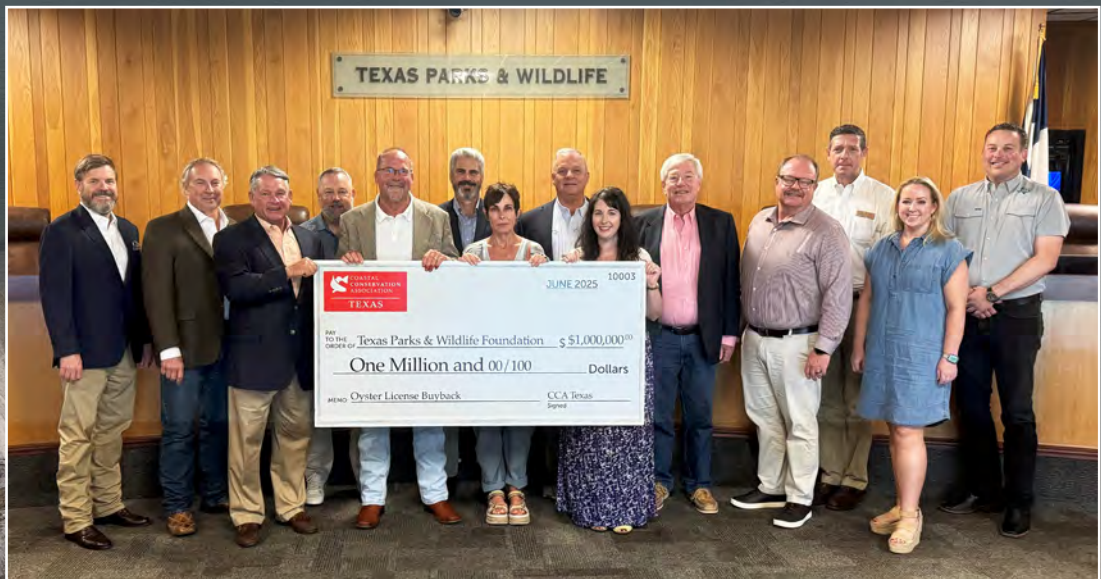


CURRENTS

August / September 2025



Oyster License Buyback Program Underway



THEN

Shrimp License Buyback Program: In the CCA entry lobby, you may have noticed a framed example of the 2006 Shrimp License Buyback Program. That successful program provided \$274,000 to retire licenses preventing many old and new shrimp boats from scouring Texas bays.



NOW

Oyster License Buyback Program: You'll notice a new framed License Plate commemorating the Oyster License Buyback Program. The \$1 Million, plus aid from concerned Foundations and individuals will prevent 112 Oysterboats from raking public oyster reefs.

Both the Shrimiboat License painting of 2006 and the 2025 Oysterboat painting were done by Sam Caldwell, Texas State Artist 2004.

CCA Texas funded the initial \$1 Million for an oyster license buyback program to help reduce the pressure on public oyster reefs.

With this \$1 Million and help from a few Foundations and individuals, 112 out of the 545 existing oyster licenses are being purchased and removed from the fishery. This 20% reduction in licenses will certainly reduce some of the oystering effort on these reefs.

There are plans to conduct a second round of license buyback to hopefully remove even more of these licenses. This first round of buying licenses has been a huge success and a great first step in right-sizing the oyster boat fleet.
—Robby Byers



At the presentation in Austin headquarters: Billy Phenix, Mike Prasek, Jr. (President, CCA Texas), Austin Taylor, John Carlson (Chairman, CCA Texas), Phil Lamb, Robby Byers (Executive Director, CCA Texas), David Yoskowit, Ph.D (Executive Director, TPWD), Anne Brown (Executive Director, TPW Foundation), Joey Park, Julie Shaddox, David Yeates, Randy Poelma, Dakus Geeslin and Emily House

CCA Texas Helps Drive Largest-Ever Oyster License Buyback with \$1,000,000 Contribution

By CCA Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

Marking a major step toward reducing pressure in an overcapitalized oyster fishery, Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA Texas) was instrumental in facilitating the most consequential oyster license buyback round in the state's history that will reduce harvest pressure and help restore balance to the resource. From March to May 2025, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received 115 commercial oyster boat license offers as part of its Oyster License Buyback Program. Ultimately, 112 of the 115 interested offers signed contracts, reducing the total number of oyster licenses in Texas by 20%, an enormous step towards ensuring a more sustainable future for our bays and estuaries. In addition to direct benefits for

Preventing oyster overharvest will help protect wild public reefs that provide nursery and refuge habitats for other marine life, stabilize shorelines, enhance water quality, and reduce coastal erosion.



the oyster fishery, preventing oyster overharvest will help protect wild public reefs that provide nursery and refuge habitats for other marine life, stabilize shorelines, enhance water quality, and reduce coastal erosion.

This achievement was made possible through strong partnerships and bold investments. Earlier this year, the CCA Texas State Board of Directors approved a \$1 million contribution to serve as anchor funding for this latest buyback round. That commitment helped galvanize additional support through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and other private donors.

"We're thrilled with the success of this effort," said Robby Byers, Executive Director of CCA Texas. "It's a testament to the vision of our leadership, and the dedication of our chapters and supporters, whose grassroots fundraising made this possible."

An Overcapitalized Fishery

In 2005, the Texas Legislature enacted a moratorium on the issuance of new commercial oyster-boat licenses to reduce harvesting pressure on public oyster reefs. However, the oyster industry aggressively lobbied for a one-year grace period, which was ultimately included in the legislation,



Painting commemorating the 2025 program by Sam Caldwell, Texas State Artist 2004

Bedrock of the bays are our public reefs, providing nursery habitats, stabilizing shorelines, enhancing water quality, preventing erosion.

triggering a rush of new applications and causing the number of licenses to swell from approximately 350 to nearly 760 before the moratorium was fully implemented. Between 2006 and 2016, that number gradually declined to just over 550 licenses due to attrition and non-renewals, where it remained relatively flat.

Oyster license buybacks were first authorized by the Texas Legislature in 2017, but initial efforts faced challenges and limited participation. From 2018 through 2024, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) conducted eight rounds of oyster license buybacks, receiving a total of 78 bids. Many of these bids exceeded the state's ability to complete the transaction, highlighting the need for support from conservation partners to close the gap. In Round 8 alone, TPWD received 9 bids, with an average bid of \$45,611, a mode of \$50,000, and a high of \$100,000. While TPWD has a proven track record of managing effective, long-term buyback programs for shrimp (since 1995), crab (1997), and finfish (1997), the oyster license buyback program proved difficult to gain traction.

That changed in 2025. In a strategic shift from previous reverse-bid auctions, TPWD offered a flat rate of \$30,000 per oyster license. The simplified process with an aggressive offer attracted significant interest, and now 112 of the 545 available oyster licenses are removed from the fishery. Importantly, more than half of those had reported landings in at least three of the last five seasons, meaning the licenses retired will yield meaningful conservation benefits.

"This is conservation through collaboration," said Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director. "Our \$1 million contribution, alongside state funding and generous private

donors, shows what's possible when partners come together to make a positive impact."

A United Front for Conservation

Reducing license pressure on the public reef fishery has long been a priority for conservation groups and responsible members of the oyster industry. Fewer licenses mean less effort concentrated on sensitive reef systems, allowing habitat to recover and reducing conflict over limited resources. The buyback program is funded in part by a surcharge on commercial licenses, ensuring that the fishery itself contributes to long-term sustainability. Additional state funds are achieved through saltwater stamp revenues, which are appropriated by the Texas Legislature.

CCA Texas is deeply grateful to the other philanthropic partners who made this historic round possible, including the Laurie and S. Reed Morian Foundation, the Brown Foundation, the Earl C. Sams Foundation, Jeffery and Mindy Hildebrand, Beaver and Joanie Aplin, John and Mary Eads, and Bobby and Sherri Patton.

Looking ahead, CCA Texas expects additional rounds of oyster license buybacks to follow this successful model. Funding requests from TPWD and support from the Texas Legislature will be essential to securing the necessary state funding to ensure continued success.

We remain firmly committed to advancing strategic initiatives that safeguard Texas' coastal resources, strengthen our fisheries, and preserve healthy, productive ecosystems for future generations. Together, we're proving that conservation works, especially when we work together. 🌊



Numerous oysterboats focused on Mesquite Bay Complex

CCA Texas Position Statement on Brackish Groundwater and Saline Surface Water Desalination

By CCA Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

As coastal communities in Texas increasingly turn to desalination of both brackish groundwater and saline surface water to meet growing freshwater demands, CCA Texas supports responsible, science-based practices that protect the health of our state's coastal ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality.

Desalination Sources

Desalination is becoming more common across the Texas coast, using technologies like reverse osmosis to remove dissolved ions (salt) and produce freshwater from two primary sources:

- Brackish groundwater, drawn from deep aquifers with moderate salinity levels (typically 1,000–10,000 mg/L TDS), and saline surface water, such as seawater from bays, estuaries, or the Gulf (typically 10,000–35,000 mg/L TDS). [For reference, Gulf seawater is ~36,000mg/L.](#)

While desalination offers a valuable source of freshwater for municipal and industrial needs, it also generates a concentrated waste stream, commonly referred to as concentrate, brine, or reject water. Regardless of the terminology, the method and location of discharge are critical considerations. When released into bays and estuaries, this waste stream often presents significant ecological risks. As such and at a minimum, comprehensive permitting and rigorous, site-specific evaluation under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) and the federal Clean Water Act are essential to ensure environmental protection.

