

CURRENTS

December 2025 / January 2026



*Winter Action
Continues*

*Lower Coast writer Mike McBride connects with a potential Winter trophy. See McBride's ForeCast on page 53.
Photo courtesy of Willis Coleman, who said the lure was a Skitterwalk.*

Year-End Review: A Sustainable Future for Texas Coastal Resources

By CCA Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

In 2025, CCA Texas made significant strides in coastal conservation to ensure the health and sustainability of our coastal resources, [with much attention focused on our vital oyster fishery](#). This year was marked by strategic initiatives, legislative victories, and substantial financial commitments that collectively promise a healthier future for the state's coastal ecosystems, benefiting recreational anglers, the environment, and local communities.

Oyster Conservation and the Certificate of Location Program

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission implemented pivotal amendments to the Statewide Oyster Fishery Proclamation that enhanced the [Certificate of Location \(CoL\) program](#). This program leases areas in Texas coastal waters for private and restoration purposes, aiming to replenish oyster stocks and improve bay health. Originally limited to commercial oyster interests in Galveston Bay with 2,318 acres under lease, the program now allows non-profits and NGOs to lease up to 100 acres per restoration site. These locations will be closed to commercial oyster harvest, fostering sustainable practices in most bay systems.

These CoLs serve dual purposes: facilitating oyster restoration and granting exclusive commercial harvesting rights to commercial CoL holders, thereby reducing pressure on public reefs. This strategic approach is bolstered by a robust oyster license buyback program, effectively balancing ecological restoration with economic interests, reducing public reef dependency, and setting a new standard in oyster management.

Million-Dollar Investments Spur Conservation Initiatives

CCA Texas played a major role in the historic oyster license buyback campaign, [contributing \\$1 million](#), ensuring sustainability by reducing oyster boat licenses by 20%. This effort supports long-term viability of the oyster fishery while safeguarding public reefs crucial for marine life and habitat stability.

Furthering its commitment, and detailed in Director of Habitat John Blaha's article in this same issue of CURRENTS, CCA Texas approved over \$6.9 million for diverse conservation initiatives, including habitat

restoration and educational outreach programs. In addition to the license buyback efforts, key projects include Baffin Bay research and serpulid reef restoration, oyster reef restoration, tarpon and sportfish tagging research, coastal fisheries and game warden summer internships, conservation education, and additional efforts to support coastal fishery resources.

Legislative Wins for Coastal Stewardship and Mariculture

The 89th Texas Legislature concluded with significant progress in coastal conservation and oyster mariculture. Notable legislation included House Bill 609 and Senate Bill 1215, which simplified operations for oyster farmers and preserved wild oyster stocks, respectively. These bills represent a balanced move towards efficient yet ecologically sensitive practices, underscoring Texas's commitment to environmental stewardship and local economic development.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 1930 directed fishing stamp revenues towards specific conservation projects, securing financial resources for habitat restoration and shoreline access, essential for maintaining Texas's rich biodiversity.

Addressing Desalination Concerns

CCA Texas remains vigilant regarding desalination impacts. As demand for freshwater increases, ensuring practices that protect coastal ecosystems is a critical component of all desalination conversations.

[CCA Texas is opposed to releasing desalination discharge into our bay systems and recommends deep-well injection or offshore discharge when necessary](#). This stance reflects a commitment to safeguarding fish habitats while accommodating water needs.

Collaborative Efforts for Future Resilience

2025 was a pivotal year for Texas's coastal conservation efforts, characterized by strategic legislative actions, targeted financial investments, and an overarching commitment to sustainable practices. The concerted efforts by CCA Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas legislative offices, and our conservation partners underscore a shared vision for Texas's coastal longevity. Looking ahead, the sustained cooperation among these stakeholders will be crucial for ongoing success. There's a collective focus on funding for oyster reef restoration, under the CoL program, and for additional oyster license buyback opportunities.

Thank you to all CCA Texas members for their dedication and commitment to conservation. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

CCA Texas played a major role in the historic oyster license buyback campaign, contributing \$1 million, ensuring sustainability by reducing oyster boat licenses by 20%.



RECAP: CCA Texas 2025 Habitat and Projects

By John Blaha, CCA Texas Director of Habitat

Coastal Conservation Texas (CCA Texas) Annual State Board meeting in February started 2025 off with a monumental commitment to Texas's coastal resources. There, the board approved an amazing \$4,458,928 in funding for conservation efforts along the Texas coast. This funding supports a range of initiatives, including oyster license buyback, fish tagging research, habitat restoration, and coastal educational outreach programs. In summary, the funding included:

- **\$1,000,000** – Funding allocated to support oyster license buyback efforts facilitated by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Round nine of the buyback efforts resulted in 112 of the 115 interested offers signing 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. The contributions of CCA Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and private individuals made this effort possible.
- **\$588,000** - Funding to support tarpon tagging efforts led by the Gulf Research Institute for Highly Migratory Species (GRIHMS) at Texas A&M University – Galveston. This funding will enable a five-year expansion of GRIHMS' ongoing research into the life history and migration ecology of tarpon.
- **\$101,152** – Funding to further support the citizen tagging partnership between CCA Texas and the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Harte Research Institute.
- **\$50,000** – Funding to the Harte Research Institute to help quantify illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.
- **\$125,000** – Funding for an oyster education program at the Texas Surf Conservancy.
- **\$24,776** – Funding for three educational seagrass billboards along busy coastal highways.

Although the East Matagorda Bay site is in open harvest waters, both sites are protected by statute and will be designated as conservation reefs.

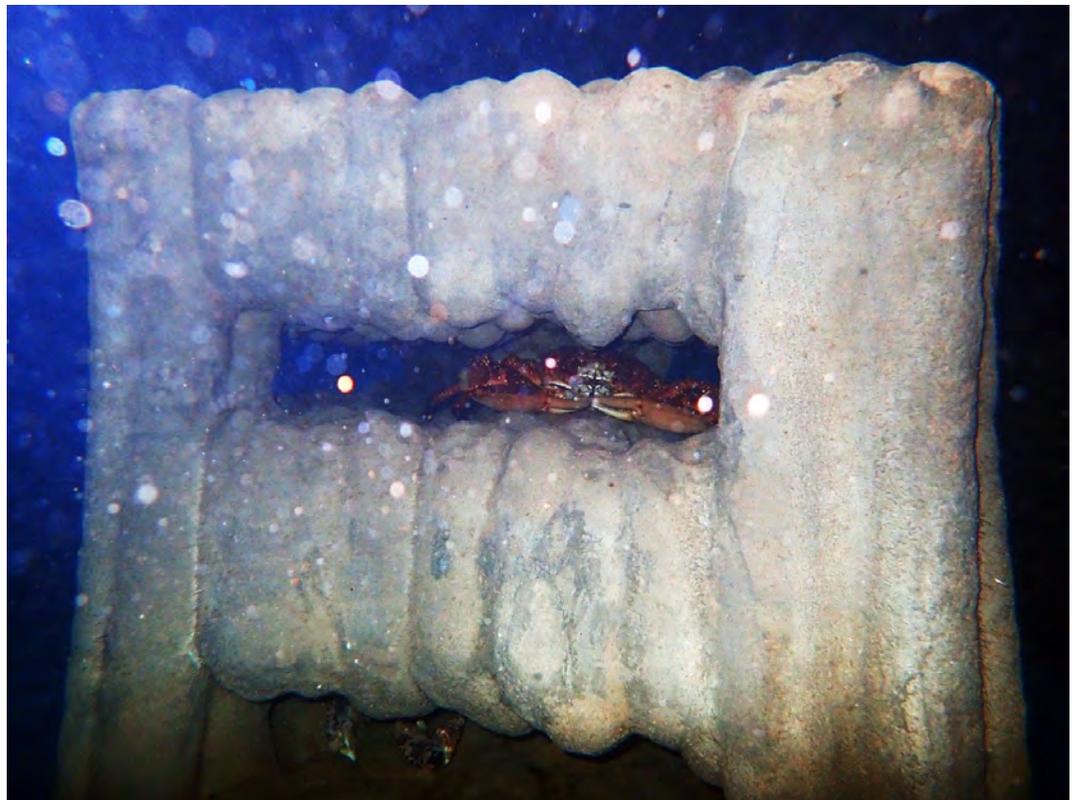
- **\$20,000** – Funding to sponsor four sporting clay fundraising events in partnership with Operation Game Thief, Texas's Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program.
- **\$1,000,000** – Funding for oyster restoration project with Matagorda Bay Foundation in Carancahua Bay. **Funded from the CCA Texas Oyster Restoration \$5,000,000 commitment made in August 2023.
- **\$1,000,000** – Funding for oyster restoration project at Ayres Reef in Ayres Bay led by Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP). This \$1,000,000 contribution includes \$177,978 in funding from local community foundations. **Funded from the CCA Texas Oyster Restoration \$5,000,000 commitment made in August 2023.
- **\$150,000** – Funding for the Nueces Bay Delta Marsh restoration effort led by CBBEP.

- **\$200,000** – Funding for the Gordy Marsh restoration effort in Trinity Bay, led by the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF).

- **\$200,000** – Funding for the Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection Phase IV effort

led by GBF. The contribution of \$200,000 to the Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection effort now brings CCA Texas's support for this multi-phase project to \$630,000.

The funds allocated at the 2025 Annual State Board meeting in February were the most ever funded in a single meeting. Overall, all but \$152,000 was raised at local chapter banquets clearly displaying huge grassroots



Manufactured Crabitat structures will be used to build serpulid reef sites in Baffin Bay. This restoration innovation for the serpulid reefs in Baffin Bay will create a sustainable future for these historic reefs.

success in 2025!

During the August 2025 Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board continued to fund important projects and support. At the August meeting, just over \$1.2 million for habitat, research and Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Game Warden support was funded. This funding included:

- **\$525,000** – Funding for Serpulid reef restoration and research efforts in Baffin Bay with Harte Research Institute’s (HRI) Coastal Conservation and Restoration Lab. This funding will be over a three-year period and includes initial surveys, design, permitting, construction and post monitoring.
- **\$625,000** – Funding for continued support of Harte Research Institute’s (HRI) Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation (CSSC). This funding will be distributed at \$125,000 for five years for the efforts that provide critical and important science that can be applied to immediate management needs for species that are being studied.
- **\$66,660** – Funding for Region IV Texas Game Wardens. This funding will be for new power and engine conversions for five enforcement vessels in Region IV area of the Texas coast.

