reefing - Rio Grande Valley Reef	\$1,068,000
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. *** Como Lake and Dana Cover Shoreline Protection (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 400,000
9. Nearshore Reefing - Galveston / Big Man & Kate's Reef	\$ 329,000
10. HRI Nearshore Reef Enhancement Study	\$ 250,000
11. Dagger Island Shoreline Protection & Marsh Restoration (Redfish Bay)	\$ 250,000
12. Mesquite Bay Oyster Reef Monitoring (HRI)	\$ 225,000
13. Oyster Restoration—Deep Reef Sabine Lake	\$ 215,000
14. Nearshore Reefing - Matagorda	\$ 200,000
15. Shoreline Stabilization - San Bernard NWR	\$ 200,000
16. *** Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Program	\$ 552,000
17. Marsh Restoration - Bird Island Cove (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 150,000
18. Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation - Moses Lake (Galveston Bay)	\$ 138,000
19. Baffin Bay Serpulid Reef Habitat Conservation/Restoration Study	\$ 135,000
20. Oyster Restoration—Pepper Grove / Galveston (BCT)	\$ 130,000
21. *** Ayers Reef Engineering and Monitoring Plan (Ayers Bay / Mesquite Bay Complex)	\$ 126,204
22. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Protection (San Antonio Bay)	\$ 125,000
23. HRI Oyster Restoration Site Locator Mapping Study	\$ 120,000
24. Marsh Restoration - Dickinson Bayou	\$ 100,000
25. Nearshore Reefing - Corpus Christi	\$ 100,000
26. Bahia Grande Restoration (Port Isabel / Brownsville)	\$ 95,000
27. Marsh Restoration - Brazoria & San Bernard Wildlife Refuge	\$ 91,000
28. Oyster Reef Restoration - Aransas Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
29. Oyster Reef Restoration - Copano Bay (Rockport)	\$ 75,000
30. Marsh Restoration - Egery Island (Copano Bay/Bayside)	\$ 70,000
31. Marsh Restoration - Matagorda Island	\$ 70,000
32. Nueces Bay Delta Water Management Gates	\$ 70,000
33. Nearshore Reefing - Freeport / Vancouver	\$ 60,000
34. Nueces Bay Demonstration Oyster Reef	\$ 60,000
35. Newcomb Bend Marsh Restoration (TPWD)	\$ 50,000
36. Marsh Restoration - Goose Island (Rockport)	\$ 50,000
37. Nearshore Reefing - Port Mansfield	\$ 50,000
38. Shoreline Stabilization - J. D. Murphree WMA	\$ 50,000
39. Shoreline Stabilization - Cow Trap Lake (Brazoria County)	\$ 50,000
40. Dollar Bay Shoreline Protection and Marsh Restoration	\$ 50,000
41. Galveston Bay Foundation Headquarters Living Shoreline Restoration	\$ 50,000
42. *** Ayers Reef Restoration Reef Project Phase I	\$ 46,204
43. Marsh Restoration - Oxen & Gang's Bayou (Galveston)	\$ 42,000
44. *** Kate's Hole Living Shoreline (Corpus Christi Bay)	\$ 40,000
45. Trinity Bay Discovery Center Living Shoreline	\$ 40,000
46. Sweetwater Preserve Shoreline Protections and Oyster Reef Enhancement	\$ 30,000
47. Marsh Restoration - Nueces Bay (Corpus Christi)	\$ 24,000
48. Marsh Restoration - Snake Island Cover (West Galveston Bay)	\$ 20,000
49. Weed Eradication for Water Flow Restoration (Guadalupe River Delta)	\$ 15,000
50. Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycle Programs Trailer	\$ 10,000
51. Bay Debris Removal - Aransas Pass	\$ 5,600

** 2024 Projects Contributed to as 11/12/24

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2024: 11,546,758

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

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**

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.

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**

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The CCA Texas STAR Tournament Returns with Over \$2 Million in Prizes

In 1988, CCA volunteers sat in a small office trying to design a way to get more folks to join this outfit, thinking that with almost 8,000 members, surely others would want to help “pull the wagon” with us to accomplish our lofty marine conservation goals. Our passion was electric and contagious. Who could deny the merit of our work in the “salt”? You reckon any big companies would lend a hand? What if... we hosted a fun tournament... made it a membership drive... got our families involved... brought attention to our mission... got a big sponsor that also cares about conservation to back us up... and gave away trophies for bragging rights, along with some driveway-sized prizes to back it up? What if...well, would anybody care to throw in with us?

Surprise, surprise... such a seedling of an idea inspired the pioneer spirit of many Texans. People care about people who care. And back them up through action. In 1990, Mercury Outboards jumped on board. Then Whataburger. Then, another Texas staple, the Texas Ford Dealers. **PROGRESSIVE** Followed by yet another-- Academy Sports + Outdoors. Before we knew it could happen, volunteers and sponsor partners kicked off the first-ever State of Texas Anglers Rodeo (STAR) in 1990 and attracted a whopping 3,800 anglers. You can bet that Jesus Christ Himself, the original fisher of men, has blessed CCA ever since.

2025 marks the 36th Annual STAR, and the same Spirit that drove those early days is alive and well... only now with a lot more anglers! CCA volunteers are privileged to count a sponsor family that is second to NONE. Joining three multi-billion-dollar Fortune 500 companies (Ford,



Academy, Progressive) underwriting our work are equally prestigious names like Whataburger, Mustang Cat, Hoffpauir Polaris, and Lone Star Beer. Of course, Texas icons in specialty saltwater boats Haynie, Shoalwater, Dargel, and TranSport are also a critical part of STAR. These are all folks who truly care about the future vitality of Texas’ precious coastal resources, and we dance with them that bring us.

The formula for family fishing fun is what drives STAR. You know we will all get out there as often as we can this summer. Right now, we are rolling out our Getaway Giveaways to help us overcome the “cabin fever” of the last couple of months. We want and need you to get out on the water with us because your support puts more fish in the water for our kids to catch. You know you’re going...why not be “insured” to catch that fish of a lifetime in the 100+ days of tournament action, and maybe just win another guided fishing trip before STAR even kicks off!

Need another reason? Look at how it pays to join CCA...when you join CCA and enter STAR, your membership benefits include:

- *Free X-plan pricing from the Texas Ford Dealers
- *Free \$10 gift coupon from Academy Sports and Outdoors
- *Free online digital subscription to Texas Fish and Game magazine (value: \$11.95)
- *Free online digital subscription to Texas Saltwater Fishing magazine (value: \$15.00)
- *Free LoneStar Outdoors News digital magazine subscription (value: \$19.95)



[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the ABC Channel 13 special program with STAR Kids Awards.



One sequence features Zifa Guerrero, 1995 flounder winner. Zifa used her scholarship funds and now has her Masters Degree as a Clinical Psychologist.





PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



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\$2,000,000

IN PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS 13 DIVISIONS

By entering the CCA TEXAS STAR you have a chance to win a 2025 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 2025 Ford F150 "Texas Edition" 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

BLUE TAG DIVISION

CATCH • CLIP THE TAG AND RELEASE!

(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 6, will receive Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card. (See Rule 17)

INSHORE DIVISION

Eligible anglers who weigh in the **HEAVIEST** Sheepshead, Gafftop & Black Drum will take home a 2025 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 2025 Hoffpaur Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI Polaris Pursuit Camo, Big Tex Trailer and a STAR Special Edition Trophy



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May 24th thru Sept 1st

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 \$2500 to \$30,000

Early Bird Drawing for 21 prizes including a Dargel Skout Boat
 Deadline 5/2/25 by midnight!