Environmental Concerns

Surface discharge of desalination effluent, whether from brackish groundwater or seawater, raises serious concerns for the health of coastal ecosystems. While both types of desalination use similar treatment processes, the effluent they produce varies in concentration, chemistry, and volume:

- Seawater desalination produces high-volume brine nearly twice as salty as the original intake water, often exceeding 60,000 mg/L TDS. When discharged into shallow or poorly flushed bays, this hypersaline waste can smother benthic habitats, reduce oxygen levels, and exceed the salinity tolerance of critical species. Brackish groundwater desalination typically produces effluent with lower volume and salinity than seawater desalination; however, it often contains naturally occurring but potentially harmful constituents—such as arsenic, boron, and radionuclides—depending on the geochemistry of the source aquifer. Even at reduced salinity levels, this concentrate can negatively impact sensitive estuarine species and habitats, particularly when discharged into low-energy environments with limited flushing. Moreover, many proposed discharge sites for brackish desalination projects are located in historically freshwater streams and creeks, where ecosystems may be especially vulnerable to changes in water chemistry.

Regardless of source, desalination waste streams can:

- Exceed salinity tolerances for many fish and invertebrates, causing stress, displacement, or mortality.

Our bays are not disposal sites. They are nurseries, livelihoods and legacies. Let's keep them that way—for this generation and the next.

- Degrade riparian zones, oyster reefs, seagrass beds, and other vital habitats for aquatic species.

- Alter the natural ecological balance, particularly in semi-enclosed or nutrient-stressed bays.

While some proponents argue that discharge waste streams could dilute hypersaline conditions in isolated systems, these cases are highly specific and temporary. The long-term risks to water quality, marine life, and ecosystem stability far outweigh any short-term benefits.

CCA Texas Recommendations

CCA Texas remains guided by its mission to protect sustainable coastal fisheries and preserve the habitats that support them. In line with recommendations from the [Harte Research Institute](#) and other coastal experts, we urge the following for all desalination projects in Texas:

- Prohibit surface discharge of brine into rivers, streams, or estuaries—particularly in shallow, semi-enclosed, or poorly flushed bay systems.

These waters cannot absorb concentrated waste without suffering long-term ecological damage.

- Prioritize deep-well injection into geologically isolated underground formations, ensuring zero risk of contamination to freshwater aquifers or groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
- Support offshore discharge only when deep-well injection is not feasible—and only after rigorous modeling demonstrates no significant impact to marine life or water quality.

- Mandate strong environmental review for all proposed discharges, including:

- > Site-specific hydrologic and salinity modeling that accounts for seasonal and climate variability.

- > Baseline and post-discharge biological assessments to monitor impacts on habitats and species.


- > Public transparency and engagement with affected stakeholders, including fishing, conservation, and coastal communities.

- Require comprehensive, peer-reviewed science before any discharge is approved. This includes establishing baseline ecological conditions and benchmark hydrological studies to inform site suitability and cumulative risk.
- Invest in long-term monitoring and adaptive management, guided by independent academic institutions such as Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi's Harte Research Institute and University of Texas Marine Science Institute.

Conclusion

Texas must find new water solutions—but not at the cost of our bays and estuaries. These ecosystems support not only fish and wildlife, but entire coastal economies. According to the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Texas's saltwater fishery generates an estimated \$4.2 billion in annual economic impact. That value is rooted in healthy estuarine habitats, clean water, and balanced salinity—all of which are threatened by irresponsible desalination discharge.

CCA Texas believes we can meet our water needs without compromising coastal health, but only if we commit to desalination practices that avoid estuarine discharge and prioritize offshore or deep-well solutions. We will continue advocating for policies that are grounded in science and protective of the people, places, and fisheries that define the Texas coast.

Our bays are not disposal sites. They are nurseries, livelihoods, and legacies. Let's keep them that way—for this generation and the next. 

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

PROJECT	FUNDED AMOUNT
SABINE REEFS	\$1,503,500
RIO GRANDE VALLEY	\$1,068,000
PORT O'CONNOR	\$700,000
GALVESTON BIG MAN AND KATE'S	\$329,000
HRI NEARSHORE REEF ENHANCEMENT STUDY	\$250,000
MATAGORDA	\$200,000
CORPUS CHRISTI	\$100,000
FREEPORT / VANCOUVER	\$60,000
PORT MANSFIELD	\$50,000

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
TO NEARSHORE REEFING \$4,260,500**



CCA TEXAS: LEADERS IN OYSTER REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

PROJECT

FUNDED AMOUNT

AYERS REEF RESTORATION AND SHORELINE PROTECTION	\$1,126,204
CARANCAHUA BAY OYSTER REEF RESTORATION (CARANCAHUA BAY)	\$1,000,000
OYSTER REEF CREATION - ST. CHARLES BAY (ROCKPORT)	\$711,250
OYSTER RESTORATION - EAST GALVESTON BAY	\$500,000
COMO LAKE DANA COVE OYSTER RESTORATION & CREATION	\$400,000
SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM	\$352,000
MESQUITE BAY OYSTER REEF MONITORING (HRI)	\$225,000
OYSTER RESTORATION - DEEP REEF SABINE LAKE	\$215,000
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 (BALANCE OF \$5,000,000 COMMITMENT)	\$2,931,774

TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT AND COMMITTED TO OYSTER RESTORATION AND CREATION

\$7,941,228

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

CCA TEXAS PROJECTS

\$1,600,000 | CEDAR BAYOU/VINSON SLOUGH RESTORATION

\$1,503,500 | NEARSHORE REEFING - SABINE PASS

\$1,068,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - RIO GRANDE VALLEY REEF

\$1,000,000 | ***AYERS REEF RESTORATION AND SHORELINE PROTECTION (AYERS BAY)

\$1,000,000 | ***CARANCAHUA BAY OYSTER REEF RESTORATION (CARANCAHUA BAY)

\$711,250 | OYSTER REEF CREATION - ST. CHARLES BAY (ROCKPORT)

\$700,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING—PORT O'CONNOR

\$630,000 | ***OYSTER LAKE SHORELINE PROTECTION (WEST GALVESTON BAY)

\$552,000 | SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM

\$500,000 | OYSTER RESTORATION - EAST GALVESTON BAY

\$400,000 | COMO LAKE AND DANA COVER SHORELINE PROTECTION (WEST GALVESTON BAY)

\$329,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - GALVESTON / BIG MAN & KATE'S REEF

\$250,000 | HRI NEARSHORE REEF ENHANCEMENT STUDY

\$250,000 | DAGGER ISLAND SHORELINE PROTECTION & MARSH RESTORATION (REDFISH BAY)

\$225,000 | MESQUITE BAY OYSTER REEF MONITORING (HRI)

\$215,000 | OYSTER RESTORATION—DEEP REEF SABINE LAKE

\$200,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - MATAGORDA

\$200,000 | SHORELINE STABILIZATION - SAN BERNARD NWR

\$200,000 | ***GORDY MARSH LIVING SHORELINE (TRINITY BAY)

\$150,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - BIRD ISLAND COVE (WEST GALVESTON BAY)

\$150,000 | ***NUECES BAY DELTA SHORELINE RESTORATION

\$138,000 | SHORELINE PROTECTION/MARSH CREATION - MOSES LAKE (GALVESTON BAY)

\$135,000 | BAFFIN BAY SERPULID REEF HABITAT CONSERVATION/RESTORATION STUDY

\$130,000 | OYSTER RESTORATION—PEPPER GROVE / GALVESTON (BCT)

\$126,204 | AYERS REEF ENGINEERING AND MONITORING PLAN (AYERS BAY / MESQUITE BAY COMPLEX)

\$125,000 | ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SHORELINE PROTECTION (SAN ANTONIO BAY)

\$120,000 | HRI OYSTER RESTORATION SITE LOCATOR MAPPING STUDY

\$100,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - DICKINSON BAYOU

\$100,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - CORPUS CHRISTI

\$95,000 | BAHIA GRANDE RESTORATION (PORT ISABEL / BROWNSVILLE)

\$91,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - BRAZORIA & SAN BERNARD WILDLIFE REFUGE

\$75,000 | OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - ARANSAS BAY (ROCKPORT)

\$75,000 | OYSTER REEF RESTORATION - COPANO BAY (ROCKPORT)

\$70,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - EGERY ISLAND (COPANO BAY/BAYSIDE)

\$70,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - MATAGORDA ISLAND

\$70,000 | NUECES BAY DELTA WATER MANAGEMENT GATES

\$60,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - FREEPORT / VANCOUVER

\$60,000 | NUECES BAY DEMONSTRATION OYSTER REEF

\$50,000 | NEWCOMB BEND MARSH RESTORATION (TPWD)

\$50,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - GOOSE ISLAND (ROCKPORT)

\$50,000 | NEARSHORE REEFING - PORT MANSFIELD

\$50,000 | SHORELINE STABILIZATION - J. D. MURPHREE WMA

\$50,000 | SHORELINE STABILIZATION - COW TRAP LAKE (BRAZORIA COUNTY)

\$50,000 | DOLLAR BAY SHORELINE PROTECTION AND MARSH RESTORATION

\$50,000 | GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS LIVING SHORELINE RESTORATION

\$46,204 | AYERS REEF RESTORATION REEF PROJECT PHASE I

\$42,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - OXEN & GANG'S BAYOU (GALVESTON)

\$40,000 | KATE'S HOLE LIVING SHORELINE (CORPUS CHRISTI BAY)

\$40,000 | TRINITY BAY DISCOVERY CENTER LIVING SHORELINE

\$30,000 | SWEETWATER PRESERVE SHORELINE PROTECTIONS AND OYSTER REEF ENHANCEMENT

\$24,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - NUECES BAY (CORPUS CHRISTI)

\$20,000 | MARSH RESTORATION - SNAKE ISLAND COVER (WEST GALVESTON BAY)

\$15,000 | WEED ERADICATION FOR WATER FLOW RESTORATION (GUADALUPE RIVER DELTA)

\$10,000 | SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAMS TRAILER

\$5,600 | BAY DEBRIS REMOVAL - ARANSAS PASS

TOTAL FUNDED THROUGH 2025: \$14,096,758

2025 PROJECTS CONTRIBUTED TO AS OF 02/04/2025

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

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.