Closing the year out, the CCA Texas Management Committee met in late October and approved funding from the CCA Texas Oyster Restoration Funds for two more oyster restoration efforts. These are both Certificate of Location (CoL) projects that will create conservation reefs. Each project has approved funding of \$500,000 each. The first is a 10-acre site in Mesquite Bay near Ranch House Reef and will be permitted by The Gulf Trust. The second CoL is a 15-acre site in East Matagorda Bay, west of the Oyster Farms, and will be permitted by the Matagorda Bay Foundation. Although the East Matagorda Bay site is in open harvest waters, both sites are protected by statute and will be designated as conservation reefs. Both projects are in the early planning stages, and will have to go through the CoL permitting process and conditionally approved by TPWD and eventually permitted by USACE and leased by the Texas General Land Office.

2025 has been a tremendously successful year and this success does not happen without committed grassroots support from our local chapters and partners that included Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Bend



Cultch deployment on Certificate of Location (CoL). CCA Texas has advocated for the expansion of the CoL program up and down the Texas Coast. Ultimately, the goal is to significantly reduce the pressure on public reefs through the expansion of personal leases for commercial industry harvest. As part of the new regulations surrounding CoLs, these sites can also now be built as conservation sites, which will be protected from harvest via legislative action.

Bays and Estuaries Program, Galveston Bay Foundation, Matagorda Bay Foundations and other conservation-minded organizations.

Including other projects, in all, CCA Texas funded over \$6.9 million in habitat, research and conservation efforts in 2025. CCA Texas is grateful to bring 2025 to a close and use its success and momentum to continue pushing conservation efforts forward into the future.

Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA Texas) is a non-profit marine conservation organization comprised of tens of thousands of recreational anglers and coastal outdoor enthusiasts. Founded in 1977, CCA started in the great state of Texas and has grown to include state chapters along the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Seaboard and Pacific Coast. The stated purpose of CCA is to advise and educate the public on the conservation of marine resources. The objective of CCA is to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of these coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public.



A Twenty-Three Year Tradition Continues

The comprehensive and systematic approach to removing traps has been expanded to include San Antonio, Aransas, Lavaca and Matagorda Bays. Search areas are defined out of Port O'Connor, Charlies, Seadrift, Austwell, Rockport, Port Lavaca & Palacios, with removal activities continuing throughout the closure period. Funding for this year's effort will come from a NOAA Marine Debris Removal grant. Volunteers are asked to collect data on each trap removed and mark its location using a cell phone-based app. This data will help to determine the root causes of trap dereliction. Send the email address of the data coordinator in your crew so we can create a username and password for accessing the data program. And, the mobile phone of the Captain for last minute changes and on-the-water emergencies. Contact Allan Berger to sign up for your area. Details are available on sabaypartnership.org. Looking forward to the event—it will be fun again! Call or email questions.—Allan Berger allanberger@outlook.com 713-829-2852

Save the date: the closure period is February 20 - March 1, 2026, with the main event scheduled for Saturday, February 21. In case of bad weather, Feb. 28 is the fallback day.

Although traps can be removed at any time during the 10-day closure, several partner organizations will be holding volunteer events on the first Saturday of the closure (February 21) with the second Saturday acting as a back-up day if a cancellation occurs due to weather. A list of trap drop off locations will be published in a news release on February 1st. News releases can be found here: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/>

To date, we've removed over 40,000 traps coastwide with the help of about 4,000 volunteers. This equates to 657,820 crabs saved since the beginning of the program. —Holly Grand / Coastal Outreach Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 361-825-3993



Just one boat's take, Port O'Connor, 2019.

Abandoned Crab Trap Drop Off Sites 2026

As of December 1, the list of drop off sites have not been completed. A complete list will be available in February. The link to the Abandoned Crab Trap program is

https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/conservation/Crab_trap/Crab_trap.phtml



Dropoff site in Port O'Connor, 2019. Photo by Lannie Green.



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 Serpuid Study
34. Port Mansfield Nearshore Reef
35. Rio Grande Valley Reef
36. Bahia Grande Restoration



●	Completed
●	Upcoming
●	Ongoing

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	\$1,000,000
OYSTER LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAM	\$1,000,000
OYSTER REEF CREATION - ST. CHARLES BAY (ROCKPORT)	\$711,250
EAST MATAGORDA COL (EIDELBACH FLATS REEF)	\$500,000
MESQUITE BAY COL (RANCH HOUSE REEF)	\$500,000
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)	\$1,931,774

**TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT AND
COMMITTED TO OYSTER
RESTORATION AND CREATION**

\$8,941,228

HABITAT TODAY FOR FISH TOMORROW

\$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)
\$1,000,000 | OYSTER LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAM
\$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 | EAST MATAGORDA COL (EIDELBACH FLATS REEF)
\$500,000 | MESQUITE BAY COL (RANCH HOUSE REEF)
\$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:
\$16,096,758

2025 PROJECTS CONTRIBUTED TO AS OF 11/20/2025

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**

Catches from illegal fishing of red snapper in Gulf of Mexico is estimated to be **greater than the entire recreational allocation.**
WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Panga style fishing boats, large totes and 3-4 man crew.

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING!

STEALING YOUR FISH. SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:
 Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife > **800.792.4263**
 Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard > **361.939.0450**



YETI BUILT FOR THE WILD.

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.



GET YOUR CCA TEXAS HATS TODAY!



NEW!

**JUST RELEASED HATS AVAILABLE AT
JOINCCASTORE.COM
ALONG WITH COOLERS, DECALS,
PERFORMANCE APPAREL, AND MORE!**



Leaving a Legacy and a Lasting Impact: Honoring Bill Kinney and Peggy McMillan

could attract new members to join CCA in the name of conservation. Today, thanks to the foundation laid by Peggy and Bill, more than 47,000 anglers participate annually, making STAR the largest saltwater fishing tournament in Texas, if not the United States.



This unprecedented growth of the CCA Texas STAR tournament signifies much more than just an increase in participation; it embodies the true pioneer spirit of what it means to be a Texan and reflects the significant and positive impact it has on families, communities, and the sustainability of our Texas Coast.

Each year, the STAR Tournament has a direct and positive impact on tens of thousands of Texans: parents teaching their children to fish, young anglers competing for life-changing scholarships, the economic impact on coastal communities, and generations of sportsmen and women learning the importance of conservation through hands-on involvement. Its influence extends beyond the anglers themselves to their families, the



The story of the CCA Texas STAR Tournament cannot be told without two dedicated conservationists whose names have become synonymous with our program's success, Bill Kinney and Peggy McMillan. It is with immense gratitude that we honor them as they head into retirement. Peggy McMillan gave CCA 18 years of extraordinary service, while Bill Kinney, incredibly, gave an amazing 38 years of his life for our cause.

When the STAR tournament first began in 1990, 4,200 anglers participated. It was a humble beginning built on big dreams, hard work, and the belief that this tournament



guides they fish with, the volunteers who support the program, and the students whose futures are transformed through scholarships. What began as a small, hopeful idea has grown into one of the most influential and far-reaching conservation efforts in Texas, touching countless lives across the coast and inspiring a lifelong passion for fishing and stewardship of our natural resources.



Bill Kinney holding his new STAR Card, 1993

Little did Bill and Peggy know that this tournament would one day help bring a massive wave of new members into CCA Texas and award more than \$40,000,000 in prizes. Since 1995, when the very first STAR scholarship was introduced, over \$8,700,000 has been awarded to Texas youth—opening doors, shaping futures, and inspiring the next generation of conservation-minded anglers. The lasting impact Bill and Peggy have had is immeasurable; it's clear their dedication has transformed lives and strengthened conservation across our entire Texas Coast

On behalf of CCA Texas, our entire membership, and every angler who has ever cast a line in the STAR Tournament, we extend our deepest and most heartfelt appreciation. Bill and Peggy, the impact of your work reaches far beyond the scales and weigh-ins. You have shaped traditions, created lifelong memories for families across our coast, and introduced generations of Texans to both the joy of fishing and the importance of conservation. Because of your vision, dedication, and unwavering commitment, the STAR Tournament has grown into a program that not only excites anglers each summer but also educates, inspires, and uplifts communities from Sabine down to South Padre.



Your work has strengthened conservation efforts across the state, supported coastal resources, and provided opportunities that will echo through the lives of thousands of young Texans. The legacy you leave behind lives in every child who earned a scholarship, every family that fishes together because of this tournament, every member who joined our cause, and every angler who fell in love with the Texas coast through STAR.

Thank you for your leadership, your loyalty, your love for this organization, and, most importantly, your unwavering commitment to conservation.

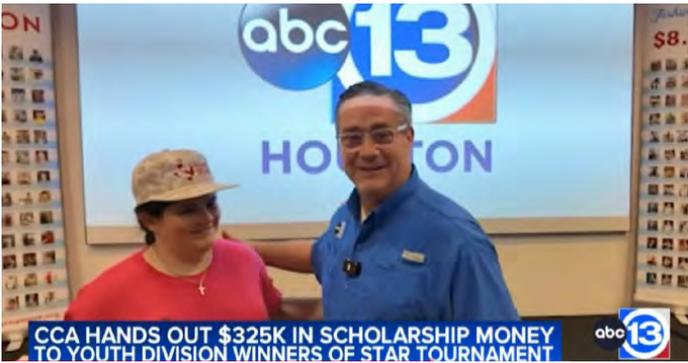
You leave behind a tournament, a community, and a coastline that are all better, stronger, and more vibrant because of you. Your legacy is woven into the very fabric of CCA Texas, and it will continue to guide and inspire us for generations to come.

With gratitude and respect,
CCA Texas STAR Tournament.



CCA Texas STAR Scholarships — Crossing Over \$8,700,000!

Twenty-eight years ago, in 1995, many wondered what scholarships had to do with marine conservation. The CCA Tournament Committee believed that if we could get kids off their Xboxes and into tackle boxes, we would leave a legacy of conservation for the next generation to carry forward long after we are gone. But how do we get them “hooked” on fishing? The answer: offer big scholarships to encourage parents to take their children fishing and let the experience do the rest! Thank goodness for those wily fish; it worked!



