

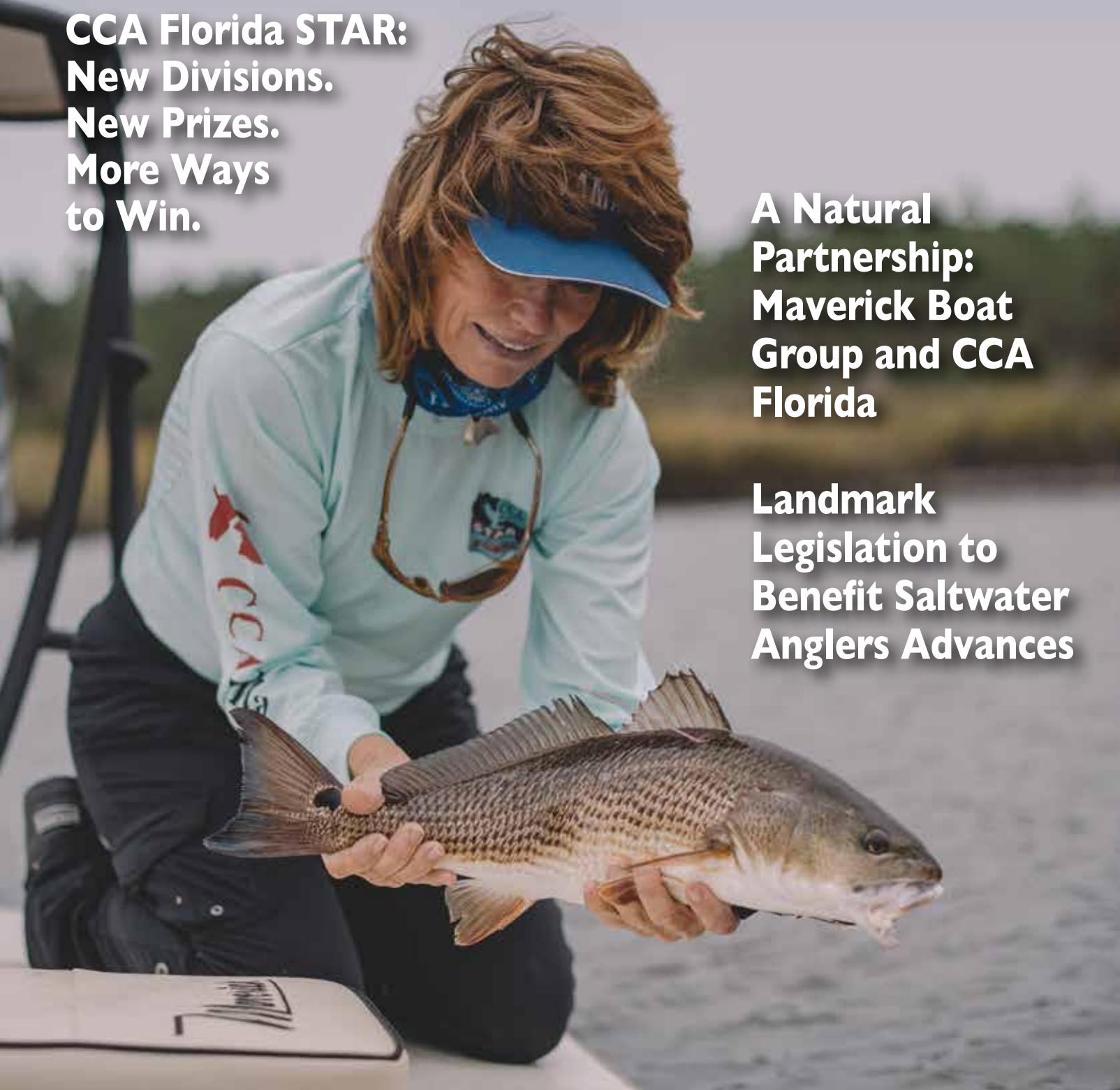
# SEAWATCH

PRESENTED BY **CONTENDER**

**CCA Florida STAR:**  
**New Divisions.**  
**New Prizes.**  
**More Ways**  
**to Win.**

**A Natural  
Partnership:  
Maverick Boat  
Group and CCA  
Florida**

**Landmark  
Legislation to  
Benefit Saltwater  
Anglers Advances**



MEET THE WATER'S

# LIGHTEST

25 hp

## FOUR STROKE

### THE COMPLETELY REDESIGNED YAMAHA 25 HP FOUR STROKE.

Yamaha's all-new 25 hp four stroke features an innovative design for a power-to-weight that's not only class-leading; it's category jumping. Twenty-four percent lighter than the competition, our 25 hp is now so light, it's portable—and perfect for 14- to 16-foot aluminum boats.

Built on the proven DNA of Yamaha reliability, the all-new 25 hp now features:

- Two-cylinder, 432cc, SOHC, 4-valve EFI with multi-point injection
- Battery-less EFI for easy starts
- Wide-span motor mounts for smoother running
- Shortened tiller handle for convenient control of small jon boats
- External drain for easy oil changes
- Variable Trolling RPM Switch (VTS) for precision trolling

Learn more about the all-new Yamaha 25 hp four stroke at  
[YamahaOutboards.com/F25](http://YamahaOutboards.com/F25).



REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal flotation device and protective gear. © 2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. 1-800-99-YAMAHA

Reliability Starts Here.



**YAMAHA**

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THE PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO CONSERVING AND PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MARINE RESOURCES

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## Moving Forward

We're off to an extremely busy beginning to 2018 and we're excited for our plans to continue making a positive impact on our state's marine resources and fisheries! We're also looking forward to growing our membership and engaging our existing members in this exciting work.

In February, our team spent time in Tallahassee, meeting with elected state leadership and sharing the CCA Florida and STAR messages. And we're going to be a part of more local and community events this year, than ever before. We are absolutely dedicated to the cause and our actions speak louder than words.

We have a team of Regional Directors who work around the state to engage members, host events and introduce the public to CCA Florida, fundraise and support local chapter leadership. And with more involvement from our state chapters, comes more positive outcomes for recreational anglers throughout the state.

We're looking to our members to step up in 2018 and work alongside our team to broaden our reach, support more local efforts, create new habitat, grow our membership base, introduce more youth to fishing, and the list goes on. We can't do what we do without you, and we're honored to work with you to create a better Florida for tomorrow!



# Better Together

Ron Crowder  
Chairman

As I step into the role of Chairman in 2018, I'm excited and honored to work alongside each of you this year, and I'm grateful for your role in helping us achieve so much in recent years. From major successes in habitat creation and restoration, to our collective voice and involvement in fisheries management and water quality, I am reminded that we haven't gotten here alone.

For more than 33 years, CCA Florida has been an advocate for the rights of recreational anglers throughout the state. With you - our members - we've grown to support habitat creation and restoration initiatives, coordinate coastal cleanups, and establish events to engage even the youngest anglers. And all the while, we've continued to be your voice in Tallahassee and beyond. We're continuing this tradition and dedication to the cause, as well as elevating other programs this year, but we cannot do it alone. In fact, we're better together.

We are a collective voice, and it's powerful. Your involvement is critical to advancing the rights of anglers everywhere and we want to engage all of our members to elevate their membership this year. If you've only been to a banquet, step up and serve on the committee for your local chapter. If you've planned your share of events, join us for a volunteer habitat project. And if you've been to habitat events, join with us in reaching out to state elected leadership on issues that affect your interests.

There's an opportunity for every member to get involved, and we'll help you find the right one where you can have the biggest impact. Reach out to us and let's talk. Or visit us online. We appreciate your membership and we're honored to serve you and this community.

## Looking For A Guide?

Log on to [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org)

and choose from our  
regionalized directory  
of Florida guides who  
support CCA's  
conservation initiatives.



# WHAT HAS CCA DONE FOR ME LATELY?

- 1 CCA worked with the FWC and local captains to reduce the cobia boat limit from 6 to 2 in Florida waters and reduced the commercial daily limit from 2 to 1 with a boat limit of 2.
- 2 CCA will work with the Florida Legislature to create a CCA Florida License plate-House Bill 983 by Rep. Latvala and Senate Bill 1248 by Sen. Gainer.
- 3 CCA created the annual Trash Tour in 2017, engaging over 300 volunteers to clean up more than 10 tons of trash and debris from our local coastal waterways.
- 4 CCA will continue working with guides and the FWC to implement a provision stating that no guides shall possess a limit of trout or redfish while guiding.
- 5 CCA fought against the 3 day Gulf red snapper season and is working on other long term solutions to fix the mismanaged Gulf fishery. One of CCA's highest priority is the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- 6 CCA worked to stop an exempted fishing permit that would initiate a commercial privatization program for at least six species of fish.
- 7 CCA is working with recreational fisherman and the FWC to create a state management system for reef fish in federal waters to replace the broken federal system now in place.
- 8 CCA FL STAR will host the 4th annual STAR event lasting 101 days, continuing our focus on educating anglers and awarding almost \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships.
- 9 CCA has continued its work with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to keep the Florida Keys a premier boating and fishing destination.
- 10 CCA continues to work with the Florida FWC and Biscayne National Park to help protect corals and fish species while maintaining angler access within the park.
- 11 Along with the ASA and the FWC, CCA is working to defeat proposals to ban fishing in coastal waters off of Florida's southeast coast.
- 12 Florida's water quality continues to be CCA Florida's highest advocacy priority. CCA Florida's Water Quality Subcommittee continues to work on and monitor several resource issues around the state.
- 13 CCA donated \$25,000 to a new offshore artificial reef in Volusia County. The Lady Philomena, a 150-foot U.S. Customs vessel, will be deployed in early 2018.
- 14 With the help of other organizations including the Billfish Foundation, CCA stopped the Pelagic Longline Exempted Fishing Permit that was issued for the closed conservation one off the East Coast of Florida.
- 15 CCA is working with the FWC and the SAFMC to mandate the use of descending devices while fishing for reef fish. This device will greatly reduce the dead discards that are keeping some of our fisheries closed.
- 16 CCA Florida was awarded almost \$100,000 in grant funding in 2017 which will go directly back into the water in 2018 for habitat restoration projects.