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



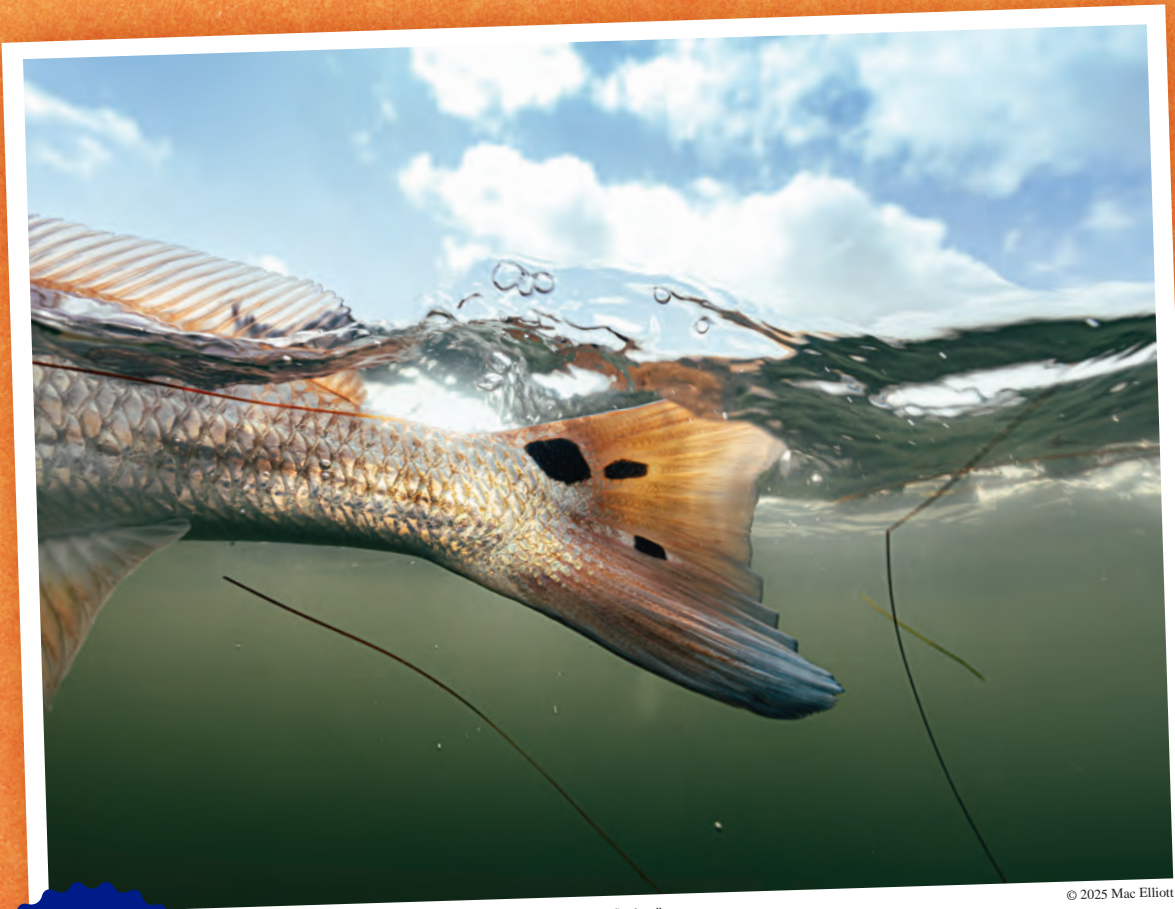
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Caught Redhanded!



Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

On 02/01/25, a Jefferson County Warden cited an individual for over the daily bag limit on black drum by (13) fish and undersized black drum (3). Cases Pending. On 1/27/25, Jefferson County Wardens observed a commercial shrimp boat offloading in Sabine Pass. The Wardens boarded the vessel and conducted an inspection of the hold and documents on board. During the inspection, they located several sacks of nongame fish and found the vessel to be over the daily bag limit of Sheepshead by 29, black drum by 5, for a total of 34 fish over their limit. Cases Pending.



On 1/25/25, Jefferson Co. Wardens were patrolling the Keith Lake Fish Pass near Sabine Pass when they checked two fishermen in possession of a total of 18 fish, which included 2 undersized red drum and 5 undersized black drum. Citations were issued to both subjects for possession of undersized Red Drum, undersized Black Drum, and one warning each for over the daily bag limit of Black Drum. Cases and restitution pending.



On Saturday, February 1st, 2025, game wardens assigned to the Victoria district performed a reef fish compliance patrol along the 9-mile federal line during the federal closure of red snapper. During this patrol, the wardens encountered two recreational sport fishing vessels traveling back from federal into state waters inside the 9-mile boundary. A total of 18 red snapper were discovered onboard the two vessels during inspections. The wardens issued a total of 5 citations and seized the wildlife resources. All resources were donated to those in need.

On 01/16/2025, A Galveston Warden cited (2) individuals for possession of (3) oversized black drum. Cases Pending.



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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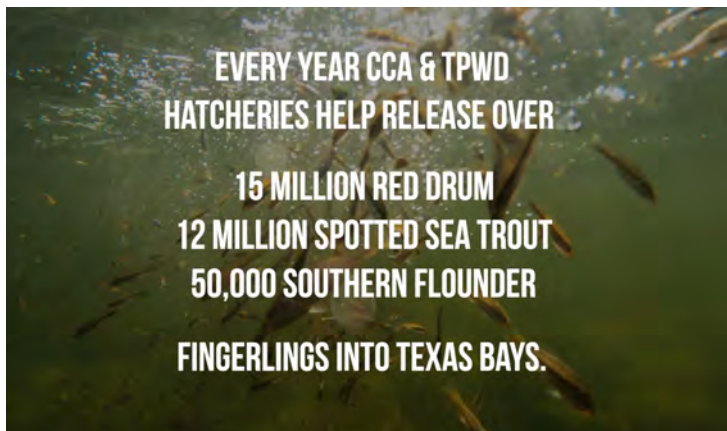
@MarucciSports     

Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be

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

Once again, CCA and TPWD are filling the need to mitigate trout, redfish and flounder mortalities. Take a brief voyage with a CCA /TPWD hatchery as technicians replace trout fingerlings. Here's a link to a recent video that will provide an idea of the process:

[CLICK HERE](#)





Presenting the NEW CCA Texas license plates!



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

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

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

Supporters of CCA Texas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



**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



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.

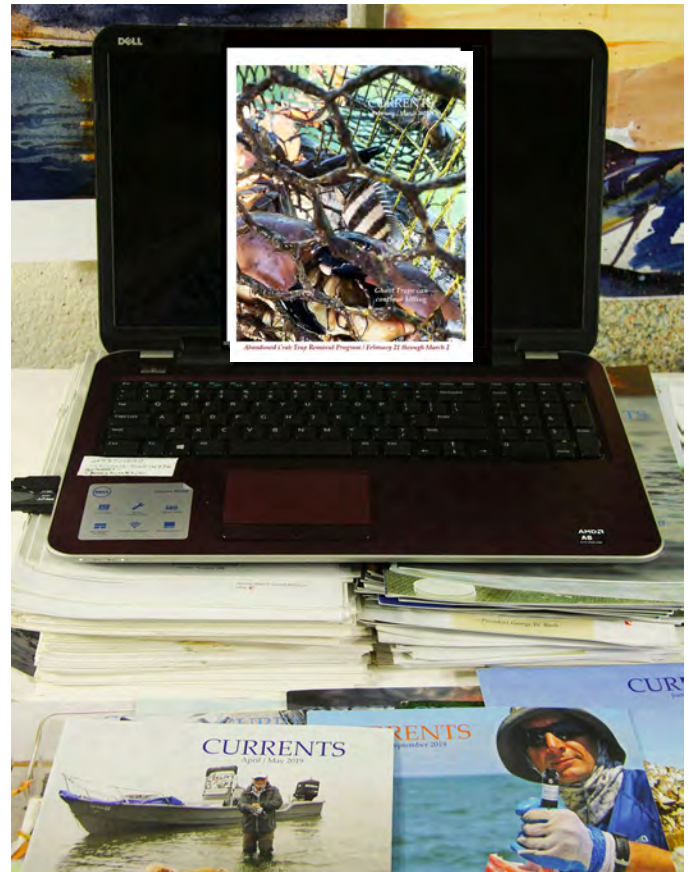
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a full-color newsletter to our statewide membership is time consuming and expensive.

