

CURRENTS

October / November 2026



Ponds complete: Early stages of the GCCA/CPL/TP&W Hatchery construction. Photo by Sam Caldwell, aerial flown by Chuck Weil.

Past Problems Lead to Future Solutions

Walter Fondren III, Mrs. John "Pinky" Wilson, Governor Bill Clements and Perry Bass release the first brood redfish into a CCA-CPL-TP&W hatchery pond. Photo by Sam Caldwell



The Voyage to Safer Bays

Gamefish Status Solved: Next Problem, Devastating Freezes

Hatchery Beginnings

From Change of Tides, a historical narrative of the Coastal Conservation Association by Sam Caldwell and Fred Carr

Texas bay freezes of the 1980s caused historic marine life loss, killing an estimated 32 million fish across three major freeze events. A prolonged, seven-day freeze in 1983 dropped water temperatures below 45°F, causing the largest recorded fish kill in Texas history with over 14.4 million fish dying across the entire coast. GCCA leaders considered possible solutions with Texas Parks & Wildlife leaders.

Dr. Connie Arnold's first natural spawning of red drum at the Palacios Research facility had paid off in critical knowledge to actual production of red drum fingerlings, ready for stocking in the bays. But one rainy day, a few fishing friends were frustrated.

Chuck Weill: We were at Walter Fondren's place in Port O'Connor, Walter, the late Bob Kemp (then head of Texas Parks and Wildlife), and me. It was raining, and we were talking about things that GCCA could do besides making redfish a gamefish and doing away with monofilament nets.

Walter Fondren: I told Bob we really need something we can put our hands on rather than just something political. Why not let us undertake to improve the Palacios hatchery? My idea was to maybe hire a bulldozer and do some dirt work, simple stuff like that. Kemp came back with a concept. He said, "I have something that may be a little bigger than you're talking about, but let's discuss it."

This was after biologists had developed techniques to get several healthy spawns from redfish each year by manipulating their light source. Kemp said, "What I'd really

like to see you do, we've got problems in the Palacios Research Center. Our intake is out in Matagorda Bay, and we just can't control the freshwater content, and at times, it just shuts us down." Then he outlined a rough plan to build three hatcheries, one in the Freeport area, one in the Corpus Christi-Laguna Madre area, and another one elsewhere.

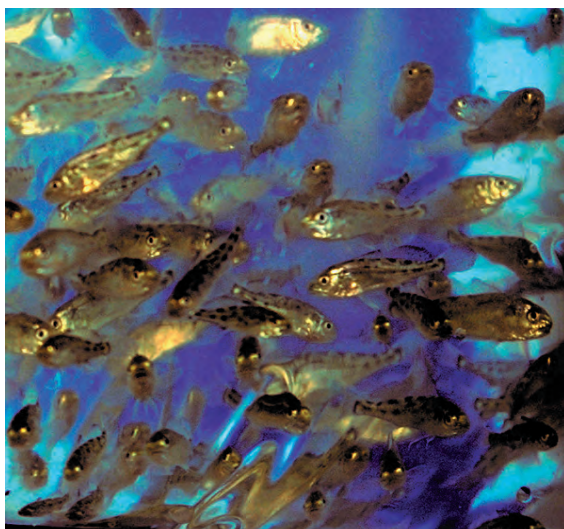
What he was zeroing in on was the heated outflow from power plant cooling ponds, which emit a lot of heated water that could allow redfish breeding programs year-round. That started the process, and it was Bob Kemp's foresight that started the idea. And we said, we can do this.

Chuck Weill: I asked Bob Kemp where a good location would be? Bob thought for a good while and essentially said, "We need a location near the CP&L power generating plant, because it has plenty of hot water, and that way

Texas Parks and Wildlife agreed that if we built the hatchery, they would provide the employees and the budget to operate the hatchery, allowing them to stock the bays with red drum.



Dr. Connie Arnold's program of changing light periods at the TP&W Palacios Research station allowed researchers to realize several red drum breeding cycles yearly, providing many more fingerlings for restocking Texas bay systems.



we would have production for a longer period of time during the year." So when I got back to town I called Tio Kleberg in Kingsville and asked him if the King Ranch would consider giving us some land or leasing us some land to build a hatchery for restocking the bays with the red drum. He said, "No, because the ranch just doesn't do that. But CP&L has quite a bit of extra land over there. You might see if they will give you some land or make a deal with them. And, I'll check with the foundation, Caesar Kleberg, and I think that we can get you some money." As a result of that, I got a big grant from him. I can't remember if

it was \$50,000 or \$100,000, but he committed to that. Then I went to CP&L and met with their environmental Chief, Scott Murray. It wasn't two days later that I got with Merle Borchette. And Merle Borchette is a name that needs to be put in here because he was the head of CP&L back then. Anyway, I told Scott Murray we needed 10 acres of land, and we were going to raise money and build a hatchery.

Texas Parks and Wildlife agreed that if we built the hatchery, they would provide the employees and the budget to operate the hatchery, allowing them to stock the bays with red drum. A week later, I walked into a meeting room and they said, "You've got a deal, period, done, 10 acres, it's yours." When I

came out of that office, I was flying high as a kite.

I called Walter Fondren and said, "You're not going to believe this, but we've got 10 acres of land and all the warm water we need, and we can build a hatchery! Oh yeah, I've also got whatever it was, \$50,000 or \$100,000, committed from Kingsville. So, you guys need to start raising some money up there in Houston and we'll build a hatchery."

Walter Fondren: Years and generations from now, all this may not be very interesting, but the success we've had in turning the coast around stems from the details. Initially, we built the first hatchery, the GCCA, CP&L, Texas Parks and Wildlife Hatchery, with no state money and no federal money. It was built on property CP&L donated or actually put in a lease. We leased the property and TPWD ran it. Later, when we found out about the Wallop-Breaux matching fund availability, we had to redo the lease with CP&L because it takes a 20-year commitment on a lease to comply with Wallop-Breaux. And then we basically gave the state the old hatchery, and that gave us X amount of dollars in Wallop-Breaux funds as the matching grant.

Chuck Weil: I got together with Jim Schreiner of Goldston Engineering, a good marine design firm and Gene McCarty, head of TPWD in the hatchery division. And we actually just sat down and designed a saltwater hatchery because one had never been done before. About six months later, we had a set of working drawings for building a redfish hatchery. That's when we had the grand opening and Perry Bass and Bill Clements and Walter Fondren and Pinky Wilson put that first redfish into a brood pond.

Quite a start. Then, Perry Bass donated money for a building and I heard through the grapevine that Ben Vaughn wanted to make a \$1 million donation in memory of his Dad, who happened to live down the street from me on Amistad, and that John Dorn of the Texas State Aquarium was working on Ben for that same money. And so was Dr. Connie Arnold over in Port

Aransas. I committed to Connie that we would have part of that building dedicated for University of Texas to use for a certain number of years, and that we would also fund them \$50,000 for research on redfish and trout, which was good because we needed that research anyway. And then Bob Kemp informed us of the Wallop-Breaux money. The Wallop-Breaux Act is a 1984 amendment to the [Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act](#) that provides funding for aquatic conservation, boating access, and recreational safety through excise taxes. It's matching funds from three to one, he said, knowing we had \$1 million already.

Walter Fondren pointed out that we could also get \$3 million. And that gave us even more. We needed an ongoing fund for many future purposes. What we did with the Vaughn money is use it as gap financing while we built the expansion facilities. And that was also what initially established the GCCA Foundation.

Ben Vaughn explained that he made the donation to GCCA hoping to make the hatchery expansion possible, which it did. And now we're delighted it wound up as part of an endowment. And I had some trust funds that had to be used, so I was able to direct a portion of those funds to the foundation. That was some \$700,000.

All those donations came fairly close together. The Vaughn grant was without restrictions. The grants from the foundation trust have got non-operational type restraints put on them, and the board has decided that none of those funds will be used for operations. They can't switch the funds that came out of the Fondren trust; that's a donor thing.

The year of the Ben Vaughn edition was 1985; the pilot program to raise fingerlings about 1986 for the expansion, and the hatchery that would be called Sea Center Texas was underway by 1996. Not bad for a new conservation organization. – **From Change of Tides, published 2000.**
Editing by Sam Caldwell, 2026



*Chuck Weil rescues a peacock bass on a CCA Venezuela research trip.
Illustration by Ben Kocian for a TIDE Magazine Not That Serious feature.*



*The Chairman: Walter Fondren III portrait
by Sam Caldwell*

An Early CPR: Brood Redfish Release Day

By Frank Fuller

Fifty years ago... two of my most memorable events happened the day we released that first brood redfish into a holding pond at the new GGCA/CPL/TPW hatchery near Corpus Christi.

It was a long drive from Houston, so Walter Fondren offered a plane trip to any GGCA Directors who could make it. Larry Bozka was the TIDE Editor then, and he and Randy Smith joined me on the flight back and forth.

Turned out to be a national news event, with dozens of reporters and camera people from all over the country jammed into a small area. I lucked into a spot at the edge of the pond. I may have collected some good photos, but they have disappeared. Too bad, because I would have got photos of Sam Caldwell as he pushed through the crowd, stepped over the ropes and waded into the brood pond. He got a great shot as Walter Fondren III, Pinky Wilson, Governor Clements and Perry Bass placed that first big redfish into the water. Later, someone sent me a photo of Governor Clements and I laughing about something—probably that photographer who waded into the brood pond.

That was great, but the flight home turned into an early Operation Game Thief success story. Walter's pilot added some fuel at the Alvin airport, so we talked him into providing a flyover of East Galveston Bay. Low and slow, thanks. We were scouting for good wade fishing areas but instead spotted a long line of gill nets in a shallow stretch. After landing, we immediately put quarters in a payphone and contacted Operation Game Thief. They had an 800 number, and I had that number committed to memory. We heard later that Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens got those nets out of the water before dark.

The brood ponds near Corpus Christi and the hatchery research facilities at Palacios and Sea Center Texas have proved the value of our early investments. Serious Arctic freezes have occasionally decimated gamefish populations, but research has allowed us to replace and enhance reds and specks.

I'm looking forward to a trip to Sea Center Texas and a visit to the new CCA Flounder hatchery facility. I'll keep Caldwell out of the flounder brood ponds. —*Frank Fuller is a Life Member and served on the 1978 GGCA State Board of Directors*



Frank Fuller collects a more recent photo of Sam Caldwell in Galveston Bay. Caldwell was hoping to collect a redfish on fly. Photo courtesy of Capt. Richard Cabrera.

House Committee Advances Bipartisan Bill to Conserve Reef Habitat and Angling Opportunities

Leading recreational fishing conservation organizations today commended the House Committee on Natural Resources for advancing H.R. 5745, the Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation would help conserve established marine ecosystems on offshore oil and gas infrastructure by facilitating the voluntary conversion of eligible structures into permanent artificial reefs through state Rigs-to-Reefs programs.

Introduced by Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) Members Representatives Mike Ezell (MS), CSC Vice Chair Troy Carter (LA), and Marc Veasey (TX), the bill addresses the loss of valuable fisheries habitat as offshore platforms reach the end of their energy-producing lives. Lengthy permitting processes and the requirement to move a platform to a previously established reefing area miles away often result in the complete removal of structures that support thriving communities of fish, corals, and other marine life.

