

SPRING 2019

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



# SEAWATCH

PRESENTED BY **CONTENDER**

**Honoring the Legacy  
of Curtis Bostick**

**A High Performance  
Partnership: Engel  
Coolers and CCA FL**

**Rebuilding  
Florida's  
Redfish  
Population:  
One Redfish  
At A Time**

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starting point

## Grateful

The first three months of 2019 have left me extremely grateful for CCA Florida and the work we've been able to do with our members and partners. In February, we lost a close friend and tremendous leader and advocate for the organization and our marine resources. Curtis Bostick was a founder of FCA, which later became CCA Florida, and a leader in every sense of the word. We'll be forever grateful for his contributions to CCA nationally, our state's fisheries and access for recreational anglers, and he'll remain an integral part of who we are as an organization. Read more about his legacy in this edition of SeaWatch.

I'm also energized and grateful for the launch of our red tide recovery efforts this quarter. Last fall, we announced partnerships with Duke Energy, Mote Marine Laboratory and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to help rebuild redfish and snook populations in southwest Florida which were devastated as a result of red tide.

In February, we launched the redfish initiative with the Duke Energy Mariculture Center and FWC to help stock southwest Florida coastal counties with redfish. We moved south from Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties to Sarasota and Manatee Counties in February, and further south to Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties in March. In all, we released over 16,000 juvenile and adult redfish, reared at the Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River.

At each release we were joined by members, families and children, local elected leaders and anglers who wanted to be a part of the positive change that this program – and other programs we're leading – is bringing to Florida's marine resources.

We're committed to continuing these efforts, and thank our members and partners for helping make it happen. Without their support, it wouldn't be possible.

There's more to come. Join us in these efforts. We have a brand-new website designed to share information and engage our members. Visit the site today for the latest news, events and opportunities to connect with us.

# Starts members to

## The Turn of the Tide

**JD Dickenson**  
Chairman

2019 is a big year for marine conservation in Florida. We are coming off what was likely the worst water quality year ever in the history of the state. Fishermen, conservationists and outdoor lovers of all kinds looked on in horror in 2018 at the pictures of red tide and Lake Okechobee-related discharge disasters on both coasts. CCA Florida members were, and continue to be, outraged and concerned about the future of the marine resources that we all hold so dear. Coastal fisheries were crippled and our coastal economies slowed to a crawl.

However, when the tide reaches its lowest levels, we know the water must come back in. But unlike the coastal tides we study and follow as anglers, we will have to turn this tide ourselves. We must all collectively commit to making 2019 the turn of the tide for the health of our coastal resources. We must all commit to refusing the future foreshadowed in the water crisis of 2018.

CCA Florida's membership is committed to turning this tide. It's been said before that CCA Florida is only as good as our members – and right now we are looking good. The first quarter of 2019 has been extremely busy and included the launch of programs that are truly making an impact on our state's resources and fisheries. Our red tide recovery efforts have included the release of 16,000 redfish into southwest Florida waters. As a result of our Adopt-a-Snook program, snook releases will begin this Spring. With the hatchery and release-related research we will gain from these programs, more species are on the horizon.

On the habitat restoration front, CCA Florida had a record year. We had one of our largest volunteer turnouts ever for a shoreline stabilization habitat project on the east coast. Since 2014, CCA Florida has leveraged more than \$4,500,000 for habitat work. This is active, hands-on habitat restoration work that is either presently ongoing throughout the state or is already deployed in Florida waters. At CCA Florida, we look at habitat and water quality as two sides of the same coin. Clean water begets healthy marine habitats, and healthy marine habitats beget clean water. We must focus on both to turn the tide.

CCA Florida has been very encouraged to see strong words and actions, as well as high visibility, from our new Governor Ron DeSantis and his wife, First Lady Casey DeSantis, on issues relating to our state's water quality and coastal resources. CCA Florida was honored to have First Lady Casey DeSantis join us for one of our red tide recovery tour redfish release stops in Naples. It is clear that Florida's marine resources are a priority for this administration, and we are thrilled to see that. As conservationists, we must take advantage of these strong political winds and use them to begin to turn the tide on the coastal conservation issues that confront us. Please support the Governor's call for \$625 million in environmental spending on existing Everglades restoration and water quality projects.

As we look ahead with excitement to CCA Florida's continued efforts, we must look back with thanks to the leaders who have helped get us to where we are today. I'd be remiss if I didn't extend my condolences to the Bostick family and anyone who knew and loved Curtis Bostick, a devoted angler and tireless marine resource advocate. Curtis is a legend of Florida conservation history and our entire CCA family suffered a tremendous loss this February with his passing. The work that Curtis has done over the years will leave a lasting legacy for Florida anglers. We owe it to Curtis, and to future generations of Floridians, to band together and work to turn this tide. If we do, our children will know, as we have been blessed to know, many days of clean water, lush seagrass meadows, pristine oyster bars and healthy fisheries. Thank you for your commitment to conservation.