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

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

- An e-newsletter can be opened in seconds. Articles can be accessed rapidly. Images can be viewed large. Text can be enlarged for easier reading, blocked, copied and shared. Past issues are a click away on the CCA Texas website.
- A favored article can be forwarded to others, readily accessed later instead of having to search through stacks of magazines, and printed for reference.
- Links can be used to connect to advertisers, as well as cross referencing other articles, writers, photographers and artists.

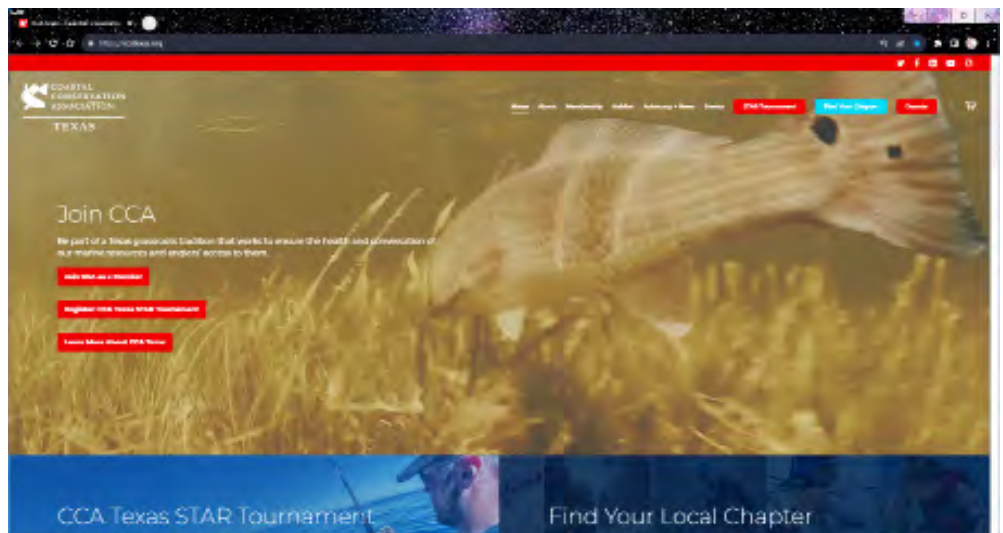
- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast. [Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



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

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

Go to ccatexas.org and bookmark it now.



Follow CCA Texas on Social Media!

The BEST way to stay informed on the latest with CCA Texas is by FOLLOWING us on Facebook, Instagram, and 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 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 36,000+ 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!



"CCA TEXAS ENDS 2024 BY FUNDING OVER \$1.24 MILLION FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS"

THE ABILITY TO FUND THESE IMPORTANT CONSERVATION EFFORTS IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR LOCAL CHAPTERS AND THEIR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS. THEY STEPPED UP IN A BIG WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE UP AND DOWN THE TEXAS COAST.

JOHN BLAHA
CCA TEXAS DIRECTOR OF HABITAT

In case you missed it, CCA Texas Director of Habitat John Blaha took a look back at 2024 and what we did to ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas.

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



What I did over my Christmas vacation... 📍 Matagorda Bay, Texas

👤: CCA Texas Assistant Director Coleman Todd spending time with and taking a photo of his two sons Cole and Cain

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



Winter wadin' down in Aransas County, Texas

👤: Jen Blaha

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



CCA Texas on Instagram

We are now at 22.5K+ followers, now help us get to 30K! 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

OVER 1.1 MILLION VIEWS COMBINED ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!



JUST SITTING HERE WADING...

You just never know what you're going to see out there...could be a once-in-a-lifetime sight!

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!

...BUT THAT FOG SURE ROLLS IN ON YOU QUICKER THAN YOU EXPECT!



Before you know it, you're surrounded by fog...it rolls in real quick.

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!

Buddy, don't know where you're going but hope you get there...



Buddy, don't know where you're going but hope you get there...

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!




CCA Texas on X

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




Ain't that the truth!
 🌟: PatrickDMurray on Instagram
 #JoinCCA #CCATexas
 CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON X!



PROJECT	FUNDED AMOUNT
OYSTER REEF CREATION - ST. CHARLES BAY (ROCKPORT)	\$711,250
OYSTER RESTORATION - EAST GALVESTON BAY	\$500,000
SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM	\$352,000
MESQUITE BAY OYSTER REEF MONITORING-RISE	\$225,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - DEEP REEF SABINE LAKE	\$215,000
COMO LAKE DANA COVE OYSTER RESTORATION & CREATION	\$400,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - PEPPER GROVE / GALVESTON	\$130,000
AVIRE POINT REEF CREATION SHORELINE PROTECTION	\$126,204
MHI OYSTER RESTORATION SITE LOCATOR MAPPING STUDY	\$75,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - ARANSAS BAY	\$75,000
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - COPANO BAY	\$75,000
MUSKIE BAY DEMONSTRATION OYSTER REEF	\$60,000
GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION OYSTER REEF 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 (BALANCE OF \$300,000 COMMITMENT)	\$4,713,796
TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT AND COMMITTED TO OYSTER RESTORATION AND CREATION	\$7,723,250

UPDATE \$7,723,250
 That's the updated total dollars spent and committed to oyster restoration and creation provided by CCA Texas Director of Habitat John Blaha. Projects include Oyster Reef Creation in St. Charles Bay (Rockport), the Sink Your Shucks Oyster Recycling Program, Mesquite Bay Oyster Reef Monitoring with the @HarteResearch Institute, @GBayFoundation Oyster Recycling Trailers, and more!
 CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON X!



Even with snow on the ground, her mind is on fishing...that's how you know you're raising them right!
 🌟: CCA Texas Assistant Director Drew Adams spending the snow day with his daughter Keslei
 #JoinCCA #CCATexas
 CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON X!

PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR COASTS

7% of proceeds from CCA-branded gear supports habitat restoration.

[SHOP NOW](#)



CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of February / March 2025 Volume 45 Issue 2

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Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

alvinpearlandcca@yahoo.com

Happy 2025 from Alvin Pearland CCA! As this update is being written, we have just scheduled our 2025 Chapter Board Planning Meeting. If you think you may have an interest in supporting our chapter by serving alongside us on the board, please reach out to find out what is involved and what it takes to get plugged in.

We have set the date for our **2025 Fundraising Banquet for Thursday, June 19 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland.** We are still in the planning stage, but as usual,

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

We will be hosting “Anglers’ Night Out” events again this year. They will be held at Big Horn BBQ in Pearland. The upcoming dates are Tuesday April 1, Tuesday May 20, September 2, and Tuesday October 21. Stay tuned for more details and the speaker line-up.

The best way to stay up to date with our latest chapter events is to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca or go to our chapter website at <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/alvin-pearland/>. Wishing you great fishing and tight lines in 2025 from your Alvin Pearland Board!

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

The Aransas Bay Chapter of CCA Texas is gearing up for an exciting season, and we have some key dates for you to mark on your calendar!

Aransas Bay Banquet – April 5, 2025: Join us for an evening of great food, camaraderie, and support for our coastal fisheries at the annual **Aransas Bay Banquet on April 5, 2025.** This signature event is not only a time to celebrate our shared passion for fishing but also a vital fundraiser for conservation projects along the Texas coast. Your participation helps us continue to make an impact, from habitat restoration to supporting critical fisheries research. Go to

<https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/aransas-bay/> to purchase tickets or tables!