UNDERSTANDING VIBRIO INFECTIONS TO STAY SAFE IN MARINE WATERS

What Is Vibrio?

Vibrio is a group of bacteria naturally found in the bays and coastal waters of Texas. If you've been in saltwater, you've encountered *Vibrio*. *Vibrio* encompasses a number of different species, but when most people hear "*Vibrio*", they think about the rare, but traumatic flesh and limb destruction that it can cause, informally referring to it as "flesh eating bacteria."



How can you be exposed?

Infection occurs when *Vibrio* enters the body through open wounds, even minor cuts or insect bites. Common activities like swimming, fishing, or handling raw seafood can lead to exposure. Risk of infection is most pronounced when water temperature is at or above about 70°F, although infection can occur year-round. A recent study by researchers at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies also found that *Vibrio* populations temporarily increase sharply during Saharan Dust deposition events.

Symptoms of a Vibrio infection

Symptoms of a *Vibrio* infection can develop rapidly, including pain, swelling, redness, and fever. In severe cases, loss of limbs or death can occur within 24–48 hours if left untreated.

What to do if you are infected?

If you suspect a *Vibrio* infection (pain, swelling, fever), seek immediate medical attention. Inform healthcare providers about recent saltwater exposure and potential *Vibrio* infection.

MINIMIZE VIBRIO RISKS



Avoid Saltwater with Open Wounds: Refrain from swimming or wading if you have cuts or abrasions.



Use Protective Gear: Wear puncture-resistant gloves when handling seafood and closed-toed shoes in water.



Wound Care: Immediately treat any wound that has been exposed to saltwater by flushing and cleaning with warm water and antibacterial cleanser; Chlorhexidine -based products such as Hibiclens® can be purchased at your local pharmacy and provide lasting antibacterial effect. Apply a topical antibacterial ointment and cover the wound with a clean dressing or Band-Aid. Fishermen, bathers, and others should carry, or have immediate access to, small bottles of Hibiclens and antibiotic ointment.



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Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

PROGRESSIVE

The HEAT is on, and the stories are epic!

At this writing, we can reasonably say the summer pattern is upon us; that is, light winds (read: HOT) and occasional afternoon storm cells to dodge and then cool things off. Most of our bay systems have benefited from excellent freshwater inflows, and the fish are charged up headed into the dog days. This bodes exceptionally well for fall fishing, but in STAR, we care about the present. How do the winning prospects look from here till Labor Day?!

Excellent. But you have to go fish. There is only one true Category Killer that we can see on the Leaderboard. The Cobia(Ling) Division looks done with a massive 98#+ caught by Kody Milton, and you've probably seen the pics on STAR social. Truly a regal fish and just short of the Texas state record by a meal or two(108#+). With calmer seas ahead, you can bet STAR offshore anglers will be looking to upgrade the current leaders in Kingfish, Dorado, and Snapper Divisions.

In the Inshore Division for both STARteens/STARKids and adults, all the Leaderboard places are filled out, but four changes in the lineup occurred just last week. And the leading fish are beatable—it ain't over till it's over—so the current leaders have another reason to sweat. A long time until Labor Day will finally end the suspense.

ALERT! SOMEBODY needs to go catch some RED tags (and be in it!). So far, only about 20% of the 120 tagged redfish released have been caught. Of that number, 60 were red tags and 60 were blue. Yet five Blue Tag prizes have been claimed versus only two of the Red Tags (Truck/Boat combos!).

PLEASE CLAIM the remaining prizes....at this moment, 98 tagged fish are swimming merrily along. They are there, near WHEREVER you fish, and we want all prizes claimed. Below are just a couple of stories so far. Please make yours the next ones we print. GOOD LUCK!

1st Red Tag: Gary Miertschin

On June 3, I fished with Capt. Ralph Frazier, a well-known and highly respected guide for the Galveston Bay complex, and a good friend for over 35 years. At a spot he

liked, I baited up. Within 30 seconds, the cork went down, I set the hook, and it was clear I had either a nice trout or a redfish. Once I got the fish to the boat, Ralph netted it and said, "This guy has a tag. But it's mossy and may be from last year." I wiped off the gunk and was able to read RE1803 CCA 2025.

We were both in a state of disbelief. Ralph measured it at 21+", clipped off the tag and released the fish. It was a little before 6:45 AM. Ralph made a few calls and found out that we could take the tag to Bay Harbor Marina in Kemah. I've fished with Ralph since the late 80s. He's a good friend as well as a fantastic fishing guide; he did a great job of identifying what needed to be done and then executing everything perfectly to ensure the catch was valid. It was quite a morning.



Gary Miertschin

2nd Red Tag: Nate Opela

That morning, my friend Brent and I launched out of Indianola Fishing Marina without any idea that I'd end up catching a red-tagged redfish. We managed to catch our limit of trout fairly quickly. I told Brent, "Let's go try somewhere else, take it easy, and throw some bait along the grass line for redfish."

While I was scanning the marsh, I saw a big redfish tailing in the back. Suddenly, both of our rods bent over at the same time. Mine felt like a smaller fish, so I reeled it in slowly.

When I pulled it up, I saw it had a red tag. I grabbed the net and saw that the tag was covered in grass and mud so I thought it might be an old one. I was shaking from excitement, so Brent cleaned the tag and read it out loud—it was from this year, 2025. That's when it hit me. We packed up and rushed back to the marina to turn it in. On our way in, a guy stopped us after seeing the tag in my hand. He told us he had caught a red-tagged redfish about two weeks earlier, just about 100 yards from where I got mine. He said he released it because he wasn't signed up for the tournament. Then he showed us a picture, and it turned out to be the same redfish I had caught.



Nate Opela

1st Blue Tag: Steve Isaacs

Sunday morning, at 3:45 AM, I'm up and getting ready. As I pull out, Kathy says, "I love you, be careful, catch a tagged redfish."





Steve Isaacs

looked at each other in disbelief. I saw something blue next to the skin and what appeared to be algae trailing down the side of the fish. I found what appeared to be an old tag in a relatively small redfish. Joe and I were both shaking with excitement, but one thought rose from the fog: 'It has to be videoed.' I pulled the tag free, set it aside, and tried to release the fish gently. I didn't let the fish fight much, so it was still fresh. However, I was a nervous wreck, and the fish was gone as soon as I hit the release on the gripper. I then turned all my attention to the 'old' tag. Using my thumbnail, I scrape the gunk on it to see what it is, and I see 'CCA 2025.'

Medical issues prevented me from fishing for two years. I'm happy to say that about a year ago, I was healed, and this is the first year I've been able to participate in the STAR tournament. Like all who enter this tournament, catching a tagged redfish is a dream that comes true for very few. I never thought it would happen to me, and I am truly thankful.

2nd Blue Tag: Mitchell Mays

I planned a day trip from San Antonio to fish on Wednesday, June 11. Since we were late getting out, I knew a spot on Spaulding that I had marked where I'm used to catching black drum. When we hit the spot, three anglers stayed in the boat to fish. My buddy and I jumped out to wade. I stuck with one of my go-to soft plastics - Down South Watermelon Red. I was focused on the shoreline but had to cross a 6-foot canal to get there. I made the swim and began to hammer the bank. I laid the lure right on the shoreline. Two cranks and



Mitchell Mays

Late that day, I told Joe, "We are gonna need bigger hooks. I don't know how we are getting a hook set; the head of the mullet is bigger than my hook!" I cast mullet out, and immediately, something hit it. I set the hook and felt that it was something smaller. I pulled it in, thinking it was a rat red, and I just wanted to get it off and put out another bait, but when it surfaced, I said, "It is borderline." As it went into the net, both

of us said at the same time, "That looks like a tag!" We

a pop, and he was on. It was my first fish of the day, and I thought it was a keeper at the initial hook set. After landing the red, I knew he was close to 20. While measuring, I saw a stick-looking thing covered in algae. Realizing what I had was a blue CCA tag, I went into panic mode. Got my snap, put the red on the stringer, and then started yelling at my buddies to come pick me up. I started walking back until they could hear me yelling, "I caught a tagged red fish!"

It was an incredible experience to catch a tagged fish after trying for years! Thank you, CCA, for an amazing group of people and all y'all do to support our fisheries on the coast!

3rd Blue Tag: Robbi Pratt

I only started wade fishing last October. My boyfriend introduced me to fishing and from the first time I stepped into the water, something clicked. There's a rhythm to the ocean, a calm that settles over me when I'm waist-deep and casting into the unknown. The water became more than a place to fish; it became a space to breathe.