"The Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act offers a practical, science-based path to conserve thriving reef ecosystems and coveted fishing locations for America's anglers," said Jeff Crane, President and CEO of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "We sincerely thank Representatives Ezell, Carter, and Veasey for their bipartisan leadership and the House Natural Resources Committee for advancing this important legislation to preserve these highly productive fish habitats that are rapidly disappearing."

"Keeping as much of that structure in place as possible has been a priority issue for our members for many years," said Pat Murray, president and CEO of Coastal Conservation Association. "We are encouraged to see Congress continue to take an active interest in saving this unique habitat because those structures are the basis for thriving ecosystems that sustain an immense diversity of life in our nation's oceans and provide unparalleled access for saltwater anglers."

For decades, offshore platforms have provided the necessary hard substrate for reef organisms to establish themselves, creating productive habitat and popular fishing and diving destinations. These ecosystems support recreational and commercial fisheries and contribute to the economies of nearby coastal communities. Removing the structures can destroy habitat that took decades to develop, stretches from the seafloor to the surface, and is cost-prohibitive to replace.

For decades, offshore platforms have provided the necessary hard substrate for reef organisms to establish themselves, creating productive habitat and popular fishing and diving destinations.

"This is progress — and a big win — for Gulf anglers and common-sense conservation. The Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act gives us a smarter path forward," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "We applaud Representatives Mike Ezell, Troy Carter and Marc Veasey, along with Chairman Bruce Westerman, for their bipartisan leadership in getting this important bill moving."

"Offshore platforms are among the most popular and productive fishing destinations in the country, but too many are being removed because the current process does not provide a practical pathway to preserve them as reefs," said Mike Leonard, Vice President of Government Affairs at the American Sportfishing Association. "The Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act would establish a more workable process for safely converting eligible structures into

permanent reefs, conserving valuable habitat, fishing opportunities and the coastal economies they support. We thank Representatives Ezell, Carter and Veasey for the leadership, and the House Natural Resources Committee for advancing this bipartisan solution."

H.R. 5745 would use science-based assessments to identify established reef ecosystems and facilitate reefing eligible structures in place. It would also provide the appropriate amount of time to complete the conversion process, allowing for the preservation of the highly valuable habitat for future generations through established state artificial reef programs. All applicable environmental and safety requirements would still apply, including ensuring all associated wells are permanently plugged and abandoned, just as they would if the structure were removed to shore.

The recreational fishing community thanks the bill's sponsors and House Natural Resources Committee Members for advancing this vital habitat conservation measure and urges the full House of Representatives to take up H.R. 5745. 🇺🇸



"Deep Red Structure" by Sam Caldwell

CCA Texas Funds Over \$1.4 Million for Conservation Efforts

By John Blaha, CCA Texas Director of Habitat

The CCA Texas Executive Board recently approved \$1,419,335 for conservation efforts along the Texas Coast. This funding included the following:

- **\$250,000** match for an East Foundation Ranch grant for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Game Warden facility in Port Mansfield
- **\$6,214** to fund dumpster costs for the 2027 Crab Trap Cleanup along the Texas coast
- **\$125,000** for the Texas Surf Conservancy's Oyster Education program
- **\$87,121** for TPWD Region IV Game Warden equipment
- **\$951,000** approved by the Texas Management Committee, which will come from the original Executive Board-approved Oyster Restoration Fund, for a Conservation Certificate of Location Reef to be constructed by the Galveston Bay Foundation in East Galveston Bay.

Port Mansfield Game Warden Facility

CCA Texas will match the East Foundation Ranch's \$250,000 donation for Phase I construction. Phase I will include the groundwork, slab, building shell, rough plumbing, and new seawall for the facility. Phase II of the project will include the complete finish-out, which will result in a 12,000-square-foot facility that includes 2,000 square feet of finished-out interior, six 20' x 35' boat stalls with overhead door entrances, and one 20' x

80' stall. Additionally, there will be two 20' x 35' repair bays, a 38' x 40' truck bay, and a dedicated mechanic shop. The finished-out interior space will include a bunk room, restrooms, kitchen, utility room, and an evidence room. This facility will house five patrol bay boats, a new 42' MetalCraft interceptor vessel – on call 24/7 – and a jet dock system. Support from CCA Texas and East Foundation Ranch will allow for a greater law enforcement presence on Texas waters alongside air assets. It will also expand game warden capacity during major operations and natural disasters while supporting youth education, training, and community outreach. The public benefits include an increased TPWD Game presence in the

Laguna Madre and Texas state waters offshore, the ability for the TPWD to increase presence during natural disasters and emergencies, and incentivizing the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to maintain East Cut dredging to support law enforcement activities and promote essential water exchange into the Lower Laguna Madre.

CCA Texas welcomes the opportunity to work with the East Foundation Ranch, TPWD, and others to solidify the TPWD Game Warden presence on the Lower Texas coast.

2027 to Mark 25 Years of the TPWD Annual Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup Program - \$6,214

What started as a determined effort by the late Ronnie Luster and the TPWD Game Wardens to clean up crab traps in the Port O'Connor area has resulted in the Annual Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup Program, which will celebrate its 25th year in 2027! CCA Texas has proudly supported this program from its inception and will do so once again by providing \$6,214 to cover the cost of necessary dumpsters that will be placed along the

What started as a determined effort by the late Ronnie Luster and the TPWD Game Wardens to clean up crab traps in the Port O'Connor area has resulted in the Annual Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup Program, which will celebrate its 25th year in 2027.



Photo, courtesy of Wildlife Graphics



across the Coastal Bend in the fall of 2025. Since that time, the program has educated nearly 3,000 students on the importance of oysters as a keystone species. CCA Texas is proud to support this effort that educates future generations about the importance of oysters and oyster habitat in our ecosystems and promotes the sustainable practices of successful oyster mariculture in the state.

TPWD Region IV Game Warden Equipment - \$87,121

The TPWD Game Wardens are the front line in protecting Texas's natural resources inland and along the coast. CCA Texas has a long history of supporting the coastal wardens through donations for equipment, internships, and operations. This \$87,121 contribution to Region IV wardens means these area wardens will now have updated and reliable equipment, including:

- Three new outboard motors replacing high-hour motors (two in District 4 and 1 in District 2), and
- Three new Garmin GPS units for District 2 replacing older model units.
- Strong law enforcement comes with strong wardens and reliable equipment.

Galveston Bay Foundation Conservation Certificate of Location - \$951,000

The CCA Texas Management Committee approved \$951,000 for materials and construction for a new Conservation Certificate of Location (CoL) to be located in East Galveston Bay and constructed by our great friends at the Galveston Bay Foundation. This commitment comes from the \$5,000,000 Oyster Restoration Fund approved by the CCA Texas Executive Board in August 2023.

The \$5,000,000 Oyster Restoration Fund has now provided funding to seven restoration projects, and CCA Texas looks forward to seeing several of these projects begin construction in spring 2027. These projects and funds are a direct result of dedicated local volunteers and members and their banquet fundraising efforts. 

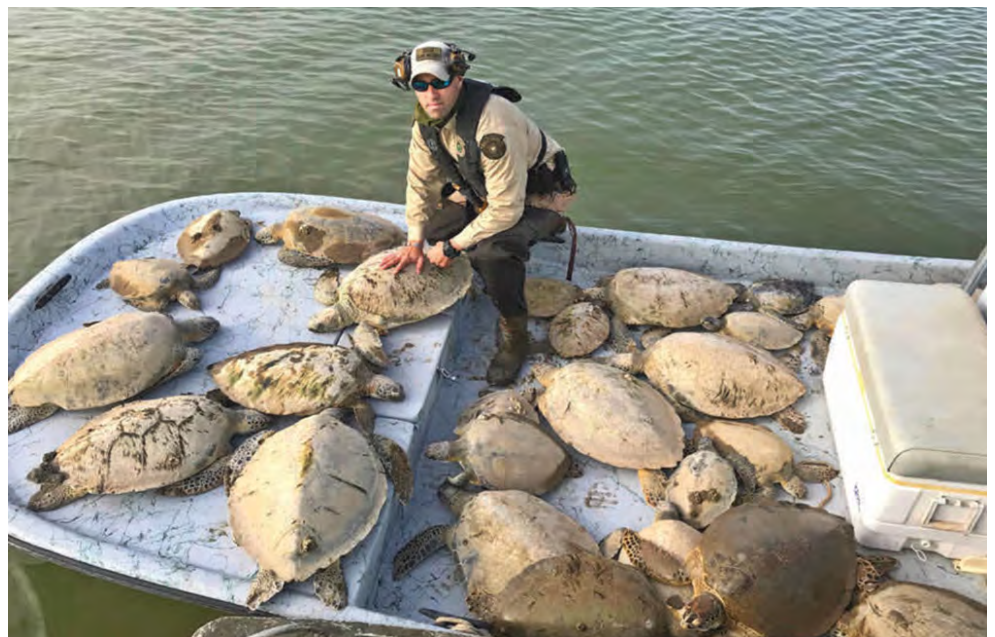
Texas coast. A vision and a concerted effort initiated by Ronnie, a long-time CCA Texas Executive Board member, Management Committee member, and TPWD Committee Chairman, has created a lasting and positive impact that continues to benefit the Texas coast while bringing together conservation-minded anglers each year.

Texas Surf Conservancy's Oyster Education Program - \$125,000

The CCA Texas Executive Board has, once again, funded the Texas Surf Conservancy's Oyster Education Program. This \$125,000 commitment supports the mission of the Texas Surf Conservancy to work collaboratively across disciplines and industries to preserve the health of marine habitats and promote oyster mariculture along the Texas Coast. The Texas Surf Conservancy's primary goals are to:

- Provide educational programs on oysters, oyster habitats, and marine environments,
- Host and participate in community events to promote oyster mariculture,
- Promote Texas farm-raised oysters at trade shows, conferences, and symposia,
- Promote and support Texas oyster farms and sustainable seafood practices,
- Support marine habitat restoration projects on the Gulf Coast of Texas, and
- Advocate for sound coastal policies and legislation.

The organization envisions a united Texas where marine ecosystems and oyster mariculture thrive in coastal communities, supported by science, industry, and innovators working together. "The Science of Oysters" program—Oyster Adventures and Oyster Explorers was launched to elementary schools



TPWD Set to Resume One of the Largest, Longest-Running Marine Resource Databases in the World

The Science-Based Gillnet Program is Back

By CCA Texas Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

We have some great news! The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received the federal authorizations needed to resume its long-running science-based gillnet survey in Texas bays!

The approvals cover incidental interactions with protected bottlenose dolphins and federally protected sea turtles, resolving the permitting issue that forced TPWD to suspend sampling in May 2024. After nearly two years without routine spring and fall surveys, this fall crews will once again collect standardized information that helps managers understand the condition of Texas' coastal fisheries.

You may recall that we have been covering this subject in previous editions of CURRENTS. Here is a quick review of the program and why it is consistent with conservation

goals and essential to preserving the long-term health, economic value, and scientific integrity of Texas' coastal fisheries.

Established in 1975, the program uses a consistent, scientifically designed approach to monitor important recreational species such as red drum, spotted seatrout, and southern flounder. Crews sample designated locations across 10 major bay systems, from Sabine Lake to the lower Laguna Madre. The resulting data helps TPWD identify population trends, evaluate the effects of regulations and habitat changes, and make informed decisions affecting the state's roughly 900,000 saltwater anglers.