Left: Sink Your Shucks at Goose Island State Park (Jace and Cavan Gillman) / Janelle Weller on a chilly Aransas Bay wade. Jen Blaha and Janelle Weller doubling up on the Redfish on Aransas Bay / Greg Weller of Aransas Bay Chapter



Lindsey Taylor and Meghan Stremmel, getting some practice down in Port Mansfield. / 8-year Babes on the Bay Volunteer, Amy Eskridge with a prize catch in Hawaii / CCA Volunteer Teresa Johnson with a beautiful Mesquite Bay Redfish / Right: Jace Gillman and friend on a Bluebird Day in Rockport.

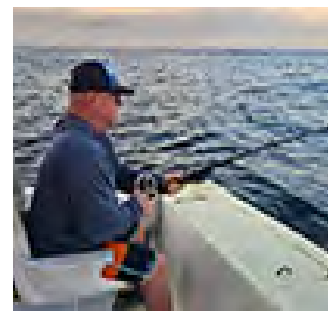


John Blaha, Capt Storm of La Pesca Lodge and Chris Bush / Tanner Breda.



A view of one of our live auction trips to Manzanillo, Mexico, and an Austin fisherman offshore.

win. The lucky ticket will be drawn the night of the banquet. To purchase tickets please call (512) 662-0006 or email Cherylccaustin@gmail.com. You can also purchase them from a Board Member.



Gun Raffle – 3 Gun Beretta raffle. There will be 3 chances to win. You do not have to be present to win and only 325 tickets will be sold for \$100 each. The lucky winners will be drawn the night of the banquet. To purchase tickets please call (512) 662-0006 or email Cherylccaustin@gmail.com or you can purchase them from a Board Member.

CCA Austin chapter is continuing to offer more events to bring awareness to CCA. We will have our **3rd Annual Hooked On Clays in the fall and our 2nd annual Bourbon tasting in February**. More information to follow.

If you are interested in learning more about CCA Austin and how you can get involved please contact Cheryl at cherylccaustin@gmail.com or Alex Blackburn, President at atblackburn3@gmail.com. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm at Warren Wildlife Gallery on Bouldin Ave.

Austin

Alex Blackburn 512-565-4939

[Atblackburn3@gmail.com](mailto:atblackburn3@gmail.com)

CCA Austin's annual fundraising banquet is on May 8, 2025 at Palmer Events Center. We offer raffles, games, live auction items and plenty of action for the women to enjoy. There will be food stations from 15 different restaurants and an open bar for your enjoyment. The money raised makes it possible for CCA to continue their mission of ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them.

A view of one of our live auction trips was to Manzanillo, Mexico. The trip was one of a kind with a personal chef, 360 views of the mountains and Pacific Ocean, fishing, hiking and relaxing in the pool. You and your friends would have memories for a lifetime.

Boat Raffle – 23' Haynie Amigo, 150 HP Mercury Motor and a custom aluminum trailer. Only 750 tickets will be sold for 100.00 each. You do not have to be present to

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

Despite the cold weather, we had a good turnout for the 1st meeting of the year, held at C & J's Bar-b-Que. Discussion was active about the annual banquet, and friends had fish tales to share.

Our next chapter meetings are scheduled for: January 28, February 11, and March 3. They will all begin at 6:00

p.m. and be held at C & J's Bar-b-que in Bryan. Hope everyone will join us for camaraderie, and a good meal. We will also be working on the banquet and can always use help.

The 33rd Annual Brazos Valley Chapter Banquet is March 7, 2025 at the Brazos Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Come join us for an evening or dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles, and good ole fun!!! The proceeds ensure the future of marine life, and that our kids, and grandkids have great places to catch fish.

For information on Corporate or Reserve Tables contact Carson Vecera at (713) 626-4222, or John Ben Strother at (979) 220-1738. Tickets also available online here: [Brazos Valley 2025 Chapter Banquet](#).

Please take a kid, family member or friend fishing. See you at the next meeting, or on the water.

Brenham

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

Brush Country

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

The Brush Country chapter had a record setting banquet at their November 2024. With a great attendance, more reserved tables than ever and new volunteers on board, it was a great evening. In January, La Pesca Lodge hosted an Angler's Night Out for the chapter. Capt. Chris Bush (Speckled Truth) and Chris McKinley (Trout Tagging Texas) were the guest speakers. Capt. Bush spoke about targeting trophy speckled trout, his experiences and what the data from the Heavy Hitters program is begging to show. McKinley shared the vision of Trout Tagging Texas and what early data from the program is showing as well.

This was a very informative meeting with lots of questions and ideas shared back and forth with the speakers. Thank you to both of you for taking time out of your day to share data and talk trophy trout fishing in Texas. A big shout out to La Pesca Lodge for hosting our second Angler's Night Out event and for your commitment to a better coastal resource.

The Brush Country chapter welcomes new members and those that wish to be involved with the chapter.

Centex

Mike Hyde 254-855-8752
Hydemike37@yahoo.com

Central Houston

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

Colorado Valley

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Our board is very busy planning our upcoming **banquet which will be**

held on March 27, 2025, in La Grange at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and then the fun begins. Please contact one of the following board members for your ticket/table purchases. Don't miss this one! It promises to be a really great event. Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all! Eugene Ulrich (979) 249-7425, Danny Olenick (979) 249-6851, Trish Kubena (512) 581-2588, Gary Janda (979) 966-2082, Dave Fehlker (512) 468-6782 or Rusty Kubena (512) 581-2878.

Come and Catch It

Jared Brumme 210-825-9088
Jared.brumme@yahoo.com

Corpus Christi

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

2025 is off to a great start here in the coastal bend! Winter fishing is HOT here in the Laguna Madre, with good numbers of solid trout being caught (and released). Anyone who spends time on the water will find it hard not to notice the hard work being put in by TPWD and CCA to protect our angling future and help our fishery recover from the 2021 freeze!

We are excited to host our **47th Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at the American Bank Center.** We are pleased to announce that long-time sponsor **Flint Hills Resources** has committed to be our title sponsor again this year for Banquet and our Poco Rojo Kid Fish! Thank you, Flint Hills Resources, for your continued support of CCA and our community.

Raffle Tickets for our Bull Red Solo Skiff Raffle sponsored by **Andrew's Distributing** and our Sow Trout Sportsman Raffle sponsored by **L&F Distributors** are currently being sold. You don't need to be present to win! Scan the QR Code for the Sportsman Raffle Prize List.

We expect this event to sell out so please let us know ASAP if you would like to purchase tickets, sponsorship or reserve a table.

For questions or to purchase table/tickets for the banquet please contact Heather at ccacorporuschristi@gmail.com or call (361) 882-5199.

Mark your calendar for upcoming 2025 events: **Chapter Banquet – February 27, 2025 and the Babes on Baffin Tournament – October 10-11, 2025.**

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



2025 CCA Corpus Christi Raffle Prize List QR Code

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

The Dallas Chapter held our 2024 Annual Banquet on September 26 at On the Levee. Hundreds of conservationists attended, enjoying delicious food and drink while raising money for coastal conservation.

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors! Platinum Sponsors: Tito's Handmade Vodka and Miles & Miles Argentina. Gold Sponsors: Mesero, Mariner Sails, Old Town Watercrafts, Irving Tool and MFG, Still Austin Whiskey Company, Kawasaki, Progressive Powersports, Ben E Keith, St. Pete's Dancing Marlin, Sawgrass Fishing Rods, Oak Highlands Brewery, The Pearl New York City, Rocket Charters New York City. Silver sponsors: Owens Mixers, Untundra, Cordia, Turtlebox, Superior Outfitters, Clay Shooters Supply, Beretta Gallery, Yellow Dog Fly Fishing, Yeti, Total Wine, Socorro Tequila, Cannon Republic Feed and Fiber.

Thank you to our 2024 Table buyers: Tito's Handmade Vodka, McGriff, Parking Systems of America, Miles and Miles Argentina, ScreenFab, Community National Bank, Taylor Farms, American Window Systems, AgTrust, McMurray Metals, Blue Harbor Capital Advisors, Dallas Gun Club, Bullard Construction, AM Steel & Supply, MRS Ortho, New York Life, Mac Lawson and North Texas Beef, The Williamson Family, Lee Halford, Dr. Bill and Jody Turner, J. Gregory Homes.