For my birthday this year, we joined CCA and signed up for the



Robbi Pratt

STAR Tournament. We decided to celebrate by doing what had quickly become our favorite thing - fishing. I was itching to get back in the water. As we waded, I caught a small red, then caught another redfish. As I cradled it in the net, getting ready to unhook and release it, my boyfriend pointed: "It looks like something's growing out of it." What I thought was seaweed turned out to be algae covering a long, plastic object. As I rubbed it clean, the color beneath started to appear - blue. My boyfriend leaned in: "Baby... I think that's it. Does it have any information on it?" And then I saw it: CCA.

I screamed. As I was pulling my phone for a video, the fish thrashed. In the frenzy, the phone slipped from my hands and dropped straight into the water—total panic. I grabbed the clippers from the lanyard around my neck, clipped the tag, released the fish, and somehow managed to net my phone off the seafloor. The phone was toast, but I had the tag! We headed to the Surfside Marina weigh station, called the number on the tag, and confirmed what I could barely believe: I had caught the third blue-tagged redfish of the tournament. I had just won a boat.

The news spread fast, especially among the men I know who've been fishing for years. They were stunned. Some just shook their heads and laughed, saying, "She thinks this is what fishing is...you go one week and catch a 28" redfish, you go the next and win a boat!" Over the past year, the ocean has given me unforgettable days, an appreciation for every fish I meet, and now - a boat. And I'm just getting started. 🐟



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, \$7500, \$2500. 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 2024 STAR Scholarship award ceremony. https://youtu.be/R543FGz9BBY?si=lf4_cSoTvFSHVAeM

Revisit 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



\$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 Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI Polaris Pursuit Camo, Big Tex Trailer and a STAR Special Edition Trophy

2025

STAR

TOURNAMENT



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!

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For more information visit our website www.startournament.org Call 713-626-4222

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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.

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CCA TEXAS
STAR



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Caught Redhanded!



Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

On June 1st, Texas Game Wardens Elizabeth Guevara & Korina Ramirez were patrolling the Gulf of America for the opening of the federal red snapper season. During the compliance patrol the wardens encountered a vessel returning to port with a blue marlin aboard. Upon further inspection, it was determined that the vessel did not have a currently issued federal Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit from NOAA. The wardens completed their investigation and have referred the case to NOAA Special Agents for further prosecution.

On 8/3/25, Brazoria County Wardens inspected a vessel coming in from offshore. Upon inspection, five individuals were cited for over the daily bag limit of red snapper, no valid fishing license, and no Federal HMS permit. Cases Pending.

On August 2nd and 3rd, Game Wardens in Matagorda and Brazoria counties focused on recreational fishing enforcement at Gulf access points. Citations were issued for No HMS Permit, Overlimit of Red Snapper, Overlimit of Lane Snapper, Overlimit of King Mackerel, Possession of Headed and Tailed Fish, undersized Black Drum, and undersized King Mackerel. Cases Pending.

On 8/4/2025, a Jefferson County Warden inspected two groups. One group was found to be in possession of Undersized Red Drum. The other group was found to be Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit on Red Snapper. Citations issued, cases pending.



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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.



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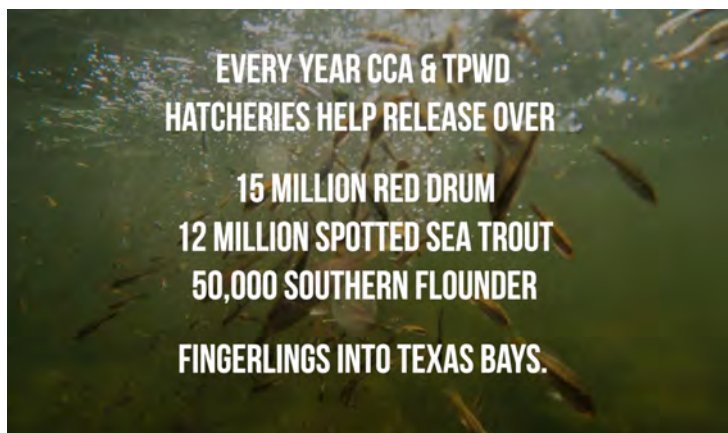
@MarucciSports     

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](#)





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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PHOTO: TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

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

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

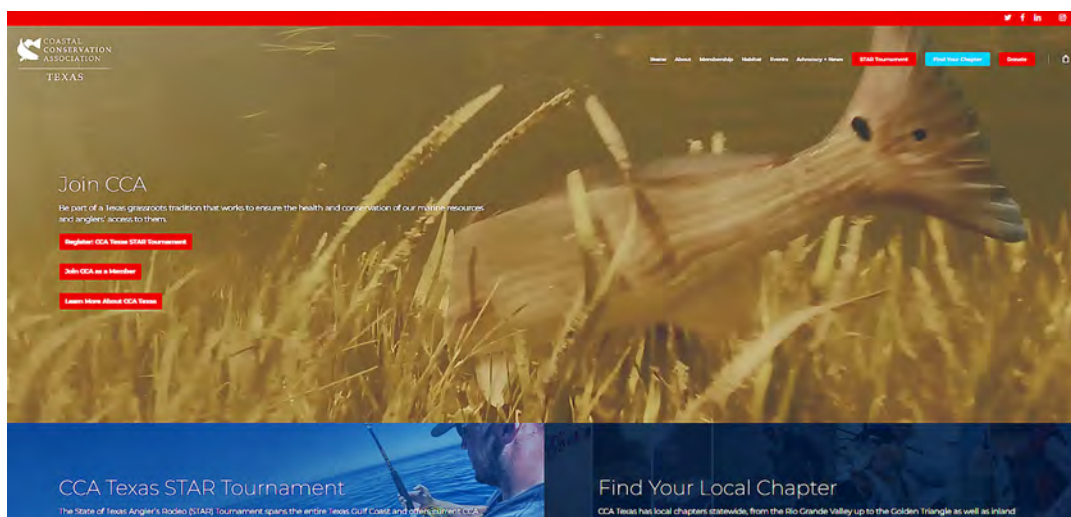
[Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



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!

FACEBOOK



Featured Social Media Highlights

Join over 41,000+ 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!](#)



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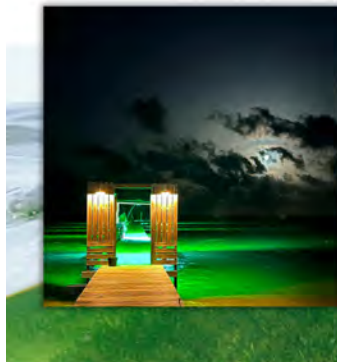
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The moon 
peeking through
the clouds to watch
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CCA Texas on Instagram

We just reached 24K+ 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



🌟 A 2025 CCA Texas STAR Tournament @whataburger WhataTag has been caught! 🍔

Hunter Rutkoski of Ingleside, Texas, recently became the FIRST winner after he caught (and released) a WhataTagged redfish down in Baffin Bay. As a result, he's won Whataburger for a Year and an official gift basket full of Goodies!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



We love these places that make the Texas Coast so special.

📍 Aransas County, Texas

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

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Please take a moment to watch Shane Bonnot of CCA Texas discuss desalination.

#JoinCCA #CCATexas

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CCA Texas on X

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They're out there...

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**TPWD
(@TPWDnews) Staff to
Host Certificate of
Location Workshops**

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**Shout out to CCA Texas
Southwestern Chapter President
Stephen Fuqua (right) and his dad,
Brad, who both recently had a big day
down in Baffin Bay, TX. The chapter
covers Hondo, Castroville, Sabinal,
Uvalde, Concan, Devine, and the
surrounding communities.**

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CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of August/September 2025
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Editor / Sam Caldwell

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Rieck, Erich Schneider, Matt Still, Coleman
Todd, Edmund Weinheimer and Carson Vecera

Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

The 2025 Alvin Pearland Banquet was a great success! It was exciting to see everyone joining in and raising funds for conservation! We would like to thank all who attended the event, from those who bought a single dinner ticket, all the way to our sponsors who purchased multiple tables. The event would not have been a success without everyone's participation! A special note of thanks to this year's Title Sponsors: Waypoint Financial, Dashiell Corp, Besser Roofing & Renovations and Academy Sports + Outdoors. These folks step up year after year and their support is much appreciated by CCA and the Alvin Pearland Chapter. Shout out to all our other donors, table buyers, hard-working board members, and volunteers, we thank you as well!

Our upcoming **Anglers Night Out** events will be held on **Tuesday, September 2** and **Tuesday, October 21**. The speaker starts at **7 p.m.** at **Big Horn BBQ in Pearland**. Come early if you plan to eat. Keep an eye out for more details.

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/>.

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

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Isabel Tiller for hosting a fabulous August Anglers' Night Out, where attendees enjoyed an insightful presentation on juvenile snook and tarpon, and the vital conservation efforts surrounding these iconic species. Isabel Tiller is a master's student in the Marine Biology program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and a Graduate Research Assistant at the Center for Sportfish Science and



*Aransas Bay has great fishers:
Greg and Janelle Weller with a Rooster Fish.*

Conservation in the Fisheries and Ocean Health lab. Her work focuses on juvenile tarpon and snook ecology in Texas Coastal Bend nursery habitats. As summer winds down, we're looking forward to resuming our regular chapter meetings in September to start planning next year's events and our holiday celebration!

To all our incredible volunteers—thank you for your year-round dedication to protecting and preserving our Texas coast. Your passion, time, and support continue to make a lasting



Ashtyn Rheinlander with a Redfish



Candace Kern with a Jack



Matt Kern with a Jack



CCA Austin's 2025 raffle boat winner, Ty Chumley from Nederland, TX is enjoying his new boat. He's already making memories and catching some nice fish this summer. Congratulations again Ty, we appreciate your support!