The federal authorizations include strict safeguards intended to minimize risks to dolphins and sea turtles, including restrictions on where nets may be placed, shorter soak times in higher-risk areas, pre-deployment wildlife observations, improved gear requirements, and rapid

reporting of protected-species interactions. Certain sampling locations will be removed from future surveys after protected-species entanglements, and TPWD must follow detailed handling, release, and monitoring procedures.

For recreational fishermen, the survey's return means fisheries managers will once again have access to the consistent, long-term

information needed to support sound decisions about Texas' inshore fish populations. The restart does not change current bag limits, size limits, or license requirements; any future regulatory changes would follow the state's normal public rulemaking process. However, restoring the survey helps close a significant gap in a five-decade record and strengthens the scientific foundation for managing the coastal fisheries that anglers and coastal communities depend on.

Crews sample designated locations across 10 major bay systems, from Sabine Lake to the lower Laguna Madre. The resulting data helps TPWD identify population trends, evaluate the effects of regulations and habitat changes, and make informed decisions affecting the state's roughly 900,000 saltwater anglers.



Thank you to all CCA Texas members who provided comments to NOAA while the permit applications were under review. Your engagement on this issue helped to highlight the importance of this program and the unfortunate delays by the federal government in issuing these permits.



TCEQ Temporarily Suspends Essential Freshwater Releases to Nueces Bay

By CCA Texas Advocacy Director Shane Bonnot

Despite objections from numerous conservation organizations - and in stark defiance of established scientific evidence, published research, and best practices for healthy estuarine ecology - the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) unanimously approved an emergency order temporarily suspending required pass-through freshwater releases from Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi into the Nueces Bay Estuary.

Requested by the cities of Corpus Christi and Three Rivers and the Nueces River Authority, the emergency order allows water that would otherwise be released to meet required estuary inflows to remain in regional reservoirs. The temporary suspension applies whenever combined storage in Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi is at or below 50 percent. It will remain in effect for 120 days—through December 23, 2026—with the possibility of a 60-day extension.

Requested by the cities of Corpus Christi and Three Rivers and the Nueces River Authority, the emergency order allows water that would otherwise be released to meet required estuary inflows to remain in regional reservoirs.

CCA Texas opposed the request and submitted comments urging TCEQ to deny the emergency suspension. We also asked to reconvene the Nueces Estuary Advisory Council (NEAC), the collaborative forum historically used to bring scientists, state agencies, water users, conservation organizations, and other stakeholders together to help strike a balance between the regional needs and environmental needs.

The [2001 Agreed Order](#) already includes a drought-responsive framework. As reservoir levels decline, “target” environmental-flow volumes are reduced.

Additional measures are also included to further protect regional water supplies. As soon as the rain stops, and water flowing into the reservoirs decreases, the “required” environmental-flow volumes are further reduced, regardless of reservoir level. The Order

was designed to balance human and environmental needs without eliminating the freshwater inflows necessary to sustain the Nueces Estuary.

Those inflows are essential. Freshwater helps maintain the salinity conditions required by fish, crabs, shrimp, oysters, and other estuarine species. It also transports nutrients and sediments that support wetlands and marshes, maintaining the Nueces Delta. We cannot ignore the importance of freshwater inflows into our estuaries because prolonged reductions have significant consequences.

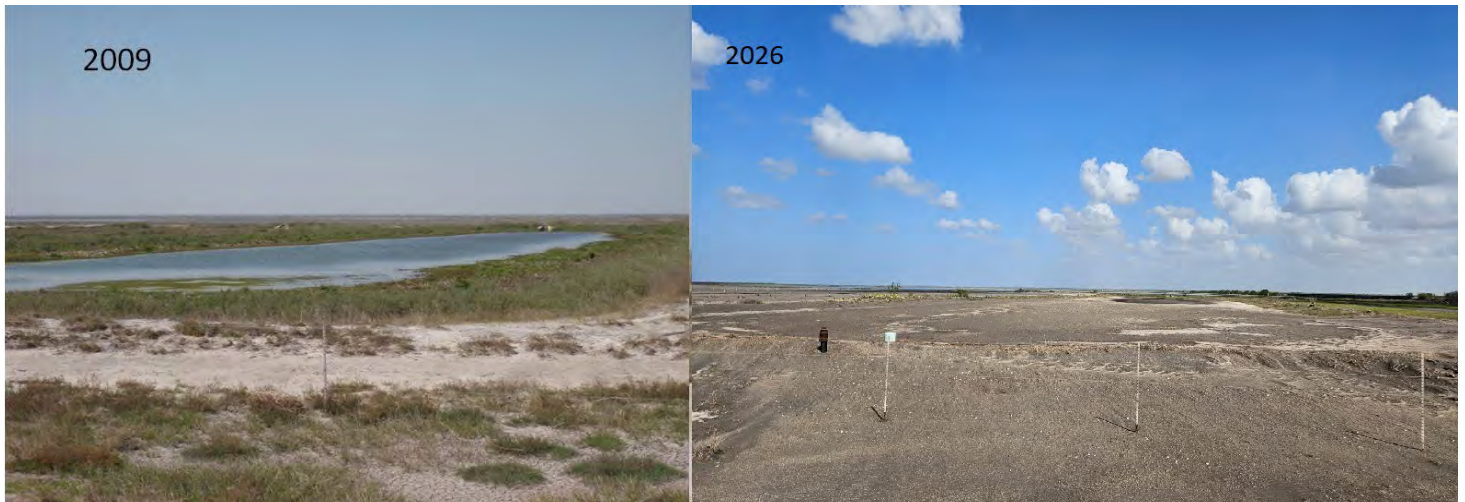


Salt-encrusted shorelines and extreme hypersaline, uninhabitable conditions create a reverse estuary within the Nueces Delta.

The irony of the timing of the application is difficult to ignore: while asking TCEQ to suspend pass-through flows, which are critical to an estuary widely recognized as being on life-support, the City of Corpus Christi simultaneously eased water usage restrictions for its customers, moving from Stage 2 to Stage 1. In other words, Corpus Christi asked the state to withhold water from an already stressed estuary while loosening restrictions on water use by its own customers.



Recent die off of spartina along the Rincon Bayou, which is the main channel in the Nueces Delta. All Photos courtesy of Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program



While not related to the TCEQ decision, these images demonstrate the value of freshwater inputs into an estuary. Pumping from the Allison Wastewater Treatment Plant into diversion cells located in the Lower Nueces Delta was discontinued nearly 10 years ago due to changing environmental regulations.

Since releases were suspended in March 2024, in compliance with the 2001 Agreed Order, salinities in Nueces Bay reached approximately 40 parts per thousand, compared with a historical average of roughly 22–26 parts per thousand. Salinity in the Nueces Delta exceeded 55 parts per thousand, despite the delta typically being one of the freshest areas in the estuary. These hypersaline conditions can significantly reduce the survival of larval and juvenile fish, crabs, and shrimp, harm oyster reefs, reduce biological productivity, and delay recovery even after normal inflows return. TCEQ was aware of this information yet decided to grant the emergency order.

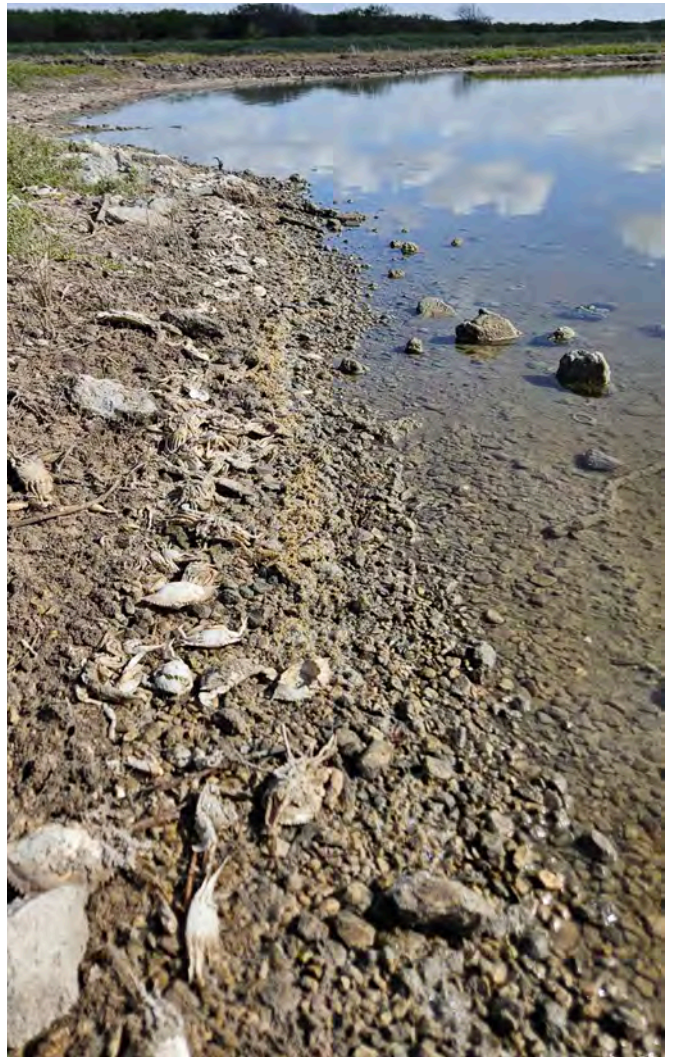
Recent surveys conducted in late September 2026, showed mass juvenile crab mortality and salinities above 100ppt at the less-tidally influenced areas of the delta. These conditions effectively create a reverse estuary, with salt-encrusted shorelines and no vegetation or habitat to support fisheries. Ecological impacts in other areas of the delta can be delayed and may become apparent over time. As such, a thorough assessment of fisheries and habitat impacts should have been completed before suspending potential future pass-through releases, and one is certainly warranted moving forward.

CCA Texas is especially concerned about the precedent this decision sets. If long-standing science-based water management frameworks can be bypassed without meaningful stakeholder participation, similar requests could follow in other coastal basins. Emergency decisions affecting shared water resources should not become a substitute for collaboration, transparency, and independent scientific review. They should be made through processes that include all affected interests—not solely by those seeking additional water storage.

Healthy estuaries support commercial and recreational fisheries, tourism, boating, hunting, birding, water quality, storm protection, and the broader economy of the Coastal Bend. CCA Texas will remain engaged and prepared to respond to future actions, including any effort to make this suspension permanent.

We will continue advocating for the reconvening of the

NEAC, protection of essential freshwater inputs, and collaborative water management decisions that safeguard both regional water supplies and the long-term health of Texas' coastal ecosystems.



Recent observations of juvenile crab mortality in Goose Lake, adjacent to Rincon Bayou.



Shoalwater Bay Project Public Meeting

The San Antonio Bay Partnership invites the community to the Shoalwater Bay Project Public Meeting to learn about the ongoing efforts to protect this important coastal system and provide your input.

 Thursday, October 15, 2026

 6:00 PM

 Seadrift Community Center Hall, 501 S. Main Street

 **Attend in person or watch live on the SABP Facebook page**

Shoalwater Bay's barrier islands that protect the seagrass beds are eroding, impacting more than 1,000 acres of productive seagrass habitat and other important coastal resources.

SABP launched the first phase of the Shoalwater Bay project in May 2026.

Initial work has focused on collecting bathymetric (water depth) and topographic (land elevation) data to better understand current conditions. Next will be the coastal engineering analysis to identify potential solutions in subsequent phases.

Online you can join us on our **SABP Facebook Page** Live and provide comments. The live feed will show up at the top of our timeline and be present for 30 days post broadcast. Afterwards, you will find it on the **SABP YouTube page**. I hope you will join us.