## Modern Fish Act Takes Major Step Toward Becoming Law

### Senate Commerce Committee Passes Landmark Legislation with Bipartisan Support

On February 28th, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation overwhelmingly approved S. 1520, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act). This legislation calls for critically important updates to the oversight of federal fisheries, including adding more tools to the management toolbox, improving data collection techniques, and examining some fishery allocations that are based on decades-old decisions.

The Modern Fish Act was introduced in the Senate in July 2017 by Sens. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.). It has since received strong bipartisan support from 12 cosponsors representing coastal and non-coastal states alike. In addition, a broad coalition of organizations representing the saltwater recreational fishing and boating community has endorsed the Modern Fish Act and highlighted the importance of updating the nation's fisheries management system to more accurately distinguish between recreational and commercial fishing.

"The bipartisan leadership on display today in the Senate Commerce Committee will not soon be forgotten by America's 11 million saltwater recreational anglers," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "We want to thank our many champions in Congress, particularly Sens. Wicker and Nelson, for recognizing the need for serious reforms to the broken federal fisheries management

system. We look forward to working with congressional leaders in both chambers to get this legislation across the finish line."

Through years of deliberation, the priorities of the recreational fishing and boating community were identified and presented to federal policy makers by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management. This group is also referred to as the Morris-Deal Commission, named for co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boat Group. In 2014, the Morris-Deal Commission released "A Vision for Managing America's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries," which included six key policy changes to expand saltwater recreational fishing's social, economic and conservation benefits to the nation.

Many recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission are addressed by the legislation passed today by the Senate Commerce Committee.

"Today's action by the Commerce Committee is further evidence that Congress recognizes the economic and societal impact that recreational saltwater fishing has on our nation," said Mike Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association. "There are 11 million saltwater anglers in the U.S. who have a \$63 billion economic impact annually and generate 440,000 jobs. We applaud the Senate Commerce Committee for taking this important step and call for the full Senate to quickly take action on this legislation."

"For too long, the federal fisheries management system has limited access for America's recreational anglers and boaters due to faulty data and misguided regulations, which in turn has jeopardized the



economic vitality of the recreational boating industry," said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "On behalf of the estimated 650,000 workers the recreational boating industry supports, we are eager to continue working with our allies in both chambers of Congress to get this important legislation to the president's desk."

"The bipartisan vote taken by the Senate Commerce Committee today demonstrates the nation's broad support for federal fisheries management reform," said Patrick Murray, president of Coastal Conservation Association. "We are proud to work with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to advance a common-sense policy that remains true to our conservation goals while promoting access to our nation's healthy natural resources. We look forward to this important bill receiving quick consideration by the full Senate."

"We thank Chairman Thune and Sens. Wicker and Nelson, as well as the large bipartisan group of Modern Fish Act cosponsors, for their leadership on this issue," said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "The Modern Fish Act is a top priority for saltwater anglers across the United States and charts a clear course for effective recreational fisheries management. I encourage Congress to use the momentum from today's Committee vote to secure quick passage in both chambers."

"The Modern Fish Act represents five years' worth of input from our community and will increase the level of trust between America's 11 million saltwater anglers and federal

fisheries managers," said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "Recreational hunters and anglers have been at the forefront of resource conservation in this country for more than a century, and the Modern Fish Act gives recreational anglers an opportunity to continue to lead in conservation by improving upon data collection and stock assessments. We're extremely encouraged to see these updated management approaches tailored to meet the unique needs of recreational fishing, rather than forcing recreational seasons into a management scheme designed for commercial fisheries."

"We owe great thanks to Senator Wicker for introducing the Modern Fish Act to finally address the specific needs of recreational anglers under federal law," said Jim Donofrio, president of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. "We want to thank Chairman John Thune and Ranking Member Bill Nelson for their leadership in bringing this important bill to a vote in the Commerce Committee today. The bipartisan spirit we are witnessing in this Committee is refreshing, and we look forward to final action by the full Senate and House."

On December 13, 2017, the Modern Fish Act (H.R. 2023) was approved by the House Natural Resources Committee as part of H.R. 200.

Following the vote, the coalition encourages Senate leadership to quickly bring S. 1520 to the floor for final passage. Marine recreational anglers and boaters are eager to see this landmark legislation move through the House and Senate and signed into law.

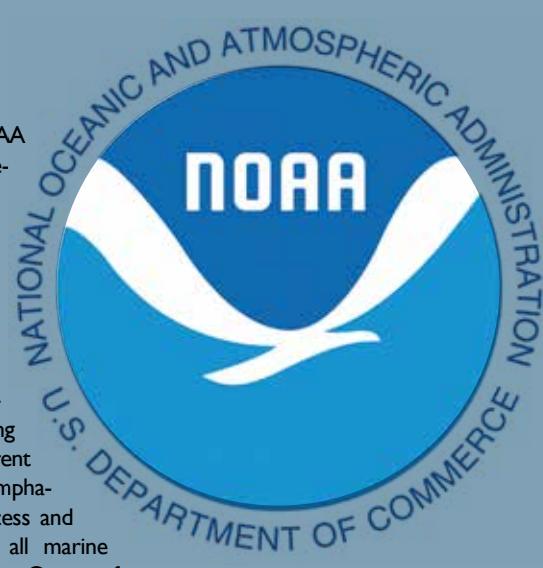
## angler's voice

### **NOAA Nominee Approved By Senate Committee**

The nomination of Barry Myers, President Donald Trump's choice for Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, was advanced by the Senate Commerce Committee in December. Mr. Myers now needs final approval of the full Senate to assume the role. The position, otherwise known as the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is of extreme importance for all recreational anglers. Should he

be confirmed, Mr. Myers would be charged with leading all of NOAA, including its fisheries division. NOAA Fisheries, better known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is responsible for the productivity and sustainability of all federal fisheries. In Florida, this includes waters beyond three miles in the South Atlantic on the east coast, out 200 miles, as well as waters beyond nine miles in the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS operates under the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and works in partnerships with the Regional Fishery Management Councils to assess and preserve U.S. fish stocks.

The NOAA lead role is especially important now, given the pending passage of the Modern Fish Act, which requires federal regulators to manage recreational fishing through a different lens, with an emphasis on public access and conservation of all marine resources. The Center for Sportfishing Policy has endorsed Mr. Myers' candidacy for this important position.



(continued on page 8)

# Advocacy News

## angler's voice



### Day on the Hill

'Day on the Hill' exposes state leaders to efforts by CCA Florida and its members to bring positive and meaningful change to Florida's waterways and marine fisheries.

In February, leaders from CCA Florida headed to the state Capitol. The Day on the Hill was designed to allow CCA to demonstrate the vital role it plays in fisheries management and habitat restoration initiatives to elected state leadership and members of the general public through an engaging exhibit during the annual legislative session.

Members from around the state joined

together to highlight our 33-year legacy in Florida, the economic importance of Florida's recreational fishing industry, and our leadership in working with fisheries managers. It was also an opportunity to promote ongoing habitat creation and restoration efforts to support Florida's marine resources.

Attendees also learned about other CCA activities in Florida, including CCA Florida STAR, presented by Yamaha, the largest family-friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida.

"CCA continues to play an important role in saltwater fisheries management and will always be a strong voice for recreational anglers, and the Day on the Hill allows us to carry this message to the top, to our elected state leadership."

Brian Gorski,  
Executive Director

### Local Advocacy, Big Win

The controversial Oslo Road project in Indian River County has finally been stopped, thanks



in part to our members like you!

CCA Florida would like to thank Grant Gilmore, Jr. Ph.D., Capt. Paul Fafeita and the entire CCA Treasure Coast committee for leading the charge on this

critical issue. Read more on our website, [ccaflorida.org/oslo](http://ccaflorida.org/oslo), and see how local efforts make a big impact.

### The Latest: Apalachicola River

The United States Supreme Court began hearing arguments in the Florida versus Georgia water usage lawsuit early this year. The case centers around

Florida's efforts to mandate a statewide water usage cap for the state of Georgia in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basin.

We're dedicated to remaining involved in this critical issue, given the importance fresh water inputs from the river have on multiple marine resources and habitat. Visit our website for more information.