Candace Kern with a Tarpon

impact on our coastal communities and fisheries.

Together, we celebrate the beauty of our mid Texas Coast, and the shared mission of keeping our waters healthy for generations to come.

Austin

Alex Blackburn 512-565-4939

Atblackburn3@gmail.com

As summer is coming to an end, we want to keep all the flood victims and families in the Hill Country and surrounding areas in our prayers during this difficult time. And we want to thank all the search and rescue teams, first responders and thousands of volunteers who showed up

and helped with cleanup and those that made sure there were meals for them after a physical and emotional day. The response was more than anyone could have asked for. **Our 3rd Annual Hooked-on-Clays will be October 1, 2025 at Capital City Clays off Decker Lane.** For more information, please email Garrett and Melissa at ccaastinhookedonclays@gmail.com or click here HookedonClays25.givesmart.com to register. We continue to raise awareness for CCA and their mission. None of this would be possible without all your help. Look forward to seeing you on October 1st.

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 usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Warren Wildlife Gallery on Bouldin Ave. Since we have taken the summer off, please check back with us to confirm when our next meeting will be.

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

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Kim Lamont 979-482-1456
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Brazos Valley
John Ben Strother 979-220-1738
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Brenham
Ryan Saunders 979-251-2389
ryansaunders1@att.net

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

Get Ready, Brush Country! **Our Annual CCA Brush Country Chapter Banquet and Auction is scheduled for October 30, 2025**, and you won't want to miss it! Join us for mouthwatering bites from Baffin Bay Seafood Company and tons of awesome auction items up for grabs. It will be a night of great company and good vibes. Mark your calendars and spread the word! Got questions? Please email us at brushcountrycca@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook: CCA Texas Brush Country Chapter. Let's make this the best one yet!

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

Central Houston
Brooks Kelm 713-829-1386
brooks@bayoucityangler.com

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

Greetings from the Colorado Valley! Well, our 24th annual banquet was a huge success. Our board members and the banquet assistants really worked hard and did a fantastic job putting on the event. Our board consists of Eugene Ulrich, Danny Olenick, Trish Kubena, Gary Janda, Rusty Kubena, and Dave Fehlker. The list of assistants includes Verlene Ulrich, Greyson Ulrich, George Gold, Betty Urban, John Gold, Kristina Gold, Mike Petras, Norma Petras, Jacob Brandt, Kenneth LeFrance, Matthew LeFrance, Kalynn Hodges, Robert Hodges, Kalli Hodges, and Michael Menefee.

We need to thank John Gold again for using his wonderful and gifted talents putting together our banquet program. Thanks go out to Corbin Primrose and his team for putting their finishing touches on the night's event. Congratulations go out to Attorney Chris M. Dillon



CCA Colorado Valley Chapter Board, and below the 2025 CCA Colorado Valley Chapter ICC Team.



Bottom left: Gary Janda, from the Colorado Valley Chapter, enjoying a great day fishing POC with his grandsons Will and Reed catching big reds and jacks. Bottom right, Everett with nice trout.



for winning the "Early Bird" table purchase as they were rewarded with a ribeye roll donated by Murphy's Steakhouse. Everyone enjoyed a delicious steak and shrimp dinner prepared by the very talented Knight's of Columbus team and thanks also to Brown Distributing for providing the beverages.

We would again like to thank our major sponsors for the evenings event which include Murphy's Steakhouse, Ken Kram State Farm, Breezy Pines RV Seadrift, Lakeview Glass & Mirror, Oviedo Auto Group, WHATABURGER, M-G Farm Service Center, We-Stitch, Alpha-Response Mobile Mechanic and Consuela and Richard Schmidt Jewelry. We want to extend a special thanks to Clearwater

Consulting for purchasing last year's Captain's Table and they enjoyed it so much that they again purchased the table for next year's event. Thanks so much for our Trophy Trout table buyers Ewald Kubota, Indianola Fishing Marina, Maxwell Locke & Ritter, and the Travis Ulrich family. Our Grand Slam table buyers included Brawley Dental, Brown Distributing, Cavender's Auto Country, Chris M. Dillon, Fayette Savings Bank, Hodges Construction, Jason Sperry RE/MAX & Cindy Hayes, Long Ranch & Home Services, Masonry Works TX, Next Level Clearing, Oviedo Auto Group & Top Notch Moldings, Powerscreen Texas, Round Top State Bank, Tri-County Realty, and UFP Site Built.

Thanks also to our Bull Red table buyers Adams Waste, Austin Purdy, Breezy Pines RV, Capital Farm Credit, Dalana Sue's, Fayette Savings Bank, Hutton's Painting, Knappe Farms, Mark Ulrich, McCourt Equipment, Murphy's Steakhouse, Orsak's Cafe, Phillip Adamcik State Farm, Roesler Land Service, Seadrifters, SpawGlass, Texana Cottages, Waste Away Trash Service, and Weimar Manufacturing. Our reserved table buyers included Alpha One Ford, Kleiber Tractor and Equipment & Davis Energy Services, First National Bank Smithville, Spiked Liquor, and Paul Mikula. We were honored with the presence of a few of our fellow chapters which included Brehnam, Lee County, Live Oak, Prairie, and San Bernard.

Thanks again to anyone and all with sponsorships, donations, volunteering, and doing anything which helped make this event such a success. **Please mark down on your calendar March 26, 2026 for next year's event.**

Our chapter again participated in this year's ICC fishing tournament. We all enjoyed Friday night's events along with the drinks, food, networking, sharing fish stories, and especially the OYSTERS!! They were delicious. Also, four of our chapter members were lucky enough to score a few prizes of the many given out that night. Those lucky people were Anissa Menefee, Eugene Ulrich, Matthew LeFrance, and Travis Robertson. The twelve fishermen which worked very hard striving to be the top team included: Danny Olenick, John Gold, Michael Menefee, Stephen LeFrance, Matthew LeFrance, Kenneth LeFrance, George Gold, Rusty Kubena, Tim Gortez, Travis Robertson, Rich Murray, and Tommy LeFrance.

A great day was enjoyed, and we did win—the opportunity to try again next year! Wishing bent rods and tight lines to all!

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

Recently, the CCA Come and Catch It chapter held its first annual Anglers' Night Out. Thank you to guest speaker Shane Bonnot for the review of CCA conservation projects and their involvement in the TPWD stock enhancement program. We cordially invite you to attend our **4th Annual CCA Come and Catch It Banquet on August 7, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Expo at JB Wells 1653 County Road 197 Gonzales, Texas.** Hope to see you there.

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

We have a busy rest of 2025 planned! **The 2025 Babes on Baffin all women's fishing tournament is October 10-11, 2025, at Marker 37 Marina!** We are excited to celebrate the 21th anniversary of the tournament this year! We are expecting another record event, you will not want to miss it! Keep an eye on <http://babesonbaffin.org/> for updated information. There are still some great sponsorship opportunities available! You can scan the QR Code for registration information.

The Poco Rojo Kid Fish will take place on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the CCA/TPWD Marine Development Center. We would once again like to thank Flint Hills Resources for stepping up as title sponsor for this event. More information to come soon!

As always, let us know if you're interested in volunteering! For questions, contact Heather at ccacorporuschristi@gmail.com or call (361) 882-5199.



Scan this QR code to register for the 2025 Babes on Baffin Women's Fishing Tournament hosted by CCA Corpus Christi

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

Our next Anglers' Night Out will be on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at Beretta Gallery in the Highland Park Village



CCA Dallas Board Members Mac, Greg, and Chad after a successful day offshore



Chad with a nice Mahi

beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you buy a table for the annual banquet prior to, or on the night of the event before 7:00 p.m. you will be eligible to win a Beretta APX 9 mm that will be drawn at the end of the event.

Lastly, we have donations and sponsors rolling in for the **Annual Banquet on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at On The Levee**. If you are interested in supporting our chapter in any way, please contact us and we can discuss possibilities. Tables and individual tickets can be purchased at Dallas – CCA Texas webpage: <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/dallas/>.

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

Well, the summer heat is upon us, and I hope everyone has gotten some fishing in. Our boys from the CCA Fort Bend Chapter represented again this year at the Inter Chapter Challenge but fell short on one end or the other landing us 5th place. Good to see all the chapters come together and Great time was had by all.

Thanks to all the parents, grandparents, kinfolks and friends that brought the kids out for our annual Kids fishing tournament in July. It's always great to see these hard fishing boys and girls around Matagorda Harbor for this event. Thanks to all our sponsors, donors and committee members for making this such a special event for the kids every year.

To finish out the summer our Ft. Bend CCA committee members will be helping at the LOTB in Matagorda August 22-23, 2025. Come see us!

Our Ft. Bend committee members have been on the ball this year making plans and coming up with new ideas for this year's banquet so stay tuned for hints to come.

On behalf of the Fort Bend Chapter I would like to give a special Happy Birthday to everyone that reads our issue of the currents.

I'd like to give special thanks to Joe's Oyster Bar & Grill

in Rosenberg for letting us hold our monthly meetings there and to Sportsman's Boat and RV Storage for their Chapter support and also Matagorda Harbor Bait and Tackle. Remember, take a kid fishing! They just may grow up and return the favor.

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

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

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

Greetings to everyone! I hope that you all have had an opportunity to get out and enjoy our coastal resources. Summer has been great here on the upper coast and fishing has been even better. There have been plenty of fish to go around for everyone. Our chapter, along with the Sabine Neches Chapter and the Orange County Chapter would like to invite you all out to **our Fourth Annual Beach Clean Up! It will take place at McFaddin Beach in Sabine Pass on September 20, 2025!** We will provide all necessary equipment for the cleanup and will provide lunch and drinks for all. Also, we will have fishing poles for all kid volunteers. Come out and join us for a fun day on the beach and help us keep our public beaches clean. Cheers!