If you are a CCA member who is interested in being more involved in the Dallas Chapter, reach out to Chapter President Kyle Marmillion at marmillionkyle@gmail.com and [follow us on Instagram](#).

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

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

As I am writing this Issue's update from our chapter it is currently snowing in Houston and covering the Gulf, including our beaches in snow. That is one way to make the brown waters of our beloved coast a little more appealing to some beachgoers – albeit – it's probably a little cold out there right now. I even saw pictures of folks skiing down Bourbon Street! At the time of you reading this the weather has likely drastically improved and we are enjoying a touch

of warmer weather just in time for crawfish! The fall fish fry was a big hit, and the **Spring crawfish boil is always a bigger hit!** Come on out and see us on **April 10, 2025 at Vintage Rail (2808 Stanley Ave, 76110)**. It will be a short turn from the boil to the **Annual CCA Fort Worth Chapter Banquet at Joe T Garcia's in the Fort Worth Stockyards on May 1, 2025**. We will be set up for table sales or individual tickets to the banquet during the crawfish boil so please grab some buddies and bring your kids to enjoy crawfish, all the fixins and some cold beverages hosted by your local board! As always, we welcome any pictures that you want



**39th Annual
Fort Bend CCA Banquet
& Boat Raffle**
 Thursday, April 17, 2025
 Fort Bend County Fairgrounds



Grand Prize!
2024 Haynie, 23' Amigo w/150 Mercury and Coastline Trailer.
 Other prizes include, Weatherby 18i Blades w/CCA logo, Waterloo Rod w/Bates Reel, Turtlebox Speaker, and a Yeti 65 qt cooler

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

Need not be present to win

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

**FORT BEND
39TH ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET**

Academy
MEALS • DRINKS • RAFFLES

Join us for dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles, and good old fundraising fun!

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025 | 6:00 PM
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds - George Pavilion
 4310 TX-36 S | Rosenberg, TX 77471

\$2,000 TEXAS SLAM TABLE
Premium Seating (2), CCA Membership (2), Special Premium CCA Tumbler (2), Hibiscus Platter (2), Custom CCA Hat (2), Custom CCA T-Shirt (2), and Fishbowl Spoons (2)

\$1,250 REDFISH TABLE
Premium Seating (2), CCA Membership (2), CCA Tumbler (2), Fishbowl (2), and Custom CCA Hat (2)

\$750 TROUT TABLE
Premium Seating (2), CCA Membership (2), CCA Tumbler (2), and Custom CCA Hat (2)

\$60 INDIVIDUAL TICKET
Tables & Banquet Tickets: Troy Burditt 281.725.8569
 Raffle Tickets: Jim Black 979.240.5010
 Event Info: Thomas Welch 832.682.0130

CUT HERE AND MAIL

560 Individual Ticket	Qty. _____	Price _____	
\$750 Trout Table	Qty. _____	Price _____	Table Name _____
\$1,250 Redfish Table	Qty. _____	Price _____	
\$2,000 Texas Slam Table	Qty. _____	Price _____	Total Amount _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Credit Card _____ CVC _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Checks payable to Coastal Conservation Association | Mail Form & Money to: CCA Texas, 800 Canyon View, West Houston, TX 77068, TX 77068
 TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT www.ccatexas.org

Fort Bend Banquet Boat Raffle and Table information

to share, and we will do our best to include them in our chapter updates! Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you soon.

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

Golden Triangle
Colby Plaia 409-658-1075
colbyplaia@gmail.com

Greeting from the Golden Triangle! Our winter this year has certainly been one for the books. We hope that everyone got a chance to play in the snow with their family and friends. We have a few things coming up in the next few months in our area and we would like for you to put it on your calendars. First is going to be our annual **Anglers Night Out!** It will be held on **March 4, 2025 at Courville's in Beaumont, TX**. We will have great food, raffles and Mic Cowan as a guest speaker to update us on our artificial reefs. Our second event is going to be our **Annual CCA Golden Triangle Chapter Banquet at the Beaumont Civic Center. It will be held on May 22, 2025**, and we will have

more information coming soon. Stay warm out there and be sure to have fun and stay safe when enjoying our Texas resources! Cheers!

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

We have a busy year planned to start with preparations for our **Annual Banquet scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2025 at the Stafford Centre**. If this banquet continues like the previous few years, it should be a record for attendance with great old-fashioned FUNdraising. Our friends from Cajun Country Cookers always prepare a great meal for us with boiled crawfish, fried catfish and all the fixins. Don't have your tickets yet, there is still time just click here: ticketstripe.com/2025sugarlandccabanquet

The Annual Presidents Cup Fishing Tournament



I want to see you at the Greater Sugarland CCA Annual Banquet on Thursday April 3!

is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025 in Sargent, TX. Proceeds from the tournament benefit our Kid Fish programs. This is a fun tournament with some great camaraderie, oh and bragging rights on who takes home the Presidents Cup Trophy and keeps it for a year. It could be you.

Requests are coming in from our Community Partners to help them host their Kid Fish Events. We try to accommodate as many as we can, however we need your help in volunteering. Once you see a youngster catch their first fish and their big ole Texas smile you will be glad you volunteered.

If you would like to get involved with the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter, feel free to contact myself at greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com or attend one of our Board Meetings. We would love to have you join us.

Follow us on Facebook at [Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterSugarLandCCAChapter). Until next time, tight lines and Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte Redd 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

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

Howdy CCA Helotes. I hope you're ready. **This year's banquet is March 20, 2025 at Pedrotti's Ranch**. We are once again expecting a great crowd of fellow conservation supporters, fantastic food, and outstanding raffles and auction items. Tickets are available at ticketstripe.com/HELOTESCCA2025 or from your local board members.

New this year, thanks to our partnership with



2025 CCA Helotes Raffle Grand Prize

Ron Hoover RV and Marine in San Antonio, we have a brand new 2022 Hi-Sun Sector 550 side by side UTV with manual dump bed, 4x4, front bumper and winch, mirrors, roof with windshield and it comes with a 1 yr. warranty. It can be seen on the showroom floor of Ron Hoover RV and Marine located at 10472 W. Loop 1604 N. This will be the grand prize of our sportsman's raffle that includes guns, coolers, and fishing equipment. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100 and available at Ron Hoover and from the local board members. The drawing will be held the night of the banquet.

We look forward to another successful event supporting

conservation through CCA Texas.
Take a kid fishing, it will put a smile on your face and theirs.

Highland Lakes
Tim Franke 512-496-9973
timfrankecca@gmail.com

After a very successful 2024 start, CCA Highland Lakes is excited to announce that the **2nd Annual CCA Highland Lakes Banquet will be on April 17, 2025 at the Lakeside Pavilion in Marble Falls.** Please look for announcements in the next issue of CURRENTS for additional details on what we expect to be another full house, with more fun and auction items, great food, and chances to meet many fellow CCA members from the area. If you have been a long-time member or are new to CCA and you haven't had a chance to attend an annual banquet in the past due to time or distance, please come out in April and become part of our new, growing chapter. Sponsorships with great name and brand recognition opportunities and premium tables are now available for the April banquet. Since this will be the chapter's first full year, we're also planning several additional events in 2025 for area CCA members, including Anglers' Night Out gatherings with great speakers, food, and chances to win cool prizes. Stay tuned for specific details about times, dates, and locations.

For more information about the Highland Lakes Chapter, please email Tim Franke at timfrankecca@gmail.com or Matt Mason at mm_tx@yahoo.com. Have fun and tight lines on the water!