Photo by Isaac Lang for Waterkeeper.org

# Support H.R. 200

## What's Good in H.R. 200 for Recreational Fishermen

The recreational fishing and boating community strongly supports H.R. 200, because the provisions of H.R. 2023/S. 1520, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act (Modern Fish Act), were added into the bill during the House Natural Resources Committee markup on Dec. 13, 2017. Specific provisions of H.R. 200 supported by a broad coalition of recreational fishing and boating organizations include:

- Requiring managers in the southeastern U.S. to perform long-overdue examinations of fishery allocations, based on modern criteria (Sec. 202).
- Allowing for recreational fisheries to be managed using more appropriate management tools (Sec. 203).
- Modifying the annual catch limit requirement to allow for more adaptive approaches (Sec. 204).
- Limiting the spread of catch share programs that have negatively impacted anglers and fishing communities (Secs. 205 and 206).
- Promoting consideration of new data collection methods that could improve fisheries management and conservation (Secs. 207 and 208).
- Ensuring exempted fishing permits help fisheries management and conservation—rather than the status quo which can hinder both (Sec. 304).
- Allowing for improved science and management of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery (Sec. 306).



## Why H.R. 200 Matters:

**11 MILLION**

Saltwater recreational anglers in the United States.

**439,242**

American jobs supported by saltwater recreational anglers, including thousands of manufacturing and supply jobs in non-coastal states.

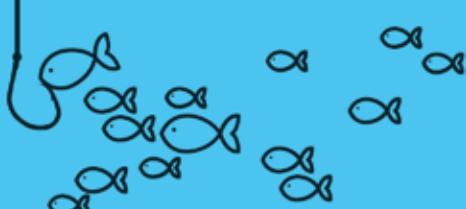
**\$63.4 BILLION**

Annual economic impact by saltwater recreational anglers.

**\$1.3 BILLION**

Contributed annually by anglers and boaters through excise taxes and licensing fees, most of which goes towards conservation, boating safety and infrastructure, and habitat restoration.

## Supporting Organizations Include:





# 63.4

BILLION DOLLARS  
in total economic impact of the recreational angling sector.

# 13.9

BILLION DOLLARS in total economic impact of commercial harvesting sector, net to plate, non-recreational species removed<sup>3</sup>.

# 94

PERCENT of seafood consumed in the US that is imported.

# 1.86

PERCENT of all fish that are harvested by recreational anglers.

## FISH ECONOMICS

### BY THE NUMBERS<sup>1</sup>

# 51.9

BILLION DOLLARS in total economic impact of the domestic commercial fishing sector, net to the plate<sup>2</sup>; imported seafood removed.

# 4.3

BILLION DOLLARS in total economic impact of the commercial harvesting sector, non-recreational species removed, excluding the rest of the supply chain<sup>4</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>Source - NOAA Fisheries

<sup>2</sup>Includes everything associated with the industry, including the entire supply chain of processors, dealers, wholesalers, distributors, super markets, fish markets and restaurants.

<sup>3</sup>This is an estimate of the economic impact of commercial harvest removing species not caught by recreational anglers like shellfish, crab, lobster, mollusks, menhaden, Alaskan pollock, sablefish, scallop, industrial species, and shrimp. This estimate includes all impacts from the net to the plate and is likely an upper-bound estimate of this impact.

<sup>4</sup>This is an estimate of the impact of just the harvesting sector with non-recreational species removed. It is important because these would be the only impacts lost if commercial fishing ended for these species. The further you get from the harvester, other supply chain sectors would switch to wholesaling, distributing and retailing seafood imports or other protein sources like chicken.

# Doubling Down!

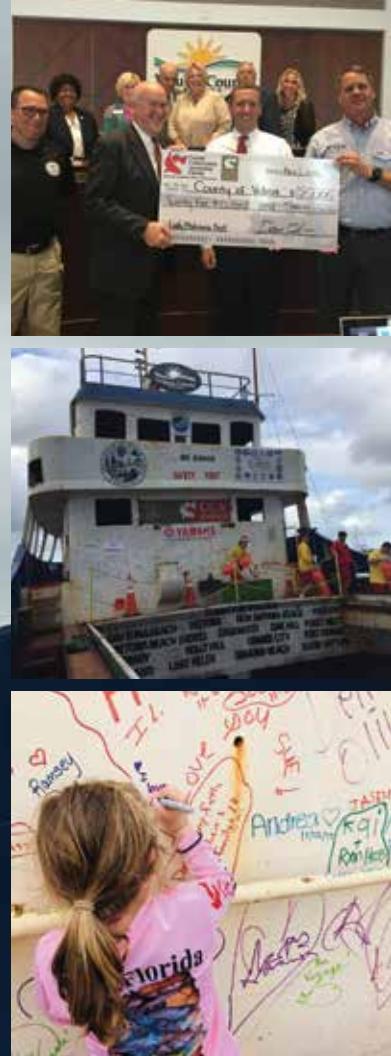


CCA Florida (CCA) and CCA's national habitat program, the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), recently donated \$25,000 to Volusia County's newest artificial reef. Two vessels will be deployed on the reef including the Lady Philomena, a 150-foot steel cargo ship, and the Everglades, a 90-foot steel tugboat. Both vessels were donated to the county for reefing by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service after having been seized with contraband in the Miami River in early 2017. Both vessels will be deployed on Volusia County Reef Site 12 which is a 5,000' x 5,000' federally permitted reef construction area located approximately nine miles northeast of Ponce de Leon Inlet in 75 feet of water in the summer of 2018.

The \$25,000 check was officially presented to Volusia County during their county commission meeting in November 2017. According to Joe Nolin with Volusia County,

an estimated 1,368 anglers will visit Site 12 annually. An estimated 100+ SCUBA divers will visit Site 12 each year as well. Key sport fish species targeted at Site 12 include snapper, grouper, flounder, cobia, king mackerel, amberjack, black sea bass, gray triggerfish, sheepshead, barracuda, mahi-mahi, tripletail and wahoo. Two to three additional reef deployments comprised of clean concrete culverts and structures will likely be made at Site 12 within five years to fill in and build out this reef construction area. After five years, reef deployments will be made in and around the specific steel ship and tug reef site to expand, re-nourish and ecologically reinvigorate the marine habitat. Four concrete and limestone tetrahedrons were also permanently attached to the deck of the Lady Philomena to provide additional habitat and refuge for various fish species.

On November 11-12, 2017, Volusia County, BCT and CCA also organized a



large ship reefing open house event at the Down the Hatch Restaurant in Ponce Inlet where both vessels were moored. The event was open to the public and everyone was invited to tour the vessels and sign their names on the interior of the ships. According to the county, a broad spectrum of citizens were reached during the two-day event - many of whom knew little about our organizations or artificial reefs. The county conservatively estimated that over 3,250 visitors toured the vessels during this two-day event.

The vessels are currently planned for a summer deployment in early June, and the final deployment date is contingent on weather conditions. CCA members and the public are invited to come out in their boats to watch the deployment. Please contact Frank Gidus at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org) to be included on the deployment update email list.

Join the largest  
family-friendly  
saltwater fishing  
competition

# Super STAR Partners

## Conservation-minded companies join STAR to advance CCA Florida efforts.

The conservation message could not be shared, the collection of garbage would not be rewarded and youth anglers would not have the opportunity to win scholarships in the STAR competition without the support of all of our corporate partners and sponsors. For the last several years, STAR has had loyal support from amazing STAR partners including:

Yamaha Outboards  
Contender Boats  
Maverick Boat Group  
Conley Buick GMC in Bradenton  
Carolina Skiff  
Textron Off Road  
Stumpnocker (Salty Boats)  
Salt Marsh Skiff  
Bossman Boats  
West Marine  
Costa Sunglasses  
Engel Coolers  
Discover Crystal River  
Visit Space Coast  
Power Pole  
LIVETARGET Lures  
Rolls Axle Trailer  
Florida Sportsman Magazine  
LIVE Water Sports  
Roundabout Watercraft  
Ocean Grip  
PowerTech Propellers  
Sunsect  
Bull Bay Tackle  
Florida Fishing Products

### Our Youth Scholarship sponsors including:

Academy Sports + Outdoors  
Beall's Reel Legends Performance Clothing  
South Eastern Environmental Solutions  
Talk of the Town Restaurant Group

### And other companies who have supported the event and cause, including:

Ocean Tamer Bean Bags  
Howler Brothers  
Anisa Stewart Jewelry  
Luna Sea  
Calusa Cast Net  
Jessica Ann Art  
Throw Raft  
Knotty Tails Apparel

### Stepping Up

This year, many long-time sponsors have seen the value that comes with STAR partnership and have increased their participation in the event.

**Maverick Boat Group** has stepped up in a big way by providing additional boats and bringing the Hewes line to the Tagged Redfish Division.

**Power Pole** is the new Conservation Division Sponsor.

**Engel Coolers** is supporting the Freebie Friday Early Registration drawings.

**Sunsect Sunscreen and Insect Repellant** is offering \$1,500 as part of the first-place prize in the Costa Kick Plastic Trash Division.

**Body Glove** is providing the second-place prize of an inflatable

fishing SUP in the Trash Division and a Stand-Up Paddleboard for the Live auction at the STAR Awards Banquet.