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# HONORING A CONSERVATION HERO: **CURTIS**



# BOSTICK

One of the great joys discovered after becoming involved in CCA is getting to know the leaders and members who have carried the banner before us. Curtis Bostick, who we lost unexpectedly in February of 2019, was one of those amazing leaders.

Born and raised in the then – backwater of Marco Island – Curtis developed a deep appreciation for Florida's natural wonders. He and his good friend, Alex Jernigan, eventually went on to become the founding members of the Florida Chapter of what we now know as the Coastal Conservation Association. Curtis' dedication to our marine fisheries included service on the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, among other roles. While on the Council, in the words of Alex, Curtis fought “doggedly” and “almost single handedly” to eliminate the use of fish traps in South Atlantic waters. He didn't give up on that uphill effort until the prohibition on fish traps became a reality. Today, the terribly destructive fishing gear is also banned in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Ted Forsgren, CCA Florida's first Executive Director and the voice of CCA Florida for over two decades, recalls Curtis' strong

leadership as being crucial to our early successes, including the granting of gamefish status for redfish and the passage of the Constitutional net ban. Indeed, Curtis provided steady counsel and insightful institutional memory to the rest of us on CCA Florida's Government Relations Committee right up to the time of his passing.

The organization's current Executive Director, Brian Gorski, shared that Curtis was an anchor of CCA Florida. He was a founding father and his involvement only grew with the organization over time, becoming a mentor to many, including himself. His passion and dedication was, and is, unparalleled.

Aside from his dedication to our marine resources, Curtis was also great company, with a sharp wit and an easy sense of humor. As Cary Kresge and many of us remember well, Curtis was a willing, respectful and welcome participant in almost any conversation one might want to have. Bright, inquisitive and educated about most anything relevant, Curtis provided many of us with thoughts to be remembered and laughs not to be forgotten.



**Curtis will be missed, surely, for his efforts to better the marine resources of our state, but mostly, Curtis will be missed for the terrific guy that he was and the example that he set for all of us. Bon voyage to our good friend.**

## President Trump Signs the Modern Fish Act

The recreational fishing and boating community is still celebrating the enactment of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Modern Fish Act), which was signed into law by President Trump December 31. The Modern Fish Act finally recognizes in federal law the differences between recreational and commercial fishing and adds more appropriate management tools for policymakers to use in managing federal recreational fisheries.

"Millions of American families take part in salt-

water recreational fishing and boating activities and support multi-billion dollar industries that generate hundreds of thousands of jobs in our country," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "We are thankful for this important milestone for federal fisheries management and marine conservation, and we look forward to continuing to improve public access to our nation's healthy fisheries."



water recreational fishing and boating activities and support multi-billion dollar industries that generate hundreds of thousands of jobs in our country," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "We are thankful for this important milestone for federal fisheries management and marine conservation, and we look forward to continuing to improve public access to our nation's healthy fisheries."

The Modern Fish Act, introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Garret Graves (R-La.), enjoyed strong bipartisan support from a long list of cosponsors representing coastal and non-coastal states alike. On December 17, the Senate unanimously passed the Modern Fish Act (S. 1520) followed by overwhelming approval in the House (350-11) on December 19.

"This is historic for the recreational boating and fishing community, capping years of hard work to responsibly modernize recreational saltwater fisheries management," said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "The Modern Fish Act is a critical first-step solution towards establishing a framework for expanding access to recreational saltwater fishing, while ensuring conservation and sustainability remain top priorities in fisheries management. We thank President Trump and Congress for making the Modern Fish Act the

law of the land and look forward to working with them in the coming years to advance policies that protect and promote recreational saltwater fishing." "The recreational fishing industry is grateful to see this legislation enacted," said Glenn Hughes, president of the American Sportfishing Association. "We look forward to continuing to work with Congress, as well as NOAA Fisheries and the regional fishery management councils, to improve the management and conservation of our marine fisheries."

"The Modern Fish Act signed by the President provides an opportunity for significant, positive change on behalf of millions of recreational anglers who enjoy fishing in federal waters," said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "We look forward to working with NOAA Fisheries, the regional fishery management councils and the states to fully implement the provisions of the bill and improve federal fisheries management for America's saltwater anglers."

"CCA is proud to be a part of this important coalition, and we are grateful to our champions in Congress who stood by us during the intense, sometimes contentious negotiations on this legislation," said Patrick Murray, president of Coastal Conservation Association. "There is still work to be done, but this is a valuable first step. We are hopeful this opens the door to an ongoing discussion of tools and processes that can be developed to better manage recreational fisheries in federal waters in all regions of the United States."