Click on the winner's smile for a visit to the ABC13 video.

We now have another generation carrying the CCA torch, sharing our passion and responsibility. As of November 8th, we have reached a milestone we never even imagined back then. Our original goal was to encourage the “fishing family,” where everyone could win something meaningful together. Little did we know that these substantial scholarships would change the life paths of many kids, creating opportunities for them to make a difference in the world.

programs is a game-changer. Sadly, many higher education institutions no longer emphasize professions geared toward practical life skills, so winners now have more choices in selecting their career paths. Even better, all STARKids and STARteens who make the final Leaderboard are receiving scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$30,000!

To date, we have awarded \$8,700,000 to over 300 winners, and their inspiring stories of success are the most gratifying part of this journey. Kudos to all of you, especially to the parents and family members involved. When I asked the Class of 2025 winners, “Raise your hand if your Grandparents, Mom, or Dad made you keep casting when you were ready to give up!” most hands went up. They all agreed that it was worth it. This same persistence and determination are what lead to success in the biggest event of all. Life.

Thanks to you, our loyal members, the mission of CCA Texas continues to forge new paths in our quest to make Texas saltwater the envy of the nation. In the spirit of the season, we are grateful for your support and wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas.

Changing the STAR Scholarships to allow winners to apply not only to accredited colleges and universities but also to trade, technical schools, and vocational training

If you haven't seen this new segment yet, you definitely don't want to miss it! Be sure to check out our 2025 STAR Scholarship Award Ceremony. Our friends at ABC 13 put together this piece to highlight our winners and the organization. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support and dedication to our mission. Thank you!

[Click Here to watch clips from the 2025 STAR Scholarship Award Ceremony](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS





2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



2025 CCA Texas STAR Awards Ceremony

2025 Scholarship
Winners



Kellie Brown
\$25,000
STAR Youth Scholarship Drawing

**CCA Texas STAR
Youth Scholarship Division**



STAR Kid Scholarship Winners	
\$30,000 Scholarship	
Caroline Koeneke (9)	Sheepshead-6 lbs. 3 ozs.
Kohen Faickney (8)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 10 ozs.
\$20,000 Scholarship	
Roman Davidson (6)	Sheepshead-5 lbs. 12 ozs.
Tyler Morrison (8)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 2 ozs.
\$15,000 Scholarship	
Noah Lavender (8)	Sheepshead-5 lbs. 8 ozs.
Fletcher Blackmar (8)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 1 oz.
\$7500 Scholarship	
Nash Nichols (7)	Sheepshead-5 lbs 2 ozs.
Noah North (9)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 0 ozs.
\$2500 Scholarship	
Levi Garcia (7)	Sheepshead-5 lbs. 2 ozs.
Ava Blackwell (9)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 0 ozs.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



KIDS SCHOLARSHIP SHEEPSHEAD DIVISION WINNERS

Caroline Koeneke (9) Winner
\$30,000 STAR Kid Scholarship
Sheepshead 6 lbs.3 ozs.



Roman Davidson (6) 1st runner up
\$20,000 STAR Kid Scholarship
Sheepshead 5 lbs. 12 ozs.



Noah Lavender (8)
2nd Runner up
\$15,000 STAR Kid Scholarship
Sheepshead 5 lbs 8 ozs.



Nash Nichols (7)
3rd runner up
\$7,500 STAR Kid Scholarship
Sheepshead 5 lbs.2 ozs.



Levi Garcia (7)
4th runner up
\$2,500 STAR Kid Scholarship
Sheepshead 5 lbs 2 ozs.





2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



KIDS SCHOLARSHIP GAFFTOP DIVISION WINNERS

Kohen Faickney (8) Winner
\$30,000 STAR Kid Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs. 10 ozs.



Tyler Morrison (8) 1st runner up
\$20,000 STAR Kid Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs. 2 ozs.



Fletcher Blackmar (8) 2nd Runner up
\$15,000 STAR Kid Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs. 1 oz.



Noah North (9) 3rd runner up
\$7,500 STAR Kid Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs.0 ozs.



Ava Blackwell (9) 4th runner up
\$2,500 STAR Kid Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs 0 ozs.

**CCA Texas STAR
Youth Scholarship Division**



STAR Teens Scholarship Winners

\$30,000 Scholarship

Hudson McBride (14)	Sheepshead-9 lbs. 1 oz.
Wyatt Neyland (16)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 15 ozs.

\$20,000 Scholarship

Levi Cleburn (11)	Sheepshead-9 lbs. 0 ozs.
Hunter Morrison (14)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 0 ozs.

\$15,000 Scholarship

Carson Stathakos (17)	Sheepshead-8 lbs. 8 ozs.
Cora Blackwell (11)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 10 ozs.

\$7500 Scholarship

Camila Gaviria (12)	Sheepshead-8 lbs 7 ozs.
Tucker Morrison (11)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 5 ozs.

\$2500 Scholarship

Gabriel Benavides (15)	Sheepshead-7 lbs. 15 ozs.
Brayden Jones (11)	Gafftop-5 lbs. 4 ozs.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



TEEN SCHOLARSHIP SHEEPSHEAD DIVISION WINNERS

Hudson McBride (14) Winner
\$30,000 STAR Teen Scholarship
Sheepshead 9 lbs. 1 oz.



Levi Cleburn (11) 1st runner up
\$20,000 STAR Teen Scholarship
Sheepshead 9 lbs. 0 ozs.



**Carson Stathakos (17) 2nd
Runner up**
\$15,000 STAR Teen Scholarship
Sheepshead 8 lbs 8 ozs.



**Camila Gaviira (12) 3rd runner
up**
\$7,500 STAR Teen Scholarship
Sheepshead 8 lbs. 7ozs.

**Gabriel Benavides (15) 4th
runner up**
\$2,500 STAR Teen
Scholarship
Sheepshead 7 lbs 15 ozs.

Unable to
attend

Unable to
attend



2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



TEEN SCHOLARSHIP GAFFTOP DIVISION WINNERS

Wyatt Neyland (16) Winner
\$30,000 STAR Teen Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs. 15 ozs.



Hunter Morrison (14) 1st runner up
\$20,000 STAR Teen Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs. 10 ozs.



Tucker Morison(11) 3rd runner up
\$7,500 STAR Teen Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs. 5 ozs.



Brayden Jones (11) 4th runner up
\$2,500 STAR Teen Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lb. 4 ozs.



Cora Blackwell (11) 2nd Runner up
\$15,000 STAR Teen Scholarship
Gafftop 5 lbs 10ozs.



\$2,000,000

IN PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS 13 DIVISIONS

By entering the CCA TEXAS STAR you have a chance to win a 2025 FORD F-150 "TEXAS EDITION" XLT SuperCab, Boats, Prizes, Scholarships and more!



CATCH • CLIP THE TAG AND RELEASE!

RED TAG DIVISION

Texas Ford Dealer's (Red-Tagged Redfish Division)
 The **FIRST FIVE** red-tagged redfish caught, tag clipped, fish released & tag turned in at an official CCA Texas STAR Weigh Station, who are certified as winners, will take home a 2025 Ford F150 "Texas Edition" XLT Super Cab connected to a Haynie 23' Amigo with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS Optimax and Coastline Trailer. The next Five eligible anglers who turn in a RED TAG will receive a Haynie 23' Amigo, Coastline trailer and 150 hp Mercury motor package.

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

BLUE TAG DIVISION

CATCH • CLIP THE TAG AND RELEASE!

(Blue-Tagged Redfish Division)

The **FIRST THREE** blue-tagged redfish caught, tag clipped, fish released & tag turned in at an official CCA Texas STAR Weigh Station, who are certified as winners, will take home a 2024 22' Tran Sport Boat 220 SVT CAT (Raised Center Console), with a Mercury 150 L Pro XS Optimax and Coastline Trailer. The following 6, will receive Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card. (See Rule 17)

INSHORE DIVISION

Eligible anglers who weigh in the HEAVIEST Sheepshead, Gafftop & Black Drum will take home a 2025 Shoalwater 19' Cat Boat, 115hp Mercury Motor & McClain Trailer. There will be 4 Runner-Up prizes (Academy Sports + Outdoors in each species Category.

OFFSHORE DIVISION

Eligible Anglers who weigh in the HEAVIEST Kingfish, Dorado, Ling & Red Snapper will take home a 2025 Hoffpaur Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI Polaris Pursuit Camo, Big Tex Trailer and a STAR Special Edition Trophy



2
0
2
5
S
T
A
R
T
O
U
R
N
A
M
E
N
T



May 24th thru Sept 1st

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DIVISIONS
 STAR is free with \$10 Youth Membership
HEAVIEST FISH

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



Eligible STAR Teens ages 11-17 who weigh in Heaviest GAFFTOP or SHEEPSHEAD win Scholarships from \$2500 to \$30,000

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

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS



STARTOURNAMENT.ORG

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

WHATABURGER.

**GET HOOKED ON
FREE**



**WHEN YOU CREATE A  REWARDS
ACCOUNT USING THE MOBILE APP**

NEW REWARDS MEMBERS get 500 BONUS loyalty
points when you sign up with code **CCA2025**

Bonus points will be added after your first purchase of \$10 or more.

DOWNLOAD NOW



Proud sponsor of the
CCA since 1991



Thank you Mercury Marine!

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

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



Vitamin D-stress



When time on your boat is like medicine for the soul, rest assured that every precious moment is protected by America's #1 boat insurer—day after day, cast after cast.

Get a quote in as little as 4 minutes

[Get a Quote](#)

PROGRESSIVE[®]

Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. & affiliates. #1 rating based on 2022 boat market share. Data is sourced from Ratefillings.com.



We Carry the Utility Vehicles You Need

2114 US-84
Goldthwaite, TX 76844

855.648.3341

hpolaris.com
hcanam.com

★ and the brands you trust ★

can-am

POLARIS





FLINT & FLAME

OFFICIAL CUTLERY &
TRUSTED PARTNER OF CCA
SINCE 2016



Use Exclusive Code CCA 30
for
30% Savings at Checkout
www.flintandflameUSA.com



PROUDLY SUPPORTING
CONSERVATION WORLDWIDE

WWW.FLINTANDFLAMEUSA.COM
+1 855 71 SHARP (74277)

Caught Redhanded!



Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

On 11/9/25, a Chambers County Warden inspected a small vessel with (4) individuals onboard. The individuals were found to have multiple water safety and resource violations. A large cooler was found to be almost full to the top with small black drum. After inspection, the individuals were found to be in possession of (38) undersized black drum and exceeding the daily limit on black drum. Cases and civil restitution pending.

On 11/1/25, a Chambers County Warden was operating a drone donated by CCA. While flying over public water, two male subjects were observed trespassing while fishing on private property that was posted. The Warden contacted the subjects and found them to be over their daily limit on Black Drum, many of which were undersized, as well as in possession of an undersized Red Drum. Citations issued and civil restitution pending.

On 10/4/25, Galveston County Wardens were patrolling west Galveston Bay and inspected (3) individuals fishing on a pier. The individuals were found to be in possession of (15) undersized spotted seatrout on the pier. After further inspections of their coolers and buckets on land, an additional (57) spotted seatrout, undersized black drum, and numerous other fish were found. Citations issued and cases pending.

On 9/27/25, a Jefferson County Warden inspected a vessel returning from offshore federal waters and found two individuals to be in violation of possession of Red Drum that were obtained in Federal Waters. Cases pending.

On 9/14/25, a Jefferson County Warden inspected (2) individuals fishing. Upon inspection, violations found were no fishing license and undersized black drum. Cases pending.



Leave It Better Than You Found It

Steve Russell has created Texas coastal art for more than five decades. A native of Rockport, Russell has been a leader of the art group that began there in the 1940s and is now recognized as one of the top coastal art colonies in the US.

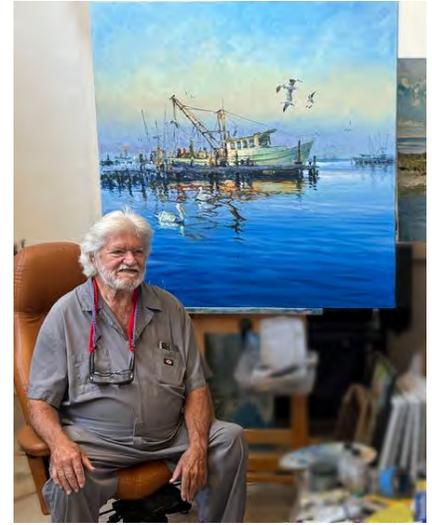
His art has benefited many coastal environmental organizations, including the early GCCA Redfish Bay and Corpus Christi chapters. Like cohorts Jack Cowan, Herb Booth and Al Barnes, Steve has mentored many young artists along the way.

A dedicated fan of the Texas midcoast region, Russell often does paintings of evocative landscapes set in other times: small frigates, dramatic Man-of-War naval vessels and fishing sloops. One theme he found interesting was the early Texas population observing new peoples arriving in the area. He envisioned the image as larger-than-life bronze sculptures.

The painter designed and completed a massive group scene, a confrontation including indigenous Carancahua natives and Spanish conquistadors. The huge sculpture project drew community support. Named "Cultural Interface," the long-envisioned larger-than-life bronze sculptures have now been erected on the shores of Little Bay in Rockport.

The artist served his country as a corpsman with the Marine Corps during the Vietnam war. His contributions to the quality of Texas coastal visual and cultural life have earned Russell many accolades over the years, including being named the Harvey Weil Living Legend for 2024 and a 2025 nomination as the Texas Legislature's Artist of the Year. His work, including a video can be viewed at this YouTube link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrU_oAEf7xI



Craig Griffin has been a collector of Steve Russell's work for years. Russell and wife Sherol are longtime friends. Griffin's waterfront Rockport restaurant, Charlotte Plummer, is filled with magnificent scenes by Russell.

Griffin said, "Steve's paintings have a special visual power that puts the viewer in the scene. A magnificent sailing vessel from the 1800's, a view of Carancahua Indians on a bay, a spectacular sky over an ancient Rockport lighthouse; each image tells a story for the viewer without words." — Sam Caldwell



Texas Outdoor Writers Association Conference and Stampede benefits Youth Communicators

The Conference, held May 2–4 in Rockport Texas, was a resounding success. A huge thank you to the Coastal Conservation Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Dallas Safari Club, Safari Club International, Texas Trophy Hunters Association, Mossberg Firearms and the Bob Hood Scholarship. Through their support, we raised approximately \$11,000 for student scholarships, adult awards, and conference social events.

The Fall Stampede was enjoyed by hundreds from October 10–12 at The Shaw’s Bend Social Club in Columbus, Texas. Events were the five shooting competitions of the Texas Challenge, World Senior Pro Bull Riding and a CASI Chili Cook-Off. Younger participants and their parents enjoyed the “Catch A Kid contest” sponsored by CCA and Academy Outdoors. More TOWA action and information is available at <https://towa.org/> –Herman Brune



TOWA's new president is Shelly Archer. Shelly's father, Bob Hood was one of the TOWA's founders some 50 years ago. Below, a few of the Youth Award Communication winners from the conference in Rockport.



Action from the CCA Catch A Kid contest, Senior Pro Bull Riding and a photo of the TOWA Board of Directors.



Partners and Volunteers Unite for 2025 San Antonio Bay Shorelines Cleanup

PORT O'CONNOR, TX — The San Antonio Bay Partnership (SABP) wrapped up its 2025 Shorelines Cleanup week (October 13-18th, 2025), a coordinated effort across Port O'Connor, Seadrift, and surrounding areas uniting partner organizations and community volunteers in a shared effort to keep the San Antonio Bay system clean and thriving.

The week kicked off with partner organizations heading out from Seadrift to clean up San Antonio Bay shorelines. Crews from the International Crane Foundation, San Antonio River Authority, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Texas Water Trade, Audubon Texas, Keep Texas Beautiful, and Texan by Nature, joined forces to remove just under 4,000 pieces of trash and marine debris. The day's "Most Unusual Find" award, went to Texan by Nature for finding and removing a seesaw from the San Antonio Bay shoreline.

The Houston Zoo brought a crew of employees for two days to pick up trash. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Zoo crew boarded boats in Port O'Connor and removed nearly 8,000 pieces of trash from Espiritu Santo Bay. On Saturday, community volunteers used their boats, kayaks, and plenty of muscle to haul away everything

Our 2025 cleanup brought together more than 170 volunteers and partner organizations who removed 3.4 tons of debris from the San Antonio Bay system during a week-long series of coordinated efforts across Port O'Connor, Seadrift, and nearby shorelines.



Houston Zoo headed out on Tuesday and Wednesday

from plastic bottles, fishing nets, rope, and fishing line to shoes, toys, chairs, toothbrushes, and even toilet seats—a sobering reminder of how much debris finds its way into our bays. Saturday's effort resulted in the removal of 70 large contractor bags of trash including 922 plastic drink bottles, 912 plastic bags and 2200 pieces of plastic. The most unusual find on Saturday was a creepy baby doll.

A land-based crew of volunteers from Lavaca Bay Foundation and Formosa Plastics cleaned the Point Comfort side of the causeway. Their efforts resulted in the removal of 29 bags of trash including nearly 500 plastic drink bottles, 286 aluminum cans and 118 drink cups.

In total, 170 volunteers, 31 boats, and 4 kayaks removed 3.4 tons of trash, filling four roll-off bins. Over 24,051 individual items were documented this year, bringing the 6 year total to 99,435 pieces of marine debris removed from the San Antonio Bay system.

This year, H-E-B sponsored a pilot project for Bulky Marine Debris Removal, which removed oversized items that were too difficult for volunteers and required hiring contractors.

"These cleanups highlight the power of collaboration," said Allan Berger, SABP Chair and Cleanup Coordinator.

"When organizations and community members come together to tackle

marine debris, we not only clean the bay but strengthen the partnerships that protect it. The real challenge is keeping trash contained and properly disposed of so it never reaches our waterways in the first place." Berger emphasized that cleanup alone isn't enough. "The real impact will come when we reduce the plastics entering our bays. I challenge everyone to skip single-use plastics on the water. Refillable bottles and cups make a real difference."

Funding for the 2025 Shorelines Cleanup was provided by Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, with additional support from Bay Flats Lodge, Houston Zoo, Port O'Connor Chamber of Commerce, and donors like you.

To learn more or get involved in next year's event, visit www.SABayPartnership.org or contact allanrberger@outlook.com or 713-829-2852 - Allan



Formosa Taiwanese Interns volunteered to clean up under the Lavaca Bay Causeway



marucci x CCA

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



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

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

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

Impacto lens technology that provides the highest level of durability.

OMERO 2.0

Lightweight frames provide all-day comfort for everyday activities.



GANCIO 2.0

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



CCA DUFFEL

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



MARUCCISPORTS.COM

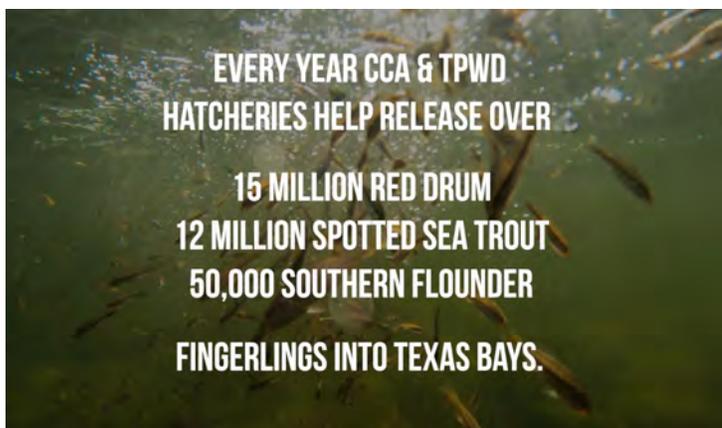
@MarucciSports     

Putting fingerlings back where fish need to be

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

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

[CLICK HERE](#)





Presenting the NEW CCA Texas license plates!