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

The Board of Directors of the Greater Sugar Land chapter hopes everyone is enjoying the summer and is getting out on the water to wet a hook. With the Days of Summer heat upon us remember to stay hydrated and safe on the water. Congratulations to our Presidents Cup winner Bob



Bob Hrachoy receiving his 2025 CCA Greater Sugar Land President's Cup trophy.

Hrachoy for winning the 2025 President's Cup. The President's Cup is awarded to a Greater Sugar Land Member for bringing in the heaviest stringer and gets to keep the trophy for one year along with bragging rights. Just another reason to get involved with our chapter. The picture is of Bob receiving his trophy down in Sargent while he and his wife Sandra host their grandkids for a week of fishing on Matagorda Bay. Also a huge thank you to Barbara Hilliard for once again opening her Sargent Home to host the weigh in and dinner.

Requests keep coming in from Community Partners to help them host a Kid Fish event. 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 ol' Texas smile you will be glad you volunteered. The next Kid Fish is scheduled for Saturday, October 11 at Riverstone Community off University Blvd. in Sugar Land.

Plans are under way for our next Annual Banquet to take place on **Thursday April 9, 2026 at the Stafford Centre**. It's not too early to be a sponsor for the banquet. We will be serving up outstanding boiled crawfish and fried fish from our friends at Cajun Cookers along with a full bar. The banquet gets bigger and better every year so mark that date on your calendar.

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. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 9 at 6:30 p.m. and takes place at Los Gallitos Restaurant 12030 Murphy Road, Stafford, TX. We would love to have you join us and get involved. Follow us on [Facebook at Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter](#). Until next time, et out on the water and enjoy good times and tight lines.

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

Howdy from the Heart of the Hills! Hope everyone is doing well after our historic flooding. Our hearts and prayers go out to all flood victims. We are thinking about you.

We will have our **2025 CCA Heart of the Hills Annual Banquet on October 2 at Enchanted Springs** just out of Boerne. Keep an eye out on FB for more details. Tight lines!

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

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

With surrounding counties hard hit by the July 4 storms and resulting losses due to flooding, the Highland Lakes Chapter extends our collective sympathy and heartfelt condolences to all those who were deeply impacted by the events of that week. Due to the ongoing recovery efforts in the area, we have decided to postpone the "Hooked on Clays" sporting event, originally scheduled for August 23, and will reschedule it for a future date.

Looking forward to 2026, we invite members and sponsors to mark **April 16 on your calendars for the 3rd Annual Highland Lakes Chapter Banquet to be held at the Lakeside Pavilion in Marble Falls**. If you would like more information about the Highland Lakes Chapter or think you may be interested in joining the Chapter Board, please get in touch with us! Contact Tim Franke at timfrankecca@gmail.com or Matt Mason at mm.tx@yahoo.com. Have fun and tight lines on the water – and take those kids fishing!

Hill Country
Miles Engelke 210-260-8968
mrenengelke1957@gmail.com

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

Please join the CCA Houston Homebuilding Chapter for our **9th Annual Chapter Banquet on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at Saint Arnold's Brewing Co. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.** For tables, tickets and other information please contact Jimmy Reid at (281) 932-3395 or purchase tickets online here: <https://ticketstripe.com/houstonhomebuildingcca2025>

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

Lavaca County
Brandon Welch (361) 407-3760
brandonkwelch@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

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

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

Upcoming CCA Mainland events: August 12 we will host an ANO with Lone Star Oyster Company at Spring Creek BBQ League City. They will bring some oysters and talk about their Oyster Farm in Galveston Bay. Then on September 9 we have an ANO with Capt. Steve Hillman with Hillman's Guide Service at Spring Creek BBQ League City, he will talk about fishing Galveston Bay. Remember to follow Mainland Chapter CCA on [Facebook](#).

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

The Matagorda Bays Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) hosted its sold-out annual banquet on Thursday, June 26, drawing a packed house of conservation-minded anglers, families, and community leaders for a record-breaking night of fundraising and celebration.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement that the chapter has committed \$1 million to the Black Stone Reef Project in Carancahua Bay—a massive step forward in restoring vital marine habitat along the Texas coast. The investment marks one of the largest single-project commitments in the chapter's history, which

will help create a thriving artificial reef to support fish populations and ecosystem resilience in the region. This is HUGE for our Matagorda Bay system... "The Black Stone Reef Project will be a long-lasting legacy for our coastal community and future generations of anglers." In true CCA banquet fashion, the night was filled with high-energy raffles, premium auctions, and big-ticket giveaways.

The grand prize drawing featured a stunning 2025 24ft Transport XLR8 boat with a Mercury 400hp outboard on a Coastline trailer, generously sponsored by **ILS Capitol** and **Arrow Directional Drilling**. The lucky winners? Daniel and Ross Juranek, who took home the ultimate fishing machine. Another major crowd favorite was the Poker Chip raffle for a 2025 Polaris Crew Cab Ranger, which was snagged by Rodney Cooper capping off a night of excitement, generosity, and community pride. Thanks and recognition were extended to all sponsors and the dedicated Matagorda Bays Chapter Board Members who worked tirelessly to make the event a tremendous success. Their efforts have not only raised funds but have helped grow awareness for the critical need for conservation and habitat restoration on the Texas coast.

Looking ahead, the chapter's momentum continues with the much-anticipated **Matagorda Bays Guides Cup Fishing Tournament**, scheduled for **September 23, 2025**. Known as one of the most sought-after competitions on the Gulf Coast, the event promises another memorable day on the water in support of a vital cause.

For more information or to get involved, visit [CCATexas.org](#) or follow the Matagorda Bays Chapter on social media.

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

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

North Texas CCA is excited to announce that we will be back at **3R's Ranch in Prosper on Thursday, April 23, 2026 for our 4th Annual Banquet**. The committee is moving full steam ahead to bring you our biggest banquet yet. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available now, and table sales will begin this fall.

Congratulations and big thanks to the CCA NTX committee for placing 7th in CCA's annual Inter-Chapter Challenge, pitting all CCA committees against one another. Facing stiff competition from the coastal committees, NTX held their own. Hat tip to hosting committee and this year's winner, CCA Aransas Bay.

High-five also to CCA NTX supporters Lyne Donovan, Rebecca Bailey and Kelli Vaughan on their 99" four redfish stringer in Babes on the Bay last May. Babes on the Bay, held every May in Rockport-Fulton, is the largest all-women fishing tournament in world, and we encourage all women anglers to get a team together!

You can follow CCA North Texas on Instagram at [@cca_ntx](#). For more information



Left to right: Ross Juranek, Daniel Juranek and CCA Matagorda Bays Chapter President Jason Beery



CCA NTX supporters Lyne Donovan, Rebecca Bailey and Kelli Vaughan in Babes on the Bay this past May. Photo by CCA North Texas Chapter President Brian Donovan.

on our banquet, or to volunteer with the committee, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at Brian@firstlightprint.com or CCA Texas representative Garrett Boehnemann at gboehnemann@ccatexas.org.



CCA North Texas member John Hansen with a speckled trout

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

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, come on out and join

us **on Friday, August 15, 2025 at 6:00 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.

Texas Slam Table (new for us) - \$2,500 Upgraded reserve seating for 8, upgraded gifts, program mention \$1,250 – Bull Red Table, \$900 – Trout Table, \$650 – Flounder Table, \$60 - Individual tickets. We look forward to seeing you all there. Eric Ellison, Port Lavaca CCA (832) 435-2579. Carson Vecera, CCA Assistant Director (713) 626-4222 (for banquet tickets).

Port O'Connor
Norman Trubee 512-583-2912
ntrubee@gmail.com

The Port O'Connor chapter has had a vibrant year, keeping habitat and conservation at the forefront of our efforts. The chapter would like to extend condolences to the family of Bill Moore, our former long-time president, on his recent passing. We extend heartfelt thanks to Jerry and Brent for hosting our Anglers' Nights Out (ANO) at the iconic Hurricane Junction in Port O'Connor. Their outstanding hospitality, delicious food, and refreshing drinks make every event memorable. We encourage everyone to dine with them when visiting POC.

Our 2025 ANO programs included: January ANO focused on oyster mariculture, with Calhoun County Texas AgriLife Extension Agent Captain RJ Shelly discussing the development of oyster farms in Calhoun County. Brigid Berger updated attendees on the Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Rescue's vital work protecting local bays during recent freezes.

Tom Lempa of Pensacola Oysters shared insights on his Florida oyster farms and plans for a mid-coast operation, delighting attendees by shucking a sack of tasty bivalves. At our February ANO we honored the late Ronnie Luster, "The Crab Man," for his pioneering role in the annual abandoned crab trap cleanup over 20 years ago. Special guests Lynn and Ronald Luster joined us, while Allan and Brigid Berger from the San Antonio Bay Partnership shared details about the upcoming cleanup. At the March ANO we featured Sam Caldwell and Fred Carr, who reminisced about the early days of CCA and the founding of the Port O'Connor chapter in 2000. Fred shared original banquet programs and vintage GCCA bumper stickers as door prizes. And at our May ANO we included a presentation by CCA Texas STAR Assistant Director Ryan Towns on the Star Tournament, engaging members with updates and excitement for the event.

