

CURRENTS

June / July 2026



*Is that a Ford Truck,
Haynie Boat,
Mercury Motor and
Coastline Trailer
Combo headed your
way?*

Habitat Projects Moving Forward

By John Blaha, CCA Texas Director of Habitat

For decades, Coastal Conservation Association Texas has remained committed to conserving and enhancing the marine habitats that sustain Texas' coastal fisheries. Through the generous support of members, volunteers, and conservation partners, CCA Texas has funded more than \$17 million in habitat restoration and enhancement projects spanning the entire Texas coast. From marsh restoration and oyster reef creation to artificial reefs and seagrass conservation, efforts like these continue to improve the health and productivity of our bays and estuaries, while ensuring future generations can enjoy the rich natural resources of the Texas Coast. The following are updates regarding ongoing projects that CCA Texas has contributed to.

Certificate of Location Conservation Reefs

- To date, CCA Texas has committed \$1,000,000 to conservation COLs and looks forward to supporting and expanding these efforts in the future.
- **Ranch House Reef, Mesquite Bay** – This 10-acre site has been approved to move forward by TPWD Coastal Fisheries. CCA Texas is partnering with Gulf Trust to move this effort forward. Currently, the project team is waiting to be notified by the Texas Historical Commission on whether the project will need an archaeological survey. That decision is expected by the end of May 2026. If the archaeological survey is not needed, the project team will meet as quickly as possible with the TPWD Ecosystem Resources Program Director to lay out specifics for the resource survey. However, if the archaeological survey is required, it will need to be completed before the project team can complete the resource survey. After these processes are completed, the project team can then go on to the USACE permitting process. To date, CCA Texas has allocated \$500,000 to this project. Additionally, there are ongoing solicitations being made to other entities for construction funding. Gulf Trust will be the permit holder for this project and will be assisted by CCA Texas to complete the effort.

Through the generous support of members, volunteers, and conservation partners, CCA Texas has funded more than \$17 million in habitat restoration and enhancement projects spanning the entire Texas coast.



CCA staff works with volunteers and Sink Your Shucks to recycle oyster shells.

- **East Matagorda Bay** - This 15-acre site has been approved to move forward by TPWD Coastal Fisheries. CCA Texas is partnering with the Matagorda Bay Foundation to move the effort forward. Currently, the project team is waiting to be notified by the Texas Historical Commission on whether the project will need an archaeological survey. That decision is expected by the end of May 2026. If the archaeological survey is not needed, the project team will meet as quickly as possible with the TPWD Ecosystem Resources Program Director to lay out specifics for the resource survey. However, if the archaeological survey is required, it will need to be completed before the project team can complete the resource survey. After these processes are completed, the project team can then go on to the USACE permitting process. To date, CCA Texas has allocated \$500,000 to this project. Additionally, there are ongoing solicitations being made to other entities for construction funding. The Matagorda Bay Foundation will be the permit holder for this project and will be assisted by CCA Texas to complete the effort.

Ayres Reef Restoration and Creation

The Ayres Reef project is in the final stages of approval. While the USACE permit is in hand, the project is waiting for final approvals from the Texas General Land Office for the Coastal Boundary Surveys. The projected timeline is to go out for bids later this year and start construction in the spring of 2027, when tide heights are favorable. While this has taken time, the final stages are within sight for this important effort. This project will restore/create approximately 11 acres of reef, providing habitat and critical shoreline protection to the area.

Carancahua Reef Restoration (Carancahua Bay)

CCA Texas has committed \$1,000,000 to this critical project. On May 5, 2026, the Matagorda Bay Foundation notified CCA Texas that they received the USACE permit for the Carancahua Reef restoration effort. This project is currently permitted for 8.6 acres. The Matagorda Bay Foundation and CCA Texas are working to set a date to bring in local recreational anglers to discuss important matters such as materials to be used, construction methods, and the end goals of the project. Once materials and preliminary design are decided, any required next-step engineering will be completed, and the job will be placed out for bid, most likely in the Fall of 2026.

Carlos Reef Restoration Phase

II (Carlos Bay)

CCA Texas has committed \$1,000,000 to be the anchor funding partner for this project. In 2024, TPWD completed the first phase of the Carlos Reef Oyster Restoration Project, placing a relatively uniform layer of 1-2 inches of cultch material across 70 acres of Carlos Reef. However, TPWD's permit for this project allows for restoration of up to 306 acres of degraded oyster habitat, which means an additional 236 acres of oyster restoration is available within

this already permitted project footprint. Based on TPWD's knowledge of this area, they believe there are approximately 70-80 acres of high-priority restoration potential within the existing target areas. TPWD is currently working on obtaining a lease for these areas and conducting field assessments that will guide the exact locations of the proposed restoration efforts, which is now being called "Carlos Reef Oyster Restoration, Phase II."



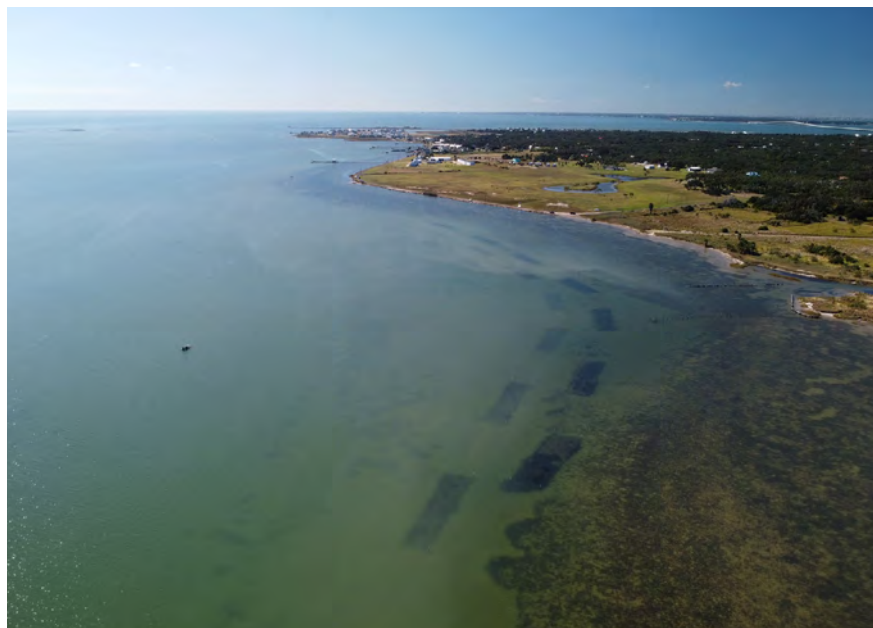
CBBEP has been working with TPWD to identify additional funding sources for this project. Based on the Phase I restoration effort, the cost is expected to be \$3 million for Phase II. CBBEP, CCA Texas, and other organizations are currently working to raise the remainder of the funds for the effort.

Newcomb Marsh Restoration Project (Copano Bay)

CCA Texas provided \$35,000 in the initial Phase I effort of the project. These dollars are part of the community matching grant funds for the CEPRA grant. CCA Texas has committed an additional \$50,000 to Phase 2 of this project, bringing the total commitment to \$85,000 to date. The proposed project is Phase 2 of the "Newcomb Marsh Wetland and Shoreline Protection Project," which is a Tier 1 project in the 2023 Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan. The Newcomb Marsh project is located within Copano Bay along the southwest portion of the Lamar Peninsula, immediately south of Holiday Beach, Texas. The total project area includes 2.5 miles of shoreline and 280 acres of estuarine marsh habitat. Newcomb Marsh is a tidally influenced coastal marsh consisting primarily of wetland habitats that have been eroding and subsiding. To address these shoreline and habitat losses, local stakeholders are pursuing a project to provide conservation and restoration to the area.

Gordy Marsh (Trinity Bay)

CCA Texas has contributed \$200,000 to this living shoreline project. In mid-January, the Galveston Bay Foundation signed an agreement with NRDA for \$1.25 million for additional construction funds for the breakwater. With the final signature from trustees, the project is ready to move forward and go to procurement, which GBF anticipates happening in May of this year, to get the best water conditions over the summer for construction.



Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection (West Galveston Bay)

CCA Texas has committed \$630,000 through the four phases of the Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection efforts. The Galveston Bay Foundation is still working through its CEPRA agreement with the Texas General Land Office. The GLO made some changes to procurement procedures and engineering contracts that the GBF wanted to walk through. The GBF anticipates a

Spring 2027 procurement and a Summer 2027 construction. Oyster Lake Phase III was planted with 10,000 cordgrass stems in May of 2025. Additional plantings behind Phase III have taken place this Spring.

Serpulid Reef Project

This project is currently in permitting. All the pre-construction site monitoring is complete, all the permit documents are complete, and HRI has received notification that the Army Corps of Engineers has begun its review process. This project focuses on restoring Serpulid reefs in Baffin Bay using innovative restoration modules called "Crabitats", which are approximately 34" x 34" x 34" (L x W x H) and are constructed of Portland cement using 3-D printing. Although these units (as the name implies) were originally designed to provide crab refuge, they are of particular interest for Serpulid reef restoration because their design provides extensive internal surface areas for Serpulid worm attachment and reef development. This innovative approach aims to enhance Serpulid worm recruitment success, improve Serpulid reef stability, support recreational angling, and promote long-term sustainability of this key habitat. CCA Texas has contributed to Oyster Lake Shoreline Protection efforts.

Nearshore Reefing – Port O'Connor MI 562

CCA Texas recently funded \$50,000 for a "materials of opportunity" deployment into the Port O'Connor MI 562 nearshore reefing site. Approximately 350 – 400 tons of concrete railroad ties provided by Friends of RGV were deployed into the Port O'Connor MI 562 site, taking advantage of the deployment vessels' return to Louisiana.

To learn more about CCA Texas, banquets in your area, advocacy efforts, and more, be sure to visit www.ccatexas.org.



Tiny Pellets, BIG Trouble: The Lone Star Pre-Production Plastic Crisis

By CCA Texas Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

Texas' waters face an ever-present threat that demands attention from conservation-minded anglers and outdoor enthusiasts:

pre-production plastic pellets, commonly called "nurdles," are washing up along coastal and inland shorelines across the state and accumulating in waterways. These tiny, peppercorn or fish egg-sized pellets—commonly clear, white, or gray in color—are the raw feedstock for virtually all plastic products. Though they appear insignificant, their ubiquity and persistence pose serious risks to marine life, fisheries, public health, and coastal economies.

The problem is widespread. Recent citizen science efforts, including the International Plastic Pellet Count, found pellets at seven out of ten surveyed locations. Globally, researchers estimate that more than 10 trillion pellets enter waterways each year, and limited observations along Texas waterways have yielded

more than 2.3 million collected pellets, according to data gathered by [Nurdle Patrol](#), a citizen-science project led by the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. **Pre-production pellets are now the second largest source of marine microplastic pollution worldwide, yet public awareness**

The evidence is overwhelming, the technology exists to stop this pollution, and inaction continually harms both our natural resources and the communities that depend on them.

of their presence and impacts remains low.

Texas is uniquely vulnerable because it is the nation's leading plastics manufacturing hub. At least 36 production facilities in the state process pre-production materials, creating numerous opportunities for pellets to escape into the environment during transport, storage, and handling. Routine activities, such as loading and unloading, equipment failures, rainfall events, and inadequate containment, can release pellets that are then transported by wind, runoff, and drainage systems into estuaries, bays, and the Gulf of America.

Once released, these pellets do not disappear. They persist for centuries, slowly fragmenting into ever-smaller microplastics, acting as sponges

for chemical contaminants, concentrating pollutants from the surrounding water. Marine organisms that ingest pellets face not only physical blockage and internal injury but also exposure to toxins, such as organic pollutants and heavy

metals, absorbed by the pre-production plastics.

Impacts on marine life and fisheries are concerning and well-documented. Studies show microplastic ingestion causes "false satiation" in fish, reducing natural feeding and leading to malnutrition and stunted growth. Microplastics can impair respiration, interfere with nutrient uptake, and carry endocrine-disrupting and carcinogenic chemicals that affect reproduction and development. Lowered growth rates, reduced reproductive success, and higher mortality from cumulative stressors

can translate into weaker fisheries, and for key Texas commercial and recreational species, these effects threaten population health and long-term sustainability.

This ecological damage has direct economic consequences. Texas' outdoor recreation sector supports



nearly 300,000 jobs, generates about \$14 billion in wages, and contributes roughly \$31 billion in value to the state economy.