### New For 2018

Other outside companies have seen the value in the conservation message, collecting data, gathering garbage and introducing youth anglers to fishing, and are joining us for the 2018 STAR event.

**Cottonmouth Boats** is donating an aluminum Bay/Flats skiff with a 115 Yamaha Outboard and custom trailer.

**Real Tree Fishing** has come on board as the Official Camo pattern of STAR and CCA and will provide two \$25,000 youth scholarships, one for 2018 and one for 2019.

**Johnson Outdoors** has joined the STAR constellation of partners with the Humminbird, MinnKota, Cannon and Talon companies.

**Humminbird** is the presenting sponsor of the New Tarpon Division, which offers a \$10,000 prize package including a Humminbird Solix 10 and a MinnKota Terrova trolling motor.

Another great company joining STAR this year is a subsidiary of

**TH MARINE, Atlas Jack Plate**, as the presenting sponsor of the NEW Non-Tagged Redfish Division, which offers a Salt Marsh Skiff as the first-place prize.

For those targeting Tagged Redfish, the **Punta Gorda Englewood Beach Visitors & Convention Bureau** came aboard as the South West Destination County and will have two more tagged redfish than any other west coast county except for Citrus County.

We have also added **Fissot Sports** with a motorized kayak as the first-place prize in the Power Pole Conservation Division and **Kaku Kayaks** as the first-place prize in the Kayak Division.

For the Youth Scholarship Division, Pasco County Office of Tourism is sponsoring a \$5,000 scholarship and **Big Rock Sports and Clenzoil Marine Lubricant** have both donated \$500 towards scholarships.

**2018 STAR will offer new divisions, new prizes and more ways to win, thanks to all of our partners and sponsors. Support companies who support conservation and join us in thanking these companies who make all the winning possible.**

# NEW DIVISIONS, NEW PRIZES, MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN



CCA Florida STAR, presented by Yamaha, is back in 2018 with new divisions, new prizes and more opportunities for anglers of all ages and experiences to walk away with prizes from a brand new truck or boat, motor and trailer packages to all-terrain vehicles, scholarships and more!

CCA Florida STAR is the largest family-friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida and runs 101-days from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day. Unlike traditional fishing tournaments, STAR focuses on conservation and the social media-based event educates the public on the importance of protecting Florida's marine resources. Recognized as a 'catch, photo and release' competition, STAR's smart phone app eliminates the requirement for anglers to harvest or capture and transport fish.

## New Details for the 2018 STAR Event

**Kids** – continued free registration for current New Tide Members (CCA members) ages 6 – 17.

**Guides** – new opportunities for guides to win in the Tagged Redfish and Tagged Dolphin Divisions.

Confirmed prizes in the signature Tagged Redfish Division include a Contender 22 Sport, a GMC Sierra, a Pathfinder 2200 TRS, a Hewes Redfisher 16, a Carolina Skiff 21 Ultra and a Cotton-mouth Aluminum Bay/Flats boat, all powered by Yamaha. Prizes for the first two youth anglers in this division include a Carolina Skiff 16JVX CC boat, powered with a Yamaha 40 HP motor and trailer.

## New Divisions

**Tagged Dolphin Division (Mahi Mahi)** – minimum of 20 tagged dolphin will be released in state waters, with the first registered angler who catches one eligible to win \$10,000 in

cash or scholarship.

### **Non-tagged Redfish Division presented by Atlas Jack Plate**

– even non-tagged redfish are eligible for prizes.

**Grouper Division** – prizes for entering either black, gag, red or scamp grouper.

**Tarpon Division presented by Hummingbird** – one winner of a \$10,000 prize package will be determined by a random drawing of all catch photos entered in the drawing. Eligibility requirements include proper handling and resuscitation of the catch.

## Other STAR Divisions

### **Youth Scholarship Division presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors**

offering over \$100,000 in scholarships from Realtree Fishing, Southeastern Environmental Solutions, Reel Legends Performance Clothing and Talk of the Town Restaurant Group and Pasco County Office of Tourism.

**Power-Pole Conservation and Costa Kick Plastic Trash Division** – assisting with data collection for potential use in stock and habitat assessment, and helping with trash and debris collection.

**Lionfish Division** – helping with the removal of this invasive species.

**Open, Ladies, Fly, Kayak and Professional Guides Divisions** – targeting various species.

Most division winners are determined by a random drawing, a format that encourages participants of all ages to protect and conserve Florida's fisheries for future generations.

For more information on STAR, or to register, visit the Facebook page or [ccafstar.com](http://ccafstar.com).



## Meet JD Dickenson

Our newest habitat hero, JD Dickenson, has been involved in habitat restoration and many other aspects of CCA Florida for many years. JD was born in Boynton Beach and grew up in nearby Boca Raton. As a child, JD and his family spent a lot of time on and around the Northern Indian River Lagoon because his grandparents lived in Sebastian, Florida. "We spent our time fishing, crabbing and clamming in the Indian River. I grew up fishing South Florida inlets and offshore in Palm Beach County," shared JD. He attended Lafayette College in Easton, PA and studied English, government and law. He came back to Florida to attend law school at Stetson University College of Law. His family (wife Maggie, daughter Sophia, 13 years old and son Henry, 11 years old) currently live in Delray Beach, FL and enjoy spending time together in the outdoors. JD particularly enjoys fishing in the coastal Everglades and in Charlotte Harbor.

To say JD is involved in CCA is a huge understatement! JD currently serves as CCA Florida's state Vice Chairman and Chairman of CCA Florida's statewide Habitat Restoration Committee. He also recently served as President of CCA Florida and has been a local chapter president for the Palm Beach and later South Palm Beach chapters of CCA Florida. "I followed CCA Florida closely during the Net Ban campaign in the early 1990s. I was in college at the time and was already deeply addicted to Florida fishing and the outdoors. I was inspired by how committed, conservation-minded anglers were able to achieve such an enormous conservation benefit for the state," he said. In addition to volunteering at CCA, he has also participated in a number of habitat restoration projects with the local Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Restoration.

We sat down with JD and asked him some important questions:

### **How did you get involved in habitat restoration and why?**

"As CCA Florida has grown since the net ban, the conservation issues that we face in Florida have evolved. Florida is the fastest growing state and is now the third most populous state in America. No place on earth has been developed as rapidly as Florida over the last 80 years or so. The rapid population increase and associated development has had a marked impact on Florida's marine resources and specifically marine habitat. Many CCA Florida volunteers before me began to move the organization in the direction of habitat res-



toration, as a matter of necessity. In 2004, my fellow local chapter members and I were planting mangroves in the Lake Worth Lagoon in Palm Beach County. Then, key leaders within CCA Florida made the formal decision and the commitment to move CCA Florida into habitat advocacy and restoration. I co-founded CCA Florida's statewide Habitat Restoration Committee and have chaired the committee since 2015."

### **Are there any habitat restoration projects you would you like to see happen in the future?**

"As an organization, we are focused on making life better for seagrasses in Florida. As FVRI has recently documented, Florida's estimated 2.2 million acres of seagrasses provide a \$20 *billion* dollar economic value to the state. Yet, with some exceptions, we are not doing a very good job of making life better for seagrasses in Florida. According to some estimates, Florida Bay has lost more than 10% of its turtle grass acreage in the past five years. The Indian River Lagoon, the Lake Worth Lagoon, and other key inshore areas have lost far more than that over the last 50 years. I am looking forward to the day when we can tackle comprehensive seagrass restoration all across the state. Imagine how ecologically and economically powerful four million acres of seagrass could be. As an organization, we are actively funding and participating in critical seagrass research to determine the nature of seagrass diseases, seagrass immunity to those diseases, and the environmental causes of mass seagrass die offs.

We have also been very active in artificial reefing projects all over the state. Coral reefs have suffered considerably over the past 50 years and much habitat has been lost. I hope to see CCA Florida continue to accelerate its artificial reef programs and become further engaged in solving the problems we have with loss of coral reef habitat."

### **How do you envision CCA's role in habitat restoration in the future?**

"Thanks to the passion and commitment of its 18,000 members, CCA Florida, along with its national partner the Building Conservation Trust (CCA's National Habitat Program), will be a leader in habitat restoration in Florida for many years to come. From oyster habitat in brackish estuaries, to nearshore reefs, to deep water artificial reefs, CCA Florida has been involved in a wide variety of habitat restoration projects in Florida. I expect that this will continue to grow as CCA Florida grows.

I also envision CCA Florida continuing to become an active par-

ticipant in key scientific and academic habitat initiatives. We are currently funding and participating in a key seagrass disease and restoration study, a long term oyster reefing study, and an important acoustic fisheries study that seeks to identify critical spawning aggregations of spotted seatrout. CCA Florida hopes this acoustic methodology can be transferred across species and across the state in order to locate critical spawning habitat for many fish species in order to specifically protect that habitat.

I expect that CCA Florida will stay involved with these and other critical habitat related studies for many years to come. As part of its collective habitat and water quality commitment, CCA Florida has stepped up its partnerships with respected research and academic institutions in the areas of habitat restoration and research. We have partnered with groups like the Florida Oceanographic Society, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tampa Bay Watch, and Marine Discovery Center, and enjoy productive partnerships with numerous Florida academic institutions. These include long-term relationships with the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, the University of North Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University, among others. These partnerships connect anglers with the brightest and most committed researchers and also engage students and academics with CCA Florida's angler conservation ethic."