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

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

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

Supporters of CCA Texas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



**STEALING YOUR FISH.
SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.**

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING IN GULF OF MEXICO:
Inside 9 nautical miles – Texas Parks & Wildlife > 800.792.4263
Beyond 9 nautical miles – US Coast Guard > 361.939.0450



Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

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

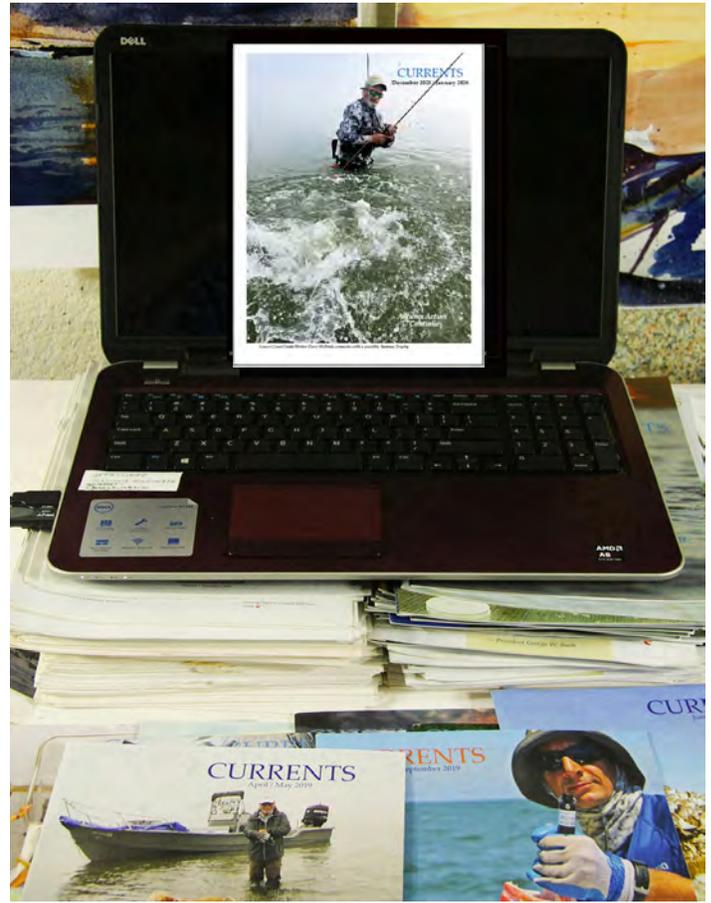
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a full-color newsletter to our statewide membership is time consuming and expensive.

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

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

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

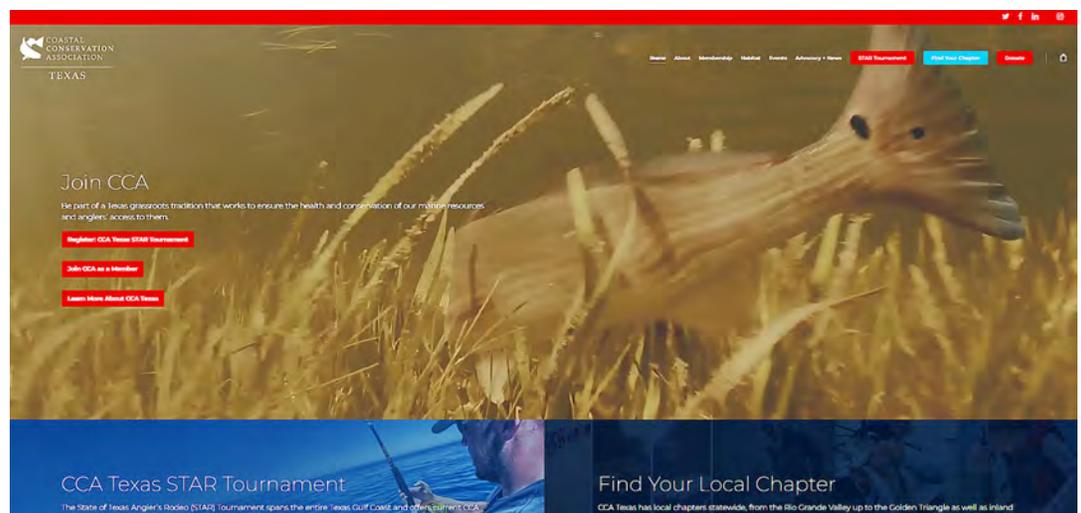
- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast. [Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



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

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

Go to ccatexas.org and bookmark it now.



Follow CCA Texas on Social Media

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

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

FACEBOOK



Featured Social Media Highlights

Join over 44,000+ 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!](#)



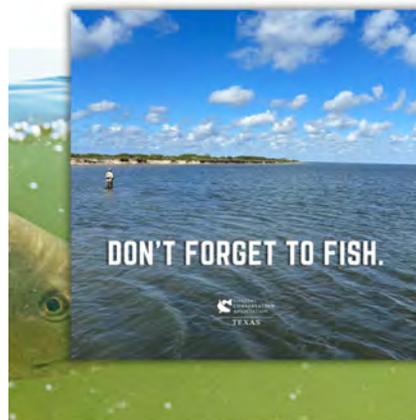
Working the shoreline...

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



Always thankful for amazing areas along our Texas Coast like  Alazan Bay.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



Just a Reminder:
Don't forget to fish.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



CCA Texas on Instagram

We just reached 25K+ 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



Y'all be careful out there!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



Moving from one spot to the next down in Kleberg County, Texas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



Fall fishin'

: Drew Adams

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



CCA Texas on X

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



CCA Texas hats are now available online! Check out our designs by browsing the "Performance Apparel" section at JoinCCASore.com. In addition to these sharp-looking hats, you can also buy fishing and performance shirts, decals, coolers, and more.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON X!



From @TPWDnews: "Federal Red Snapper Season Closes November 21"

"The 2025 recreational red snapper season in federal waters will close at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, making this the longest federal red snapper season since 2007. Saltwater anglers enjoyed 173 days of offshore red snapper fishing along the Texas coast this year."

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON X!



Fish on!

: Jen Blaha

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON X!

PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR COASTS

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

[SHOP NOW](#)



CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of December 2025 / January 2026
Volume 46 Issue 1
Editor-in-Chief / Robby Byers

Editor / Sam Caldwell

Editorial Team
John Blaha, Shane Bonnot,
Liz Bosmans, Kevin Hickson

CCA Texas Staff
Drew Adams, Garrett Boehnemann, Blake Burnside, Drake Grigar, Corbin Primrose, Taylor Rieck, Erich Schneider, Matt Still, Coleman Todd, Edmund Weinheimer and Carson Vecera

**Alvin-Pearland
Rex Richards**

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

The Aransas Bay Chapter has had an exciting season, and even bigger things are on the horizon as we continue supporting conservation, community, and coastal stewardship here in Aransas County.

We're already looking ahead to two of our biggest events of the year. **Our 2026 Annual Banquet is set for March 28**, and we hope to see our coastal community come together once again for an incredible evening dedicated to fundraising and fellowship. Just a few weeks later, we'll welcome anglers from across the state for **Babes on the Bay 2026, taking place May 15-16**. Registration will open in January, and we anticipate another record-setting year for this iconic women's tournament.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our members, sponsors, and volunteers, numerous conservation projects are actively being funded right here in Aransas County and all along the Texas coast. Habitat restoration, shoreline improvements, research initiatives, and youth education programs continue to benefit from your unwavering support.

Together, we're making a meaningful difference for



*CCA Aransas Bay Members
with some local catches*

our bays, fisheries, and future generations.

As we move into the holiday season, our entire CCA Aransas Bay family sends warm wishes for a joyful, safe, and peaceful time with loved ones. We are especially grateful for our sweet, conservation-minded friends who give their time, passion, and heart to protecting the coast we all love.

Here's to calm tides, good fish, and a bright year ahead. Happy Holidays from the Aransas Bay Chapter of CCA Texas!



Austin

**Alex Blackburn 512-565-4939
Atblackburn3@gmail.com**

CCA Austin Chapter is working to raise the funds needed to continue the mission of CCA to conserve, promote and enhance coastal resources for the enjoyment and benefit of the public and interest of recreational anglers. This is possible with your support!

Calendar of events: February 19, 2026 – Bourbon Tasting Event. You will sample unique and rare bourbons and food tastings to compliment your experience. Limited number of tickets available. Get yours now! <https://ticketstripe.com/Austin-Bourbon-Tasting-2026>. May 7, 2026 – CCA Austin 47th Annual Fundraiser Banquet. You will enjoy an evening of music, food from some of the best restaurants in Austin, open bar, Yeti raffle, games, general raffle, and the best live auction items. There is something for everyone to enjoy! Purchase your tickets early. <https://ticketstripe.com/CCA-Austin-2026>.

On October 1, 2025, CCA Austin hosted their 3rd annual Hooked on Clays Sporting Clays tournament. The event hosted 42 teams of shooters at Capital City Clays for a day of fundraising and friendly competition. We'd like to thank U. S. Capital Wealth and MLN Company for being our presenting sponsors, Cabo Bob's for providing our dinner, The Porter Co., Baker Triangle, Whiting-Turner, Austin Commercial, CO Concepts, MagPul, Hoar Construction, and Tumlinson Electric, LLC for their



Photos from the 2025 CCA Austin Hooked on Clays Tournament

CCA Chapter Board, we meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Warren Wildlife Gallery at 1401 Bouldin Ave at 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Alex Blackburn at atblackburn3@gmail.com or Cheryl Smith at Cherylccaustin@gmail.com. We welcome new members!



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

Brazoria
Stephen Griffith 979-236-1902
swgriffith65@gmail.com



contributions to the event. CCA Austin was able to raise over 40,000! We look forward to another successful event in 2026. Details are coming soon!

On November 6, 2025, we hosted a Las Vegas Casino Night at the Warren Wildlife Gallery. This was our first venture into a free event for



CCA Brazos Valley Chapter group photo

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

Summer is still here...maybe cooler weather and rain soon! We want to welcome our new Assistant Director: Drake Grigar. And thanks to Carson Vecera for his work the last

our supporters with table games, pizza, beer and lot of good times. Thank you to everyone who came!