Thank you,
Allan Berger

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



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

TEXAS

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
EAST GALVESTON BAY COL	\$976,000
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
OYSTER SHELL COLLECTION BINS (S. TEXAS COASTAL INIT.)	\$17,000
GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION OYSTER RECYCLE TRAILERS	\$10,000
SINK YOUR SHUCKS OYSTER RECYCLE PROGRAM TRAILERS	\$10,000

**TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT ON
OYSTER RESTORATION
AND CREATION**

\$9,002,454

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

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS

Catches from illegal fishing of red snapper in Gulf of Mexico is estimated to be **greater than the entire recreational allocation**.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Panga style fishing boats, large totes and 3-4 man crew.



REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING!

STEALING YOUR FISH. SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.

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

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS





YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2026 CCA TEXAS STAR TOURNAMENT AWARD CEREMONY



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026 AT 4 PM



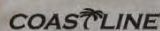
FORT BEND COUNTY FAIRGROUND, ROSENBERG, TX

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF GREAT FOOD, COLD DRINKS, AND GOOD FRIENDS AS WE CELEBRATE AN INCREDIBLE YEAR OF FISHING, COMPETITION, AND OUR CCA TEXAS STAR TOURNAMENT WINNERS!

WINNERS: BE IN CONTACT WITH DREW ADAMS
DADAMS@CCATEXAS.ORG | 713-626-4222
FOR YOUR TICKETS TO THE EVENT!

OTHER ATTENDEES: BUY YOUR TABLES/TICKETS AT

TICKETSTRIPE.COM/2026STARAWARDS



GET YOUR CCA TEXAS HATS TODAY!



NEW!

**SCAN
TO BUY!**



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



The 37th Annual CCA Texas STAR Tournament was our most ACTION-PACKED tournament in the last five years!

This year, 120 tagged redfish were released from Sabine to South Padre Island. In all, an incredible **34 TAGS WERE CAUGHT!**

To put that in perspective, it marks the second-most tags caught in a single tournament year since 2000!

That's the good news. However, of the 34 tags caught this year, **only 11 anglers**

were registered for the tournament. We dread

getting one of those

phone calls from an excited angler letting us know about a tagged redfish they just caught, thinking they've just won, only to learn they missed out on a \$100,000+ driveway-sized prize because they didn't register for STAR. Here's one such story that actually has a happy ending.

On a hot day this past June, an angler and her family went fishing near the Galveston Causeway and found themselves in the middle of a school of redfish. After a while, their son reeled in a 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tags of Texas Tagged Redfish with an Academy-sponsored Blue Tag! However, their excitement quickly turned to disappointment when they realized they had not YET signed up for this year's STAR Tournament. They called our CCA office to let us know a tag had been caught by their son, but he wasn't registered. They then released the fish, allowing another angler the opportunity to catch this fish of a lifetime—exactly what we hope ALL non-registered anglers will do if they catch a STAR-tagged redfish!

Now comes the fun part. After that heartbreaking catch, the entire family made the smart investment to sign everybody up for the STAR Tournament AND made sure

all their CCA memberships were up-to-date. Fast-forward one month to mid-July, the family, again, headed down to the Galveston Causeway to fish...and wouldn't you know it, the mother of the family caught another 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tags of Texas Tagged Redfish with an Academy-sponsored Blue Tag! This time, however, her call to our CCA office was one of joy rather than disappointment because she was definitely registered for the CCA STAR Registered Angler Tournament!

One question we get quite often is: how far do these tagged redfish travel after they've been released? In reality, most don't actually travel as far as you might think. However, there are occasions where fish do, in fact, travel a great distance before they're caught.

In fact, this year, a guide, Captain Mick Linares, called us with the tag information from a tagged redfish caught by his client about a week after the STAR Tournament ended. It turns out this redfish had originally been released for the 2025 CCA Texas STAR Tournament near Gladis Hole just south of the Land Cut in the Lower Laguna Madre. **Incredibly, the fish was caught roughly 480 days later and approximately**

50 miles away right near Bird Island! A fascinating trip for our fishy friend!

Academy®
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

After 37 amazing years of STAR, we have been blessed to award more than **\$9 million in college scholarships** to young anglers from all over Texas. This life-changing money for our youth, and our incredible tournament, which has welcomed more than 43,000 Texas anglers, wouldn't be possible without the immense support from our dedicated sponsors. To learn more about the tournament, including rules, prizes, registration, and our sponsors, visit www.startournament.org.

COME CELEBRATE OUR 2026 STAR TOURNAMENT WINNERS! We'd love for you to join us as we celebrate our 2026 CCA Texas STAR Tournament Winners! This year we are hosting a CCA Texas STAR Tournament Awards Ceremony at the **Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on Saturday, November 7, 2026!** We are incredibly excited to bring back our awards banquet, where more than \$2 million in prizes will be awarded to our most deserving STAR Tournament winners! Expect incredible food from Tommy Sulak Catering, cold beverages, raffles, and hundreds of smiling faces gathered to celebrate winning prizes of a lifetime. The ear-to-ear grins from



our STAR Kids and STAR Teens as they receive their life-changing scholarships, along with the tears of joy as winning anglers drive away in their new **Ford F-150 XLT Truck pulling a 23' Haynie Amigo with a 150HP Mercury**, are reason enough to attend this evening of pure joy — made possible by the sport and passion we all share.

We'll also have ALL our prizes on display, including Haynie Boats, Tran Sport Boats, Dargel Boats, Shoalwater Boats, Ford Trucks, Hoffpauir Polaris Rangers, Mercury Motors, and more! So come join us as we celebrate this year's winners and see what YOU could win next year in the 2027 CCA Texas STAR Tournament!



If you'd like to purchase tickets to the event, visit <https://ticketstripe.com/2026STARAwards>. We'll see you there!



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



Tanner of Houston, TX – 2nd Place Teens Sheepshead 6lbs 11oz - Wins a \$20,000 Scholarship



Kenley of Winnie, TX - 3rd Place Teens Gafftop 5lbs 8oz - Wins a \$15,000 Scholarship



Andres Garcia of Port Arthur, TX – Tags of Texas Purple AFTCO Tag Winner – Wins a 2026 22' Tran Sport Boat 220 SVT CAT with a Mercury 150HP and Coastline Trailer + an AFTCO Custom Sponsor Package



Daniel Rowe of Corpus Christi, TX – 1st Place Kingfish 43lbs 5oz – Wins a Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI in Pursuit Camo with Big Tex Trailer



Ruben Hinojosa Jr of Mission, TX – 1st Place Ling 68lbs 6oz – Hoffpauir Polaris Ranger Crew 570EFI in Pursuit Camo with Big Tex Trailer



Right: Bradley Sutton of San Leon, TX – Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag Winner - 2026 Ford F-150 XLT SuperCrew Cab connected to a 23' Haynie Amigo with a Mercury 150HP and Coastline Trailer



**2026 CCA State of Texas Anglers Rodeo
Leaderboard as of 10/06/2026- FINAL**



Texas Ford Dealers Red Tag Division

Ford Haynie	RE1855	RE1852	RE1842	RE1844	NONE
Mercury	MATTHEW SILVAS, SR OF BEEVILLE, TX	MICHAEL KING OF LEAGUE CITY, TX	CONNER STEVENS OF RICHMOND, TX	BRADLEY SUTTON OF SAN LEON, TX	
Coastline	ROY'S BAIT & TACKLE	MARINA BAY HARBOR	SURFSIDE MARINA	WEST END MARINA	
Haynie	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
Mercury					
Coastline					
Package					

Total Caught: 4



Academy GIFT CARDS \$2000 - \$750

Tags of Texas Division: 3 Boat Packages, 7 Academy Gift Cards, All 60 Tags win a Tag Sponsor Package

Tran Sport	TT1903	TT1869	TT1902	TT1849	TT1898
Boat	ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ OF BAY CITY, TX	RILEY KUTACH OF HALLETTSVILLE, TX	ANDRES GARCIA OF PORT ARTHUR, TX	KAREM GARZA OF LA MARQUE, TX	ELWIN TEJADA OF HOUSTON, TX
Mercury	WAYNES BAIT CAMP	INDIANOLA FISHING MAR	SPORTSMAN SUPPLY	WEST END MARINA	MARINA BAY HARBOR
Coastline	TT1842	TT1832 *	NONE	NONE	NONE
Package	DAVID DURY OF SAN ANTONIO, TX	MARCOS HERNANDEZ OF HOUSTON, TX			
	ROYS BAIT & TACKLE	WEST END MARINA			

Total Caught: 7



**2026 CCA State of Texas Anglers Rodeo
Leaderboard as of 10/06/2026- FINAL**



Inshore Division

Academy GIFT CARDS \$500 - \$100 1st - 4th Runners-Up

	LEADER-Boat Pkg	1ST RUNNER-UP	2ND RUNNER-UP	3RD RUNNER-UP	4TH RUNNER-UP
Sheepshead	9 lbs 15 ozs RAMON ZAPATA OF BAYTOWN, TX LINDA'S SYLVAN BEACH	9 lbs 6 ozs LUIS IBARRA OF BAYTOWN, TX LINDAS SYLVAN BEACH	7 lbs 8 ozs ARRON SERRANO OF TEXAS CITY, TX WEST END MARINA	7 lbs 6 ozs HADLEY BASCI OF LEAGUE CITY, TX LINDAS SYLVAN BEACH	6 lbs 12 ozs CHARLES MCBRIDE OF WINNIE, TX SGS CAUSEWAY
Gafftop	6 lbs 2 ozs ROSELYN BIANO OF SOUR LAKE, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	5 lbs 15 ozs ORIN ELLIS, JR OF HOUSTON, TX SPORTSMAN SUPPLY	5 lbs 12 ozs BRAD SMELLEY OF LIVINGSTON, TX WAYNE'S BAIT CAMP	5 lbs 8 ozs MARK BLACKMAR OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TX ROY'S BAIT & TACKLE	5 lbs 6 ozs JOHN IVY, III OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TX ROYS BAIT & TACKLE
Black Drum	15 lbs 6 ozs MARK MARTIN OF KIRBYVILLE, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	15 lbs 4 ozs COLT NORTH OF KOUNTZE, TX PEGGY'S PLACE	14 lbs 0 ozs BECKY GARY OF DEER PARK, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	13 lbs 8 ozs ANN CURRY OF PASADENA, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	13 lbs 5 ozs DRAKE JORDAN OF WINNIE, TX SPORTSMAN SUPPLY