Commercial and recreational fisheries, beachfront tourism, marinas, charter operations, and related service sectors rely on healthy waters and abundant fish stocks.

Visible pollution, both littered beaches and contaminated seafood, deters visitors and reduces revenue for coastal communities. Unfortunately, surveys show Texas beaches contain up to ten times more plastic debris than other Gulf Coast beaches, a disparity that threatens the state's tourism and fishing reputation and the livelihoods that depend on it.

Public health concerns compound the problem, and much like asbestos or glyphosate before them, microplastics present a pattern of widespread exposure preceding comprehensive health research; a public health gamble we've lost before. Microplastics and the chemicals they carry can accumulate in seafood tissues, posing potential exposure risks to consumers. A primary health concern is inflammation and its contribution to the development and progression of cardiometabolic disease and cancer. The full spectrum of human health effects from microplastics exposure requires



far more study, which is why [The National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) issued requests for proposals to study the [human health risks of nano-microplastics](#).

Although science is still evolving, the possibility of chemical transfer through seafood consumption raises food safety questions

and could erode consumer confidence in Texas-caught products - further jeopardizing commercial fishers and local seafood markets.

Despite the massive scale of this pollution, Texas

regulations fall short. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has authority under Surface Water Quality Standards to control pollutants, yet has failed to adopt comprehensive rules targeting pre-production



plastics. Current regulations ban the discharge of "floating solids, other than trace amounts," but what constitutes a "trace amount"? For a facility producing hundreds of trillions of pellets annually, even a trace amount means millions of pellets released into waterways. Worse still, some manufacturers are now requesting permit modifications that could *weaken* restrictions on floating solids, arguing that regulations are too vague or burdensome. What Texas needs is not regulatory rollback, but stronger, enforceable

standards with clear definitions and accountability measures.

The most effective policy response is the adoption of zero-discharge standards for pre-production plastic pellets. Zero-discharge requires facilities handling pellets to prevent releases through mandatory best management practices, clear reporting requirements, and enforceable permit limits.

Key components of zero-discharge programs should include:

- Robust containment systems around production, shipping, loading, unloading, and storage areas to prevent pellet escape;
- Regular equipment maintenance and inspection protocols to reduce accidental releases;
- Comprehensive employee training in spill prevention and handling procedures;
- Rapid response and cleanup procedures when releases occur;
- Mandatory reporting of all pellet releases to regulatory authorities and public disclosure of incidents.

CCA Texas members can play a decisive role in advancing zero-discharge standards. Practical steps include contacting the Governor and legislators, requesting they tell TCEQ to incorporate zero discharge of pre-production plastic standards in the Surface Water Quality Standards update; participating in public comment periods and requesting public meetings on relevant permits; supporting citizen science efforts such as Nurdle Patrol to document pollution and track progress; educating local communities and elected officials about pellet impacts; and reporting local accumulations to authorities to help identify pollution sources.

The evidence is overwhelming, the technology exists to stop this pollution, and inaction continually harms both our natural resources and the communities that depend on them. Conserving Texas waters and fisheries requires sustained advocacy from the public and regulatory resolve by TCEQ. Zerodischarge standards represent the most practical and effective approach to prevent a preventable source of pollution while preserving the economic and cultural values of Texas' coast.

For the sake of marine life, local economies, and future anglers, action is imperative. Make your voice heard: demand zero discharge. Help ensure Texas's waterways are productive, healthy, and beautiful for generations to come.



Regulatory Gaps and Failed Reforms

Despite being regulated as pollutants under the Clean Water Act, plastic pellets rarely face clear, enforceable discharge limits. Instead, permits rely on vague "floating solids" language and non-specific best management practices, making violations difficult to prevent or enforce.

In 2021, Representative Todd Hunter [filed legislation](#) to establish a zero-discharge standard for pre-production plastics. TCEQ, under Executive Director Toby Baker's leadership, proposed adding explicit [language to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards](#): "There shall be no discharge of visible pre-production plastic." [Industry opposed the change](#), and TCEQ abandoned the proposal.

Contaminant Transport and Accumulation

Pre-production plastics act as sponges for toxic pollutants, absorbing and concentrating Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), and heavy metals. These contaminated particles alter pollutant exposure pathways, increase disease susceptibility, and compromise ecosystem health.

Case Study: Matagorda Bay

A [Texas A&M University-Galveston study](#) documented widespread nano-microplastic (NMP) contamination in Matagorda Bay:

- **Water concentrations:** 0.10–3.91 µg/L, with highest levels at Port O'Connor
- **Tissue concentrations:** Oysters contained far higher NMP burdens than fish—approximately 8,926 µg/g dry weight compared to 355–1,637 µg/g in fish muscle (5–25 times higher)
- **Scale of contamination:** NMP levels in tissues exceeded PAHs and PCBs by orders of magnitude
- **Chemical signatures:** Fish and shellfish showed primarily petrogenic (petroleum-derived) PAH patterns
- **Toxic effects:** Dioxin-like PCBs in some fish livers produced Toxic Equivalents (TEQs) at or above thresholds for adverse biological effects, particularly in catfish

Ecological and Economic Implications

High NMP burdens in oysters and elevated PCB/PAH concentrations threaten oyster reef function, shellfish quality, commercial fisheries, and market confidence in Texas seafood.

Human Health Exposure

Seafood represents a documented pathway for human microplastic exposure. Based on measured concentrations in Matagorda Bay species, researchers estimate annual plastic ingestion of approximately 0.01–0.2 grams per year from consumption of oysters, catfish, red drum, and speckled trout alone. The co-occurrence of NMP with legacy contaminants—including elevated PCB TEQs in fish livers—coupled with limited human exposure data, underscores substantial uncertainty about cumulative health risks.

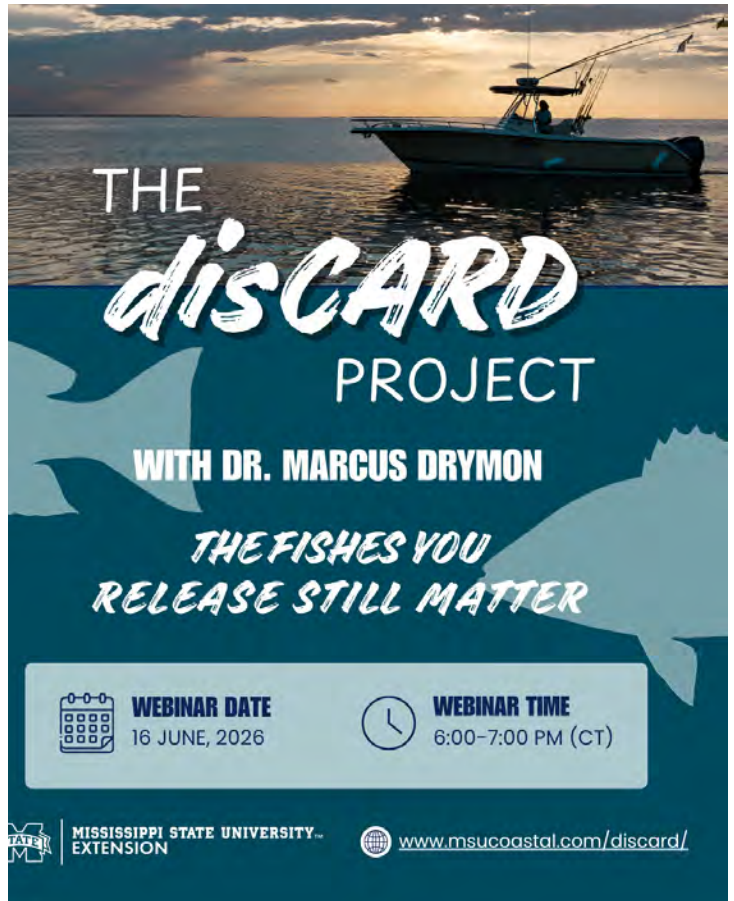


Anglers headed offshore in Galveston Bay, San Antonio Bay, or the lower Laguna Madre may see a Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) technician before they leave the dock who will ask them several questions and hand them a card. This is a part of a larger, gulf wide study to test a new approach for improving the accuracy of reef fish released (or “discard”) reporting using a physical paper catch card paired with quick smartphone photo submission. Anglers will take a card with them offshore and mark the fish they discard as they are fishing, then text a picture of the completed card to submit. Collecting information about discarded fish is difficult, but critical for accurate assessment of fish populations in the Gulf. These data are needed for the models that determine the sustainable harvest levels for important species like Red Snapper.

About the project: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has partnered with Mississippi State University and the four other Gulf state agencies to collect information on fish caught (“discarded”) then released offshore. This study relies on saltwater anglers submitting data collected while fishing on physical cards TPWD will distribute. The “disCARD” project will take place in the Galveston, San Antonio, and Lower Laguna Madre Bay systems for the next 18 months. We encourage anyone who receives a card to participate!

Collecting information about discarded fish is difficult, but critical for accurate assessment of fish populations in the Gulf. These data are needed for the models that determine the sustainable harvest levels for important species like Red Snapper.

MSU hosted a webinar on the project webinar on June 16 at 6:00 PM CT.




THE
disCARD
PROJECT


WITH DR. MARCUS DRYMON

**THE FISHES YOU
RELEASE STILL MATTER**

WEBINAR DATE
16 JUNE, 2026

WEBINAR TIME
6:00–7:00 PM (CT)

 **MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY...
EXTENSION**

 www.msucostal.com/discard/

How will this information benefit Texas?

- More accurate discard information for use in stock assessments that determine Red Snapper allocation
- Information on how similar our discard rates are to Louisiana’s rates
- Insights into regional/seasonal differences in discard behavior
- Gulf-wide collaboration





NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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Nearly 30% of Texas Oyster Licenses Removed by Successful Buyback Program in a Historic Conservation Win for Texas Coast

158 commercial oyster licenses retired after two successful rounds, significantly reducing potential pressure on public reef systems.

Houston, TX June 15, 2026 - The S. Reed Morian Oyster Buyback Program has delivered unprecedented results for Texas coastal conservation, with two successful rounds removing nearly 30 percent of all commercial oyster licenses from the fishery. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) and Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA Texas), announced that the second buyback round, which closed May 15, 2026, successfully retired an additional 46 oyster licenses.

Combined with the groundbreaking first round in 2025 that removed 112 licenses, the program has now taken 158 commercial oyster boat licenses out of circulation – a significant milestone in efforts to restore balance to an overcapitalized fishery and conserve Texas' public oyster reefs.

“By leveraging both public and private funding through the S. Reed Morian Oyster Buyback Program, we’ve demonstrated that the renewed oyster license buyback program delivers meaningful results for license holders and for the health of our public oyster reefs,” said TPWD Coastal Fisheries Deputy Director Dakus Geeslin. “Building on the legacy of coastal conservation championed by former TPW Commission Chairman Morian, the success of this program has positioned us to manage the oyster fishery more effectively moving forward.”

A Strategic Shift That Delivered Results

The program’s success stems from a strategic pivot in 2025. After years of limited participation in reverse-bid auctions, TPWD implemented a simplified flat-rate offer of \$30,000 per license. The first round under this new model attracted 115 interested offers, with 112 ultimately signing contracts – representing a 20% reduction in total licenses and the most consequential oyster license buyback in state history.

CCA Texas delivered \$1 million in anchor funding for the program. “This is conservation through collaboration,” said Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director. “Our \$1 million contribution, alongside state funding and generous private donors, shows what’s possible when partners come together to make a positive impact.”

The Power of Public-Private Partnership

The initiative leverages philanthropic investment with public funds to create compelling opportunities for license holders while delivering meaningful conservation outcomes. Key funders include:

- Laurie and S. Reed Morian Foundation (\$1 million match funding)
- Coastal Conservation Association Texas (\$1 million anchor funding)
- The Brown Foundation
- Earl C. Sams Foundation
- Jeffery and Mindy Hildebrand
- Beaver and Joanie Aplin
- John and Mary Eads
- Bobby and Sherri Patton

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

Beyond Oysters: Ecosystem-Wide Benefits

Reducing harvest pressure on public oyster reefs delivers benefits that extend far beyond the oyster fishery itself. Healthy oyster reefs serve as critical nursery and refuge habitats for other marine life, stabilize shorelines, enhance water quality, and reduce coastal erosion throughout Texas’ bay and estuarine systems.