In April, we celebrated our 25th anniversary fundraising banquet, catered by Malcolm Hein and Sharkies with a delicious steak dinner. The sold-out event equaled our previous gross and net fundraising records. The dedication of our banquet committee and the support of our community made this happen.

We express our deepest gratitude to our major sponsors for making this year's success possible: The Claire and

David deRoode Family, Southerly Fishing, The Olive Street Country Club, Coastline Trailers, Mowdy Boats, Indianola Fishing Marina, Fix Vodka, Texas Liquor, Vaca Jerky, Waterloo Rods, TideRunner Retreat, Pelicano Hot Sauce, and Jeco's Marine and Tackle.

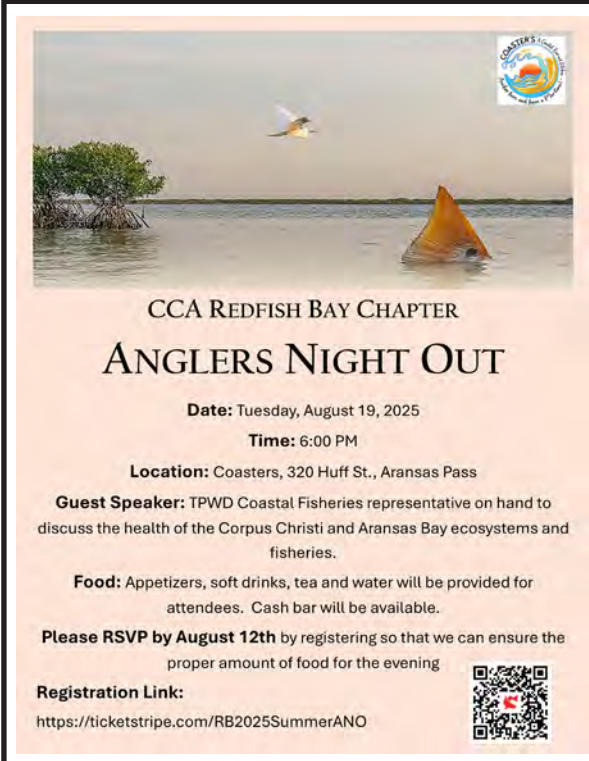
The Port O'Connor chapter remains committed to conservation and community, and we look forward to another impactful year. Mark your calendar for **April 11, 2026 for next year's banquet**. And BOLO for our coming fall ANO's.

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

Redfish Bay
Rod Hall 713-202-9373
rodhall1253@gmail.com

John Blaha, Assistant Director for CCA Texas and Rod Hall, Redfish Bay Chapter President traveled to Beeville on July 14, to meet with fellow board members Curtis Bednorz, John Hunter and Larry McClintock. Board members discussed the upcoming **Beeville Fish Fry to be held at the Bee County Exposition Center from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025**. As always there will be raffled items, a silent auction, and a live auction, as well as delicious fried fish! Please arrive early to get your winning tickets for the raffled items!

Please mark your calendar for **Anglers' Night Out on August 19, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Coasters Bar & Grill, 320 Huff St., Aransas Pass**. Our guest speaker will be with Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Fisheries to discuss the health of the Corpus Christi Bay and Aransas



CCA REDFISH BAY CHAPTER

ANGLERS NIGHT OUT


Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Coasters, 320 Huff St., Aransas Pass

Guest Speaker: TPWD Coastal Fisheries representative on hand to discuss the health of the Corpus Christi and Aransas Bay ecosystems and fisheries.

Food: Appetizers, soft drinks, tea and water will be provided for attendees. Cash bar will be available.

Please RSVP by August 12th by registering so that we can ensure the proper amount of food for the evening

Registration Link:
<https://ticketstripe.com/RB2025SummerANO>




Rio Grande Valley
Javier Suarez 956-330-9788
javier@eastcapeboats.com

We hope that you have enjoyed a relaxing summer with quality family time and fishing. **The CCA RGV board has scheduled the banquet for February 6, 2026, so please ensure that you save the date.** We have also secured the 2026 Chapter Banquet Raffle item, which debuted at the Texas Hunters and Sportsman Expo.

The grand prize winner of the 2026 CCA RGV Chapter Banquet Raffle will be taking home a Can-Am Defender Max Lone Star edition, sitting on top of a 16-foot Fort Bragg Utility Trailer with tandem axles with a ramp. The runner-up prizes include a Build Your Own Deep Root Custom Rifle for second place, a CCA Lifetime Membership with the 2026 Gun of the Year for third place, a Trout Table for the 2027 Banquet for fourth place, and a Turtlebox for fifth place. Tickets are available for purchase at \$50 each, with special offers for multiple-ticket purchases: three tickets for \$100 or twenty tickets for \$500. To secure your tickets, contact a CCA RGV Board Member.

At this time, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to our Multi-Year Exclusive Title Advertiser, **L&F Distributors**, for their ongoing and unwavering support. Additionally, we would like to thank F&T Valley Motor Sports in Pharr and Mid Valley Trailers Sales in La Feria for their commitment and partnership with us this year by providing us the Can-Am Defender Max Lone Star edition and the Fort Bragg Utility Trailer. Stay tuned as we are working on a sponsor, table buyers and banquet attendees appreciation night event sometime in October or November.



REDFISHBAY CHAPTER
2025 ANNUAL BEEVILLE FISH FRY

Academy
 SPORTS+OUTDOORS

us for a fried fish dinner, drinks, raffles, fishing/hunting gear, art and trips all over the

This is a great opportunity to support an awesome cause and enjoy a great night out


THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
 Bee County Exposition Center
 214 FM 351, Beeville, TX 78102

\$40 INDIVIDUAL TICKET - \$400 RESERVED TABLE FOR (8)

Please purchase your tickets online at
<https://ticketstripe.com/2025BeevilleFF> to help us in our planning

Tickets also available by:
 Contacting John Blaha/CCA Office (979) 709-1085,
 John Hunter/Beeville (361) 319-1962, OR Curtis Bednorz/George We
 (361) 362-4403

FOR MORE INFORMATION: John Blaha (979) 709-1085 / jdblaha@catexas.org



Bay ecosystems and fisheries. Appetizers and soft drinks will be provided and there will be a cash bar. You will receive an email with reservation information soon. Please RSVP by August 12, 2025.

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

Join us at our **Annual Fundraising Banquet, September 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Walker County Fair Grounds in Huntsville, Texas.** Follow us on [Facebook](#) for information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

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

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

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

The San Gabriel Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) continues to champion the conservation of Texas' marine resources while fostering a tight-knit community of anglers dedicated to preserving our coastal heritage. With a passion for protecting our fisheries and promoting sustainable practices, our chapter has been hard at work organizing events and competitions that bring our members together for a shared cause. We're excited to share updates on two major highlights: our upcoming 23rd Annual Banquet and a recent victory at the CCA Texas Inter Chapter Challenge Fishing Tournament.

23rd Annual Banquet: A Celebration of Conservation:
Join us on Thursday, August 7, 2025, for the San Gabriel Chapter's 23rd Annual Banquet at The Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center.

This signature event promises an evening of camaraderie, celebration, and commitment to conservation. Expect a night filled with exciting auction items, raffles, games, and opportunities to connect with fellow conservationists. You will also have the opportunity to win a 2025 CanAm Defender HD10!

The Banquet Planning Committee has been hard at work to ensure an unforgettable experience, and we extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, especially our Title Sponsor, Don Hewlett Chevrolet, for their generous support. Their contributions help fund our chapter's efforts to protect Texas' coastal ecosystems. Mark your calendars and bring your passion for conservation to this milestone event!

Hooked on Success at the Inter Chapter Challenge:



Left: Joel Dawson from the CCA San Gabriel Chapter and right: Taylor Rieck, CCA TX Assistant Director at 2025 ICC

The San Gabriel Chapter made waves at the recent CCA Texas Inter Chapter Challenge Fishing Tournament, where our board members showcased their angling prowess and team spirit. Competing alongside other CCA chapters, our team reeled in the prestigious "Longest Hardhead" award, celebrating our determination and skill on the water. This fun and competitive event strengthened bonds within our chapter and underscored the shared commitment across CCA Texas to protect our coastal resources. Congratulations to all participants for making it a memorable day on the coast!

Looking Forward: As we gear up for the 2025 banquet, the San Gabriel Chapter remains dedicated to advancing CCA's mission through advocacy, education, and community engagement. From supporting habitat restoration to promoting sustainable fishing practices, our members are making a difference. We invite you to join us at our next chapter meeting to get involved, share ideas, and help ensure the future of Texas' fisheries.

For more details about the banquet or to learn how you can support our efforts, contact the San Gabriel Chapter President, David Singleton.

Southwestern
Stephen Fuqua 713-397-9283
Sfuqua.sf@gmail.com

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

Texas State University
Tate Elder 832-294-1254
tateelder@icloud.com

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

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

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

It's that time of year folks, it's go time. **The Trinity Bay Banquet is on Friday, August 15, 2025, at Armenta's Reception Hall** located at 825 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX.

We have a bunch of tables sold but have plenty of room for you also. It's looking like a great lineup for the live auction this year. Don't hesitate now, pick up the phone or click the link below and let's get you set up. Grab seven

friends and get ready to party with us. Get your tables reserved at <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/trinity-bay/>.

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

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

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



Port Mansfield Cut & Beach Cleanup

Founded in 2009 by Miller and Kathie Bassler, the Port Mansfield Cut and Beach Clean Up event was held in Port Mansfield on June 14, 2025. With over 350 volunteers supported by an armada of 65+ boats of all sizes and Captained by experienced fishermen and professional guides, all volunteers were out of the Harbor by 8:15 am headed to the Cut and Beach.