Hoffpaur Offshore Division

Academy GIFT CARDS \$500-\$100 - 1st - 4th Runners-Up

	LEADER-Polaris Pkg	1ST RUNNER-UP-\$500	2ND RUNNER-UP-\$250	3RD RUNNER-UP-\$150	4TH RUNNER-UP-\$100
Kingfish (30 lb. min)	43 lbs 5 ozs DANIEL ROWE OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TX FISHERMAN'S WHARF	34 lbs 14 ozs VINCENT OLIVER OF RIO MEDINA, TX FISHERMAN'S WHARF	NONE	NONE	NONE
Dorado (20 lb. min)	41 lbs 10 ozs TATE SCHUSTER OF MCALLEN, TX SOUTH SHORE B & T	38 lbs 6 ozs * ALEC EATON OF MANCHACA, TX POC FISHING CENTER	37 lbs 0 ozs REID JONES OF BANDERA, TX FISHERMAN'S WHARF	35 lbs 9 ozs DERRICK JASEK OF FAYETTEVILLE, TX WAYNE'S BAIT CAMP	33 lbs 11 ozs LUCAS PENNA OF HOUSTON, TX FISHERMAN'S WHARF
Ling/Cobia (50 lb. min)	68 lbs 6 ozs RUBEN HINOJOSA, JR OF MISSION, TX HBT PORT MANSFIELD	64 lbs 2 ozs CHASE STARLING EL CAMPO, TX WAYNE'S BAIT CAMP	57 lbs 0 ozs KATELYN STONE OF BAY CITY, TX WAYNE'S BAIT CAMP	54 lbs 11 ozs * CHRIS OGBURN OF BULVERDE, TX FISHERMAN'S WHARF	NONE
Red Snapper (20 lb. min)	23 lbs 4 ozs DALE BRAGG, III OF BACLIF, TX MARINA BAY HARBOR	22 lbs 0 ozs ROBERT BAGE OF TEXAS CITY, TX SPORTSMAN SUPPLY	21 lbs 10 ozs LIZ CHRISTENSEN OF GALVESTON, TX WEST END MARINA	21 lbs 6 ozs DAVID KOHLHOFER OF BEAUMONT, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	20 lbs 4 oz TED BROADDUS, JR OF LAKE JACKSON, TX SURFSIDE MARINA

**2026 CCA State of Texas Anglers Rodeo
Leaderboard as of 10/06/2026- FINAL**



Academy[®] PROGRESSIVE[®]
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

STAR Kids Scholarship Division \$30,000 - \$2,500

	LEADER-\$30,000	1ST RUNNER-UP-\$20,000	2ND RUNNER-UP-\$15,000	3RD RUNNER-UP-\$7,500	4TH RUNNER-UP-\$2,500
Sheepshead	5 lbs 11 ozs FAITH LAVENDER (9) OF ALVIN, TX LINDA'S SYLVAN BEACH	5 lbs 7 ozs GAGE FALKENBERG (8) OF KNIPPA, TX HBT PORT MANSFIELD	5 lbs 7 ozs MASON PENA (10) OF MISSION, TX HBT PORT MANSFIELD	4 lbs 13 ozs NASH NICHOLS (8) OF HOUSTON, TX MARINA BAY HARBOR	4 lbs 12 ozs HANK HENDERSON (7) OF DICKINSON, TX LINDAS SYLVAN BEACH
Gafftop	6 lbs 0 ozs JAKE TORTORICE (10) OF SOUR LAKE, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	5 lbs 15 ozs HUDSON FAICKNEY (7) OF ROUNDROCK, TX ROY'S BAIT & TACKLE	5 lbs 12 ozs LUCAS VANDYKE (10) OF HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO SGS CAUSEWAY	5 lbs 2 ozs CASE JUSTUS (10) OF KATY, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	4 lbs 15 ozs KATE NORTH (8) OF KOUNTZE, TX SPORTSMAN SUPPLY

STAR Teens Scholarship Division \$30,000 - \$2,500

	LEADER-\$30,000	1ST RUNNER-UP-\$20,000	2ND RUNNER-UP-\$15,000	3RD RUNNER-UP-\$7,500	4TH RUNNER-UP-\$2,500
Sheepshead	8 lbs 14 ozs ZOEY DUBOIS (17) OF MONTGOMERY, LA LINDA'S SYLVAN BEACH	6 lbs 11 ozs * TANNER RICHARDS (16) OF HOUSTON, TX LINDA'S SYLVAN BEACH	5 lbs 15 ozs HUNTER HYMER (12) OF TYLER, TX HBT PORT MANSFIELD	5 lbs 11 ozs OSCAR MONTALVO (11) OF HARLINGEN, TX SOUTH SHORE B & T	5 lbs 10 ozs THATCHER TERREBONNE (1) OF LA PORTE, TX MARINA BAY HARBOR
Gafftop	5 lbs 15 ozs * MADELYN SMITH (17) OF SOUR LAKE, TX SPORTSMAN SUPPLY	5 lbs 10 ozs * CHLOE COUSIN (17) OF HOUSTON, TX SGS CAUSEWAY	5 lbs 8 ozs KENLEY JORDAN (15) OF WINNIE, TX SPORTSMAN SUPPLY	5 lbs 2 ozs JOSHUA LORFING (16) OF HOUSTON, TX SPORTSMAN SUPPLY	4 lbs 14 ozs * HUNTER WHITWORTH (11) OF COLLEGE STATION, TX SGS CAUSEWAY



PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS



Academy[®]
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

PROGRESSIVE[®]





Release photos courtesy of Mac Elliott Media



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





Unmatched Comfort, From Layovers to Layering



Coastal Layer

"Soft" doesn't do it justice. Coastal Layer delivers unbeatable comfort, whether you're wearing it solo or layering up. Crafted from lightweight, moisture-wicking fleece with advanced stain resistance, it's built to perform.



Coastal Layer Hoodie



Coastal Layer ¼ Zip



Vitamin D-stress



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

Get a quote in as little as 4 minutes

[Get a Quote](#)

PROGRESSIVE[®]

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



Thank you Mercury Marine!

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

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



CCA TEXAS
STAR





2114 US-84
Goldthwaite, TX 76844

855.648.3341

hpolaris.com
hcanam.com

We Carry the Utility Vehicles You Need

★ and the brands you trust ★

can-am

POLARIS





FLINT&FLAME

OFFICIAL CUTLERY &
TRUSTED PARTNER OF CCA
SINCE 2016



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

TEXAS

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

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
CONSERVATION WORLDWIDE

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



Caught Redhanded!



Reports from Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Wardens

On September 9, 2026, Brazoria and Ft. Bend Wardens were patrolling the Brazos River for the Labor Day Weekend. The Wardens inspected a group of fishermen and found them to be in possession of an untagged red drum and undersized black drum, red drum, and speckled trout. Citations were issued, and cases are pending.

On August 16, 2026, Galveston County Game Wardens were conducting patrols on Galveston Island. At approximately 12:30 a.m., Game Wardens contacted an individual at Seawolf Park. Immediately upon contact, the individual attempted to kick a bag into the nearby water. The individual was quickly stopped, and the bag was found to contain numerous undersized speckled trout. Further investigation revealed additional undersized trout in the individual's possession. While Game Wardens continued to inspect the area, the individual began dumping trout into the water. This was observed by Game Wardens. The individual was subsequently placed in handcuffs. Three trout were confirmed to have been discarded into the water. Of the individual's total catch, only one speckled trout was confirmed to be of legal size, measuring 15 inches. A total of 29 violations were assessed. Citations were issued, and cases are pending.

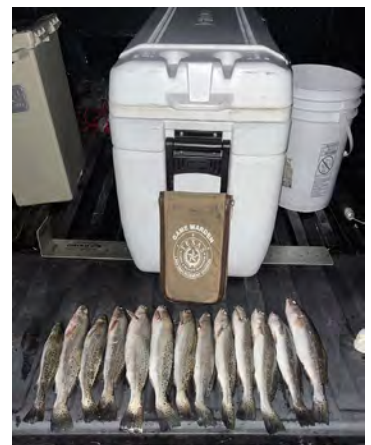
On August 6, 2026, Galveston County and Chambers



County Game Wardens were patrolling the Galveston Bay complex for nearshore bait shrimpers. During the morning patrol, they boarded a shrimp boat that had an unapproved



Turtle Excluder Device. The Wardens immediately recognized that the shrimper also did not have a successful way of keeping the bait alive. The Wardens seized all shrimp on board and issued the proper citation to the captain on the boat. After following the procedures for getting bids, Wardens delivered the seizure, and 84 pounds of shrimp were sold. The violator will be charged with fines and restitution. Case pending.



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.**

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING!

STEALING YOUR FISH. SHORTENING YOUR SEASON.

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

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS

PHOTO: TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Enjoying Your Digital CURRENTS Newsletter

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

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

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

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

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

- A link to the CCA Texas website provides comprehensive news and resources. On the website, an array of CCA information is available. View many project-specific videos. Consult the list of CCA-approved guides. Listen to an informative Podcast.

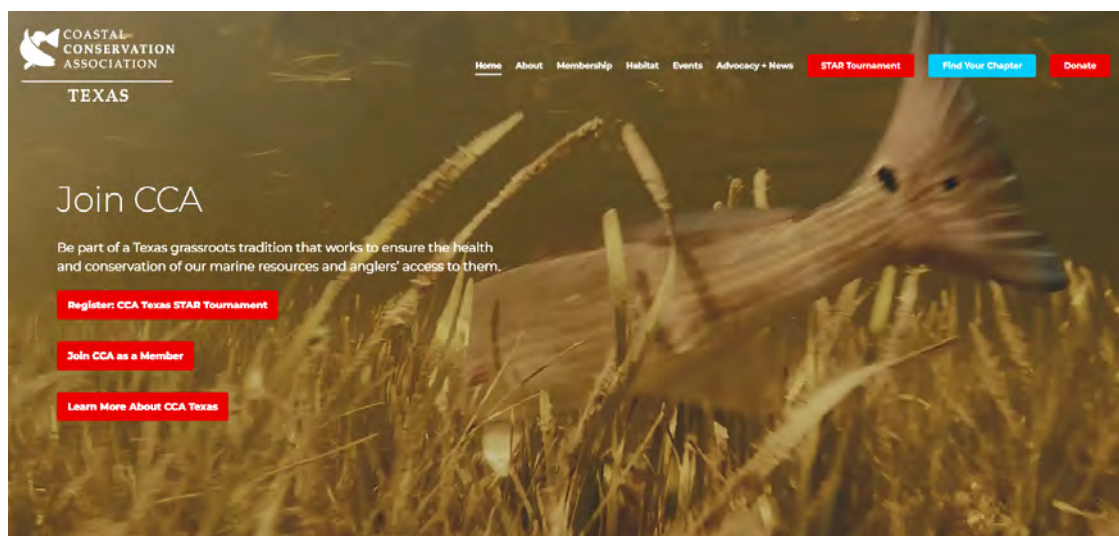
[Click here for CURRENTS Newsletters.](#)



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

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

Go to ccatexas.org and bookmark it now.



Follow CCA Texas on Social Media!

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

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

FACEBOOK



Featured Social Media Highlights

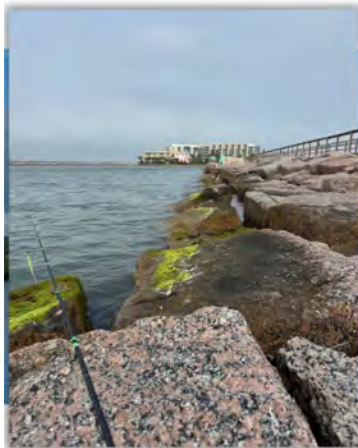
Join over 48,000+ Texas anglers by FOLLOWING our [CCA Texas Facebook page](#) to be the first to know about important updates, check out incredible photos, and watch amazing reels and videos! [LIKE us on Facebook TODAY and help us out by sharing our posts!](#)



Reflecting on how fortunate we are to live in the great state of Texas, where we get to enjoy our beautiful Coast.

Aransas Bay, Texas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



Gettin' a few casts in before dinner down in Port A.