Importantly, more than half of the licenses retired in the first round had reported landings in at least three of the last five seasons, ensuring the conservation benefits are meaningful and immediate.

Addressing an Overcapitalized Fishery

The need for buybacks stems from the unintended consequences of a legislative bill in 2005. While the Texas Legislature enacted a moratorium on new commercial oyster-boat licenses to reduce harvesting pressure, a one-year grace period triggered a rush of applications, increasing license numbers from approximately 350 to nearly 760 before full implementation. Though attrition brought that number down to just over 550 by 2016, the fishery remained overcapitalized.

Early buyback efforts authorized in 2017 faced significant challenges. From 2018 through 2024, eight buyback rounds received only 78 total bids, many exceeding the state’s financial capacity. The 2025 strategic shift changed everything.

Looking Ahead

The program is funded through a combination of commercial license surcharges, saltwater stamp revenues appropriated by the Texas Legislature, and

private philanthropic contributions. This diversified funding model ensures sustainable support for future buyback rounds.

CCA Texas and partner organizations expect future oyster license buyback rounds to follow this successful model, with continued support from TPWD and appropriations from the Texas Legislature essential to maintaining momentum.

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

About the Program

TPWD has successfully managed long-term buyback programs for shrimp (since 1995), crab (1997), and finfish (1997) licenses, demonstrating the state’s commitment to sustainable fisheries management through strategic effort reduction. The S. Reed Morian Oyster Buyback Program represents a collaborative effort between public agencies and private conservation partners to reduce harvesting pressure on Texas’ public oyster reefs. The program honors the legacy of former Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Chairman S. Reed Morian, a champion of coastal conservation.

“Our investment in the S. Reed Morian Oyster Buyback Program reflects CCA Texas’ unwavering commitment to conserving and restoring our coast,” said John Carlson, Chairman of the CCA Texas Board. “We salute all of the wonderful contributors to this worthy cause, especially Lori Morian, and truly appreciate all of the efforts Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.”

###

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.



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
CARLOS REEF RESTORATION PHASE II	\$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)	\$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 | CARLOS REEF RESTORATION PHASE II
\$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)
\$502,000 | 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
\$85,000 | NEWCOMB BEND MARSH RESTORATION (TPWD)
\$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 | 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 2026:
\$17,081,758

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 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Michael Wetz, Ph.D.
 Chair for Coastal Water Health
 michael.wetz@tamucc.edu | (361) 825-2132

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the Tournament – a \$25,000 Scholarship provided by our friends at ABC13 Houston, and our \$50,000



Billy Kinney Conservation Scholarship! For just \$10, you can sign up your kid/teen as a CCA Texas Youth Member AND fish the STAR Tournament for FREE!

The 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament is underway, and it's off to a HOT start! With 120 Tagged Redfish released on our shorelines at boat ramps, dikes, piers, oyster reefs, and your favorite fishing hole – **MAKE SURE**



you're registered for the CCA TX STAR Tournament, and your CCA Membership is active to be eligible for STAR prizes! Do not miss out on over \$2 Million in prizes! And don't forget about our always-popular **Member Bonus Giveaways (two of them!)**. For the first one, our friends at Dargel have provided us with another



impressive rig – a Dargel Attacka Flat 203, 150 HP Mercury Motor and McClain Trailer package. To spice up the prizes for 2026, for our second Member Bonus Giveaway, we are showcasing a brand-new giveaway to a lucky registered angler – a 2026 Ford Super Duty F-250 XLT Crew Cab 4x4 Diesel! Yes, you read that right! Just for registering



for the 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament, you will be entered in these **TWO** Member Bonus Giveaways with **TWO** winners, one for the Ford Super Duty F-250 and one for the Dargel Attacka Flat 203! And we didn't forget about our Kids and Teens Anglers. We will be giving away **TWO** Scholarships this year to **TWO** youth anglers just for signing up for



Last, but definitely not least, we are showcasing a new division this year – Tags of Texas! The first three tags caught and certified as winners in this division will win a top prize of a 22' SVT Tran Sport Boat powered by a 150 HP Mercury Motor and Coastline Trailer package! The next seven registered anglers will win an Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card. Any tag caught by a registered angler in this division will also receive a custom prize package provided by one of our amazing STAR sponsors! This division consists of six different tag colors, each color tied to a specific sponsor:

- Blue = Academy Sports + Outdoors*
- Mid Green = Hoffpauir Polaris*
- Grey = Mercury Marine*
- Yellow = Mustang Cat*
- Lime Green = Lone Star Beer*
- Purple = AFTCO*
- WHITE = Progressive*

A HUGE thank you to ALL our sponsors – they are the backbone of this tournament and a big reason we can proudly say we have awarded over \$40,000,000 in prizes and over \$8,700,000 in scholarships to STAR Anglers over the last 36 years!

Here is a breakdown of the details for this year's 2026 STAR Tournament:

Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag Division

The first FIVE eligible winners will take home a 2026 Ford F-150 SuperCrew, a 23' Haynie Amigo, 150 hp Mercury motor, and a Coastline Trailer package. The next FIVE eligible winners will take home a 23' Haynie Amigo, 150hp Mercury motor, and Coastline Trailer packages.



***NEW* Tags of Texas Division**

Every tag is a winner in this exciting new division featuring six color-coded tags, each sponsored by a STAR partner.

- **First 3 tags caught:** Win a 22' SVT Tran Sport Boat, 150hp Mercury motor, and a Coastline trailer package
- **Next 7 tags caught:** Win thousands in Academy Sports + Outdoors gift cards
- **All tags:** Win a special sponsor prize package

Tag Colors & Sponsors:

- Blue – Academy Sports + Outdoors
- Mid Green – Hoffpauir Polaris
- Grey – Mercury Marine
- Yellow – Mustang Cat
- Lime Green – Lone Star Beer
- Purple – AFTCO
- White – Progressive



INSHORE

As in previous years, this division includes 3 species – Black Drum, Sheepshead, and Gafftop. The top eligible heaviest fish for each species will take home a 19'

Shoalwater boat, 115hp Mercury motor, and McClain trailer package. The next four heaviest fish of each species will receive an Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.



OFFSHORE

As in previous years, those eligible offshore anglers who bring in the heaviest Ling/Cobia, Dorado, Kingfish, and Red Snapper will take home a Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFi Pursuit Camo UTV with a Big Tex Trailer. The next four heaviest fish of each species will receive an Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card.



SCHOLARSHIPS

STAR now awards \$375,000 each year in scholarships to those young anglers who will be the future stewards of our precious marine resources. Nothing is more rewarding than watching the little ones with their first redfish on the line! Mom and Dad, what better way to spend more time on the water than by bringing the kids along? For \$10 bucks each, they entered in a drawing for a \$25,000 scholarship AND a \$50,000 scholarship, whether they catch something or not!

We've got two divisions: The STAR Kids (ages 6 - 10) and STAR Teens (11-17), both offering two different species of competition: Sheepshead and Gafftop! First place for each species will win a scholarship of \$30,000, then \$20,000, \$15,000, \$7,500, and \$2,500 for subsequent places.

Guides Division

Calling all Texas Fishing Guides! Texas STAR and CCA Texas want to reward those guides who support marine conservation and empower them to help recruit more anglers into the CCA mission through this division. The winner will take home a Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFi Pursuit Camo UTV with a Big Tex Trailer. For more details, go to <https://www.startournament.org/>

As this article is being written, we are approaching another exciting weekend of the tournament. The inshore and offshore submissions are rolling in, and tagged redfish are being caught. -Drew Adams

After a few phone calls from some potential winners, a couple of stories really stuck out with one glaring similarity...MOTOR ISSUES. Unfortunately, we've all been there quite a few times. Even preventive maintenance doesn't always guarantee the perfect day on the water.

One of our potential winners began preparing for his trip two weeks before dropping his boat in the water. The anxious angler ran through his Spring/Summer checklist, which included installing new batteries. Fast forward 2 weeks. It's a beautiful early morning, and he's rolling up to the boat ramp as the sunlight begins to paint the dawn sky. He backs the boat down the ramp so perfectly that he deserves a spot on ESPN's Top 10 Plays of the Week. As

he opens the truck door, he's met with the oh so familiar whiff of saltwater cologne and high hopes for tight lines. He boards his boat, trying to stay calm and cool while hurrying not to miss the bite. All is perfect. All is right. Then, he turns the key. Nothing. Turns it again, with a little more intent. Nothing. How



STAR Volunteers caught, tagged and transported reds to all areas of the Texas coast.



Guides alert! This big Ranger Crew UTV will go to a Texas coastal guide.

can this happen when he JUST ran through his pre-fishing season checklist?! He then makes a decision that separates the fair-weathered angler from the hardcore salty. Fast forward 2 hours, and the NEW battery, that had somehow gone bad, has now been replaced, and once again, he drops the boat back in the water, and finally hears that sweet, sweet purr of the trusty Merc! By this point, the sun is up, and he's missed the early morning topwater bite, BUT there's time to flip the script. While making his run to his spot, his buddy says, "The best days I've had hunting and fishing usually start with something going wrong...there's a good fish waiting for you today". Our lucky angler had no idea how right his buddy was. An hour later, he is listening to his drag scream from a tagged redfish of a lifetime!

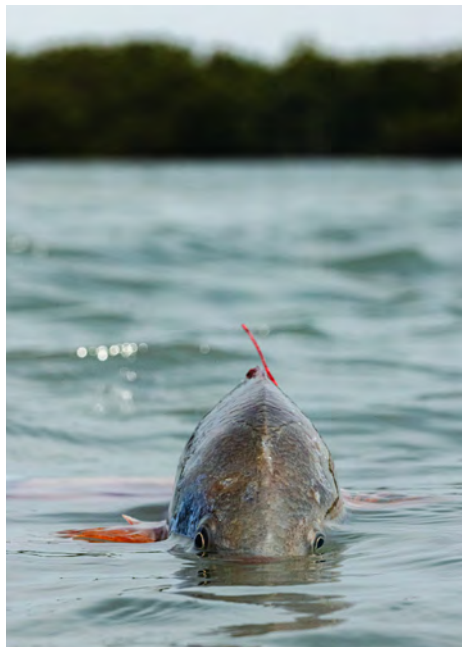
Another potential winner shared a similar experience. This young salt finally got his boat on the water that he and his father had been restoring for some time. This maiden voyage was about to become a core memory...what could go wrong? I think y'all know where this story is headed. Boat enters water and floats...check! Motor turns...check! No incoming water from a missed plug...check! This is the start of a day that he and his

father will remember forever. They roll about a mile from the ramp, and that trusty motor makes the gut-wrenching “putter” that can turn a trip south FAST. They dropped the trolling motor (that, fortunately, they installed) and pulled up to the nearest shoreline for a quick diagnosis of the failing engine. Before making the slow, somber roll back to the ramp and cutting what should’ve been a full-day fishing trip in half, they decided to throw a few lines in the water and give it a go. Three



Release photos courtesy of Mac Elliot Media

casts later, the young angler’s popping cork disappeared, and the fight was on! Knowing this trip would be ending shortly with a slow troll back to the ramp, he let the fish fight so he could hang on to that feeling just a bit longer. The fish decided to pull some acrobatic moves and wrap around a PVC pipe, BUT with no real reason to get this fish in quickly, our angler played it cool and rolled up slowly to the pipe to begin the attempt to untangle the fish and pipe. No jerking, no nerves, and no panic as he calmly freed the fish and pulled it into the waiting net extending from his father’s hand. As the redfish lay on the floor of the boat, the father grabbed the pliers to take the hook out. Odd... something was protruding out of the back of the redfish. He wiped the thin layer of algae away. Could it be?? Every STAR angler knows it CAN happen, and, in this instance, it did! Some neanderthal style screams ensued, along with the chest bumping and high fives we could expect. Nearby wade fishermen thought a 30” trout was just landed. After a quick clip of the tag and safe release of the fish, the angler and his father knew they’d never have to mess with that junker motor again! As they started the slow troll back to the ramp, coming off the highest high they could imagine, they knew they had an experience they’d remember forever.



The takeaway from these two stories? Don’t let a small bump in the road ruin what could be an incredible experience; patience can pay off.