Christi Romero, with The Sportsman's Boats out of Harlingen, once again rounded up over 20 Captains and boats. Her numbers continue to amaze all of us as she has a real knack for getting these volunteers to commit and most all are repeat volunteers, all from the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

The Willacy County Navigational District provided the dumpster and a large majority of the trash was delivered back to E dock and unloaded in the dumpster with help from the district's Superintendent Frank Vasquez, his backhoe and crew, to help unload the boats.

Our 4WD Beach Crew led by Brian McKinsey, arrived at the jetties at 9 am, having made the long haul down PINS in the darkness of the early morning. Big trucks

and trailers and coolers of water and tents were set up by Brian's crew and waiting for all the volunteers once they hit the beach. Brian's crew of 5 trucks and all his valuable volunteers assisted workers up and down the beach, before calling it a day at 1:30 PM, and they then left with more trash and debris and headed to Malaquite/PINS headquarters near Corpus Christi to drop off final loads of trash.

Our trash tonnage was less this year and we can attribute that to a number of things. Most importantly, we think the educational benefits of teaching our children and their parents in some cases, how detrimental plastic is to our fishery, is a key to reduced plastic for this year's events and we hope this trend continues.

Contact kathieb@basslerenergyservices.com or miller@basslerenergyservices.com for details about our upcoming events. — **Miller Bassler**



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!

*August, 2018:
Starkid Anthony
Skrobarczyk
hoists the
winning
flounder. Photo
by a proud
father.*



Let's Go Recent!

The Photo Editor loved this great CPR from Aransas Bay's Candace Kerr. A catch from Alaska; Highland Lakes president Tim Franke said the silvers were just turning on in the rivers, but pretty good action available on halibut.

From 2017: Here's a Great Kidfish, Action, Scenic, Humor and CPR photo, all wrapped in one great image. Kenneth Ryman sent this sunset shot of twins Hunter and Nicole. Look closely, Kenneth writes, and you can just find the spot on the Red's tail.



Upper Coast

Capt. Ralph Frazier

Go deep, where it's cooler

It's hot, but fishing will be hot as well, with most of the fish being in deeper water. Watch for slicks, but there won't be many birds this time of year because most of the fish are from 7 to 15 feet deep—except when they're spawning. They'll be laying eggs in depressions and in the guts.

As a professional guide, I carry live bait for customers, but I'll point out that the quality of the catch goes up when using artificial lures. Shrimp tails and top waters are two of my favorites. Remember to tie on your favorite topwater—there's a special rush when a big trout smashes your topwater. Wade fisherman this time of year are catching a lot of trout with live bait in less than two feet of water. Mullet and other baitfish are always a good idea to key on. Just takes a lot of hard work.

The great thing about September is October coming up! That's when fishing really blows wide open. As always, look after your crew, mind the limits, help anyone who might need it. Remember the limits and take a kid fishing—in a safety vest. Tight lines. —**Capt. Ralph Frazier** 281-337-0321 / fraziersguideservice.com

Cap'n Ralph has been enjoying life as a Galveston Bay guide for 53 years. Ralph had the pleasure of putting a client on a tagged redfish. See STAR page 13.

Middle Coast

Capt. Tommy Countz

Surf flat and green? Get there!

Head out early, come in early, and drink lots of water and Gatorade! We have a number of options for fishing in Matagorda in August. First of all, if the surf is flat and green, get there! August is the time of the year when the winds are normally light. I like to start off in the surf throwing topwaters. Key on bait activity. Often you can find bait up close to the beach with trout feeding on them. If topwaters aren't working, switch to plastics rigged on a 1/4 ounce leadhead. I like electric blue or Black Magic Norton Sandshad.

August is also a good time to wade fish the south shore of West Matagorda Bay. I like guts running through grass beds or sandbars. When doing this, I'll go to 1/16 or 1/8 oz lead heads with dark Norton Sandshad or Sandeel JR's.

September is another story. It's the best time of the year to find pods of redfish schooling along the grassy shorelines feeding on shrimp that are hiding in the grass.

August and September in Matagorda afford an angler a number of great opportunities for some quality fishing. Take care of your crew—it's your first job. —**Capt. Tommy Countz** 281-450-4037 countz@sbcglobal.net

Lower Coast

Capt. Bryan Robinson

Topwater slow through potholes

It's been hot—temps and fishing, that is. Get on the water, wipe the sweat from your face and sunscreen up. It's a great time of the year to be catching some fish. Summertime low tides have condensed the fish in certain areas. Reds and trout have been up on shallow flats early in the day and heading for deeper water once the temperatures start to rise.

We have had luck on 3/4" plastic lures in clear bodies with chartreuse tails. Topwater lures have been working well in deeper water once the fish move off the flats.

Poling the flats early in the morning has been productive. Look for groups of tailing reds with trout around them up close to the shorelines. These fish are hungry so any light lure or fly will work well. Work a top water slow through potholes in about three feet of water. Use a drift sock if you're fishing from a boat so you don't move over them too fast. Fly fishermen seem to have an advantage on good-weather days. Work the flat slow by poling a skiff or wading. A good soft presentation with a crab fly should get a bite! Remember to keep a close eye on the weather and pack accordingly. Until next time—**Capt. Bryan Robinson** 956-241-5520 bryandrobinson@yahoo.com
Captain Bryan is a longtime CCA member, a past President of the RGV chapter, and has served on the CCA State Board of Directors. He loves guiding fly fishers.



Get a load of that hat. Angler Adam Gilvarry is a frequent donor of Great Photos to Currents, as well as a dedicated CPR advocate. Adam is always looking for the unique photo angle, but this photo credit goes to Jeremy Chavez with Casting Tales Fishing Charters.

Bayou Creamy Shrimp and Cheese Tortellini

Ingredients:

1 lb. cheese tortellini / 1 lb. large Shrimp, peeled and deveined / 2 Tbsp olive oil / 2 Tbsp butter
4 cloves garlic, minced / 1/2 Cup chopped yellow onion / 1 rib celery, chopped
1 10 oz pkg frozen chopped spinach, thawed and thoroughly drained / 1 Tsp salt / 1/4 Tsp pepper
1 Tsp Italian seasoning / 1/2 Tsp red pepper flakes / 1 1/2 Cups chicken broth / 1 Cup heavy cream
1/2 Cup grated parmesan cheese / 1/4 Cup chopped fresh basil / Juice of 1/2 lemon

In a large dutch oven, heat olive oil and butter over medium heat. Add onion and celery and cook for 3 minutes till onions are transparent. Add spinach and garlic and cook for another 3 minutes. Add seasonings: salt, pepper, Italian seasoning and red pepper flakes, stir until well combined. Add shrimp to the pot and cook for 3 minutes per side until pink. Remove the shrimp and set aside. Pour in the chicken broth and bring to a simmer. Add the tortellini and cook per the package instructions. Stir in the cream, parmesan cheese, lemon juice, stirring well. Add the cooked shrimp and basil. Simmer on low for 5 more minutes.



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt

— REEL IN — BUSCH LIGHT



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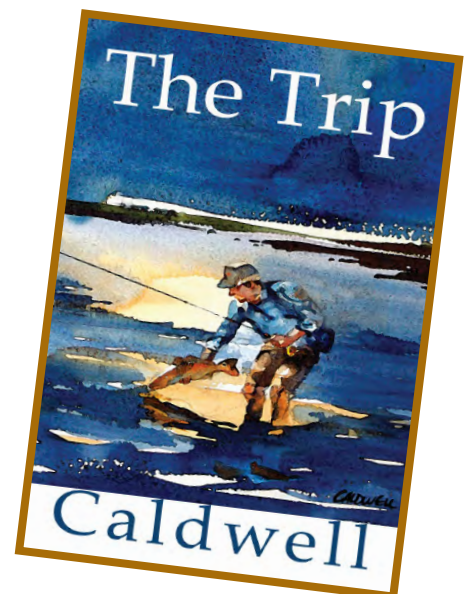
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*A Retro tale from
Not That Serious Collected
by Ben Kocian and Sam Caldwell*

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Thomae**



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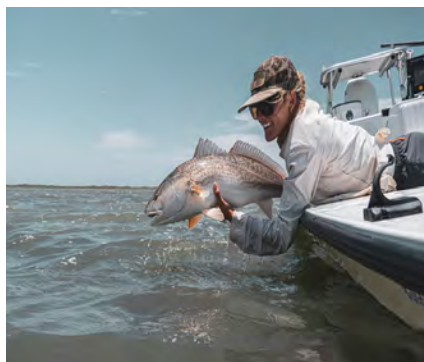
Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
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August / September 2025



Bob Hrachoy receiving his 2025 CCA Greater Sugar Land President's Cup trophy.



Aransas Bay lady anglers had a great summer on the bay. Ashtyn Rheinlander releases a beautiful redfish. Candace Kern with a soon-to-be free jack crevalle.



BEST IN TEXAS

U.S. Coast Guard

Air & Sea Rescue

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

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

Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov

To focus on fishing and boating, visit

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



Current size, bag and possession limits are now available through the Texas Parks & Wildlife website: TPWD has a number to report game violations. **1-800-792-4263.**

A partner with CCA in aiding Texas game and Game Wardens is Operation Game Thief. Drop by and put this website on your favorites list: www.ogttx.com



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

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Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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☐ MASTERCARD
☐ VISA
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☐ 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