Port Aransas, Texas

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



Shout out to CCA member Lance Heimann of our Corpus Christi Chapter, who's been doing some trout fishing in the Corpus Christi area while attending Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Since beginning school in 2024, he has caught 3 trout over 30", and the one pictured here on his most recent trip almost got there, measuring in at 29.25. All the fish were caught and released back into the bay to continue thriving and providing exciting opportunities for other fellow anglers.

CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS POST ON FACEBOOK!



CCA Texas on Instagram

We just reached 27.7K+ 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





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!**



**Not much better than
the peace of a morning wade.**

St. Charles Bay, Texas

: Jon Nevarez

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS
POST ON TWITTER / X!**



**Shout out to Matt
Kern of our Aransas Bay
Chapter for having a DAY
down in**

Baffin Bay, Texas

: Candace Kern

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS
POST ON TWITTER / X!**



**Gettin' some
work in at
 Bray Cove
down in
Mesquite Bay, Texas**

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THIS
POST ON TWITTER / X!**

Casting FOR A CAUSE

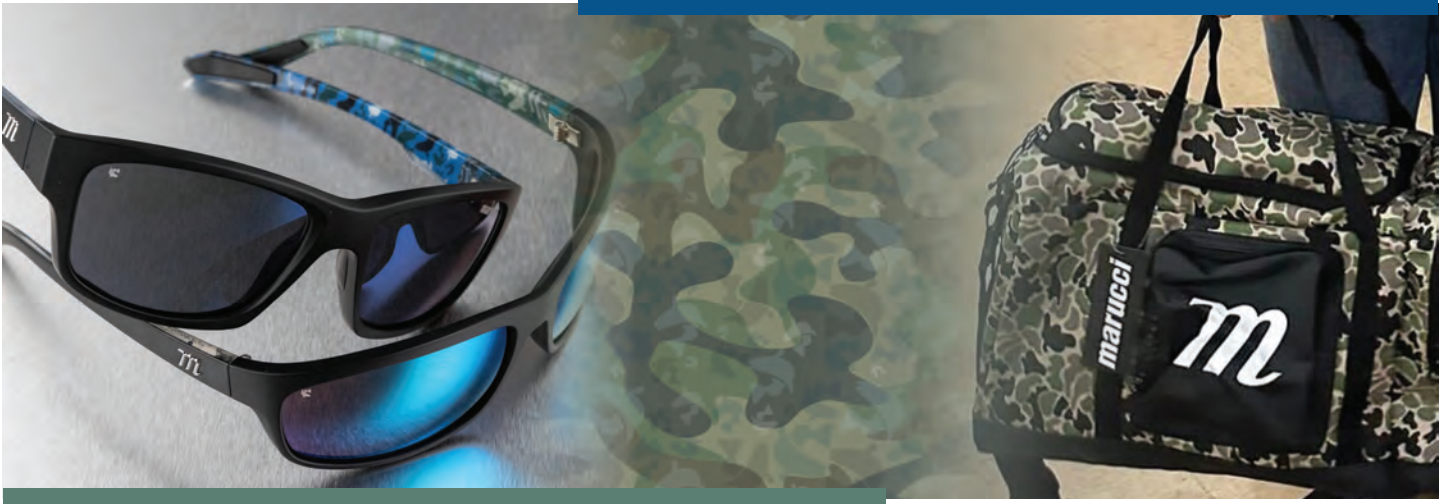


A portion of proceeds from Magellan Outdoors x CCA gear supports habitat restoration. Shop at Academy.com



marucci x CCA

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



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

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

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

Impacto lens technology that provides the highest level of durability.

OMERO 2.0

Lightweight frames provide all-day comfort for everyday activities.



GANCIO 2.0

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



CCA DUFFEL

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



MARUCCISPORTS.COM

@MarucciSports     

CURRENTS is published six times a year by CCA Texas, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association. This is the issue of October / November 2026, Volume 46, Issue 6

Editor-in-Chief / Robby Byers

Editor / Sam Caldwell

Editorial Team

John Blaha, Shane Bonnot, Liz Bosmans, Kevin Hickson, Drew Adams, Ryan Towns

CCA Texas Staff:

Drew Adams, Garrett Boehnemann, Blake Burnside, Lucy DeJesus, Drake Grigar, Corbin Primrose, Taylor Rieck, Matt Still, Coleman Todd, Carson Vecera, Edmund Weinheimer and Hayden Weunsche

Alvin-Pearland Rex Richards

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the heat of summer will be behind us, and we will be enjoying the transition to Fall and what most would consider the sportsman's favorite time of the year!

We will be hosting our last Anglers' Night Out for the year on Tuesday, October 27. The meeting will be held at Big Horn BBQ in Pearland, and the speaker will start at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks go out to Capt. Clint Barghi for coming to speak at our September Anglers' Night Out! He made a very informative presentation about "Making good decisions for your day on the water".

As we wrap up our chapter activities for 2026, we want to say, thank you again, to all who came out to support CCA and the Alvin Pearland Chapter this year. It's all about the resources we enjoy, conserving them, and sharing them with our kids for generations to come!

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

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

Fall is one of the most anticipated seasons on the Texas Coast. Cooler mornings, quieter bays and excellent fishing remind us how fortunate we are to call the Rockport-Fulton area home, and why protecting these waters matters so much.

The Aransas Bay Chapter remains committed to conservation, education and responsible stewardship of our coastal resources. We are especially grateful for the volunteers, members and community partners who generously give their time and support. Whether participating in a cleanup, supporting a chapter event or



Janelle Weller and daughter Katie

simply doing your part while on the water, every effort helps preserve the Texas Coast for generations to come.

Please save the date for the **CCA Aransas Bay Chapter Banquet on April 3, 2027**, and **Babes on the Bay, May 14-15, 2027**. Both events bring our community together in support of conservation, fellowship and the coastal traditions we value.



Meagan Little with a big trout in Lower Laguna Madre



Candace Kern with a Redfish on fly



Jess Junek with a Redfish on fly

Thank you to everyone who continues to stand behind CCA Texas and the Aransas Bay Chapter. Together, we can keep our bays healthy, our fisheries strong and Rockport-Fulton a beautiful place to live, visit and enjoy. Join us soon for Fall fun with our Chapter! Email jdblaha@ccatexas.org for details!

Austin

Alex Blackburn 512-565-4939

Atblackburn3@gmail.com

CCA Austin is in the beginning stages of planning our 2027 fundraiser banquet. Each year we are challenged to bring more games, raffles, live auctions and of course the best food. We provide something fun for everyone. All the money that is raised stays in Texas to continue the mission of CCA Texas. We are looking forward to another great banquet!

Hook on Clays 4th Annual clay shoot is held at Hog Heaven in Dripping Springs on October 15, 2026. We want to thank Hog Heaven for hosting this event. For more information, please go to hookedonclays26.givesmart.com or if you have any questions, please contact Garrett Waters or Melissa Harrell at CCAAustinHookedonClays@gmail.com. This event is sold out for this year.

Dates for Upcoming Events: **CCA Austin Banquet – May 13, 2027 at Palmer Event Center**, CCA Austin **Bourbon Tasting – February 24, 2027 at Warren Wildlife Gallery.**

Please follow [CCA Austin Chapter on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CCAAustinChapter) 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 meet every month at Warren Wildlife Gallery, 1401 Bouldin Ave, Austin at 6:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be on October 5, 2026 and November 10, 2026. We hope to see you there.

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

Brenham

Ryan Saunders 979-251-2389

ryansaunders1@att.net

Brush Country

Brenda Ballard 361-296-4037

brendagballard@hotmail.com

Centex

Mike Hyde 254-855-8752

Hydemike37@yahoo.com

Central Houston

Brooks Kelm 713-829-1386

brooks@bayoucityangler.com

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

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

The CCA Come and Catch It Chapter would like to thank our sponsors for their much-appreciated support in a record fundraising banquet. Thank you to the attendees who made the banquet the most attended event to date. And lastly, kudos to the board members and CCA representative, Taylor Rieck, for their dedication and hard work to make this banquet a huge success.

Members will be planning and preparing for the second annual Kidfish scheduled for April 2027, stay tuned for the actual date and location. Finally, please save the date for next year's banquet on Friday, August 13, 2027.

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

Dallas
Steven Ridout 713-501-5088
sridoutccadallas@gmail.com

Howdy from Dallas! We hope everyone has had a great summer filled with fishing, family, and quality time on the water. As we head into fall, we're looking forward to plenty of football, hunting season, and cooler days ahead.

Our latest summer events included the CCA ICC and, most recently, our Dallas ANO, hosted by Ball and Buck on July 11, 2026. We had a wonderful turnout and



Recent shots of CCA Dallas Chapter Board Members on the water



enjoyed a great evening of fellowship and raffles. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the event a success!

The CCA Dallas Board has scheduled our annual banquet for April 1, 2027, so please save the date! We're excited to share more details in the coming months and



CCA Dallas Chapter Board Members on the water

are already looking forward to another great evening supporting CCA and our coastal fisheries.

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

Fort Bend CCA: Looking Ahead to 2027: Angler's Night Out and Annual Banquet on the Horizon.

As we look ahead to 2027, Fort Bend CCA is gearing up for another exciting year of conservation, fellowship, and opportunities to support our Texas coastal fisheries. Our team is busy preparing for two important events that bring our members and fishing community together: Anglers' Night Out in January and our Annual Banquet in April.

We are excited to announce that preparations are underway for our upcoming Anglers' Night Out, planned for January 2027. This event is a great opportunity for anglers, conservation supporters, and friends of Fort Bend CCA to gather, share stories, and kick off the new year with a focus on our coastal fisheries. We are currently working on the details, and the location and featured speaker are still to be determined. We look forward to sharing more information as plans come together.

Mark your calendars for another important event on the Fort Bend CCA calendar: **our Annual Banquet, scheduled for April 15, 2027, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds.** Our annual banquet is one of our biggest opportunities each year to bring the Fort Bend fishing community together in support of coastal conservation. It is an evening filled with fellowship, fundraising, and a shared commitment to protecting the Texas coast and its fisheries for generations to come.

Our volunteers are already working behind the scenes to prepare for a successful event. More details will be announced as they become available, including the exact date, ticket information, sponsorship opportunities, auction items, and other activities planned for the evening.

Whether you are a long-time CCA supporter or new to the organization, we invite you to make plans to

attend and help us continue our mission.

There is a lot to look forward to in 2027, and we appreciate the continued support of our members, volunteers, sponsors, and fishing community. Your involvement helps make events like Anglers' Night Out and our Annual Banquet possible.

Fort Bend CCA — Conservation, Community, and the Texas Coast.

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

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

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

Greater Sugar Land
Charlie Shaw 832-250-2989
Charlieshaw83@gmail.com

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

Guadalupe Valley
Adam Arroyo 361-350-0026
Ctown75@aol.com

Hays County
Tim Young 512-573-7939
tim.ccahaysco@gmail.com

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

FORD OF BOERNE was the Title Sponsor for our 2026 fundraiser on September 24 at the Cana Ballroom in Boerne. A BIG thank you to all who came out to help the conservation cause.

Bull Red Sponsors included: Ford of Boerne x 2, Academy Sports & Outdoors, M & K Electric, Inc., T&D Moravits Co., Benson Paint & Body in Blanco, and The Beckel Group.

Trophy Trout Sponsors included: APEX Sign Group, Fuentes Concrete & Excavation, Vulcan Materials Company, Boerne Audio Video, Turner Roofing Co., BOXDOX Gear (for your Turtlebox), and Medina Vista Ranch.