As STAR continues on, there are currently 2 tagged fish that have been certified – 1 Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag and 1 Tags of Texas Tag (Purple Tag sponsored by our GREAT friends at AFTCO). There are still TONS of prizes and tags to be caught! If you get out on the water this summer, PLEASE make sure you are registered for the STAR Tournament, and your CCA Membership is active. Please don’t be on the other side of the phone explaining you just caught the fish of a lifetime, and you didn’t sign up because you didn’t think it would happen to you! And one last thing – even if you don’t fish this summer, it’s still worth registering for the tournament. Sign up anytime during the tournament to be entered in our Member Bonus Giveaways! We are

giving away 2 incredible prizes just for being entered – a 2026 F250 4x4 Super Duty Truck, and a Dargel Attacka Flat w/150 HP Mercury motor. We are also giving away two scholarships, \$25,000 and \$50,000, to 2 lucky registered Kid/Teen anglers!

To all of our STAR Anglers – get out on the water, enjoy our resources, and make those memories of a lifetime! That’s what it’s all about!



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Release photos courtesy of Mac Elliott Media



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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.



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The Texas Outdoor Writer's Association Focuses On Youth

CCA's Excellence In Craft Awards Featured

Texas Outdoor Writers Association Conference — young communicators were honored at this year's TOWA Conference.

The Conference, held May 1–4 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, the Bob Hood Scholarship, Jenn Nolan and TOWA's monthly PRS Precision Long Range Matches. Through their support, we raised approximately \$11,000 for student scholarships, adult awards, and conference social events.

TOWA remains proudly youth-centric, and with that focus, we introduced a new writing contest for 2026. A new "Spirit of Texas Award" was added to the existing EIC categories. Unlike the others, this category allows only one entry per member. The entry fee will be slightly higher, but the cash award will be significantly larger. The winner will be announced at the 2027 conference. Entries may be news reporting, a feature story, or humor (no fiction or editorials), and should best capture the essence of the Texas outdoors.



A big event at TOWA's annual Stampede is the CCA Catch A Kid event. [Click here to enjoy a video.](#)



TOWA Stampede! October 10-11, 2026. To view the AI image created here by Jeff Lichon, [click on the flying pony](#) and visit the [TOWA Website](#).

Mark your calendars for the TOWA 2026 Fall Stampede, October 10–12 at 1173 FM 1890, The Shaw's Bend Social Club in Columbus, Texas. Plans are for live music, the four shooting competitions of the Texas Challenge, World Senior Pro Bull Riding, a Chili Cook-Off, and more.

Looking further ahead, the TOWA 2027 Annual Conference will once again be hosted by Craig Griffin at the Inn at Fulton Harbor. We're thrilled to return to our happy home in Rockport with our outstanding host! —Herman Brune, Chairman, TOWA Board of Directors



A few of the Youth Award Winners were in attendance. From top, Devon Warden, Emily Totino and Jessamie Saenz.



Top awards for CCA from the TOWA Conference in Rockport

John Blaha's feature article took Honorable Mention in the important **Outdoor News Reporting** category.

First Place and Second Place for ART and three Honorable mentions for CURRENTS photography and humor columns were awarded to Sam Caldwell.



Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

Highlighting CCA Texas Partners in Conservation: The Impact of the Sink Your Shucks™ Program

By John Blaha, Director of Habitat

The Sink Your Shucks™ oyster shell recycling program was initiated by the Harte Research Institute (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and is part of the Coastal Conservation and Restoration lab. The program stands as a testament to community-driven coastal conservation. Since its inception in 2009, the program has transformed discarded oyster shells into vital components for restoring Texas's oyster reefs, thereby enhancing marine biodiversity, water quality, and shoreline resilience.

CCA Texas has been a proud supporter of this effort for many years, both financially and by encouraging and rallying local volunteers to participate in this consequential effort. CCA Texas's financial support includes a \$152,000 grant spread across two years in 2022, a \$200,000 grant spread across four years in 2024, and a \$10,000 grant secured in partnership with James Avery Artisan Jewelry in 2022 to replace transport trailers.

Founded by Dr. Jennifer Pollack and Corpus Christi restaurateur Brad Loumas, Sink Your Shucks™ was the first program in Texas to reclaim oyster shells from local restaurants and return them to bay waters to form new reefs. This innovative approach addresses the critical need for oyster shell substrate, which is essential for the attachment and growth of juvenile oysters. Without such initiatives, harvested shells often end up in landfills, depriving marine ecosystems of a crucial building material.

As of 2025, the program collaborates with over 15 partner restaurants, 7 oyster farms, and 4 festivals across the Coastal Bend and state, collecting shucked oyster shells that would otherwise be discarded. These shells are transported to a quarantined area provided by the Port of Corpus Christi, where they undergo a natural sanitization process over six months.

Once sanitized, the shells are bagged in biodegradable beechwood bags and distributed to various reef restoration sites. Community volunteers play a pivotal role in this process, participating in shell-bagging events that contribute to the construction of new oyster reefs. In the recent volunteer bagging events held at Goose Island State Park in May 2025 and over the course of three days, more than 400 passionate volunteers packed 37 tons of reclaimed oyster shell into 2,973 biodegradable beechwood bags and 'sunk' them into St. Charles Bay.

As of 2024, Sink Your Shucks™ has collected over 3 million pounds of oyster shells and restored more than 45 acres of oyster reef habitat in the Mission-Aransas Estuary, encompassing Copano, Aransas, and St. Charles Bays. These restored reefs provide essential habitat for various marine species, including fish, crabs, and other organisms, thereby enhancing biodiversity. Additionally, oyster reefs play a crucial role in improving water quality by filtering phytoplankton and excess nutrients, and act as natural barriers that protect shorelines from erosion.

The Sink Your Shucks™ events also include educational opportunities to discuss the ecosystem and benefits of oyster reefs and their restoration. Photo Credit: Kiese and Co.

RECUPERATION FROM A MIAMI FCA BANQUET will take a while, but the doctor says I'll make it with only mild brain damage. Having that much fun at an event, coupled with fishing the magnificent Florida waters for three days would overload the powers of Jimmy Buffet, or even Hulk Hogan. I had my first contact with Biscayne Bay one afternoon and got a chance to fish the area Floridians call "Flamingo" for the next couple of days.

I met some the folks in Florida, and learned that it isn't just Texans, Louisianans, Mississippians and Alabamans who are proud of having the most beautiful of all the Gulf Coast states I won't say that Floridians brag about Florida, because it ain't really braggin' if you've got it. One of the state's biggest boosters is an expatriate Texan. He won't like that tag, but Tony Maessen, a good old Texas boy from San Antonio is a walking flood of Florida facts and might be turned away at the Texas border if he comes back. Tony attended the Dade Chapter FCA banquet, then had enough energy left to shepherd a few CCA staffers around Biscayne Bay and the flats of the coastal waters off the Everglades National Park. It was in Flamingo that a longtime GCCA staffer had her first actual experience with a fish on a rod and reel. We were crewing for Tony Maessen in his Shallow Sport, a scooter boat with tunnel drive that will run across a heavy dew. Bruce Cartwright and I were casting hares for, hopefully, an early season redfish. Kim Brown, who keeps the CCA National office running through sheer skill and patience with muddle-headed staffers like me, was watching, huddled in a weatherproof parka. I had released several small mangrove snapper when something grabbed my gold spoon. I handed the rod to Kim and said, "Hold this a minute."

"Ooh," said Kim. There's something on here!"

"Aw, it's probably hooked on the bottom," I said. "Heh, heh ..."

Maessen and Cartwright were grinning, aware of the joke. Then the reel screamed, the rod bucked and line began to hiss through the water in an alarming manner. A tarpon jumped clear, shook its gill plates and played back into Flamingo Bay. Paid, after twenty-eight years of hard fishing on the Texas Coast I've never caught a tarpon. Imagine the next few minutes as Kim fought her first fish: the advice, the encouragement, the shouts of glee when the silver king left the water. At one point, Kim had the megalops atlanticus almost close enough for Tony's big net. The line went slack. Can you imagine the condescendances that Kim had to suffer? Can the reader imagine that I will ever again hand a rod to Kim Brown?

Caldwell's CCA art and stories can be visited on his website: www.samcaldwell.com

Leaving It Better Than You Found It

Major beach cleanups at Padre Island National Seashore (PINS) feature annual events that draw thousands to preserve the coastline. Thousands of pounds of debris from offshore, as well as litter from beach visitors, have to be picked up and delivered to disposal sites—almost all by volunteers.

The Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup was held on February 28. This annual event is historically known as the world’s largest single-day beach cleanup, targeting the notoriously remote and debris-heavy Big Shell portion of the seashore.

Texas Adopt-A-Beach Coastwide Fall Cleanup will be held in September. The Texas General Land Office will host its major fall coastwide event on Saturday, September 19, 2026.

The Port Mansfield Beach and Cut Cleanup has been an annual voluntary opportunity for 17 years. Initiated and organized by Miller and Kathie Bassler of the CCA Lee County chapter, CCA volunteers from all over Texas invest a day removing trash from the East Cut, jetty boulders, and Gulf of America beach. Local boat captains provide transportation, while area patrons make housing and food available. Some 360 volunteers, many of them CCA families, participated this year. —Sam Caldwell

Port Mansfield Beach and Cut Cleanup, June 13. More than 200 Volunteers are transported by local guides and boat owners to cleanup duties.

Volunteers provide healthier Texas beaches



Kathie and Miller Bassler shared cleanup stories with Capt. Billy Sandifer in 2011. Sandifer began the Big Shell Beach Cleanup in 1995. There are numerous programs across the Texas coast offering volunteers the opportunity to make a difference in many areas.

One of the most important volunteers for the Port Mansfield cleanup was Sybil Simmons. Sybil provided housing with Harbor Bait & Tackle /Y-Knot Rentals, and trash transportation from cleanup volunteers via her boat, the Y-Knot II.



A Volunteer Family Enjoys Leaving the Coast Cleaner

By Elisabeth Carroll Parks

On June 13, 275 volunteers boarded boats driven by 45 volunteer captains, many of whom are professional fishing guides who gave up a busy season Saturday's worth of revenue to transport people and trash.

Every year, around the middle of June, the population of Port Mansfield on the South Coast of Texas almost doubles, just for a weekend. The reason is a heart-warming one: For the last 17 years, the quiet fishing community has hosted volunteers from across the state for the Port Mansfield Beach and Cut Cleanup.

Started by Miller and Kathie Bassler, the cleanup has grown from one family's earnest act of service to a large-scale event that draws hundreds of people. Sponsors now range from familiar brands like BB's Tex-Orleans, founded and owned by the Basslers' oldest son, Brooks, to local Port Mansfield mainstays like Y Knot Rentals, as well as families and individuals.

My husband Shawn and I, along with our two sons, Gus (13) and Guy (7), were four of those volunteers. A couple of us are anglers and gardeners. Two play a lot of guitar, while the other two would rather draw or paint. But we all look forward to the Port Mansfield Beach and Cut Cleanup.



This year, the jetty rocks were the prime focus of trash gathering. We were unable to reach the beach to the south. Maybe next year.



Huddling behind Captain McBride on the boat ride to the East Cut.





Miller and Kathie Bassler enjoying their 17th Beach & Cut Cleanup

“It’s my favorite weekend of the year, in my favorite place in the world,” Gus tells us.

This year marked our fourth consecutive family trip to Port Mansfield to roll up our sleeves. It’s an early Saturday morning, but each year, a devoted crew of kitchen volunteers rises even earlier to make breakfast tacos and brew coffee for everyone. After eating, we grabbed pairs of gloves

provided by the organizers, listened to announcements and safety protocols, then made our way out to the docks to stock up on water—in eco-conscious cartons—plus plenty of trash bags.

This year, we met Captain Mike McBride, who offered to take us to the south jetties, which we’d heard were in dire need of attention. Sam and Vizi Caldwell, friends of Captain Mike’s, had spots on the boat as well.

The seven of us set out across the water. Our younger son spotted them first: dolphins, swimming not far from the boat. The pod kept pace with us for a few minutes, then raced ahead, leaving us all wanting more.

At the south jetties, we got to work. Bulky trash, including enormous old boat ropes, tires, and nets, always make for showy hauls, but the jetties also have old beer cans, broken plastic pieces of everything imaginable, and other tiny, salty junk wedged into their crevices. Retrieving the trash calls for a mix of long-armed grabber tools and pseudo-spelunkers, willing to climb down into the

cracks before the tide rolls back in.