### **What is your personal favorite salt water species to fish for and why?**

"It is hard to pick just one, but I love sight fishing for redfish and snook in the coastal Everglades. I love all of its secret bays, creeks, and winding river systems. It remains a wild place and in many places looks as it did thousands of years ago."

In line with CCA's objective to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of those coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, habitat restoration continues to be a major focus around the state. Over the last several years, hundreds of CCA members have volunteered countless hours on habitat restoration projects and on helping acquire the funding for those projects. Without these volunteers and the increasingly important habitat restoration efforts, both our habitat and our fisheries would suffer greatly. Based on this, CCA regularly recognizes in Sea-Watch some of the people that have gone above and beyond to help protect and restore our fragile coastal resources.

*For more information or to recommend a CCA member as a Habitat Hero, please contact Frank Gidus at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org).*





## PARTNERSHIPS AT WORK

Check out our members (including our Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration, Frank Gidus, and his family) bagging oysters with UF/IFAS and Hernando County this season. They bagged nearly 300 oyster bags in two hours to help restore oysters in Centipede Bay in Hernando County.



## THE 2018 TRASH TOUR IS COMING

Make plans to join us for any stop on the 2018 Trash Tour! Last year, volunteers collected over 10 tons of trash and damaging debris from state waterways.

Be a part of this effort!

Mark your calendars now:

Ft. Lauderdale - April 21

Big Pine Key - May 12

Tampa - July 21

Apalachicola - September 8

Charlotte Harbor - October 27

**Interested in getting in on the volunteer action? Email us! [info@ccaflorida.org](mailto:info@ccaflorida.org)**



## LIVING SHORELINE STABILIZATION DAY

In February, over 50 of you joined the University of Central Florida and Coastal & Estuarine Ecology Lab in to stabilize the shoreline at Seminole Rest on Mosquito Lagoon in Oak Hill. We planted 150 plants and deployed 100 shell bags in one hour, an effort to restore a battered shoreline. Seminole Rest consists of several prehistoric shell mounds dating from 2,000 BC to 1565 AD. This living shoreline restoration project was to re-stabilize the shoreline following heavy damage by Hurricane Irma.



**POWER SPOT  
POWER STOP  
POWER CAST  
POWER CATCH  
POWER RUSH  
POWER YOU**



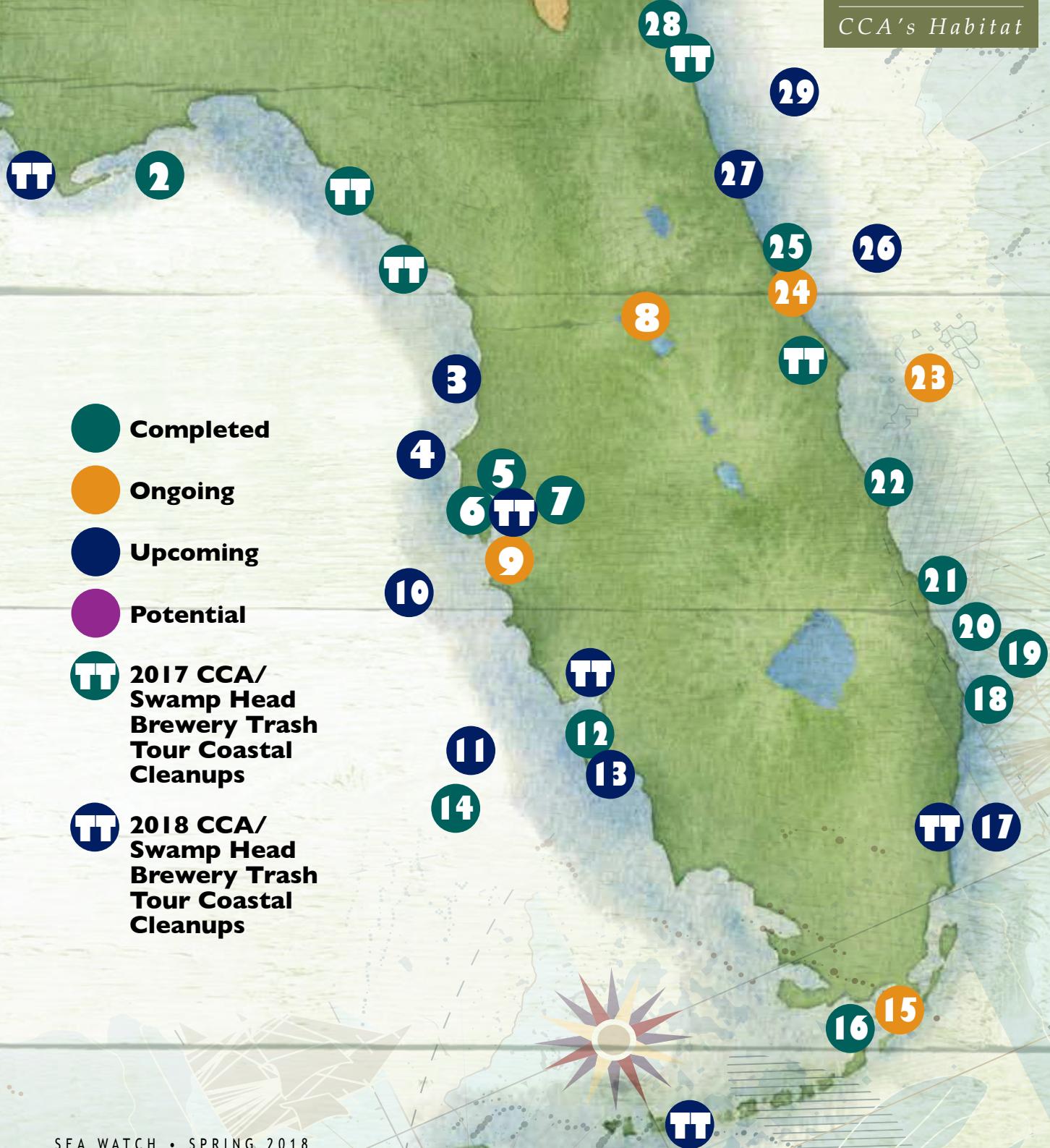
**CCA·FL**

# HABITAT

I

- 1. CCA /South Walton Artificial Reef Association, Inc. Reefs**
- 2. CCA/BCT Billy's Barge Artificial Reef**
- 3. CCA/UF/IFAS Centipede Bay Oyster Reef Restoration**
- 4. CCA/BCT Sean Gucken Memorial Reef**
- 5. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch Fantasy Island Oyster Restoration**
- 6. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch 2D Island Oyster Restoration**
- 7. CCA/FWC Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Saltwater Pond**
- 8. CCA/Lake County Landfill Oyster Shell Recycling Program**
- 9. CCA/UCF De Soto National Memorial Living Shoreline Stabilization**
- 10. CCA/BCT Larry Borden Artificial Reef – Manatee County**
- 11. CCA/BCT Phoenix Reef**
- 12. CCA/BCT/Lee County Punta Rassa Oyster Restoration**
- 13. CCA/BCT/Lee County San Carlos Bay Oyster Restoration**
- 14. CCA/Lee County USS Mohawk CGC Reef – Veterans Memorial Reef**
- 15. CCA/UNF Florida Bay Turtle Grass Research Project**
- 16. CCA Florida Bay Seagrass Restoration**
- 17. CCA Broward Chapter – John Michael Baker Memorial Reef**
- 18. CCA/BCT Goggle Eye Reef**
- 19. CCA/BCT Andrew “Red” Harris Foundation Reef**
- 20. CCA/BCT Andrew “Red” Harris Foundation “No Shoes” Reef**
- 21. CCA/Florida Oceanographic Society Seagrass and Oyster Restoration**
- 22. CCA Indian River Lagoon RISSA Seagrass Buoys and Oyster Restoration**
- 23. CCA/Brevard County Artificial Reefs**
- 24. CCA/UCF Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Restoration**
- 25. CCA/UCF/NPS Canaveral Nat'l Seashore Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration**
- 26. CCA/BCT Volusia County Reef Site No. 12 (Lady Philomena cargo ship)**
- 27. CCA/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration**
- 28. CCA/BCT Jacksonville River Reef**
- 29. CCA/BCT Jacksonville Offshore Reef**

# PROJECTS



# A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP: MAVERICK BOAT GROUP AND CCA FLORIDA

*"Our partners and members are the lifeblood of our organization and we couldn't do the work we do without their ongoing support, both financially and through their volunteerism. The support from the team at Maverick Boat Group doesn't stop with a check – they also donate their time and talents. They're extremely dedicated to the cause."*

Brian Gorski,  
CCA Florida Executive Director

The name *Maverick Boats* is synonymous with performance skiffs, the fishing community, and most recently, with CCA Florida. Maverick Boat Group – the Florida-based builder of brands including Maverick, Pathfinder, Hewes and Cobia – has quietly partnered with CCA Florida to support conservation efforts for more than 30 years. But in 2018, the manufacturer has stepped up in a big way to extend their commitment and dedication to industry growth and environmental restoration.