If you are interested in learning more about the Austin



QR code to purchase Tickets and Tables for the 2026 CCA Brazos Valley Chapter Banquet

few years. We successfully raised funds to ensure the future of marine life, for all to enjoy.

Our next chapter meeting is December 9, 2025, at C&J Barbeque on 2112 W BriarGate Dr, Bryan, TX. Please join us to help work on the banquet.

We are looking forward to our **34th Annual CCA Brazos Valley Chapter Banquet: NEW DATE! Mark your calendar for February 6, 2026, at the Brazos Center, Bryan, TX. Doors open at**

5:30 p.m. For sponsorships, tickets, or program ads contact our new assistant director Drake Grigar (713) 626-4222. Or John Ben Strother (979) 220-1738. Tickets are also available at: <https://ticketstripe.com/BrazosValley2026>. Enjoy fishing with family and friends, and the holidays, too.

Brenham

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

Brush Country

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

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**

Come and Catch It

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

The CCA Come and Catch It Chapter wishes to express our sincere thanks to our 2025 Banquet Sponsors, our live and silent auction donors and those who attended our banquet. We are happy to report a great time was had by all. We also want to give a hearty thank you to our banquet chairman, Ethel Rochester and the Board of Directors, for a job well done. Lastly, we congratulate Hank Butler for winning our TPWD Lifetime Fishing License youth raffle donated by Wrangler Trucking LLC.

We are planning our first annual CCA Come and Catch It/Shiner Fire Department Kidfish event at **Green-Dickson Park in Shiner on April 18, 2026**. All youth 1-16

years old are invited to participate in this free fishing event, but registration is required. Prizes will be awarded to the top winners in each age category. Each participant will get a T-shirt and a goodie bag. There will also be prize giveaways for fishing poles and reels and fishing tackle. More information to come in the next newsletter.

Please save the date of August 7, 2026, for our CCA Come and Catch It Chapter Annual Banquet at the JB Wells Park Event Center in Gonzales.

We heard our guests request and scheduled next year's banquet for Friday night instead of Thursday. We are planning to have some exciting surprises for our 5th anniversary banquet, so stay tuned. Thank you for your support in protecting the coastal resources of Texas and we hope to see you at the banquet.



Hank Butler, winner of the Youth Lifetime Fishing License donated by Wrangler Trucking LLC at the 2025 CCA Come and Catch It Banquet

Corpus Christi

**Cody Roesner 916-531-0078
cbroudfitters@yahoo.com**

WOW as I write my final chapter update of 2025, I can't help but reflect on what a year 2025 has been! CCA Corpus Christi started the year off with another great banquet this spring, and we have been going ever since! This fall we

hosted the Babes on Baffin Tournament and Poco Rojo Kid Fish all took place in October and November.

Our annual Poco Rojo Kid Fish held on November 15th at the CCA Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff filled up in record time! Barrett Fines did a great job again this year making sure this event went flawlessly! Flint Hill Resources was the Title Sponsor and the REPCON cook team provided us with some delicious food for the event. Special thanks to our volunteers from TPWD Coastal Fisheries, Hatchery Staff, Islander Anglers, Islander CCA and Corpus Christi Growth Ventures. The kids (and the adults) had a great time!

We have finalized the date for our **2026 CCA Corpus Christi Chapter Banquet! The banquet will again be at the Hilliard Center (formerly the American Bank Center) and will be held Thursday March 5, 2026.** We set the bar high in the last few years and need all the support we can get to make 2026 another record event! As always, let us know if you're interested in volunteering! For questions, contact Heather at ccacorporuschristi@gmail.com or call (361) 882-5199.

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

CCA Dallas is in the middle of duck and deer season and looking forward to the new year. Chapter members recently attended a fundraising dinner at Flying Fish that benefited the Highland Park Bass Team, one of our silver sponsors. The food was delicious, everyone had a good time, and money was raised for some great young men. The members of the Highland Park Bass Team volunteer at our banquet every year and it was great to help them out.

We are also looking forward to having our annual banquet back in the spring for the first time since 2019. **Next year's banquet is scheduled for April 9, 2026 at On the Levee.** The 2025 banquet was the best fundraising banquet ever and we look forward to improving further in 2026.

Thank you to our 2025 Platinum, Gold and Silver CCA Dallas Sponsors. Platinum Sponsors: Titos, Miles & Miles Argentina. Gold Sponsors: Mesero, Mariner Sails, Oak Highlands Brewery, Ben E Keith, Kawasaki, Gringo Sportfishing, Irving Tool and MFG, Still Austin Whiskey



Recent fundraiser for the Highland Park Bass Team, sponsor of the 2025 CCA Dallas Chapter Banquet

Company, Powersports of North Texas, St. Pete's Dancing Marlin, Shon Conine Exotics, Full Throttle Outdoors, Hobie Fishing, Highland Park Bass Fishing Team. Silver Sponsors: Owens Mixers, Cordia, Clay Shooters Supply, LST Marketing, Xtreme Trophy Fishing, Yeti, Total Wine, Fishpond, Contego Solutions, Untundra.

We look forward to thanking our incredible 2025 table buyers soon! If you are a CCA member who is interested in being more involved in the Dallas Chapter or learning more about our banquet, reach out to Dallas Chapter President Kyle Marmillion at marmillionkyle@gmail.com and follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/).

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

Howdy all, our Ft. Bend committee members have been on the ball this year making plans and coming up with new and better ideas for this year's banquet.

On behalf of the CCA Fort Bend Chapter I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and may you and your family also have a Happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Take a kid fishing! They just may grow up and return the favor or at least invite you over for fish fry! Till next time...

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

Galveston

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

Golden Triangle
Dave Roberts 409-781-6850
Superdave.roberts08@gmail.com

Greetings from the GTC! We hope that everyone is staying warm so far this winter. Fishing has been great and now is a perfect time to catch that fish of a lifetime. We have been getting prepared for our upcoming year and we have some great events coming up. **Our Anglers' Night Out next year will be held on February 17, 2026, at Courville's Catering in Beaumont, TX.** We will have a guest speaker and plenty of raffle items. We hope to see everyone there. Stay warm and go enjoy our Texas resources! Cheers!

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

On Saturday, October 13 the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter partnered with Riverstone Community to host close to 100 you anglers to take part in the Kid Fish event. We would like to thank Solomon Delany, the Lifestyle Director at Riverstone, for his help. We also had volunteers from Scout Troop 731 on hand to assist with casting skills, measuring the catch and teaching the anglers the importance of the catch and release program. The Texas size smiles on these young anglers when they land their first fish is a Kodak moment etched in your mind. Thank you to all the anglers and parents who came out to enjoy



SAVE OUR DATE

Greater Sugar Land CCA Banquet

• April 9, 2026 •

Stafford Centre, Stafford, TX

this great event. We look forward to partnering with River Community next year.

Next up for the **Greater Sugar Land Chapter is our annual banquet to be held Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Stafford Centre.** 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. Don't wait, get your table for you and 7 of your friends or coworkers and come pass a good time while raising funds for a great cause. Here is your link to get your table: <https://ticketstripe.com/2026SugarLandCCA>.



Welcome to our newest CCA Greater Sugar Land Board Member, Charlie Shaw. Below, a young angler at the CCA Greater Sugar Land Kid Fish event recently held at Riverstone Community



<https://ticketstripe.com/2026SugarLandCCA>.

We would also like to welcome our newest Board Member Charlie Shaw. Charlie is an avid fisherman and is excited about being a part of CCA so he can help educate and raise awareness of the CCA Texas mission statement.

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. Details on the next board meeting will be on our [Facebook page at Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter](#). Until next time, get 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! FORD OF BOERNE was the Title Sponsor for our 2025 fundraiser on October 2 at Enchanted Springs Ranch. Thank you to the following companies for their sponsorships: Ford of Boerne - Caps, DeWinne Equipment Company - Tumblers, T&D Moravits & Co. - Poker Chips, Waterman Construction - Keychains. BULL RED Sponsors included: Ford of Boerne (2 tables!), Academy Sports + Outdoors, DD Exotics, CCSA Homes, Waterman Construction, M & K Electric Inc., SLABCO Inc., Extreme Construction & Services and Mermaid Trailers, Boerne Audio Video, T&D Moravits & Co (2 tables!), Ron Hoover RV & Marine of San Antonio, Turner Roofing Co, Beckel Group, Rexrode-Pfeiffer Land Surveying, Hill Country Shredding, and Apple Leasing. TROPHY TROUT Sponsors included: Montgomery & Associates, PC, Drake/Naiser, Texas Mobile Marine, HELOTES CCA, Walz Legacy, LLC, Pez Vela, Lavrack Executive Financial Solutions, Phil Saur, FBG Water Well Service, Azcon Paving Inc, and Williamson Roofing.

DeWinne Equipment Company and KCM Cabinets Inc purchased special Grand Slam Tables at previous banquets and enjoyed prime location tables with premium gifts.

Shuck Truck Seafood Company brought their delicious farm raised oysters and Cajun Country Cookers did a GREAT JOB serving up jumbo boiled shrimp from the Gulf of America and delicious fried fish. Our friends from Enchanted Springs made sure we had plenty of cold beverages to cool us down. HEB's gourmet cookies were a sweet way to finish off an outstanding meal.

Several other companies that contributed significantly to the success of our event - Academy Sports + Outdoors, Apache Rifleworks, Keg 1, Flint & Flame Cutlery, Marucci Lifestyle Sunglasses, DeWinne Equipment Co., Aqua-Man Water Conditioning, PONCHO, YETI, and Busch Light.

Finally, THANK YOU to Corbin Primrose and the rest of the CCA staff from Houston and our dedicated volunteers who planned this event. Local volunteers: Claude Aaron, Josh and Katie Criddle, Blake McCarter, Randy Plummer, Lisa Parks, Tom Wayland, Trey Walz, Darrell Steubing, and Mr. David and Mrs. Kaylah Rodriguez. Thanks to all who participated in the auctions and raffles...WOW...what a great night for CCA in the Heart of the Hills!

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

Howdy CCA Helotes! The Banquet Committee is already planning the **Banquet, which is set for March 19, 2026 and will once again be held at Pedrotti's Ranch.** Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of January. Keep up with the chapter news on our [CCA Helotes Facebook page](#) or the chapter webpage at www.ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/helotes/.