After a few hours, volunteers collected about four tons of trash and climbed aboard Captain Mike’s boat, proud of the work. We took full bags of trash to the large designated drop-off vessel, then began to make our way back to the mainland. Suddenly, the dolphins were back. Captain Mike slowed down, and we all stood up, craning our necks to catch a better look. Other boats did the same. Instead of racing off, the dolphins lingered. The second encounter felt like a thank you—and like a timely reminder to always leave it better than you found it. —



Shawn offloads trash to the Y-Knot II.



Guide/writer/Captain Mike McBride and artist Sam Caldwell



Sam Caldwell collects a group photo.





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Caught Redhanded!



Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

On 6/3/26, a Brazoria County Warden responded to an OGT complaint about undersized fish being caught in Oyster Creek. One individual was found to be fishing and in possession of undersized red drum, undersized black drum, over the daily bag limit of red drum, and no fishing license. On further investigation, the individual was arrested for an outstanding federal ICE warrant and processed. Cases pending.



On 6/2/2026, Jefferson County Wardens inspected 3 individuals fishing in Sabine Lake. The individuals were found to be in possession of 24 spotted sea trout in Texas waters. Violations cited included exceeding the daily bag limit and undersized spotted sea trout. Citations issued and cases pending.



Sunday, 5/31/2026 – Jefferson Co. Wardens were patrolling the Gulf of America out of Sabine Pass and observed a recreational vessel coming into Texas waters from the Texas EEZ. Three fishermen on board were found to have exceeded the federal bag limit on red snapper and were in possession of two undersized snapper. Cases filed in state court for importing fish taken in violation of federal regulations. A total of 8 red snapper were seized, and restitution is pending.

Tuesday, 5/26/ 2026 – Hardin County Game Wardens apprehended 2 local subjects taking catfish by illegal means/methods with hoop nets placed in the Neches River near Evadale, Texas. The Wardens had found some of the nets several days earlier while dragging the river and had been watching them off and on, waiting for the subjects to return and check the nets. Most of the fish were still alive and were released back into the river. Three hoop nets were seized, and multiple cases were filed against the subjects for taking game fish by illegal means/methods.

On May 31st, Brazoria County Wardens inspected a charter for hire vessel and found it to be in possession of undersized red snapper and triggerfish.



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](#).

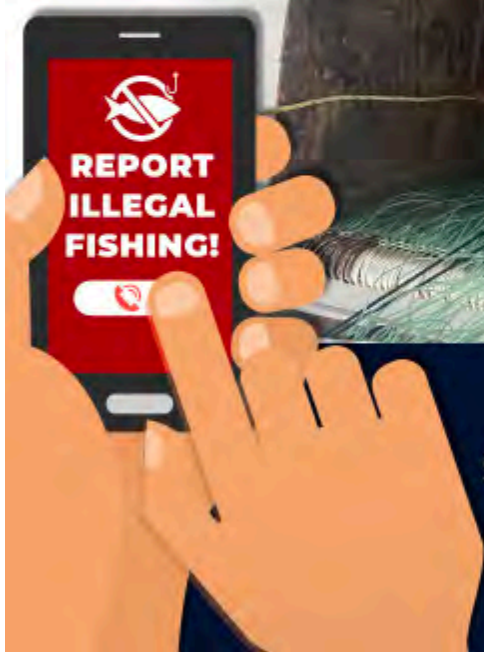
If you already have CCA Texas plates with the previous design, you can definitely keep them, but you also have the opportunity to get the new one by going to your local county tax assessor-collector's office and ordering a replacement for \$6.50.

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.

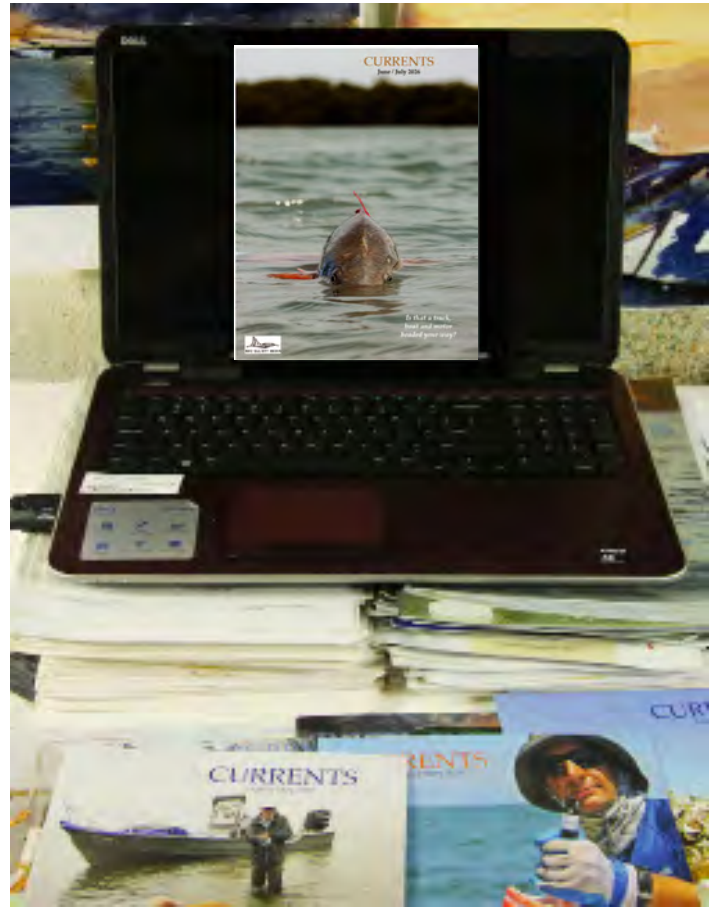
For 36 years, the printed CURRENTS newsletter has provided valuable two-way communication, as well as being an important tool for affecting environmental change. But printing and mailing a full-color newsletter to our statewide membership is time consuming and expensive.

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.

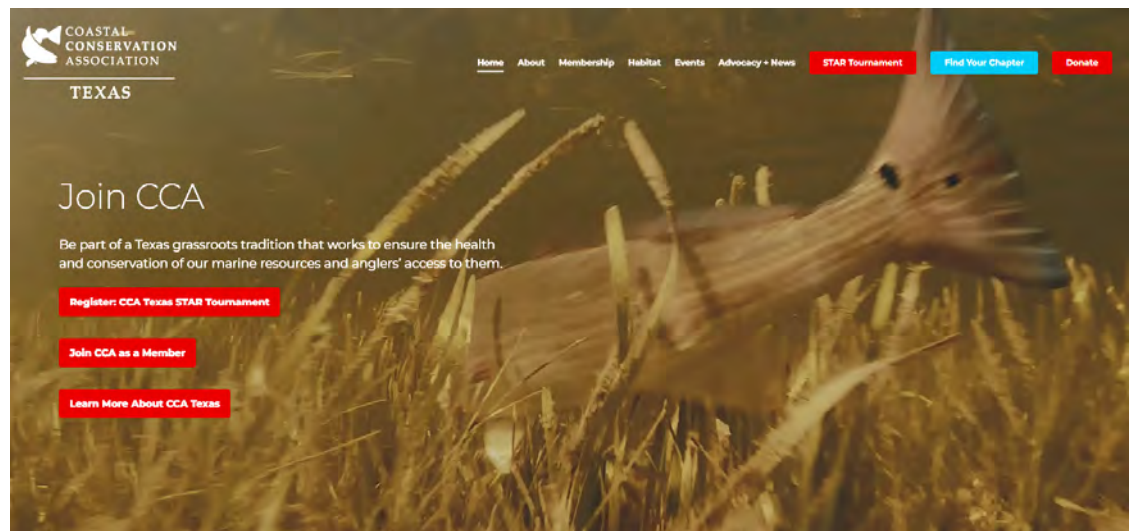
- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast. [Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



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 47,000+ 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!



Looks like Mesquite Bay had a visitor

What do y'all think it was?

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



A very special shout out to our CCA Aggieland Chapter, who participated in this year's Annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup with the great folks at Friends of Padre. In total, the event saw 1,100 volunteers remove 25 tons of trash from 30 miles of the Padre Island National Seashore!

Job well done, everyone, and Good Bull Ags! 🍷

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



We finally made it! The 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament has begun! To all our STAR-registered anglers: We wish you the best of luck as you compete for more than \$2,000,000 in prizes, including boats, trucks, UTVs and scholarships...and we hope you enjoy our favorite time of the year!

📸: Mac Elliott Media

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



CCA Texas on Instagram

We just reached 26.7K+ 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



Check out this 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament Tagged Redfish Release Footage! 👁️

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



More 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament Tagged Redfish Release Footage! 👁️ Don't miss it!

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM!



\$17,081,758: Our total funded amount from the inception of our Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow Program through 2026! CCA Texas has a long history of supporting and participating in conservation and restoration projects. We created the Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow Program to positively impact the health and sustainability of our Texas coastal resources.

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!



To all the amazing women who sacrifice to raise our next generation, THANK YOU for all you do, and we wish you a very Happy Mother's Day!

📍: Bexley and her mother, Haley Kader

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!](#)



We've spent and committed over \$8.9 million creating, restoring, and conserving oysters 🦪 because we know a healthy and thriving oyster fishery is crucial to a strong and sustainable Texas Coast.

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!](#)



A windy wade in front of an audience 📍 Oyster Farm, East Matagorda Bay, Texas

📍: Drake Grigar

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON TWITTER / X!](#)

Casting FOR A CAUSE

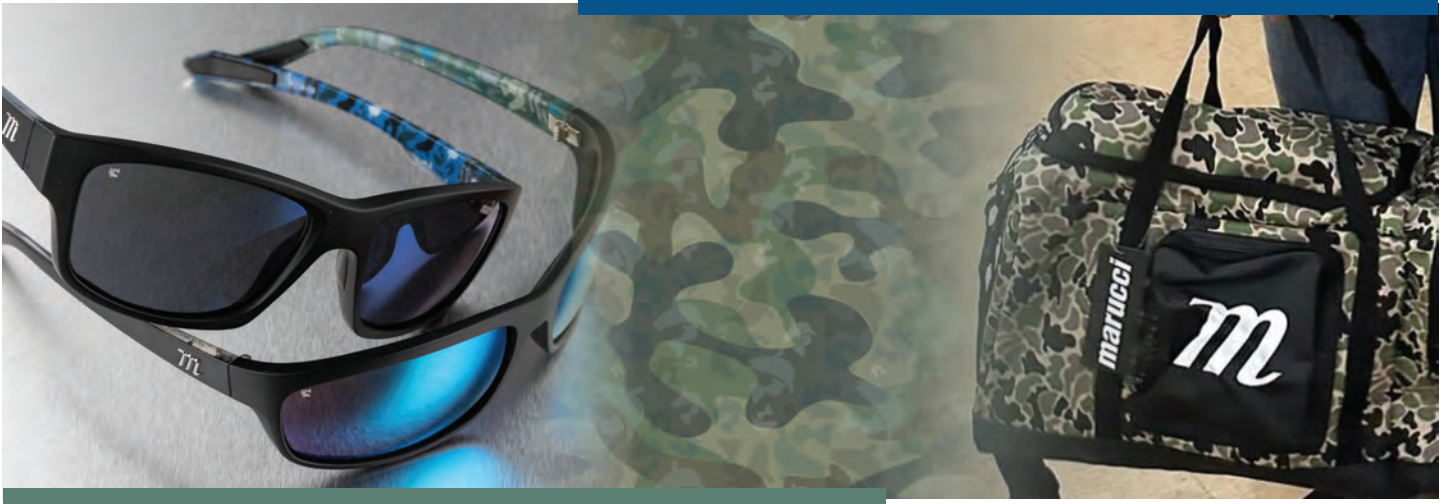


A portion of proceeds from Magellan Outdoors x CCA gear supports habitat restoration. Shop at [Academy.com](https://www.academy.com)

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SPORTS+OUTDOORS | PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

marucci x CCA

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



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

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

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

Impacto lens technology that provides the highest level of durability.

OMERO 2.0

Lightweight frames provide all-day comfort for everyday activities.



GANCIO 2.0

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



CCA DUFFEL

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



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Christmas Bay ADA Wildlife Viewing Platform

The Christmas Bay Foundation is launching a community effort to build an ADA-accessible wildlife viewing platform overlooking the beautiful Christmas Bay coastal ecosystem in Brazoria County, Texas.

For generations, Christmas Bay has been one of the most productive and ecologically important estuaries on the Texas coast. It serves as critical habitat for migratory birds, fish, crabs, oysters, and countless other species that depend on healthy coastal wetlands. Yet many visitors, especially seniors, veterans, and individuals with mobility challenges, have limited opportunities to experience these natural resources firsthand.