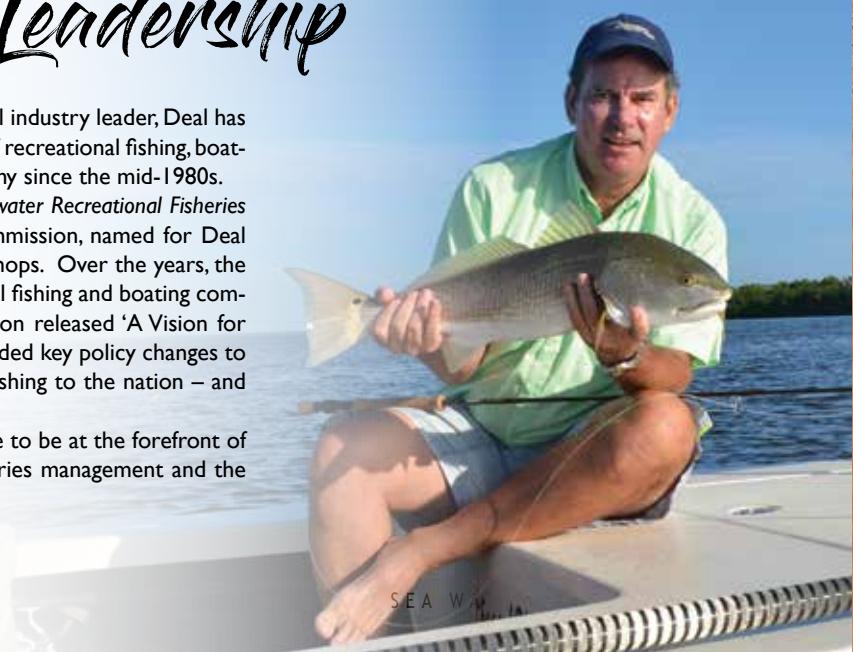
*(continued on page 22)*

## Elevating Industry Leadership

Scott Deal is more than a boat builder. An advocate and vocal industry leader, Deal has been a thoughtful and powerful voice, elevating the importance of recreational fishing, boating and marine fisheries management for the culture and economy since the mid-1980s.

In 2013, Deal was named co-chair of the *Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management*, which is also referred to as the Morris-Deal Commission, named for Deal and his co-chair Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops. Over the years, the Commission has worked to have the priorities of the recreational fishing and boating communities heard by federal policymakers. In 2014, the Commission released '*A Vision for Managing America's Saltwater Recreational Fisheries*' which included key policy changes to share the economic and conservation benefits of recreational fishing to the nation – and governing leadership.

The recommendations set forth by the Commission continue to be at the forefront of discussions surrounding the nation's law governing federal fisheries management and the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.



# Where would you like to fish today?

AT MAVERICK, WE THINK THERE ARE NO BETTER WORDS TO START A MORNING. THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN A PROUD SUPPORTER OF CCA FLORIDA FROM THE BEGINNING. BECAUSE WE WANT ALL FUTURE FISHING PARTNERS TO BE ABLE TO ASK EACH OTHER THIS VERY QUESTION.

*"Every time you get out on the saltwater in Florida and catch a fish, CCA Florida has had a hand in making that experience happen. Given the ever-increasing headwinds facing the marine environment and recreational anglers' rights, now more than ever it makes sense that MBG would grow its longstanding relationship with CCA. We are proud of our partnership and know that CCA will do even more to benefit our customers and all those who fish Florida's waters."*

Scott Deal, CEO of MBG



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WATER SKIFF OF CCA FLORIDA

**PATHFINDER**  
ANGLER DRIVEN

THE OFFICIAL BAY BOAT  
OF CCA FLORIDA

## A Natural Partnership

continued from page 20

Maverick Boat Group CEO Scott Deal led the organization's recent expansion of its commitment to CCA Florida, aimed at furthering the nonprofit's ability to enhance habitat and environmental restoration efforts and continue leading support of industry issues affecting recreational anglers.

In recent years, CCA Florida has substantially increased its leadership of projects including offshore and nearshore reef development as well as shoreline stabilization and oyster reef restoration projects. With other partners, the non-profit has invested more than \$300,000 in projects around the state that create new habitat or enhance existing habitat for marine species of all kinds, just in the last three years, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in total. Members have led projects from the panhandle to Key West, with representatives from Maverick Boat Group by their side.

The expanded agreement includes the annual donation of two brand new boats, in-

cluding a Maverick 17 HPX-S and a Pathfinder 2200 TRS for CCA Florida's statewide boat raffle, which directly benefits habitat work and other projects throughout the state. And if that wasn't enough, the brand is also donating a new Hewes 16' Redfisher and Pathfinder 2200TRS to CCA Florida STAR, presented by Yamaha, the organization's signature 101-day statewide fishing competition which runs from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day.

And Deal isn't just writing checks. He's one of the most vocal and involved leaders in the industry, having been a part of nearly every legislative discussion surrounding anglers' rights since the late-1980s. He co-chairs the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management, and continues to push for key policy changes to this day.

CCA Florida was built on partnerships with the community and members – all working together for a common goal. And with the generous support of Maverick Boat Group, the good work and positive outcomes will continue to grow and create opportunities for generations to come to enjoy Florida's marine resources.

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**MBG MAVERICK  
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Proud supporter of the CCA for over three decades!

**COBIA**

# SHIMANO and CCA Launch National Marine Science Scholarship Program

**In partnership with  
Harte Research Institute,  
program seeks to assist  
future leaders  
in conservation-based  
marine science**

Shimano and Coastal Conservation Association have announced a partnership to fund four scholarships dedicated to students furthering their marine science education at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

"Science has long been a cornerstone for our corporate fish conservation initiatives," said Phil Morlock, vice president of Government Affairs /Advocacy for Shimano. "We are proud to expand our partnership with CCA and HRI to encourage college student anglers to enter the profession of

marine fishery sciences."

CCA and HRI have a long history of joint efforts designed to improve understanding of the marine environment and enhance the role that recreational anglers can play as stewards of our shared marine resources. Those efforts include creation of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation housed within HRI. Under the direction of Dr. Greg Stunz, the mission of CSSC is to advance knowledge of marine sportfish and promote conservation through science-based fisheries management.

"Our long history with HRI combined with the leadership role Shimano has taken in the conservation arena make this an inspiring partnership," said Patrick Murray, president of CCA. "We've had tremendous success collaborating with marine science institutes like HRI and others in the past, and this scholarship program will create continued opportunities in the future. Science is at the core of formulating all our

policy decisions, so helping to ensure the best and brightest of the next generation have everything they need to continue their education is a win for marine resources and for anglers."

"As a recipient of a CCA scholarship, I know the value this kind of support can provide students striving to reach their full potential in this challenging field," Dr. Stunz said. "It is truly inspiring to partner with CCA and Shimano in a program that is designed as an investment in the future. The need for robust science to serve as the key underpinning to fisheries management is only going to increase in the future, and the students of today will be the ones to develop it."

*The application process for the Shimano-CCA Marine Science Scholarship program will open May 1, 2018. For more information, contact [HRI@tamucc.edu](mailto:HRI@tamucc.edu).*



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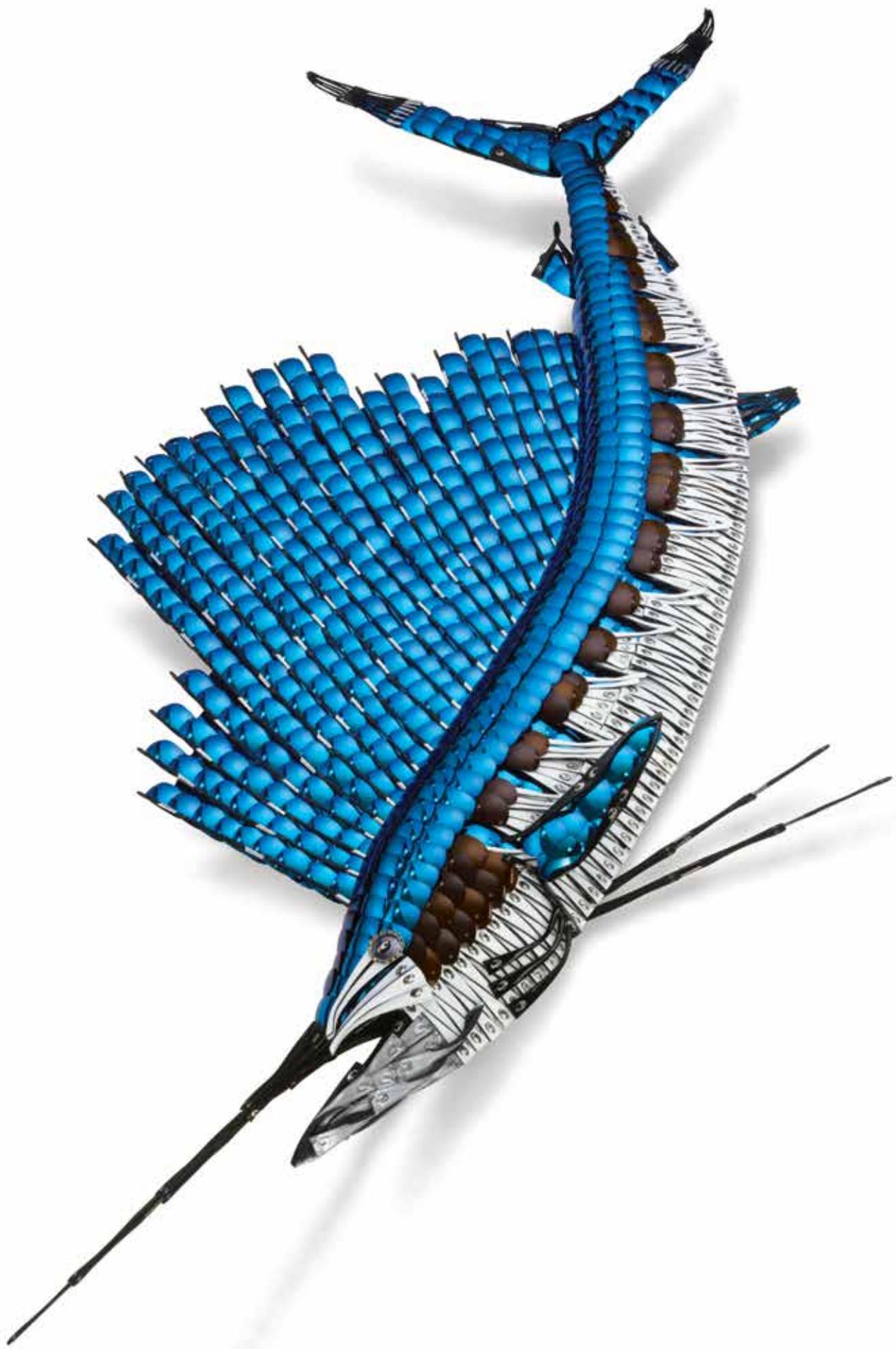
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- Helps keep decks clean and stain-free