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

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

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

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

What a day on the water! The 10th Annual Lower Colorado Guides Cup Tournament, held on October 15, 2025 was another tremendous success. Fourteen teams—each one a winner from the 2025 Lower Colorado Chapter Banquet in August—hit the water alongside their chosen captains to compete for the coveted title of Best of the Bays. This event continues to be one of Texas CCA's most anticipated tournaments, showcasing the competitive spirit of the top guides across the Matagorda Bay system. A big thank-you to Gulf Coast Ace Hardware for proudly sponsoring this year's tournament.

With beautiful weather and some of Matagorda's finest guides on the water, the competition was fierce and the fishing outstanding. Tournament results were as follows: 1st Place (Back-to-Back Champions) - TEAM TROY KEEN, Capt. Troy Keen, Dave Brysch, Rodney Meyer, Greg Kubes. Guides Cup Champions for the 2nd year in a row. Winner:



Lower Colorado Guides Cup 1st Place winners Team Troy Keen; Below, 2025 CCA Lower Colorado Guides Cup 2nd Place winners Team Arrinson. Lower right: The 2025 CCA Lower Colorado Guides Cup trophy



Largest Redfish. 2nd Place – TEAM ARRINSON, Capt. Peyton Arrinson, Bryan Douget, Anthony Kimmey, Caleb Kimmey. Winner: Largest Trout. 3rd Place – TEAM SLOAN, Capt. Stan Sloan, Donny Tran, Rhett Holloway, Joey Kacal Additional highlights: Biggest Flounder: Team Charlie Paradowski

If you want the chance to fish with the best guides in the Matagorda Bay system, don't miss the **17th Annual Lower Colorado CCA Chapter Banquet and Live Auction on August 7, 2026.**

Stay tuned here for more news and upcoming events from the Lower Colorado Chapter of Texas CCA – the only chapter dedicated to supporting and representing all of Matagorda's bays, lakes, rivers, and creeks.

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

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



We will start selling our 2026 Sportsman Raffle Tickets December 1, 225 for our **CCA Mainland Chapter Annual Banquet on May 8, 2026.** Here are our Anglers Night Out coming up for the 2026, all taking place at Spring Creek BBQ in League City, TX: January 13th - Our Guest Speaker will be Capt. Shuga Shane with Out Cast Charters Galveston, TX. February 10th - Our Guest Speaker will be Coastal Brigades and Derek York. March 10th - Our Guest Speaker will be The Kemah Channel Man. August 11th - Our Guest Speaker will be SeaTow Galveston Bay and on September 8th - Our Guest Speaker will be Mike Cubbage, Mike will show you how to clean your Reel after fishing all summer.

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

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

CCA Mid Coast Chapter held an Anglers' Night Out on October 23 at Victoria's Aero Crafters. Last year's banquet sponsors were invited to get together for appetizers, drinks and a special guest speaker. The purpose was to thank those that so generously contributed to the success of last



Capt Scott Null at the recent CCA Mid Coast ANO

year's banquet and for supporting CCA in conservation efforts. Special guest speaker, Captain Scott Null, spoke to the crowd about his lifetime achievements and his adventures with tarpon fishing. If you don't know who Scott Null is, then surely you have heard of "Bite Me - A Texas Saltwater Fishing Podcast" that airs weekly. The Mid Coast Chapter would like to thank all of those that attended the event, Captain Scott Null for his time, and Aero Crafters for taking such good care of our group.

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

North Texas CCA will hold our **4th Annual Banquet on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 3R's Ranch in Prosper, TX.** We're excited to welcome returning title sponsor Tito's Handmade Vodka, who has supported our committee since



CCA NTX supporter Lyne Donovan with an Estes Flat red

our early days. Sponsor tables and individual tickets are on sale now, including Trout and Bull Red tables, plus our Texas Slam Table for ten people with marquis event promotion and premium table gifts. This year's banquet will

feature a new menu, more auction items and raffle prizes, and more opportunities for your company to meet other conservation-oriented companies! Follow CCA North Texas on Instagram at [@ccan_tx](https://www.instagram.com/ccan_tx) for banquet updates and tickets. To purchase tickets or tables, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at Brian@firstlightprint.com or CCA Texas Assistant Director Garrett Boehnemann at boehnemann@ccatexas.org.



CCA NTX Committee member Chris Coleman's outstanding day for yellowfin in Cabo

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

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

Piney Woods

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

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

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

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

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

Greetings CCA RGV Fam! What an awesome turnout we had at the Anglers' Night Out that we hosted on November 13 at the Howling Rabbits Beerworks. We had over 100 local anglers come together for a fun time and listen to CCA Texas Advocacy Director, Shane Bonnot, talk about all the initiatives and habitat projects being funded in 2025. So, a big thank you to Mr. Bonnot for being our guest speaker and for everyone that was able to attend.

On a different note, CCA RGV board members have been working diligently to plan and prepare for the upcoming **46th Annual Chapter Banquet, which will take place on Friday, February 6, 2026 at the Mission Event Center**. It's fast approaching and tables are starting to sell pretty fast. To guarantee your attendance, please



Photos from the recent CCA RGV ANO featuring Shane Bonnot

secure your table as soon as possible, as our event consistently sells out you can purchase tickets and tables online here: <https://ticketstripe.com/promotions/956191>.

Also, a limited number of raffle tickets are still available for the Can-Am Defender Max Lone Star edition (provided by F&T Valley Motor Sports), sitting on top of a 16-foot Fort Bragg Utility Trailer with tandem axles with a ramp (provided by Mid Valley Trailer Sales). 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 purchase raffle tickets, please message us through social media. You may also visit our Multi-Year Exclusive Title Sponsor L&F Distributors in McAllen, Lone Star National Bank in McAllen, The Sportsman in San Benito, and F&T Valley Motor Sports in Pharr or you may also contact any board member.

On behalf of the CCA RGV Chapter, we wish everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sabine-Neches

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

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

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

As the season of Thanksgiving and Holidays approach, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors who have supported us throughout the year. Your generosity and commitment have been instrumental in our success.

Platinum Sponsors: Scott A. Freund Memorial Foundation, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Frost Bank and Shiner Beers. Gold Sponsors: Alamo Title Company, IBC Bank and Rocking M. Silver Sponsors: Keystone Concrete Placement, Perlitz, MEI Rigging and Crane, Tito's Vodka, Texas Partners Bank, Alert Lock & Key, Anchor Insulation of Texas, Texas Materials and Apex Implants.

Happy Holidays! As we celebrate this joyful season, I will like to wish all the volunteers peace, happiness, and prosperity. Your support means the world to the CCA San Antonio Chapter and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

Looking forward to 2026: As we look ahead to the exciting year of 2026, we are eager to welcome new partners and sponsors to join us in our upcoming banquet and events. Together, we can achieve even greater milestones and create memorable experiences.

Hooked on Clays - Sporting Clay Shoot will be on Friday March 27, 2026, located at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. We are grateful for our returning sponsors and if you would like more info on how to be a sponsor or enter a team, please reach out to me.

2026 CCA San Antonio Annual Banquet: Save the date for Thursday, April 30, 2026. More detail to come! Keep your lines tight!

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

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

The fall fishing season is in full swing, and your CCA San Gabriel Chapter is staying busy advancing conservation from right here in Williamson County, TX. We're excited to recap a standout event and share what's ahead for 2026.

On October 14, we packed Camp Briteside for another incredible Anglers' Night Out. Research Associate Shane Stephens from the Gulf Research Institute for Highly Migratory Species took the stage to shine a spotlight on Texas tarpon—once the undisputed kings of our coast and the reason anglers flocked here from across the country. Populations have crashed in recent decades, but Shane's team is fighting back with cutting-edge tracking. He walked attendees through the trackers they surgically implant and the migration data they're collecting. More importantly, he laid out actionable steps



Photos from CCA San Gabriel's recent Anglers' Night Out



every angler can take—proper release techniques, habitat advocacy, and supporting science-based management—to help bring the Silver King back to Texas waters. Great crowd, cold drinks, and a net full of killer door prizes made for a perfect evening.

Save the date for our next Anglers' Night Out in Q1 2026—details dropping soon on the CCA San Gabriel [Facebook page](#), you won't want to miss it!!

Looking further ahead, our **2026 Annual Banquet is set for August 6, 2026, right here in Georgetown.** This will mark our 24th Chapter Banquet! Planning is already underway, and we're pulling out all the stops to top last year's record-breaker. As always, we're committed to delivering an unforgettable evening that supports coastal conservation while celebrating our shared love for Texas fisheries.

We'd love your help to make the banquet a success! Whether you're interested in joining the planning committee throughout the year or lending a hand on the day of the event, volunteers are always welcome. Reach out via our [Facebook page](#) or chapter contacts to get involved—your support makes a real difference in protecting our coastal resources.

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for being part of CCA San Gabriel's efforts to ensure healthy fisheries for generations to come. Tight lines!

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

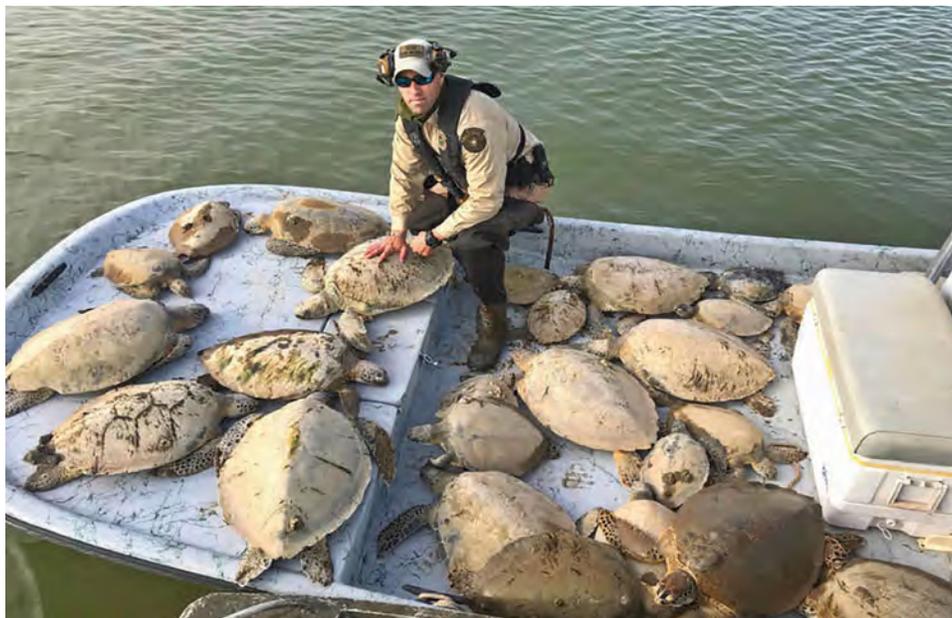
Tri-County
Justin Putz 210-585-0401
putz.stx@gmail.com

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

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



Texas Game Wardens rescued an estimated 500 cold-stunned sea turtles from Texas Bays in the wake of a January 2025 cold snap. More than 1,000 of the threatened turtles were saved through a cooperative effort that included Texas wardens and coastal fisheries staff, U.S. Fish and Game personnel and Texas volunteers.