The proposed ADA Wildlife Viewing Platform will provide safe, accessible access to one of Texas' most remarkable coastal environments. The elevated platform will offer panoramic views of Christmas Bay, allowing visitors to observe wildlife, enjoy birdwatching, participate in environmental education programs, and connect with nature regardless of physical ability.

The project has been developed in cooperation with conservation partners and has received support from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel as a valuable addition to public access and environmental education opportunities in the region.

Beyond improving accessibility, the platform will serve as an outdoor classroom for students, families, researchers, and visitors interested in learning about coastal ecosystems, conservation, fisheries, migratory birds, and habitat restoration. Educational signage will help tell the story of Christmas Bay and the efforts underway to protect it for future generations.

Funds raised through this campaign will help support engineering, permitting, construction, accessibility features, educational displays, and long-term stewardship of the facility.

Together, we can create a lasting legacy that ensures everyone has the opportunity to experience the beauty, wildlife, and natural heritage of Christmas Bay.

Your support will help make this vision a reality for generations to come.

For more information, contact Jim Olive / 281-802-3597



TROTTI + ASSOCIATES, INC.
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Washington DC, 20009
TEL. 781-244-0034
WWW.TROTTISTUDIO.COM

KEY PLAN

Christmas Bay -
Bird Watching
Platform &
Educational Kiosk

GENERAL NOTES:
FOR REVIEW ONLY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

REVISIONS		
MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION

3D Images

DRAWING TITLE:

JOB NO:	DWN: MJ
SCALE:	DATE:

A103

CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of June/July 2026, Volume 46, Issue 4 Editor-in-Chief / Robby Byers

Editor / Sam Caldwell

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Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

Our 2026 Banquet is coming soon! It will be on Thursday, June 18th and will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pearland. We will be serving a delicious BBQ Dinner, having a Sportsman's Raffle that will include guns, rod/reel packages, Gen 3 Turtlebox, and YETI coolers. We will also have a live and silent auctions, as well as having numerous raffles. This is an awesome event you won't want to miss. Reserve your spot now!

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

Banquet Tickets are \$75/Person, \$120/Couple, \$20/Kids. Reserved/Sponsor Tables start at \$750 for 8 guests. All adult tickets include a CCA Membership. Sportsman's Raffle Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. If you would like to purchase Banquet Tickets, reserve a table for your group/company, or make a donation to our event, please contact Garrett Boehnemann at 713.626.4222 or email us at AlvinPearlandCCA@yahoo.com.

We have enjoyed hosting our Anglers' Night Out events this year. Much thanks to Larry Higgins from KWigglers Lures, and Capt. Gary Cooper II from Reel Addicted Fishing for coming out to speak at our April and May meetings. Our upcoming **Anglers' Night Out events will be held on Tuesday, September 15th and Tuesday, October 27th.**

The best way to stay up to date with our latest Chapter Events is to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alvinpearland.cca or go to our Chapter Website at <https://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/alvin-pearland/>.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events! Don't forget to bring a friend, or even better, a Kid!

Aransas Bay
Bill Burge 713-828-3823
bill_burge@yahoo.com

The CCA Texas Aransas Bay Chapter has had an incredible season, and we are grateful for the continued support of

our coastal community. We were proud to host another sold-out banquet this year, bringing together anglers, conservationists, volunteers, businesses, and families who all share a passion for protecting and preserving our Texas coastal resources. The overwhelming support and generosity shown throughout the event will help continue important conservation, habitat, and fisheries initiatives that directly impact our local waters.

We also wrapped up another tremendously successful year of Babes on the Bay, celebrating the



spirit of women in the outdoors, conservation, and the friendships that make our coastal community so special. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our amazing volunteers, hardworking tournament committee members, dedicated guides, generous vendors, the Fulton Convention Center team, and every angler who participated. From early mornings on the water to smiles at the awards ceremony,



the event once again highlighted what makes our coastal community so unique.

A very special thank you goes out to our incredible Babes on the Bay sponsors whose generosity and support help make this event possible: Salemi's Ace Hardware, South Texas Ford Dealers, By the Bay Vacation Rentals, Gabriela's Tapas, Ron Hoover Marine, Reel 'Em Inn, Goose Island Flats, Stewart Title of Rockport, Big Tree Realty, Reel Sportswear, Smith Optics, Rockport Tackle Town, Feral Concepts, Tow Boat US, Lapeyroux's



Wipes, American Bank, Lighthouse Liquors, Oceanside Supply Co., Imperative Chemical Partners, Boujee Marlin, Chupacabra Three Gringos, Orvis, Waterloo Rods, Goin' Coastal Outfitters, Capt. Carl with Slickwater Outdoors, United Rentals, HEK Construction, The Fly Trap, Grundéns, and Columbia PFG. We are deeply grateful to every business, partner, and supporter who invested in these events and in our coastal community. We truly could not do it without you.



2026 Babes on the Bay Women's Fishing Tournament

Non-Guided Any Bait Longest Stringer

Rank	Team	Length
1	Casting Queens	103.50 in.
2	Lip Ripper & The Hookers	96.25 in.
3	Mamba	96.00 in.
4	Brad's Hookers	95.50 in.
5	T3	92.50 in.

Top Rank Spotlight

Casting Queens
103.50 in.



Most importantly, thank you to everyone who continues to support the mission of conservation and stewardship. Healthy bays and fisheries depend on all of us. Whether you're volunteering, fishing, sponsoring, educating others, or simply leaving our waters better than you found them, your efforts matter. We look forward to another great year of protecting the resources and traditions that make the Texas coast such a special place for generations to come. —**Bill Burge, Aransas Bay CCA**



Aransas Bay ladies had a great tournament.

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

CCA Austin Chapter would like to thank all our sponsors, volunteers and supporters for our May 7th banquet success! Raising funds to continue the mission of CCA is possible because of all of you. Our goal each year is to create an exciting event for everyone.

We would also like to congratulate our Raffle Boat Winner, James Forsythe! James has been buying raffle boat tickets since 2022 and it finally paid off!

October 15th – Hooked on Clays 4th Annual clay shoot will be held at Hog Heaven in Dripping Springs. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Garrett Waters at garrettwaters@gmail.com or Melissa Harell at melissa@farmhousestone.com.





Photos from the 2026 CCA Austin Chapter Banquet

Be sure to follow CCA Austin Chapter on [Facebook](#) for updated information on our local chapter.

If you are interested in learning more about the Austin CCA Chapter and how you can get involved, please contact Alex Blackburn at atblackburn3@gmail.com or Cheryl Smith at Cherylccaaustin@gmail.com. We will not be meeting during the summer but will start meeting up in August on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Be sure to check with Alex or Cheryl for the exact date, time, and location.

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

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

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

News from Brazos Valley CCA: Good rain for spring and good fishing. Our chapter monthly meetings are taking the summer off. Next meeting will be in October. We will get together and tell fishing tales, enjoy camaraderie, and good food. Hope you will join us. To be added to our email list, email John Ben Strother at jbsunlimited@yahoo.com.

Our next annual banquet is scheduled: March 5, 2027 at the Brazos Center in Bryan, TX.

Thanks again to all the sponsors, members, and staff who made our 2026 banquet a successful event. We do it for our coastal fisheries; to insure they will be plentiful in the future for all to enjoy. And for our environment; this is the only planet we have, let's keep it clean and habitable. Thanks for helping! Have a great summer, take a friend fishing and share lifetime memories.

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

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

Investing in the Next Generation: CCA Brush Country

Chapter Helps Youth Explore Baffin Bay:

In April 25, 2026 nearly 70 participants and volunteers gathered along the shoreline of Baffin Bay at Kaufer-Huber Memorial Park in Riviera, Texas, for the third annual Exploring Baffin Bay – A Texas Brigades Experience event. For many young participants, the day marks their first opportunity to step into the water, cast a line, take a boat ride, and experience one of Texas' most unique bay systems firsthand.

Hosted by the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Bringing Baffin Back initiative in collaboration with Texas Brigades, the



Brush Country, exploring Baffin Bays – April 25, 2026



Experience introduces youth ages 9 to 17 to the Baffin Bay ecosystem through a free day of hands-on outdoor activities, conservation education, and direct guidance from scientists, anglers, and natural resource professionals.

Baffin Bay is known for its hypersaline waters, world-class fishing, and unique serpulid worm reefs, and is a place unlike any other on the Texas coast. The bay's health is closely tied to that of the surrounding watershed and faces ongoing water quality challenges including nutrient and bacterial pollution. Helping young people understand and discover those ecosystem-scale connections is central to the Experience's mission.

Throughout the day, participants explored the connections between fish habitat, water quality and

watershed stewardship through immersive, hands-on activities.

A key supporter in making the annual Experience possible is the CCA Brush Country Chapter. Thanks to CCA Brush Country's support, participants had rods, reels and tackle in hand as they rotated through fishing activities along the shoreline. For many kids, this event is their first opportunity to learn proper fishing techniques and build confidence outdoors.

CCA Brush Country's impact extended beyond the fishing pier. Each participant received a goodie bucket filled with fishing gear, towels, and fish identification booklets to continue learning long after the event ended. Participants and volunteers also received custom event t-shirts made possible through the chapter's support.

In addition to fishing, participants joined researchers from the Harte Research Institute's Center for Sportfish Science to conduct shallow-water seine net tows, collecting pipefish, juvenile fish, and jellyfish while learning how healthy habitats support thriving fisheries. Other activities introduced participants to birding, boating safety, water quality, bay-bottom ecology and watershed science.

After lunch, participants put stewardship into practice during a coastal cleanup challenge before shifting focus upstream. Through rainfall simulations, soil infiltration tests, and watershed model demonstrations, kids explored how land management practices influence runoff and water quality in Baffin Bay.

For CCA Brush Country, supporting Exploring Baffin Bay represents an investment in the future of Texas fisheries. By helping connect young people to the water through hands-on experiences, the chapter helps inspire the next generation of anglers, conservationists and advocates for Texas' coastal resources.



	Thank You To Our 2026 Kidfish Sponsors	
SAGE CAPITAL BANK	BRITNEY CAKA	R&M DOZER SERVICES
INDEMANN FERTILIZER SERVICE, INC.	SALT FLAT RANCH SERVICES	REDBIRD RANCH
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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

We conducted our first annual CCA Come and Catch It / Shiner Fire Department Kidfish event at Green-Dickson Park in Shiner on April 18, 2026 and WOW what a turnout. We had 138 kids participate in the fishing event. It was a great day watching families fishing, spending

time together and making memories.

At our event, we awarded three individuals belt buckles and coolers for fishing accomplishments, raffled off three lifetime fishing licenses and about 100 items for the participants. We gave away fishing poles, reels, fishing tackle and toys!

Thank you Shiner Volunteer Fire Department for inviting us to be a part of this event. Thank you to all the CCA board members for putting in long days and nights planning this and most importantly thank you to all the families that participated! We hope to see y'all again next year.

Lastly, thank you to the many sponsors who made this event successful.

Please save the date of August 7, 2026, for our 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 to our Facebook

page. Thank you for your support in protecting the coastal resources of Texas and we hope to see you at the banquet.

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

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

CCA Dallas held an excellent banquet in April, bringing together more than 300 anglers and raising crucial funds for conservation right here in Texas! Thank you to our 2026 CCA Dallas Chapter Banquet Sponsors and Table Buyers plus all of our attendees for making our banquet a huge success: Tito's Handmade Vodka, Miles and Miles Argentina, ScreenFab, Banded Drake Ranch, Bisbee's Black



& Blue, McMurray Metals, American Window Systems, Clay Shooters Supply, AgTrust, Parking Systems of America, Untundra, Irving Tool & MFG Co, Highland Park Bass, Ben E Keith, St. Pete's Dancing Marlin, Taylor Farms, Still Austin Whiskey, Mesero, New York Life, MRS Ortho LLC, AM Steel & Supply, Beretta Gallery, PowerSports of North Texas, Oak Highlands Brewery, Mariner Sails, Kawasaki, Gringo Sportfishing, and Banded Drake Ranch.



First photos are from the 2026 CCA Dallas Chapter Banquet. CCA Dallas board members Mac Lawson and Chad Chadwick on a snapper trip in the Gulf of America.