Flounder Sponsors included: Apple Commercial Leasing, Helotes CCA, Phil Saur, Walz Legacy, LLC, and Ron Hoover RV & Marine of San Antonio.

DeWinne Equipment Co. enjoyed a special Grand

Slam Table with premium gifts that they purchased at our 2025 banquet. Thank you for donating the Kawasaki Gravelly Zero-Turn mower again this year.

The crew from Cajun Country Cookers did a great job serving fresh boiled Gulf of America shrimp and fried fish, and our friends from Glazer's Beer and Beverage sent plenty of Dos Equis, Tecate Light, and Heineken Silver for us to enjoy. Vida Cana 18-year rum and Tequila Rejon also contributed their smooth beverages. H-E-B's gourmet cookies were a sweet way to finish off an outstanding meal.

Several other companies that contributed significantly to the success of our event - Academy Sports + Outdoors (new location in Kerrville!), Apache Rifleworks, Seidensticker Ranch, Dillon Manufacturing (deer blind), Sendero Outfitters (deer feeder), Medina Vista Ranch, YETI, Flint & Flame Cutlery, Marucci Lifestyle Sunglasses, DeWinne Equipment Co., Aqua-Man Water Conditioning, Ron Hoover RV & Marine of San Antonio, and Busch Light.

Finally, THANK YOU to CCA staff from Houston and our volunteers who planned this event. Local volunteers: Claude Aaron, Josh Criddle, Katie Criddle, Blake McCarter, Randy Plummer, Lisa Parks, Tom Wayland, Trey Walz, and Darrell Steubing.

Thanks to all who participated in the auctions and raffles...WOW...what a great night for CCA in the Heart of the Hills!

Helotes

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

Highland Lakes

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

Hill Country

Miles Engelke 210-260-8968
marengelke1957@gmail.com

Houston Homebuilders

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

Houston Real Estate

Kirk Laguarda 713-515-3830
KLaguarda@landadvisors.com

Katy

Lyn Goldman 713-591-8550
lgoldman@contrexenergy.com

Laredo

Maggie Puig 956-645-0031
Mepuig78@yahoo.com

Lavaca County

Brandon Welch (361) 407-3760
brandonkwelch@yahoo.com

Lee County

Jake Horne 979-540-6117
jake@aubainesupply.com

Live Oak

Denise Krc 979-733-3358
liveoakchaptercca@gmail.com

Lower Colorado

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

It's the 17th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter Banquet lit up the Bay City Civic Center on Friday, August 7, 2026. The house was packed wall to wall, and the evening was filled with food, fun, and outstanding support for our mission.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the sponsors who stepped forward in a big way to ensure this year's success. Special recognition goes to our platinum and prize sponsors: Gulf Coast Ace Hardware, Capital Farm Credit, Ward Real Estate, Trans Sport Boats, Busha Boat Works and C4 Construction Group.

A BIG thank you as well to our Gold, Silver and Bronze table sponsors—you make a difference!

Equally important, we recognize our tireless volunteers who worked before, during, and after the banquet. Their efforts set the stage for an evening that went off without a hitch.

The live auction was as spirited as ever. Bidders battled it out, driving up the excitement as they competed for terrific prizes including fishing trips with Matagorda County's finest captains. The prize everyone wanted? A chance to fish in the highly coveted Lower Colorado Guides Cup. The battle will be fought on Oct. 12, 2026, between Capt. Fern Gonzales, Capt. Charlie Paradoski, Capt. Trey Prye, Capt. Troy Keen, Capt. Layton Ordias, Capt. Kenny Hauff III, Capt. Kenny Hauff Jr., Capt. Zach Shannon, Capt. Josh Rush, Capt. Stephen Gardner, Capt. Cody Kovar, Capt. Caleb Rush, Capt. Peyton Arrison and Capt. Tommy Alexander.

This year also saw a wave of new attendees whose enthusiasm added to the buzz in the room. Between the high-energy bidding, the outstanding fajitas from Vallarta Mexican Grill, and that unforgettable chocolate cake for dessert, it was truly a night to remember.

Mark your calendars now for Friday, August 6, 2027. That's when we will gather again for the 18th Annual CCA Lower Colorado Banquet and Auction.

Next up: The 10th Annual Lower Colorado Chapter's Guides Cup Tournament on October 12, 2026. Our lucky auction winners will soon be on the water with their chosen captains, competing in one of the Texas CCA's most exciting tournaments. The showdown for the title of TOP GUIDE in the Matagorda Bay system promises to be a fierce and fun event.

As always, stay tuned for upcoming news and events from the Lower Colorado Chapter of Texas CCA—the only chapter that proudly represents and supports all of Matagorda's bays, lakes, rivers, and creeks.

Lower Laguna Madre

Oscar Garcia 956-491-8148
oscar@shallowSPORTBOATS.com

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

The CCA Mainland Chapter will have 2027 Sportsman Raffle Tickets Available starting in November of 2026, with the drawing taking place at our May 2027 Banquet, date TBD.

Please save the dates for our upcoming Anglers' Night Out events: 1/12/27 with a speaker from Vega Rods at Red River Cantina in League City, 2/9/27 with a speaker from Heroes on The Water at the Red River BBQ in League City. For the dates of 3/9/27, 7/13/27, 8/10/27, and 9/14/27 speakers are TBD but all meetings will be at either Red River Cantina or Red River BBQ in League City.

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

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

We want to thank everyone for joining us at our last chapter meeting. We were honored to have guest speakers Allan Berger and Brigid Berger from San Antonio Bay Partnership join us. The two shared the various working projects they have going on such as crab trap cleanup, turtle rescue, shoreline cleanup, education classes, and habitat restoration, just to name a few. In addition, the facts of their 2025 efforts were shared which included over 24,000 items removed from the bay and shoreline that don't belong there (much of it plastic). If you want to

get involved, you can reach out to them on their website: www.sabaypartnership.org. If you just want updates, you can also sign up for their free newsletter. The CCA Mid Coast Chapter's next meeting will be October 27, 2026 at The Sky Restaurant in Victoria, 6:30 p.m.

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

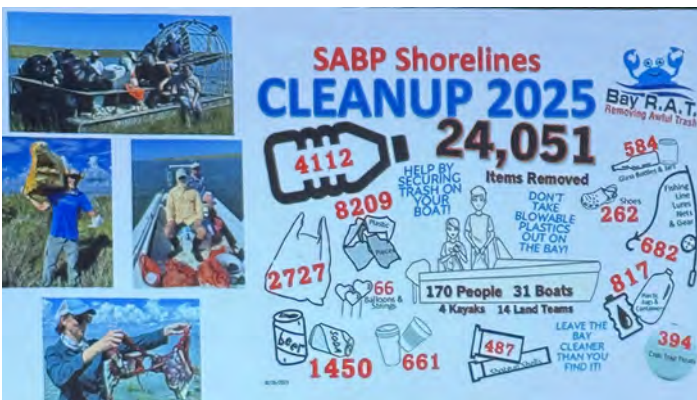
CCA North Texas returns with our **5th Anniversary banquet on April 29th, 2027!** Join us at 3R's Ranch in Prosper for a night of conservation, auctions, raffles, and games, with dinner by Babe's Chicken Dinner House. Tickets and tables will be on sale soon. With your support, our last banquet shattered records for attendance and fundraising, and it's all gas, no brakes for our fifth anniversary! Follow us on Instagram [@ccan_tx](https://www.instagram.com/ccan_tx) for event details and tickets. If you are interested in volunteering with our committee, or sponsorship and underwriting opportunities for the 2027 banquet, please contact chapter president Brian Donovan at brian@firstlightprint.com or CCA Assistant Director Garrett Boehnemann at gboehnemann@ccatexas.org.

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

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

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

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



Shots from the San Antonio Bay Partnership presentation at the recent CCA Mid Coast Chapter meeting



CCA Port O'Connor Anglers' Night Out featuring Scott Null, co-host of the Bite Me Podcast



Summer has come to an end, and The Port O'Connor chapter resumed our Angler Night Out meetings. We welcomed Scott Null, co-host of the popular Bite Me Podcast as our speaker. We enjoyed listening to Scott share his knowledge and some great stories about Tarpon fishing in Port O'Connor. It was a great evening learning more about this incredible species from someone who has spent years chasing them. Our next ANO will be November 12, 2026 at Hurricane Junction. If you're in the area, come join us!

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

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

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

Greetings, RGV Family! We are thrilled to announce our **upcoming Anglers' Night Out (ANO) event, taking place on November 5, 2026, at Howling Rabbits, located at 1200 Auburn Ave., Suite 350, McAllen, TX 78504, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** To secure your spot, please be sure to RSVP and join us for an evening of great company, appetizers, and drinks—on us!

In addition to a great evening together, we will also be hosting a 12-Gun Raffle, with 12 lucky winners drawn that night. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100.

Also, our board members are already working diligently to make the 2027 CCA RGV Chapter Banquet another memorable event. **Mark your calendars for April 9, 2027, at the Mission Event Center!** The Grand Prize Winner of the 2027 CCA RGV Chapter Banquet Raffle will take home a Freedom Boat Chiquita with a Suzuki Motor, accessorize with a Power-Pole and a 80-qt. Engel

Cooler, and a Coastline Aluminum Trailer. The second-place winner will receive a trip for two to Cabo, including a fishing trip, while the third-place winner will take home a Louis Vuitton Tag Me Pouch. Banquet raffle tickets are \$50 each, with special pricing available for multiple-ticket purchases: 3 tickets for \$100 and 20 tickets for \$500. Tickets can be purchased at The Sportsman in San Benito or by contacting any CCA RGV Board Member.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to The Sportsman and Freedom Boats USA for their commitment and partnership with the CCA RGV Chapter this year. We are especially grateful for their generous support in providing the Freedom Chiquita for our 2027 banquet raffle.

Lastly, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to L&F Distributors for their unwavering support and continued commitment as the Multi-Year Exclusive Title Advertiser of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter. Your partnership plays an important role in helping us continue our mission of conservation, stewardship, and supporting our local fishing community.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Anglers' Night Out and, of course, at the 2027 Banquet!

Sabine-Neches

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

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

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



The CCA San Gabriel Chapter Board celebrates a record year in 2026!

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

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

CCA San Gabriel Chapter Celebrated the 24th Annual Banquet with Record Crowd! The Coastal Conservation Association San Gabriel Chapter marked a major milestone on August 6 with its 24th Annual Banquet, drawing more than 700 attendees for an evening of celebration, fellowship, and support for coastal conservation.

The large turnout made the night one of the chapter's most successful events to date. Guests gathered to recognize the chapter's ongoing work protecting marine fisheries and coastal habitat while enjoying an evening of camaraderie and fundraising.

"We're incredibly proud of the support shown by our members and the broader community," said board member Joel Dawson. "Having more than 700 people in the room speaks volumes about the passion Texans have for our coastal resources."

The San Gabriel Chapter, based in Georgetown, continues to grow as one of CCA's active inland chapters, connecting Central Texas anglers and conservationists to the work of protecting the Gulf coast.

The chapter thanks all attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and partners who helped make the 24th Annual Banquet a tremendous success.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Greetings Turtle Volunteers & Interested People

Please mark your calendar to attend the mandatory cold stunned turtle webinar training: Saturday, November 7 or Tuesday November 10.

Plan to attend one of these two webinar training sessions. Details & registration link will be announced soon.