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Houston Homebuilders
Jimmy Reid 281-932-3395
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Houston Real Estate
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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

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

At the latest Lower Colorado Chapter meeting on January 14, 2025, the membership present kept the same slate of officers as lead in 2024. Anthony Kimmey, President; Nathan Lubbers, Vice President; and Dr. Maury Guzik, Secretary.

Mark your calendar and oil up your shotgun for **1st Annual Lower Colorado Chapter's Hooked On Clays on March 29, 2025.** Current plans are for the action to take place at Rusty Hook Ranch in Matagorda, TX. There will be competition between 4 person teams, Youth teams, Best Man, and Best Woman. There will be special prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place shooters. Entry fees will be announced soon. Check our web page for more details: <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/lower-colorado/>. Sponsors are wanted for teams, stations, prizes and overall. Contact Blake Burnside (800) 626.4222 or bburnside@ccatexas.org for information on becoming a sponsor.

Lower Laguna Madre
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oscar@shallowspportboats.com

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

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

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

Please join us for the first ever youth softball tournament hosted by Mid Coast CCA Chapter! Mark your calendars for March 22-23, 2025 to "Hook a Homerun".



Wade Harrell of the CCA Mid Coast Chapter with his personal best Trout

CCA'S First Annual Gulf Coast Hook A Homerun Softball Tournament

Hook A Homerun Softball Tournament

MARCH 22nd - 23rd 2025

Entry Fee \$225.00

8U - 14U

All youth participants will receive a CCA membership & a STAR tournament entry.

Logos: FASA, PD, DISCOVER VICTORIA TEXAS

MidCoast Youth Softball Tournament

Recently one of our chapter members, Wade Harrell, visited Port Mansfield for some personal best fishing encounters. As measured by guide Nathan Beabout, Wade landed his personal best trout at 29 1/2", 8 1/4 lbs. The smile on his face says it all!

North Texas

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

CCA North Texas and Presenting Sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka are proud to host our **3rd Annual Banquet on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 3R's Ranch in Prosper, TX.** Join us for food and drinks, raffles and auctions in support of CCA's mission to ensure the health and conservation of the natural resources of our beautiful



Left: Netted red from St. Jo Island in Rockport
 Right: CCA North Texas President Brian Donovan with a Sheepshead in Aransas Bay



Texas coast! Sponsorships, tables and individual tickets are on sale now at the link in our Instagram bio, @cca_ntx. For more information, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at Brian@firstlightprint.com or CCA Texas representative Taylor Rieck at TRieck@ccatexas.org. See y'all there!

Northwest Houston
Mag Jaramillo 832-421-0439
Mag.jaramillo@gmail.com

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

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

Port O'Connor
CeCe Fitzgerald 713-907-7368
Ccfitzgerald29@gmail.com

Exciting Times Ahead! The Port O'Connor Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Chapter is riding the wave of excitement with some fantastic events and updates to share! Get ready for great company, riveting stories, and of course, plenty of fish tales.

December and January Recap: We kicked off our Anglers' Night Out series with a bang! A huge shout-

PORT O'CONNOR 24TH ANNUAL CHAPTER BANQUET

Academy SPORTS+OUTDOORS

Join us for a night of dinner, drinks, auctions, raffles and fundraising fun! Doors open at 5:30 p.m.-dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 | 5:30 PM
Port O'Connor Community Center Pavilion
 3674 Adams Ave. | Port O'Connor, TX 77982

\$2,400 BIG POCKET TABLE
 Includes Preferred seating for 8, 1 Turtlebox (for buyer), attendee gifts, company or individual name on social media, 1/2 page program ad, meal, beverages, cocktail service, and 8 CCA memberships

\$1,000 CITY SLICKERS TABLE
 Includes Premium seating for 8, attendee gifts, company or individual name on social media, program recognition, meals, beverages and 8 CCA memberships

\$100 INDIVIDUAL TICKET
 Includes CCA membership, dinner and drinks

*Anyone over the age of 2 requires a ticket.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: **CeCe Fitzgerald 713.907.7368 | Taylor Rieck 713.626.4222 | Norman Trubee 512.589.5063 |**

CUT HERE AND MAIL

\$2,400 Big Pocket Table	Qty. _____	Price _____
\$1,000 City Slickers Table	Qty. _____	Price _____
\$100 Individual Ticket	Qty. _____	Price _____

Table Name _____ Total Amount _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Credit Card _____ CVC _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Checks payable to Coastal Conservation Association | Mail form & money to: CCA Texas, Attn: Taylor Rieck, 6919 Portwest Dr. Ste 100, Houston, TX 77024
 TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT <https://tickets@tipe.com/events/43108753623354>

out to Shane Bonnot with CCA Texas for his insightful presentation on the LNRA Dam project and CCA's stance on the issue. Big round of applause for Tad Mayfield of Lavaca River Ranch also gave us a unique landowner's perspective on the Lavaca River. RJ Shelley, Calhoun County Extension Agent took us deep into the world of



Left: Preston Luster, Lila Harrell and Caroline Luster / Middle: Preston Luster driving the airboat with the Fitzgerald girls! / Right: Caroline Luster and Melissa Fitzgerald Harrell



Photos from the December CCA POC Anglers' Night Out



2025 CCA Port O'Connor Sponsor Levels

Annual CCA Port O'Connor Banquet | Saturday, April 12, 2025 | POC Community Center

25th POC Chapter Anniversary - "Where It All Began" - \$10,000

Sponsorship Includes: Big Pocket Table, Full Page Program Ad, Premium Gifts, Waitstaff at Banquet, Title Sponsor Banner, Name/Logo on Hats as Patron Gifts

Rock Pile Sponsor - \$5,000

Sponsorship Options: Tent | Table Gifts | Live Auction | Large Raffle (E-Bikes) | Dinner | Bar | Boat Key Game

Sponsorship Includes: Big Pocket Table- 1/2 Page Program ad, Banner

The Darlington Sponsor - \$2,000

Sponsorship Options: Poker Chip Game 1 | Poker Chip Game 2

Sponsorship Includes: 1/2 Page Program ad, Logo on Poker Chips and Game Signage, Logo on Sponsor Banner

The Lagoon Sponsor - \$1,500

Sponsorship Options: Card Game

Sponsorship Includes: Name/Logo on Card Decks used in Banquet Games with extra Personalized Decks to take home, Logo on Sponsor Banner

Fish Pond Sponsor - \$1,000

Sponsorship Options: Koozies | Committee Shirts

Sponsorship Includes: 1/2 Page ad, Logo on Sponsor Banner

Sunday Beach Sponsor - \$500

Sponsorship Options: Silent Auction (multiple options)

Sponsorship Includes: Name/Logo on Auction Signs, Program Recognition

Purchase Banquet Tickets Here:

<https://ticketstripe.com/events/43106753623554>

Deadline for Sponsorships is Friday, March 7, 2025. All sponsorships are a tax-deductible donation to CCA Texas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Taylor Rieck: 713.626.4222
TRieck@ccatexas.org

CoCo Fitzgerald: 713.907.7368
cc Fitzgerald29@gmail.com

Norman Trubee: 512.589.5083
ntrubee@gmail.com

oyster mariculture in January, highlighting its role in sustainable seafood and habitat restoration.

But wait, there's more! Our January Anglers' Night Out featured a surprise guest—Tom Lempa of Pensacola Bay Oyster Co.—who not only shared his journey as an oyster farmer but also treated everyone to fresh, delicious oysters. Despite the rainy weather, we had a fantastic turnout, proving that nothing can keep a dedicated angler away! Talk about a tasty education! A big thank you to The Hurricane for hosting, their wonderful staff for their warm hospitality, and for decking the place out in a fun holiday vibe. And let's not forget to give a round of applause to Brandon Smolik, our lucky January door-prize winner!

Upcoming Anglers' Night Out events – mark your calendars!

February: Bridgid and Alan Berger will lead the charge on the Crab Trap Cleanup—a mission to rid our waters of derelict traps. We'll also pay tribute to the legendary "Crab Man" himself, Ronnie Luster, who founded this crucial conservation effort.