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Patience may be a disappearing art. Our culture, and the machines that assist us, demand nearly immediate response. Gone are the days when business can wait on a letter to be delivered and a response to be sent. Opportunities come and go -- sometimes faster than an email can be read on our ever-present smart phones and tablets.

Conservation ideas can be spread at the speed of light. Plans can be made, problems identified, funding secured, and partners sought in minutes. But change cannot occur with the push of a button. Habitat projects take time. Lots of time. Restoration projects take longer.

When it comes to Florida's conservation projects, we must embrace a long-term approach. We must carefully vet ideas and be prepared for some to fail or prove themselves unworthy of action. But we must never lose sight of our goal: to protect our marine environment, improve it where we can, and restore it where we must. We will not live to see some projects completed. And our children may not either. The art of patience must be taught to the next generation who, like us, may never see the fruits of their labors.

Nearly thirteen years ago, I began a quest to catch a bonefish on a fly rod. I made every mistake possible, and some of them twice. I over-shot my target and "lined" schools of previously content bonefish. I stepped on fly lines, caused wind knots, and even had a knot fail. But bonefishing is fun, even if you are not catching. A little perseverance went a long way.

Now I have children aged ten and thirteen. They can tie and cast flies better than I. But they know little about patience, and in their world, failure to shift attention every 15 seconds can have terrible consequences. Perseverance is not always encouraged, and our children are taught to find something that comes more naturally if they are not immediately successful. This spring, my kids will begin their own quests to catch a bonefish on a fly rod. But bonefishing is fun, even if they are not catching.

But what will drive the next generation to complete long-term projects? How do we make preservation and restoration fun, even if we never see results? Perhaps we should view loss of habitat as "the enemy", endangering our business, our fun and our future. A war to be won, even if today's soldiers will not live to see victory.

There is a place for every conservationist in Florida's future. CCA is committed to long-term results, and other groups are equally committed. We have habitat and restoration projects underway all over the state. Some will be finished and results immediately apparent. Some will not be done for decades. The art of patience, or as one of my friends puts it, "the art of getting there", cannot be lost. It cannot be lost in our squabbles over process. It cannot be lost or the future will be lost. And what should bring us together is the next generation of conservationists, for whom the art of patience may be akin to learning latin. Tempus Fugit.

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STAR entries come in all shapes and sizes. Check out these entries and several winners from the 2017 STAR event.



Ed Ellett and family



Corrine North Fuller



Jace Constantari



Kelly Azzinaro



Lucas Engle



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**ENGEL.**

An advertisement for AFTCO CCA Solido Sun Mask. On the left, the AFTCO logo is shown. To the right, a man wearing a grey t-shirt and a grey sun mask with "CCA" on it, is looking out over a body of water under a cloudy sky. Text on the left includes "UPF 40 BLOCKS 97.5% OF THE SUN'S HARMFUL UV RAYS." and "MOISTURE WICKING FABRIC KEEPS YOU CALM, COLLECTED AND DRY.". At the bottom, it says "\$5 FROM THE SALE OF EVERY CCA BY AFTCO PRODUCT IS DONATED TO FUND CCA CONSERVATION EFFORTS. AVAILABLE NOW AT [AFTCO.COM](http://AFTCO.COM)."



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PARTNERS IN  
CONSERVATION



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is responsible for many things in order to achieve their stated mission: "Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people."

Law enforcement is a primary focus in that mission. We all understand that without strong enforcement, the rules and regulations we work so hard to pass do nothing. CCA Florida is proud to continue our regular feature in Sea Watch;

The FWC Law Enforcement Update. Please remember you can do your part by reporting all fish and wildlife violations to the FWC at 888-404-FWCC (3922)

Cellular phone users, call \*FWC or #FWC.

# FWC Law Enforcement Update



## Way Too Many and Way Too Big

A call to the Wildlife Alert Program alerted Officer Balgo of the FWC of suspicious fishing activity involving three subjects taking numerous black drum. After observing the subjects, he approached them to conduct a fisheries inspection, which showed that the anglers were in possession of eighteen oversized black drum. This is well over the allowable limit for this species. These violators were cited accordingly. If you suspect a fish, wildlife, boating, or environmental law violation, help us support legal anglers and conserve our natural resources by reporting it to our Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922).

## FWC Division of Law Enforcement Achieves Reaccreditation

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement received recognition in February for completing the review process to maintain its accreditation status. The FWC was initially accredited in 2009. This was its fourth completion of the accreditation process.

Florida law enforcement accreditation is certified by an independent reviewing authority, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). There are approximately 240 prescribed standards reflecting best management practices that a law enforcement agency must consistently meet or exceed over a three-year period in order to achieve this status.

An accreditation assessment team composed of law enforcement representatives from other accredited Florida law enforcement agencies conducted on-site inspections of the division's procedures, policies, practices and equipment to determine compliance. The team visited FWC headquarters in Tallahassee and several other offices

around the state, interviewing individuals, reviewing written materials and observing activity.

Congratulations to the FWC.

## Take an Active Role in Conservation

You can now take an active role in conservation by reporting fish and wildlife observations to the FWC Reporter app. This new app connects you directly to FWC experts, and allows you to report a range of sightings from fish kills to exotic species, to trapped or injured wildlife.

Download the free FWC Reporter app on your smartphone or tablet today.

## Have You Ever Seen a Smalltooth Sawfish?

Often mistaken for sharks, sawfish are rays with a long snout that looks like a hedge-trimmer. The Smalltooth Sawfish is the only species found in the U.S., with the current population residing only in South Florida and the Bahamas.

The unique toothed snout left the species vulnerable to bycatch in net fisheries, so it was protected in Florida in 1992 and listed as En-

dangered in 2003.

To promote recovery, a team led by FWC scientist Dr. Gregg Poulakis started studying juveniles in the Charlotte Harbor estuarine system. Help our scientists by reporting any sawfish encounters - [sawfish@myfwc.com](mailto:sawfish@myfwc.com), by phone at 844-4SAWFISH or through the FWCReporter app.

## Spring is Peak Mating Season for Horseshoe Crabs

Horseshoe crabs mate year-round, and it's common to see groups along the shore in March and April. To identify mating pairs, look for a smaller male on top of a larger female. Beachgoers will likely have the best luck spotting horseshoe crabs around high tide, within three days of a full or new moon.

Your sighting reports provide important information about population distribution to the FWC. Although horseshoe crabs have existed for about 450 million years, their numbers have declined due to overfishing and loss of habitat. Report sightings to [horseshoe@MyFWC.com](mailto:horseshoe@MyFWC.com), by phone at 866-252-9326 or through the FWCReporter app.

# CCA FLORIDA banquet schedule

Presented by Yamaha

## MAY

### Panama City Banquet

**Thursday, May 10**

The Panama City Chapter welcomes you to our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and Auction. We'll be at The Majestic Beach Resort this year with an incredible evening planned. Join us at a party for a cause! Come for the two-hour open bar, delicious dinner, raffles, auctions and fellowship. For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

### Homestead Banquet Thursday, May 17

Join us in celebrating the Homestead Chapter's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Banquet and Auction at Schnebly Redland's Winery & Brewery! Schnebly's was an amazing host of last year's event and we are very excited to be returning in 2018! This event is sponsored by Sportsman's Adventures, Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report, and Contender Boats and is definitely one party you don't want to miss! For additional information, please contact Nick Pectol at (321) 271-7723.