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

After months of hard work and preparation from our Ft. Bend committee members, our 40th banquet has come to an end. If you didn't make it out this year it was a huge success. We had around 400 people attend this year's banquet for a good time, good fellowship and hopes of a big win.

One thing about our committee members is that we are resilient and don't let the hurdles we have slow us down. We hosted the event including a gun raffle and other fabulous prizes thanks to Norman Armory in Needville. I'd like to thank Wet Sounds for their help along with all our sponsors, donors, participants and members.

As usual, thanks to Joe's Oyster Bar & Grill in Rosenberg for letting us hold our monthly meetings there and to Sportsman's Boat and RV Storage for their chapter support. Till next time!

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

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

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



Wow, on behalf of the Board the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter a Texas size THANK YOU for your support of our 26th Greater Sugar Land CCA Banquet. Because of your efforts we had the biggest growth in our annual banquet 26-year history. An increase in attendance combined with an increase in revenue generated all the while providing outstanding customer service, providing great boiled crawfish and fried catfish supplied by our friends at Cajun Country Cookers. What's very important, because of your support we were able to provide funds to go toward the mission of CCA Texas. This could not have been done without your support. So again, we say thank you and [please view our special thank you video here.](#)



2026 CCA Greater Sugar Land Board and Boy Scouts at the 2026 CCA Greater Sugar Land Banquet



And it's not too early for you to mark your calendars for the **27th Annual CCA Greater Sugar Land Banquet to take place Thursday, April 1, 2027** (no fooling, it's on April 1st) at Stafford Centre, boiled crawfish, fried catfish and open bar.

Our Chapter Board is excited to be participating in the 2026 Inter Chapter Challenge and look forward to meeting other board members from the various chapters.

If you would like to volunteer for the upcoming Riverstone Communities Kid Fish event, please feel free to join us for a great time with young anglers. The smile on their face can't be erased from your mind when you see them catch their first fish.

Our board is growing and getting stronger every day and we would like to welcome our newest Board Members: Bryan Meyer, Alexis Shaw, Crystal Zapalac, Brooke McNally, Neal Headley and John Acosta.

If you would like to get involved with the Greater Sugar Land CCA Chapter, feel free to contact myself at greatersugarlandcca@gmail.com or better yet attend one of our **board meetings that take place at a new location El Fogon Mexican Kitchen, 4514 Highway 6 in Sugar Land.** We meet at 6:30 p.m. for social time and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. The 2026 Board Meeting schedule is Tuesday, September 8, May, June, July and August - no board meetings, Tuesday, October 13, Tuesday, November 10, December 2026 - no board meeting. Until next time, get out on the water and enjoy good times & tight lines.

Greater Woodlands
Charlotte Redd 832-368-8263
choctawcharlie69@gmail.com

Guadalupe Valley
Adam Arroyo 361-350-0026
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Hays County
Tim Young 512-573-7939
tim.ccahaysco@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills
Kelly Parks 210-669-3732
bucksdelucks@yahoo.com

Howdy from the Heart of the Hills! Hope you had a fun spring! A group of chapter volunteers enjoyed an evening together in March attending the CCA Helotes Chapter banquet. Great food, lots of interesting auction items, and always nice to see old friends.

In May, we met at Sauced Wing Bar in Boerne and shared a meal and started planning our Heart of the Hills Chapter Banquet. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the Cana Ballroom, 202 W. Kronkosky St., Boerne, Texas.** We'll have awesome food and drinks, and lots of auction and raffle items. Watch for tickets to go on sale soon and come out and support our conservation efforts.

If you would like sponsorship information or to get involved in the chapter, please give us a call.

Helotes
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jrayburg@sbcglobal.net

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
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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

It's time to have fun at the 18th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter Banquet. Get your tables and tickets NOW for the **18th Annual CCA Lower Colorado Chapter Banquet! The event will take place on Friday, August 7, 2026 at the Bay City Civic Center** (201 Seventh Street, Bay City, TX 77414). Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Sponsorships are available but get swept up fast so don't wait to pitch in and get your company's or your name "in lights": Koozie @ \$1500, Tumbler @ \$2,500, Hat @ \$3000, Board Shirt @ \$2,000, Louis Vuitton Poker Chip Challenge @ \$1,500, Lower Colorado Guides Cup @ \$8,000, Title Sponsor @ \$10,000, and Bar & Raffle Girl @ \$2,500. Sponsor Tables for 8: Platinum \$2,500, Gold \$1000, and Silver \$500. Individual tickets are \$50 and kids 17 and under are \$15.

Spread the word and invite friends and family for an evening of great food, fun and a chance to win some of great auction and raffle items. Just get in touch with one of our members or Blake Burnside at bburnside@ccatexas.org.

Please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lowercolorado come check us out. Keep watching this spot for more updates from the Lower Colorado Chapter, proudly being the only chapter to serve all of Matagorda County's bays, lakes, rivers, and creeks.

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

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

Upcoming Mainland Chapter Activities: on August 11, 2026, SEATOW will be speaking at Spring Creek BBQ at our Anglers' Night Out starting at 6:30 p.m. Then on September 8, 2026, Mike Cubbage will be our Guest Speaker at our Anglers' Night Out. Mike will walk us through how to clean your reels after the summer long STAR Tournament.



Photos from the 2026 CCA Mainland Chapter Banquet



Photos from the 2026 CCA Mainland Chapter Banquet

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

The 2026 season is officially underway for the Coastal Conservation Association Matagorda Bays chapter after a fantastic kickoff at the 2026 Matagorda Bays CCA Lil' Salties Kids Fish held on May 9, 2026. Families, volunteers, sponsors, and young anglers came together for a memorable day on the water, celebrating the future of fishing, conservation, and coastal traditions along the Texas Gulf Coast.

The event once again showcased what makes the Matagorda Bays CCA chapter so special — a community dedicated to getting kids outdoors, teaching them about conservation, and creating lifelong memories through fishing. From smiling faces at the weigh stations to first catches and stories shared at the docks, the day was filled with excitement and camaraderie. Many winners are pictured here!!! What a great turnout!

A huge thank you goes out to every sponsor, volunteer, and supporter who helped make the event possible. These events simply do not happen without the generosity and dedication of local businesses, donors, guides, and community members who continue to step up year after year. Your support allows the chapter to continue investing



Pictures from the 2026 CCA Matagorda Bays Chapter Lil' Salties Kidfish. Every Kidfish participant that attends received a rod!

in youth fishing programs, habitat conservation, fisheries enhancement, and educational opportunities throughout the Matagorda Bay system and beyond.

Looking ahead, excitement is already building for the **annual Matagorda Bays CCA Banquet coming up**

on June 25, 2026. The banquet has become one of the premier gatherings of the year, bringing together anglers, conservationists, and supporters from across the coast for an evening of food, fellowship, auctions, raffles, and fundraising for vital conservation efforts.

One of the biggest attractions this year will be the incredible raffle prize — a brand-new 2026 Haynie Magnum powered by a Mercury 400hp V-10. This dream fishing rig is sure to turn heads and generate plenty of excitement as attendees compete for the chance to take it home.

Tickets and tables for the banquet are on sale now, and supporters are encouraged to secure their spots early for what promises to be another outstanding event.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who continues to support the Matagorda Bays chapter and Coastal Conservation Association as a whole. The work being done to preserve and protect our coastal fisheries would not happen without your involvement. Every membership, donation, sponsorship, and volunteer hour directly contributes to conservation projects that help ensure future generations continue to enjoy the outdoors and the incredible fisheries we are fortunate to have.

Here's to another great year for Matagorda Bays CCA and continued success both on and off the water.

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

And that's a wrap! The Mid Coast CCA Chapter wrapped up their annual banquet held on April 30th. The banquet was held at Victoria College Emerging Technology Complex - a new venue for the chapter banquet. Over 350 guests attended and enjoyed catered fish and shrimp fresh from Cathy's out of Port O' Connor. The night wouldn't have been a success without the direction of Drake Grigar, assistant director for CCA Texas. He has led us well and learned so much about all of his chapters and the organization in such little time.

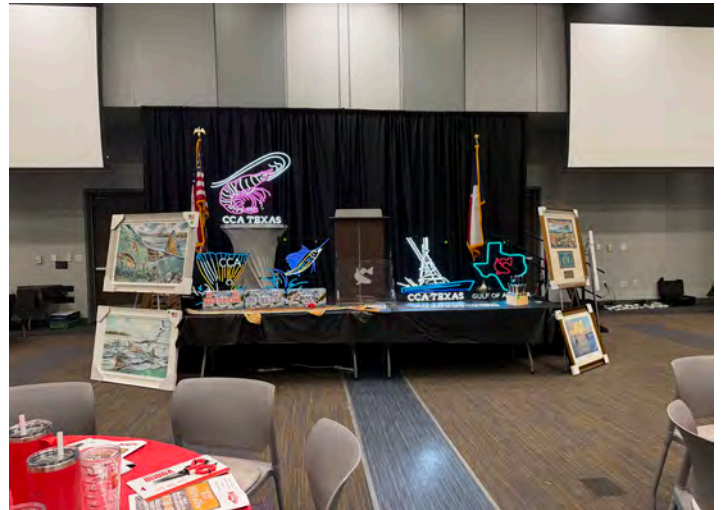
We could not have had success without him. And of course, we MUST thank the vendors and sponsors. It is amazing the amount of support shown to the Mid Coast



Shane Bonnot, CCA Advocacy Director, speaking at the Victoria Rotary Club,

chapter!

Speaking of support, we have to give a BIG shoutout to Shane Bonnot. Shane took time out of his busy schedule, 2 weeks prior to the banquet, to travel to Victoria to give a presentation to the Victoria Rotary Club about the purpose behind CCA Texas and to promote the upcoming banquet. Shane did a fabulous job presenting and gave time for audience members to ask questions afterward (I even learned a thing or two).



Photos from the 2026 CCA Mid Coast Chapter Banquet.

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

Thank you to everyone who attended our fourth annual banquet and made it our best-attended and highest-earning event ever! Your support means a record amount of funding flowing from the North Texas committee to critical conservation projects on the Texas coast. Special thanks to our Texas Slam Sponsor Wallace & Patterson Accounting & Advisory, and Bull Red Sponsor Brandon Industries.

Thanks also to the outstanding North Texas businesses and people who bought Trout tables for our event: Ryan, LLC, Matt Scherer, Micah and Aaron Evans, Redbud Tax & Advisory, Finstalker, Rockmoor Roofing, McKinney Ducks Unlimited, Seale Marine, Peinado Construction, The Slalom Shop, Bates Fishing, and Ratliff Hardscape. The committee would also like to extend our appreciation to Babe's Chicken Dinner House Frisco for the outstanding food and service, and to Xandra Ann Mapp for this year's hat art.

We would not have an event without the generous support of our donors. Thank you to Brian and Rebecca Bailey with Fly Me to the Pines Broken Bow, John and Elane Hansen with Coastal Happy Ours Port Aransas, Feral Concepts, Bates Fishing, Still Austin, Elevate Fly Casting, Redbud Tax & Advisors, the Texas Rangers, Brandon Industries, Dirty Water Fly Co., Top Golf, WorldSprings, and Gorjana Jewelry.

If you plan to visit the coast this year, make CERTAIN you're entered in the STAR Tournament! Running through September 7th, STAR covers the entire Texas coast as anglers hunt for tagged redfish, plus other inshore and offshore species. Prizes include a Ford F-250 XLT 4WD, five Ford F-150 ad Haynie Amigo combos, three TranSport 220 SVT's, a Shoalwater 19 Cat, Dargel Kuda and Attack-a-Flat, Polaris Ranger Crew, Whataburger or Lone Star beer for a year, and multiple scholarships in the youth division. Every year, unregistered anglers catch tagged fish and miss out on the prizes. DON'T HAVE TAGRETS! Enter at www.startournament.org!



Erica Gonzales keeping her line out of the way for CCA NTX President Capt. Brian Donovan to scoop a redfish for Rebecca Bailey during Babes on the Bay.

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Port O'Connor
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ntrubee@gmail.com

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

On March 27th we hosted our 28th Annual CCA Prairie Chapter Banquet that was at Austin County Fair Convention Hall in Bellville, we had a huge turnout and every year it gets bigger and bigger. This year we had some awesome games and raffles. Our biggest hit is our cap and card game that we have every year with 7 guns and they went fast. We also had some great raffles that included Poker Chip Challenge, Golden Ticket and the Premium Raffle.