March 13: Get ready for a trip down memory lane with Sam Caldwell and Fred Carr as they share captivating stories from the early days of GCCA's founding. You won't want to miss this blast from the past!

May: The excitement ramps up with Bill Kinney, CCA Star Tournament Director, just in time for the big kick off! Whether you're a seasoned competitor or a curious newcomer, this is the perfect chance to get the inside scoop on the tournament.

Save the date for our 24th Annual Banquet on Saturday, April 12, 2025. Get your party hats (or fishing

caps) ready because the Port O'Connor CCA Chapter's 24th Annual Banquet is coming your way on April 12, 2025! Expect an evening packed with amazing food, thrilling auctions, and a whole lot of conservation celebration. Want to get in on the action? Table and sponsorship opportunities are available, don't miss your chance to be part of something special!

Follow us on Facebook [@PortOConnorCCA](#) and Instagram [@portoconnorcca](#) for the latest updates and behind-the-scenes peeks.

We're all about keeping the spirit of conservation and camaraderie alive, and we'd love you to join us at these events. If you're itching to get involved or just want more info, reach out to Chapter President Charlotte "CeCe" Fitzgerald ccfitzgerald29@gmail.com or our CCA Texas representative Taylor Rieck at trieck@ccatexas.org. We can't wait to see you soon—until then, tight lines and good vibes! Cheers, CeCe Fitzgerald, President CCA Port O'Connor Chapter

Prairie

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

Hope everybody had a great holiday season, we are all waiting for some good fishing weather. We are in the planning stage for our **27th CCA Annual Fundraiser Banquet that will be Thursday, March 28, 2025 at the Austin County Fair Convention and Expo Building in Bellville Texas.** We are expecting a large crowd and may sell out quickly so purchase the tickets when there are available, you can purchase them from any board member or at Wittenburg Printing in Sealy (979) 885-7464. It's going to be a great evening with a lot of games and raffles. The most popular raffle is the cap and card gun raffle and many more, also we will have a live auction and a silent the auctioneer will be Mark Switzer. The meal of prime rib and shrimp will be catered by Mikeska BBQ. So plan on coming and enjoying the night with great people. See you on March 28th!

Redfish Bay

Contact: John Blaha @ jdblaha@ccatexas.org

The Redfish Bay chapter has set the date for their 2025 Annual Banquet. **This year's banquet will be on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at the Aransas Pass Civic Center.** Tickets and tables are now available and can be purchased at www.ccatexas.org/redfish-bay. An Angler's Night Out is currently being planned for late February, so please be sure to watch you emails and social media for more details.

Rio Grande Valley

Javier Suarez 956-330-9788
javier@eastcapeboats.com

Greetings from RGV! The RGV board members have been working diligently to plan and prepare for the upcoming **45th Annual Chapter Banquet, which will take place on Friday, March 28, 2025 at the Mission Event Center.** To guarantee your attendance, please secure your table as soon as possible, as our event consistently sells out. You can purchase tickets and

tables online here: <https://ticketstripe.com/rgv2025>. Also, a limited number of raffle tickets are still available for the 21ft Shallow Sport, which will be given away on the night of the banquet. To purchase raffle tickets, please message us through social media. You may also visit our Multi-Year Exclusive Title Sponsor L&F Distributors in McAllen, Lone Star National Bank in McAllen, The Sportsman in San Benito, and Johnny's True Value in Harlingen. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sabine-Neches

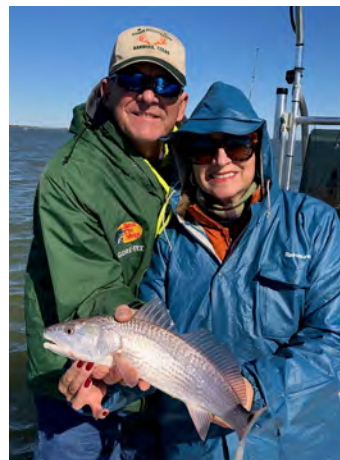
Darin Johnson 409-790-9855
darin@jorgensenmarine.com

Saltgrass

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

Sam Houston

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



CCA San Antonio Chapter President Tom Akin and his wife Sarita / CCA San Antonio sponsored "tank" fishing trip

San Antonio

Brandon Stellges 210-374-65934
Brandon.Stellges@frostbank.com

Gearing up for our busy spring season in San Antonio! First up is our **12th Annual Hooked on Clays Sporting Clay Shoot and Crawfish Boil, to be held on Friday, March 28, 2025** at the National Shooting Complex. This is a fun and relaxing event with great comradery and a tasty crawfish boil for our guests to enjoy following the shoot. We generally have between 40 to 60 teams of 4 shooters, and we treat them right with prizes for the top shooters in various categories, raffles, door prizes...and crawfish! If you would like more information, please call Brandon Stellges at (210) 436-9305.

Next up is our **Cast for Kids** event, to be held this year at Live Oak Park Pond. Tentatively scheduled for **Saturday morning, April 5**, but not in cement yet. Our CCA committee provides funding and committee member

volunteers for the 60 to 100 children and families in attendance. A big thank you to Texas Parks & Wildlife who provide the catfish stocking. For more information, please contact Jim Behnken at (210) 414-8048 or me, Tom Akin, at (210) 313-4860.

And then our big event will follow. On **May 1, 2025**, mark your calendars for our **46th Annual San Antonio CCA Banquet**. Bigger and better than ever, we are shooting to increase our total guests in attendance to about 1,800 ... so we are looking for table buyers! We have some new ideas in the planning, so expect a slightly revised format but with all the good stuff you always expect on the banquet floor! For more information, contact our banquet chair Brandon Carpenter at (210) 218-2393 or co-chair Chase Anderson at (210) 710-1820. And in a crunch, John Blaha, our wonderful CCA liaison, at (979)709-1085. As we say, take a kid fishing...or hunting!

San Bernard

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San Gabriel

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Southwestern

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Trinity Valley
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West Houston
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West Texas
Craig McDonnold 432-682-3499
Craig@McDonnold.net



Great Photos 2025

Categories: Best In Show / Action / Scenic /
Humor / Kids / Wildlife / CPR

Important: Send jpegs and include name of subject, title, your name as well as the names of anyone in the photo if possible. Email jpegs to sam@samcaldwell.com Give us your best shot, and keep CURRENTS an award-winning newsletter.

Let's Go Retro!

Here's a Great HUMOR Photo from
CURRENTS OCT NOV 2020.

Jim Black of the Fort Bend chapter reported that, "Doug Upp, the ghost of the salt grass has been spotted in Matagorda again. He doesn't eat much so hasn't done much harm to the fish population. He is not much of a talker, but he'll do a number on your beer cooler." Get a load of the black flag and the Christmas tree, decorated with ancient plugs, the dog with beer can and the stringer on the lower right.



Upper Coast

Capt. Ken Terry

A loud popping cork & hang on

February and March can be a rollercoaster when it comes to air and water temperatures. The recent late January snowstorm combined with our other precipitation may well affect the salinity levels in some locations, requiring adjustments to the typical late winter / early spring patterns. When searching for redfish and trout, targeting areas with mud and shell is a great location to start. Watch for bait. Feeding shore birds and loons can also direct an angler to an area holding fish.

Drifting while using soft plastics on a quarter ounce lead head is a good method to start. My favorite soft bait this time of year includes those having a slight tail vibration. In clear water, I prefer something with a pink body. Otherwise, I typically go with a purple of some sort to start out and adjust as needed. Live shrimp is always a payoff technique, especially if targeting species such as black drum and sheepshead. My favorite rigging is a loud popping cork attached to a 3-foot 20lb test mono leader weighted with a small split shot and #2 kahle hook. I find that in some instances these two species have a "slower bite" as do redfish and trout. More solid hookups can be achieved by pointing the rod tip towards the fading cork. Slowly tighten the line until the weight of the fish is felt, then hang on!