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 shots.

The Great Photos Contest Begins again.

Keep your CCA CURRENTS an award-winning newsletter! PLUS- a Facebook/Instagram/Twitter entry for CCA Social Media qualifies for a special prize.

Win Art Print prizes from Texas State Artist Sam Caldwell



Let's Go Retro!



Kids with fish are always great entries. Rubin Flores sent this heart-warming image of daughter Ryleigh Flores.

Blade Bassler with son Pierson Blade. On his first "Big Boy" trip, they take a 30-plus jack crevalle. Great Kid photo by Miller Bassler.

A fine rainbow over the bay courtesy of the San Antonio Bay Partnership.

Let's Go Recent!



Great CPR: CCA NTX supporter Lyne Donovan with an Estes Flat red



Upper Coast

Capt. Glenn Hammond

Great choices in the Tri-Bay Area

Chocolate, Bastrop, Christmas Bay; one will have good conditions to match your choice of targeted species. In December, fishing is inconsistent, but you'll watch for recent and future fronts. A couple of days before or after a big front can offer full stringers. So watch for the arrival of fronts, and consider which way the wind blows when you choose a destination.

Water conditions take time to recover after a hard norther. Tides can be extremely low, so area oyster reefs are exposed for days. But when all the stars line up, fishing can be off the charts. Speaking of charts— get a good one and learn to use it, whether paper or digital.

Using soft plastics with a light jighead is one ticket. Slow retrieve with your lure is always best on cold days. After a full day of sunshine you'll remember that mud banks absorb heat and fish choose to be nearby. But again, remember the sloooow retrieve rule.

In January, to find the gamefish, your job is to locate the baitfish. Check your chart; working bayous, creeks, guts and cuts will be your best bet. Just a couple of temp degrees could make a difference.

Color of baits matter; I like black, glow, red and white, lime-chartreuse. Gulp can be the ticket. But sloooow...

Timing is everything. Being there a couple of days before the front, or a few days after matter. A good choice can pay off with redfish, speckled trout, sandies and sheepshead. Remember that flounder are protected from November 1 to December 14 to protect them during their spawning migration.

Take a child fishing, practice CPR and help the young to be good stewards of the bay. You can contact me at 713-208-0683.

—**Captain Glenn (Hammer) Hammond**

Middle Coast

Capt. Tommy Countz

Slow and deep, where the fish are

Matagorda provides a number of options for fishing in December and January.

Our main option is fishing in the Colorado River. Fishing has been good there since early October. In December you can expect the water temperatures to still be 60's and the fish should be fairly aggressive.

The colder the water, the deeper the fish will move. I like to throw 8th ounce lead-heads rigged with chartreuse or hot pink paddle tails. The Hogie double tail grub is my favorite bait because it has a lot of wiggle action.

December/January are also big trout times in East Matagorda Bay. It's time to replace those rusty old hooks on your Corkies and get out and try to stick your personal best trout. You don't need to get lured into buying a new complete stable of magical baits. You most likely have the bait in your tackle box that can get the job done. Baits don't stop catching fish. Fishermen just stop throwing them as they search for "the" bait that works every time. I've got news for you guys. It ain't been invented yet! Time on the water supersedes all the magic in fishing.

Oh, by the way before you go wade fishing in December or January, make sure your waders don't leak!

Take care of your crew—it's your first job. —**Capt. Tommy Countz** 281-450-4037 countz@sbcglobal.net

Lower Coast

Capt. Mike McBride

Weed the garden later, it's Go Time!

Best get those Boga grips and cameras ready, as it appears the Lower Laguna Madre has recovered on both numbers and sizes of quality fish. If our impressive summer was any indication of what is to come, well, it's time for those scales to be tipping quite a bit heavier.

Going into winter it's all going to be about playing the Norther game. The push and pull will move both water levels and temperatures of course, so it's not really rocket science to know when to be where. Shallow feeding areas next to deep water pre-norther, a bit deeper immediately after (such as depressions, guts or drop-offs), then right back shallow as the air becomes warmer than the water or the sun comes out. We don't always need to see a lot of activity, just get in there where it makes sense and go for it.

Lure choices will be subjective. I've seen many serious fish caught on most everything, but I like to catch them how I like to catch them. I'll often start with a topwater, then gradually probe down the water column until I 'hit', then stay at that level until things change. Typical progression would be up top first, then a floating Fat Boy, then a regular Fatboy, then tails with varying jighead weights. Down-sizing to a little Soft Dine can be very productive during picky bites. Just chunk what you have the most confidence in and work on different presentations until it happens, then repeat. We have a lot of fish in a lot of areas.

Again, Port Mansfield offers a lot of opportunity for now. Let's just take what we need, leave the rest, and remember to give everybody a wide berth. It's their special day as well. See ya here soon

—**Capt. Mike McBride** 956-746-6041

Many LLM fishermen know Capt. Mike as Mike McTrout.



Sightcasting for reds under a painted sunrise: retro Great Photo by Devin Kleinfelder



Neat idea for storing lures—spotted near Port Mansfield

Creamy Coldfront Shrimp Stew

1lb peeled and deveined medium shrimp
1 16 oz. HEB prepared Baked Potato Soup / ½ Cup cream / ¾ Cup Chicken stock
½ Boursin Chive and Herb cheese / ½ chopped onion / 1 stalk chopped celery
4 Tbsp butter / 4 Tbsp olive oil / Salt, Pepper/ Garlic powder

Pat shrimp dry and season with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Saute in a dutch oven with 2 Tbsp butter and 2 Tbsp olive oil til pink. Remove from the pan to a strainer, saving the liquid.

In the same pan, saute the onion and celery in the remaining butter and olive oil til transparent. Add the Boursin, soup, cream, liquid from the shrimp and chicken stock to the onion, stirring to combine and heat slowly to a very light bubbling, til the Boursin melts. Add the shrimp and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with crusty bread.



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt

— REEL IN — BUSCH LIGHT



**A PROUD
SPONSOR OF**



ENTIRE BEVERAGE COMPANY, All trademarks, Busch Light® Beer, St. Louis, MO

*Gift a special friend
with a work of Caldwell art.*
www.samcaldwell.com



Autumn Wolves



Spirit and 399, International grizzly bear stars in Yellowstone



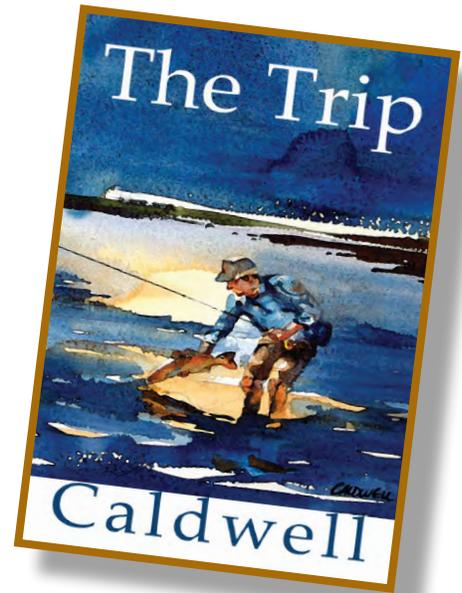
Large and In Charge

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

*Caldwell plays a joke on Kim
Brown. The joke is on Caldwell.
Click on the tarpon below and
scroll.*



Let Caldwell know if you enjoy the stories from
CCA yesteryear. Text to 281-455-9390



Seven outdoorsmen journey to the hunting of South Texas and the fabled fishing of Mexican beaches. You'll find yourself in this group. Choose carefully— only six return.

*Get a personalized First Edition copy
of The Trip*

Click on the angler above

[click here to visit](#)

www.samcaldwell.com

Texas State Artist 2004 / DU State Artist 2010-2011

Dallas CCA Conservationist 2015

2016 Perry R. Bass Wall of Fame

Harvey Weil Living Legend 2023

281-455-9390



Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

December 2025 / January 2026

Your friends at Coastal Conservation Association wish you a Fine Holiday Season and a Great New Year



Mrs. Santex CPR's A Personal Best



BEST IN TEXAS

U.S. Coast Guard

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

The Texas Parks & Wildlife website is your starting point for almost anything you need to know about outdoor Texas, including links to many areas. Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov. To focus on fishing and boating, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat



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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

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

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

- MEMBER: \$40 _____ Membership card, decal, bumper sticker, Texas CURRENTS newsletter & TIDE magazine.
 - ASSOCIATE: \$20 _____ Per each family member. All membership privileges except TIDE and CURRENTS.
 - LIFE MEMBER: \$1000 _____ CCA Life Membership piece, print, plus member gifts. Payable in four \$250 installments.
 - STAR ENTRY FEE: \$30 _____ Tournament entry fee. Must be a current CCA member.
 - YOUTH: \$10 _____ TIDE newsletter, decal. Includes STAR Tournament entry, for members 17 and under.
- Age: _____ Date of birth: _____
- CONSERVATION MEMBER: \$50 _____ A portion of the proceeds go toward CCA's National Habitat Program, Building Conservation Trust. Includes exclusive Conservation Member decal, one-year subscription to TIDE Magazine and set of CCA and state fish decals.

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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