Our meal is another attraction: prime rib, chicken breast, shrimp and all the trimmings catered by Mikeska BBQ.

The main event of the evening was the live auction with some great items like fishing and hunting trips, prints and more. Mark Switzer was our auctioneer for the evening. There was also a silent auction with some awesome gifts.

Thanks to Drake Grigar our CCA representative and all of his crew, for all the help in making this a great event and all the board members for their hard work and all the donors and sponsors that made this a outstanding success.

If interested in being a sponsor or donor for next year, contact Patricia at Wittenburg Printing in Sealy at (979) 885-7464.

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

The Redfish Bay chapter held its annual banquet on April 25th. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our board and committee members, the event achieved record-breaking attendance and fundraising totals.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Chris Marine in Aransas Pass for serving as our Title and Hat Sponsor, and to Premier Yamaha for sponsoring our tumblers. I also want to recognize the following committee members for their outstanding work: Debbie Dollins, Ron Dollins, Travis Muckleroy, Shonna Starnes and Charles Starnes.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate the Redfish Bay Board of Directors: Vice President: Brady Ballard, Treasurer: Steven Wright, Secretary: Toni Ballard, Director of Special Events: Chris Brown.

Looking ahead, we have two major events on the calendar. The annual Beeville Fish Fry will be held in September, with the date to be announced soon. We are also working to bring back Kids Fish Day, which was discontinued during COVID.



CCA Redfish Bay board members at their 2026 Banquet.

We welcome any new chapter members who would like to volunteer for these upcoming events. Please contact me, Rod Hall at (713) 202-9373 or Toni Ballard at (512) 293-1874.

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Sabine-Neches

Saltgrass
Buck Stobart 409-782-7934
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Sam Houston
Brandon Kolaja 281-797-6908
bkolaga@huntsvilletx.gov

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

A quick shout out to recognize those SA CCA members who donated their Saturday morning to the Cast For Kids Special Needs Fishing Excursion. The event was excellent, as all who participated will attest to it being a worthwhile & rewarding investment of their time.

The April 30, 2026 San Antonio CCA Banquet was a great success! That big night for coastal conservation was due 100% to our attendees, our product and services donors and our SA CCA team members.



We want to thank our big sponsors, this could not have happened without their help! Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors: Scott A. Freund Memorial Foundation, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Frost Bank, and Shiner Beers.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors: Comal County Erectors, Ewald Kubota, Holt Cat, IBC and Walker



Engineering.

Thank you to our Silver Sponsors: Alert Lock and Kay, Byrd Level Ranch, Keystone Concrete Placement, MEI Industrial Solutions, Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers, Rocking M, Texas Partners Bank and TRP Construction.

Overall, the evening event progressed smoothly and feedback from attendees was very positive. We had an interesting selection of offerings with value at every level from raffles from Yeti buckets to silent and live auction items. We had a Transport Boat, E bikes, guns and a totally decked out Can-Am by Coyote Powersports and Ranch Armor and a trailer by Blue Star Trailer.

We look forward to the 2027 SA CCA Banquet, our Sporting Clays Shoot and other events benefiting CCA initiatives of youth outdoor education and environmental stewardship.

Come join us and be a participant on our SA CCA Team! Reach out today to Chace Anderson (210) 710-1820 or Brandon Carpenter (210) 218-2393 for details regarding joining SA CCA.

Thank you again to all for your contributions to the



Great food is a tradition at the San ASntonio banquet.

success of San Antonio Coastal Conservation Association!

San Bernard

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

San Gabriel

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

Summer is heating up, and the CCA San Gabriel Chapter is fully focused on making our 24th Annual Banquet a standout night for coastal conservation. **Mark your calendar now for Thursday, August 6, 2026, in Georgetown.** The planning committee is working hard to deliver an unforgettable evening filled with great food, fantastic prizes, exciting auctions, and strong support for Texas fisheries and habitats. This is always one of the best nights of the year, and we can't wait to celebrate with you.

A huge thank you goes out to our long-time title sponsor, Don Hewlett Chevrolet, and to all of our generous sponsors. Your continued support makes everything we do possible and directly helps protect and enhance our coastal resources.

We still have tables available and a few sponsorship opportunities remain. If you or your business would like to get involved, please reach out soon—don't miss your chance to be part of this special evening.

In the meantime, the chapter is looking forward to competing in the CCA Inter Chapter Challenge fishing tournament this June. It's always a fun and competitive way to hit the water while building camaraderie across Texas.

Your participation and support are what make our chapter strong. Whether attending the banquet, grabbing a sponsorship, or volunteering, every bit helps us continue the fight for healthy Texas fisheries. Tight lines, and we hope to see you on August 6!

Southwestern

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

TAMU

Blaine Eckert 936-499-1596
Blaine.eckert@gmail.com

Texas State University
Tate Elder 832-294-1254
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Tomball/Magnolia
Matt Maddox 832-963-5215
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Tri-County

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

Trinity Bay

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

Greetings Campers, the oven is warming up. That means our annual banquet is right around the corner. Grab your calendar for us please. **The CCA Trinity Bay Chapter Banquet will be Friday, August 21, 2026, at Armenta's Reception Hall located at 825 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX.** Even though Armenta's is a bit far from Trinity Bay, the hall has offered us so much more room than anywhere else we could find. To get your tickets contact any Trinity Bay Board member or <https://ticketstripe.com/TrinityBAY26>. It will be a blast as always. Come see us.

Trinity Valley

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

West Houston

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

West Texas

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

The CCA West Texas Chapter had an unfortunate incident that occurred at Midland Country Club two weeks prior to the banquet. This forced us to rent a large tent for our event, but we still had a successful banquet. As always, Enviro Resources cooked up some amazing shrimp and crawfish while Midland Meat Co. supplied our delicious brisket. Thanks to Aztec Tent Rental for giving us a proper tent. Adios from West Texas.



Lights under the tent at the 2026 CCA West Texas Banquet.

Upper Coast Rocky Chase

Specs off the Pleasure Island rocks

CCA Golden Triangle had an incredible banquet in May. I remember when we felt great about selling 20 tables. Now, there are 100+ tables with companies from different industries committing to the cause of conservation!

My 20 year-old neighbor, Howell Cobb, has been taking a kayak back into the Keith Lake system and has been doing very well on reds and flounder, with a few trout. But please note that there are now many stingrays given the washout of the opening to the lake off of the ship channel. Both the GLO and Jefferson County have offered money to help rebuild that opening. Howell also has caught quite a few specks off the Pleasure Island rocks up in the north end of Sabine Lake.

As of this writing, we have had several inches of rain in the last 2 weeks, so there will be lots of fresh water pouring in from the Neches and the Sabine, pushing those fish south towards the jetties, I would bet.

Thanks again to the Golden Triangle Board, donors, and participants!

Be sure to listen to The Michael Berry Show on KTRH 740AM, at 8AM and 5PM, as CCA is now a sponsor of his show. Happy Fishing! —**Rocky**

Rocky Chase is a 43-year member of CCA, and serves on the Board as Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee.



Lexie Boudreaux released this 22.5 trout in East Galveston Bay recently.

Middle Coast Capt. Cody Roesener

Topwaters in the early morning

Summer has arrived in the middle Texas coast! The kids are out of school and water temperatures are rising by the day! We should expect to have a wet summer along the coastal bend so make sure you pack a rain jacket in your boat bag. The summer storms don't usually last long but when they come, they come with a fury.

Wadefishing is one of my favorite ways to catch fish this time of year. Target transition areas from shallow to deeper water. Soft plastics on lighter jig heads are my preferred technique and can result in a great mixed bag of redfish and trout. Topwaters can also be fun and productive in the early morning for an hour or so after first light.

When fishing from the boat, I recommend drifting over deeper guts and areas with sand pockets with soft plastics or a popping cork. Soft plastics should also result in plenty of action to keep the boat happy! If you are drifting, take note of the water depth and bottom structure where you are finding fish; once you find a pattern you can adjust your technique to target these areas of higher productivity.

If bait is more your style, and keeping fish for the table is the goal, I would recommend freelining perch or croaker along the edge of the ICW or along grass lines in deeper water. This method can be very productive but is not recommended for catch and release.

Summer fishing can be great, but please remember to be safe and respect your fellow anglers while you are on the water.

—**Capt. Cody B. Roesener** / President, CCA Corpus Christi 916-531-0078

Lower Coast Capt. Bryan Robinson

Bluebird skies and low winds

Bueno Dias from the Lower Laguna Madre, amigos. It's been getting hot here already, not only the weather but the fishing. The LLM has good numbers of big trout lately and should continue to improve due to the current TPW regulations.

Look for stable weather these two months. Expect heat and afternoon coastal showers. Tides should start to stabilize now. Fish will be roaming the shallow flats early in the day and retreating to deeper water midday. Use 3-4 in soft plastic lures with a light jig head in the shallow water. I like a clear/glitter body and a chartreuse tail.

Same lures will work when the fish move to deeper water as the temperature rises. A heavier jig head will be needed then to get the lure down a little deeper. 1/16 ounce in shallow water works well and a 1/4 ounce will be my go-to in deeper water.

The few days after a cold front pushes through could be spectacular. Blue bird skies and low winds! A fly fishers dream!

Crab patterns will work well. Try and get the fly into the path of the fish and wait until they get up to it. Twitch it and enjoy the ride! Get that boat gassed up, watch the weather and go explore. Adios!

—**Capt. Bryan Robinson** 956-241-5520 / bryandrobinson@yahoo.com Captain Bryan is a longtime CCA member, a past President of the RGV chapter, and has served on the CCA Texas State Board of Directors. He loves guiding fly fishers.



Sunrise Release by John Wengler.

Shrimpy Toast

2 cups chopped raw shrimp / 1 cup blue crab meat, or artificial crab chopped / 6 green onions chopped / 1 egg white / 2 tablespoons mayo
1 tsp garlic salt / 1 tsp onion powder / 1 tsp sugar / 1/2 tsp black pepper
Old Bay seasoning / 4 onion rolls sliced in half, toasted

Preheat oven to 375. Combine all ingredients and top the toasted rolls. Dust each with some Old Bay. Place on a wire rack on a cookie sheet. Cook for 25 minutes and enjoy.



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt

— REEL IN — BUSCH LIGHT



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For good measure, Caldwell will include a **First edition *The Trip* novel**— also remarked.

Surf Silver

A young fisherman is hoping for a trophy speckled trout. Instead, he's connected to a reel-stripping megalops atlanticus. A tarpon sketch is the remarque.

Ancient Traditions

A young bowman makes a connection in time to a previous hunter. A 10,000 year- old fluted Clovis point? An Alibates flint knife from only 500 years?

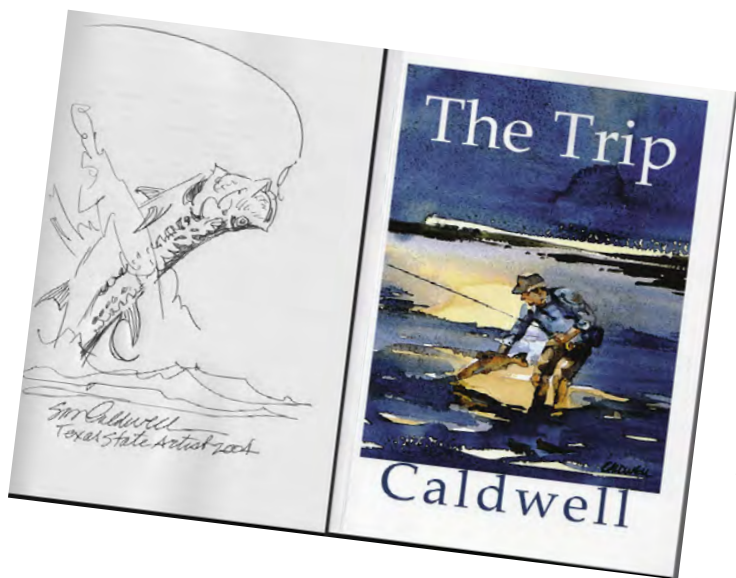
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Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
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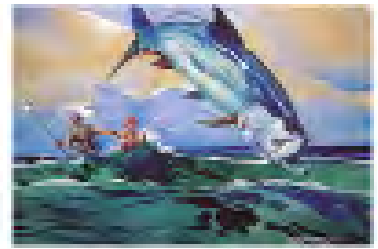
June / July 2026

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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 _____

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

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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