Also, plan to attend our Mid-Coast Annual Meeting to review our local processes on Tuesday, November 17, 4:30 pm, Port O'Connor Library. We'd love to see you there and give you the new & exciting volunteer gift, but this meeting will be televised over Zoom for those who can not attend in person. There will be an option of watching the recording of the mandatory training from 2 pm - 4 pm.

Thank you for saving sea turtles! ~Brigid, Coordinator

Mid-Coast Sea Turtle Recscue

713-825-1929

midcoastseaturtlrescue@gmail.com

Facebook Instagram LinkedIn



*San Antonio Bay
Partnership*

Upper Coast

Capt. Richard Cabrera

The Early Riser Gets the Fish

This is a great time of the year for catching fish while watching the sun rise. October into November is usually calm, but my first consideration when choosing an area to locate fish is the wind. If it's too rough for comfort, there are plenty of areas in my favorite West Bay complex to duck for cover when the wind gets mean. You'll find back bays and lee wind areas on your charts.

For that pleasant dawn, you'll be aware of the tide before you launch. Of course, you'll scan for birds; they have a great idea where the fish are. Drift into the action, but share the region with other boats.

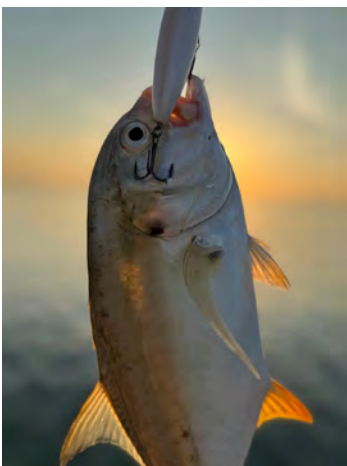
Head for your choice of locales, which for me usually means shell reefs and grass beds 3.5 to 4 feet deep, because trout love that arrangement. Match the conditions with your rig; I like live shrimp under popping corks, because the tasty critters provide action. If there are young fishers aboard (13 and under wearing life jackets), they'll enjoy catching small trout and catfish as much as older folks like fighting trophy trout and redfish.

For plastics, I like Chicken On a Chain. But lately, I have attached Gulp and found that the aromatic plastic can be effective.

I pay attention to the moon phases which dictate tide movement and provide primary and minor bite times. Complicated but works for me.

To target redfish, you'll work along the edges of spoil banks. If you have patience and can wait for that heart attack moment when a big red explodes on a topwater, do so very early and late. A writer friend swears by a small, white floater with a bit of red, moved slowly.

Release those small trout gently and take a kid fishing. —**Capt. Richard Cabrera** / 713-456-9360. *Capt. Cabrera has been guiding 18 years, and donates trips to CCA events in the Galveston Bay region.*



Middle Coast

Capt. Cody Roesener

A chance to hook into a giant!

October and November are two of my favorite months to be on the water in the Coastal Bend! Our mindset has shifted to fall activities and hunting season. Boat traffic is less chaotic and temperatures make it pleasurable to be on the water after mid-morning.

Fishing can be solid for all species, but the star is the large influx of redfish of all sizes making their way from the Gulf. Here's an opportunity to not only bring some quality slot fish home for dinner, but also a chance to hook into a giant!

Wade fishing is still a solid way to fish this time of year. My go-to baits are soft plastics on 1/16 to 1/4 oz jig head, paddletail-style swimbaits such as Z-Man PaddlerZ or Down South Lures. Slowly/bounce off the bottom or rip them across the top of the grass when searching for fish. Weedless spoons are very effective if you find good concentrations of redfish. Don't leave your top waters at home. Having a 35" plus redfish come out of the water on your topwater is an experience you will not soon forget.

When fishing from the boat, I recommend drifting over flats and areas with sand pockets. Soft plastics, spoons, ChatterBaits, or a popping cork (artificial or live shrimp) can all produce plenty of action to keep the boat happy!

The name of the game when fishing this way is covering as much water as possible. Once you start catching the right fish, take note of the water depth and bottom structure. When you find a pattern, you can adjust your drifts to target the areas of higher productivity.

Waterfowl season starts in November, so expect to see some hunters in blinds or on the shoreline. Remember to give them plenty of space so you don't disrupt their hunt. As always, remember to be safe and respect your fellow sportsmen while you are on the water.

—**Capt. Cody B. Roesener** / President, CCA Corpus Christi 916-531-0078 *"It seems to be a law of nature, inflexible and inexorable, that those who will not risk cannot win."* -Capt. John Paul Jones

Lower Coast

Capt. Rene Hinojosa

Don't float your cap

First thing you'll notice is the high water; second is that the fish are spread out. The solution will be to look for bait. Good news is, the water is clear, like see-your-feet clear, so you can scout for sand pockets and often sight cast. Another thing we've noticed lately is the spectacular sunrises. That's just one good reason to rise early and get on the water.

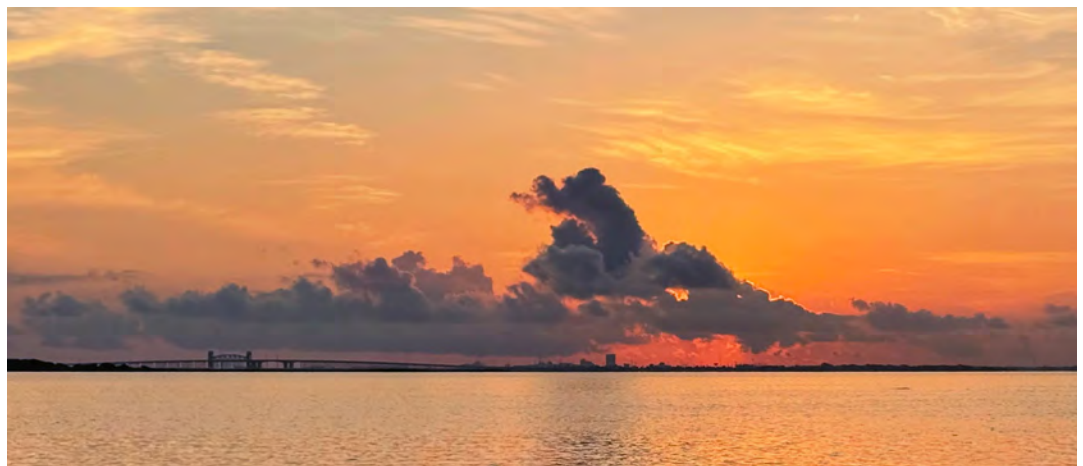
As long as you're up early and casting in the deep clear water, tie on your favorite topwater and tempt one of those explosions you can talk about at dinner. My favorites lately have been smaller plugs like the SheDogs and the Zara Spook series. I have affection for Norton's Sand Eel red and white paddle-tails beneath an 1/8-oz jig head. Of course, you should have your tackle kit loaded with ample gold and silver spoons. A new spoon contraption that has worked very well is the Nacho Daddy spoons with transparent glitter. The weedless varieties have also produced well in trials.

If you're focused on the Mansfield area, I'd suggest starting East. Keep your eyes out for weedbeds as well as sand pockets, and if you're jumping off the boat to wade fish, check the depth; you don't want to float your cap.

November will be much the same. I expect the high water to still be with us. Consider the flats, whether drifting or wade fishing. Big trout may be sunbathing as they fatten up over potholes and grass beds and getting ready for the winter, while reds prepare for offshore breeding duties.

Think conservation. The three-fish and new regulations have been successful in adding more and bigger fish for the table, so don't swap a small fish from the stringer for a bigger fish on the hook. —**Capt. Rene Hinojosa Jr.** 956-966-0719

shallowcharter@gmail.com



Bay House Shrimp Gumbo

1 Med Onion Chopped / 3 Celery Ribs chopped / 1/4 C Bacon grease or Olive Oil / 1 Can Rotel / 1 Can crushed tomatoes / 1 lb. chopped okra
2 Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce / 1 Tbsp vinegar / 1/2 tsp salt / 1/2 tsp pepper
2 Tbsp Gumbo File
2 lbs shrimp, cleaned and deveined, chopped into 1" pieces

Saute onions and celery in oil on med til onions are transparent. Add okra, vinegar, worcestershire sauce, tomatoes, rotel, salt, pepper and 1 can of water. Cook slowly for 3 to 4 hours, keeping lid on and adding water when necessary. Add more salt as needed while cooking. Add shrimp, turn off heat. Add gumbo file, stirring well. Let sit covered for 15 min.

Serve over cooked rice and enjoy!



Great Recipes Editor Liz Hewitt

— REEL IN — BUSCH LIGHT



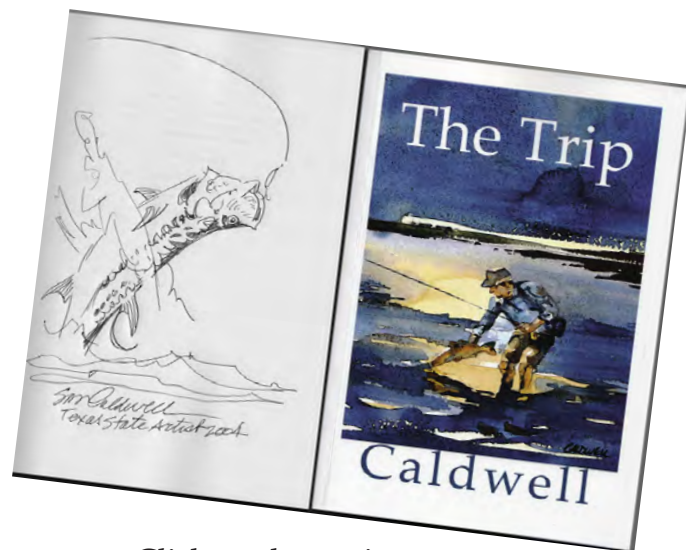
**A PROUD
SPONSOR OF**



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

Have a special friend who deserves a special gift?

Consider a classic Caldwell painting—or two. Included will be Caldwell's award winning novel, *The Trip*.



Click on the retriever for a visit to Caldwell's website.



An issue of high quality Giclee prints is now available—with individual remarks by Texas State artist Sam Caldwell.

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 remark.

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?

S/N print 1 of the editions is available for your friend, with Caldwell's original sketch remark an individual note.

**High Quality archival paper,
12" x 18"
\$350 each, or \$600 for both.**

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

*Get a personalized First Edition copy of **The Trip**- or two when you purchase both paintings.*

Call Sam Caldwell and discuss your choice of remark.
281-455-9390





Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77024

October / November 2026

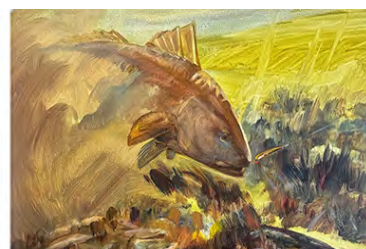
Great Photos 2026

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

Important: Send jpegs and include name of subject, title, your name as well as the names of anyone in the photo **if possible**.

Email jpegs to sam@samcaldwell.com Give us your best shots.

Win Art Print prizes from Texas State Artist Sam Caldwell



BEST IN TEXAS

U.S. Coast Guard

Air & Sea Rescue

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

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

Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov

gov

To focus on fishing and boating, visit

www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish

www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat



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

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



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION TEXAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (including STAR Entry)

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

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

Method of payment

- ☐ Check/Money order
☐ Charge to my:
☐ MASTERCARD
☐ VISA
☐ AMEX
☐ DISCOVER

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

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

Credit card number _____ Signature _____

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