As always, use good judgment and be courteous to your fellow fishermen both at the launch and on the water. Be responsible and take a few minutes to reacquaint yourself with the fishing and boating regulations. Wear your engine kill-cords and take memorable pictures before releasing those trophy fish. – **Captain Ken Terry**
281-389-7090 <mailto:fishingtrinitybay.com>
CCA Trinity Bay Board Member since 1996



Two young fishermen, one CPR. Note the life vests. Photo by Capt. Ken Terry

Middle Coast

Capt. Josh MacNaughton

Baitfish hunted on shorelines

Now hungry speckled trout start transitioning from deeper winter holes to shallower grass flats and sand pockets in Aransas, Copano and Mesquite Bays. Soft plastics like Down South Lures and MirrOlure suspending baits will entice a bite. Black drum, often overlooked in favor of their feisty redfish cousins, provide some of the most reliable action in the spring. Gear up at one of our coastal bend Academy Sports and Outdoors to ensure your equipment is suitable for the target species and conditions. March winds can push baitfish into windblown shorelines, where slot reds hunt for an easy meal. Look for tailing reds in the flats around Mud Island, the Blackjack Peninsula, and South Bay. I recommend using gold spoons and paddle-tail swimbaits to match the natural forage.

Starting in mid-February, warm mornings around Estes Flats or the Lydia Ann Channel can hold surface-feeding trout, making topwater lures like Heddon Super Spooks a choice for aggressive springtime trout. Cut mullet or live croaker fished along the edges of shell reefs and oyster beds can produce big, drag-peeling runs.

Take a kid fishing, always in a life jacket. Tight lines and see you on the water!

– **Captain Josh MacNaughton, Pure South Fishing Charters / 832-266-79078**

Kayak Fishing Insights from Outfitter Jenn Nolan

Let me take you on a fish-catching kayak adventure! You can quietly ease into shallow marshes where you can stalk reds and trout for miles, undisturbed by boat traffic. Aransas Pathways is an excellent resource to find great launch sites. Texas Parks and Wildlife has paddling trails all along the coast. It's essential to monitor local weather forecasts and plan trips accordingly. Tidal movements also play a crucial role in fishing success; consulting tide charts can help determine the best times to fish.

While fishing responsibly, prioritize safety and respect the laws and rules in place. Adhere to local fishing regulations, including size and bag limits, to promote sustainable fishing practices. By staying informed and prepared, we can look forward to a productive and enjoyable fishing season together, along the South Texas coast this spring. As always, find a way to take a kid fishing and remember to wear your lifejacket!

– **Jenn Nolan Kayak Fishing Guide and Outfitter, Pure South Fishing / 832-266-79078**
championsoutdoors@gmail.com

Lower Coast

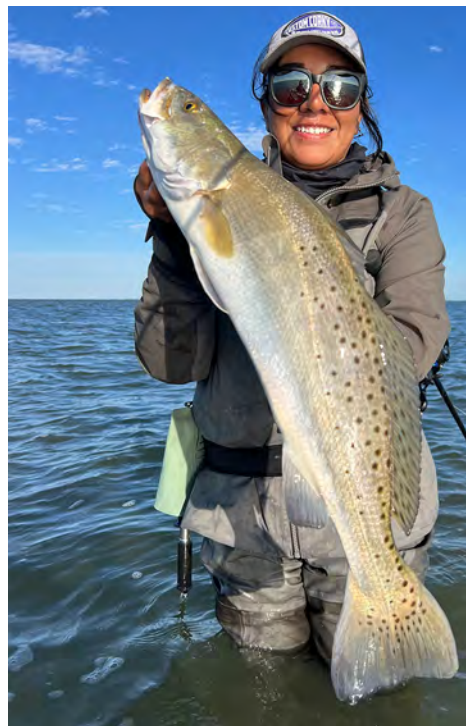
Capt. Reanna DelaCruz

Absolutely stellar

This time of year is one of my favorites for targeting big speckled trout. Many upper slot and oversized speckled trout during these months are hefty in the midsection area, holding more than average their weight from gorging themselves. I think they have a tendency to eat big but fewer times a day, so when they commit to a bite, it's a big one! Which leads into why we focus on throwing Corky's and bigger baits now. The food source is mainly mullet, so when gamefish commit to a bite, it can be absolutely stellar.

When patterns temporarily change with each cold front that blows through, it's important to keep an open mind, embrace change and learn to go with the flow. "Fish your eyes" is the best way put it. Identify any sign that point to quality fish in an area such as diving pelicans, slicks, bait flipping or structural changes, such as deep to shallow areas, sand-scattered grass beds or a water color change. These are all contributing factors that can help lead you towards a great day on the water.

Remember to give the trophy fish a quick, clean release after collecting a photo for CURRENTS. Stay safe and courteous of other anglers on the water and as always, tight lines! – **Capt. Reanna DeLaCruz**
361-296-5400



A recent CPR, thanks to Capt. Ranna Delacruz

Matagorda Bay Shrimp Chowder

1 lb peeled shrimp / 2 Tbsp butter / ½ small onion chopped / 1 stalk celery chopped / 2 large carrots chopped / 2 medium red potatoes chopped / 1 bay leaf
½ Cup frozen corn / 2 cups fish or chicken stock / 1 Cup milk / 1 Cup cream
1 tsp Old Bay Seasoning / ½ tsp pepper / Salt to taste

Saute onion and celery on medium heat for 4 minutes. Add carrots and potatoes and saute for 4 more minutes. Add stock and bay leaf and simmer covered for 20 minutes. Add corn, milk, cream and seasonings. Heat on med low for 15 minutes until steaming, but not bubbling. Add shrimp and cook till pink, on same heat about 10 minutes.

Serve with crusty bread.



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt



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International recognition

For a Caldwell painting

Sunrise Announcement

Caldwell painting to be featured in the

International Watermedia Exhibition

March 4 - March 29

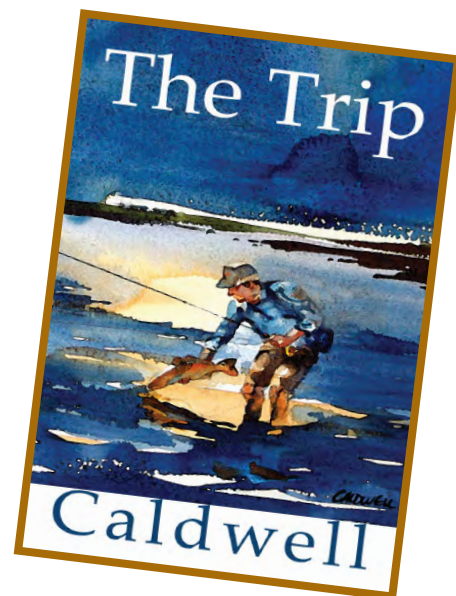
WASH GALLERIES / Houston Texas

Invitation to Preview and Opening on

the Caldwell website

*A Retro tale from
Not That Serious Collected
by Ben Kocian and Sam Caldwell*

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made of strange things-
especially when you
have two huge fishing
buddies in Mexico.**



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281-455-9390



Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

February / March 2025



Two happy crab trap grabbers, one happy redfish holder.

The traps were released into a dumpster by Liz Hewitt and Lorraine Lawrence. That's Nic Nolan, and he sent the red back for further duty. Note that good looking safety vest.



ST IN TEXAS

U.S. Coast Guard Air & Sea Rescue

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

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

Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov
To focus on fishing and boating, visit
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat



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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____ (Member ID for renewing members only) _____ EMAIL _____

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

MEMBER: \$40 Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
ASSOCIATE: \$20 Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
STAR ENTRY FEE: \$30 Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
YOUTH: \$10 TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.

Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 A portion of the proceeds go toward CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes exclusive Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine and set of CCA and state fish decals.

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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