### CCA Florida STAR Begins Saturday, May 26

Join in a summer filled with fishing and fun! Competition entry is \$35 for current CCA members for 101-days of fishing. Inshore and offshore divisions with nearly \$500,000 in prizes and college scholarships up for grabs! For additional information, please contact Leiza Fitzgerald (844) 387-7827.

## JUNE

### Inter Chapter Challenge

**Friday & Saturday,  
June 22 & 23**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA Florida Inter Chapter Challenge (ICC) is scheduled for June 22 & 23, 2018 at River Palm Cottages and Fish Camp in Jensen Beach. The ICC was started in 2004 to bring members together from all over the state to share ideas, talk about their individual chapters and have a great day on the water. This is a great event for the entire family! The 2018 event will again feature an inshore and offshore division as well as a youth, fly and ladies divisions. Please visit [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org) to download the complete rules and entry list. For additional information, please contact Brian Gorski at (407) 401-7670.

## AUGUST

### Pasco Banquet Thursday, August 30

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Pasco Banquet kicks off our fall banquet season, back at The Spartan Manor! Tickets are \$85 per person, \$150 per couple, and corporate sponsorships start at \$1,000. For additional information, please contact Steve Bowler at (727) 919-6191.

## SEPTEMBER

### Forgotten Coast Banquet Thursday, September 6

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forgotten Coast Banquet will be held

at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe. Forgotten Coast - we're coming at ya! The evening's dinner will be catered, and the drinks will be free! Tell your friends and come support your Forgotten Coast Chapter. Seating is limited, so get your tickets now! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

### Space Coast Banquet Thursday, September 6

Please make plans now to join us on September 7 for the 26th Annual CCA Space Coast Banquet and Auction presented by Boniface-Hiers Automotive Group! Tickets are just \$100 per person and \$175 per couple. The party starts at 6 p.m. with an open bar at the Melbourne Auditorium! For additional information, please contact Rob Beckner at (321) 863-3226 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

### Pinellas Banquet Thursday, November 15

The Pinellas Banquet will be held at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom! This historic event space is something you will have to see to believe! Tickets are \$90 per person or \$170 per couple. Corporate and reserved tables begin at \$1,250 for a table of eight. For additional information, please contact Jim Suomi at (727) 244-9474 or Christine Suomi at (727) 643-7375.

## Eagles Banquet and Auction

**Friday, September 15**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCA Eagles Banquet begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>! We have a great venue, the Cohen Center, conveniently located at the heart of the FGCU Campus! Add in an open bar and this is going to be one party you do not want to miss! This event will include an exciting live and silent auction as well as an extensive raffle that will include: local, out-of-state, and exotic fishing/hunting trips, fish and wildlife artwork, sculptures, jewelry, a Hell's Bay Skiff, a Pathfinder Bay Boat, a Contender Offshore Boat, Yamaha Outboards, fishing tackle, and much more! This event is expected to sell out, as the Eagles Chapter takes its place as the best college chapter in the state! See you there! Go Eagles! For additional information contact Amy Kuehnert at (407) 401-7680.

## Gainesville Banquet Thursday, September 20

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Gainesville Banquet presented by Merrill Lynch will be at The Swamp's Touchdown Terrace! Tickets are going for just \$80 each and include a delicious dinner catered by Wahoo Seafood Grill, CCA Membership, live auction, raffles, silent auction, and so much more! Buy your sponsor tables before July 27<sup>th</sup> for a \$100 discount! Did we mention refillable drink cups?! Get your spot before we sell out! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675 or Mark Hurm at (352) 378-9422.

**South Palm Beach  
Banquet  
Thursday,  
September 27**

Join us for the 7th Annual CCA South Palm Beach Banquet & Auction presented by Eastern Metal Supply! We will be at the beautiful Seagate Country Club this year, and you will not want to miss it! Space is limited, so please remember to purchase your tables well in advance. The party starts at 6 p.m.! Tickets are \$130 per person or a 10-seat corporate table is \$1,600. For additional information please contact Nick Pectol at (407) 401-7677.

**Seminole Banquet  
Friday, September 29**

The CCA Seminoles Banquet begins at 6:00 PM on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>! We will have a great venue (TBD), that will be conveniently located close to the FSU campus! Add in an open bar and this is going to be one party you do not want to miss! This event will include an exciting live and silent auction as well as an extensive raffle that will include: local, out-of-state, and exotic fishing/hunting trips, fish and wildlife artwork, sculptures, jewelry, a Hell's Bay Skiff, a Pathfinder Bay Boat, a Contender Offshore Boat, Yamaha outboards, fishing tackle, and much more! Come out and support the FSU chapter for their second ever event and don't forget to invite your friends! For additional information contact Amy Kuehnert at (407) 401-7680.

**OCTOBER**

**Orlando Banquet  
Thursday, October 4**

The Thirty Second Annual CCA Orlando Banquet presented by Winter Park Construction is sure to be bigger and better than ever! A black tie event without the black ties! Join your friends and fellow anglers for the party of the year in a convenient downtown Winter Park location! Tickets are \$200 per person and reserved tables begin at \$2,500. For additional information please contact Dan Askin at (407) 401-7671

**Treasure Coast BBQ  
Friday, October 12**

Come on out to the Treasure Coast BBQ at the Walking Tree Brewery! There will be free beer and great BBQ! Tickets are just \$50 and include CCA membership! For additional information please contact Paul Fafeita at (772) 473-8475.

**Dade Banquet  
Thursday, October 18**

Join us for the 33rd Annual CCA Dade Chapter Banquet & Auction presented by Contender Boats! We will be drawing the winner of the 2018 Contender 28 Tournament Edition Center Console at the banquet! Join us at the Coral Gables Country Club and be a part of this exciting event! Be sure to purchase your table early, as we are anticipating a huge event this year. For additional information, please contact Kathleen Marrero at (305) 371-3835 or Nick Pectol at (407) 401-7677.



**TITO'S ALL-TIME FAVORITE**



**INGREDIENTS**

- 1.5 OZ TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 4 OZ SODA WATER

**INSTRUCTIONS**

POUR TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA AND SODA WATER INTO A GLASS FILLED WITH ICE.

**GARNISH**

Slice of orange and a slice of lime

**TITO'S ALL-AMERICAN LEMONADE**



**INGREDIENTS**

- 1.5 OZ TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 3 OZ FRESH LEMONADE

**INSTRUCTIONS**

POUR TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA INTO A GLASS OVER ICE AND ADD LEMONADE.

**GARNISH**

LEMON WEDGE OR MINT SPRIG



## Wash Away The Myths About Boat Cleaning

A quick search on the popular boating discussion boards for "boat cleaning tips" reveals that everyone and their brother has a concoction for cleaning a boat that is "better" than the products sold at marine stores. But is it? A mixture of bleach, dish soap, and water or a bottle of toilet bowl cleaner may seem to get the job done, so why not use it - are there downsides to going the cheap route? The short answer is "Yes, there are." We feel that properly cleaning your boat's surface is so important CCA has named Star brite® as CCA's Official Boat Cleaning partner. For 45 years, Star brite has been manufacturing the highest-quality hull and deck cleaners, boat wash, marine polish, cleaner wax, vinyl cleaner, teak care kit, Star Tron enzyme fuel treatment and more. These products are developed, used and sold by boaters for boaters. As a result, they represent the most effective products you can buy.

Why use a Star brite® product versus an easy mixture that you buddy recommended? Bleach and dish soap are toxic to our marine environment. Bleach is very caustic, with the

potential to harm your skin or eyes if splashed and if it is introduced to the water bleach will kill marine life. Liquid dish soap containing phosphates can cause algae blooms, strips off the polish you spent hours applying, requires a significant amount of fresh water to rinse away and can etch fiberglass over time.

There's always a strong temptation to use whatever cleaning agents are handy, but if the less expensive ingredients such as vinegar, laundry bleach or swimming pool acid were the best choice to accomplish the specific cleaning task and would not damage the boat or be dangerous to use, manufacturers would use them if only to increase profits. Star brite® products are engineered to get the job down quickly without negative effects. Muriatic acid and toilet bowl cleaners are great for cleaning porcelain and pool surfaces, but are way too caustic and potentially dangerous to the user for regular use on porous fiberglass or painted surfaces. Star brite® products are the most effective cleaners to get the job done while protecting your boat and the environment, and are

created by chemists with many years of experience and training.

Star brite's website ([www.starbrite.com](http://www.starbrite.com)) features virtually every product imaginable for your boat maintenance and cleaning needs, as well as products for RVs, homes, motorcycles, cars and more. Manufactured at the company's 350,000 sq. ft. facility in Montgomery, Alabama, Star brite® products are distributed to a wide network of retailers worldwide. You can find Star brite and Star Tron products at most marine stores as well as at many big-box retailers.

Because there is a science to cleaning your boat correctly, the company has posted an ever-increasing number of instructional videos on the website and on the Star brite® YouTube channel. If you can't find the info you need, call their Tech Support line Monday through Friday from 9-5 at (800) 327-8583.

Best of all, in addition to making products you can rely on to get the job done, Star brite is also a major supporter of CCA Florida.

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PATHFINDER AND CCA FLORIDA  
EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & HABITAT CONSERVATION



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