"This bill becoming law is the most significant step forward in federal recreational saltwater fishing management in the forty-plus years of the Magnuson-Stevens Act," said Whit Fosburgh, president of Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "Recreational fishermen, conservationists and businesses united around a set of principles and worked together to get this bill passed and we will continue to work together on priorities like forage fish management and improving data collection in the future."

The recreational fishing and boating community would like to thank the sponsors of the Modern Fish Act, Senator Wicker and Congressman Graves, who led this bipartisan effort in the 115th Congress to improve federal fisheries management for America's 11 million saltwater anglers. We also appreciate the support of Senators Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.)

and Doug Jones (D-Ala.), and Congressmen Steve Scalise (R-La.), Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Marc Veasey (D-Texas), Rob Wittman (R-Va.), Gene Green (D-Texas), Daniel Webster (R-Fla.), and Austin Scott (R-Ga.).

The Modern Fish Act will provide more stability and better access for anglers by:

- Providing authority and direction to NOAA Fisheries to apply additional management tools more appropriate for recreational fishing, many of which are successfully implemented by state fisheries agencies (e.g., extraction rates, fishing mortality targets, harvest control rules, or traditional or cultural practices of native communities);
- Improving recreational harvest data collection by requiring federal managers to explore other data sources that have tremendous potential to improve the accuracy and timeliness of harvest estimates, such as state-driven programs and electronic reporting (e.g., through smartphone apps);
- Requiring the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the process of mixed-use fishery allocation review by the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional

Fishery Management Councils and report findings to Congress within one year of enactment of the Modern Fish Act, and

- Requiring the National Academies of Sciences to complete a study and provide recommendations within two years of the enactment of the Modern Fish Act on limited access privilege programs (catch shares) including an assessment of the social, economic, and ecological effects of the program, considering each sector of a mixed-use fishery and related businesses, coastal communities, and the environment and an assessment of any impacts to stakeholders in a mixed-use fishery caused by a limited access privilege program. This study excludes the Pacific and North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Councils.

The coalition of groups supporting the Modern Fish Act includes American Sportfishing Association, Center for Sportfishing Policy, Coastal Conservation Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, International Game Fish Association, National Marine Manufacturers Association, Recreational Fishing Alliance, The Billfish Foundation and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

## angler's notes

### GULF RED SNAPPER

At its February meeting, the FWC set the 2019 Gulf red snapper recreational season to open June 11 through July 12, with a possible fall reopening if quota is available. We know that state management is a great tool and we appreciate the FWC working for the recreational anglers.

### SEATROUT

FWC also announced a proactive change to conserve spotted seatrout impacted by the prolonged red tide in southwest Florida.

Currently, anglers may harvest a single spotted seatrout per day over 20". As of February 22, anglers are no longer allowed to harvest any spotted seatrout over 20" total length when fishing in state or federal waters from the Pasco-Hernando county line south to Gordon Pass in Collier County. This rule change will remain in effect through May 10, 2019.

This fishery needs time to recover and we're in favor of this change, as well as implementing this state-wide, to help with recovery.

### IGFA FISHING HALL OF FAME

The International Game Fish Association has named five fishing greats to the 2019 class of the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and we are very proud to announce that CCA's own Bob Hayes, former general counsel and board of directors Vice President, is one of the inductees for his extensive body of work as a fisheries policy advocate. This is truly a worthy recognition of Bob's incredible vision and leadership in the recreational angling world, and a celebration of his many accomplishments on behalf of recreational anglers and the marine resources we cherish.

Joining Bob in this class are marine conservationist Terri Andrews, former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, pelagic game fish researcher Julian Pepperrell and tackle industry leader and conservationist Yasuhiko Tsunemi. The 2019 IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on September 14th at Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri.

### PROGRESS IN FLORIDA'S WATER QUALITY

Several Florida Legislators have been hard at work making things happen at the Capitol! Thanks to Rep. Fine from Brevard County for his attention to the Indian River Lagoon and waste water treatment (HB 141); thanks to Rep. Grall from Indian River County for attention to biosolids in the state (HB 405); to Sen. Gruters from Sarasota County for addressing sewage spills (SB 216); to Sen. Montford from the Big Bend area for addressing the Apalachicola area (SB 1256); and to Sen. Mayfield from Brevard County for helping address biosolids (SB 1278).

We'll continue to monitor these and other legislation pertaining to Florida's water. We're hopeful for change and are looking forward to continued progress!



Photo credit: Governor's press office

### SFWMD APPOINTMENTS

In February, Governor DeSantis announced the appointments of new board members of the South Florida Water Management District. These include Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Charlette Roman, Charlie Martinez, Cheryl Anne Meads, John "Jay" Steinle and Scott Wagner.

Full bios and stories are available on the Governor's website.

## Time to End Commercial-Fishing Bias in Fishery Management Councils

**Let's be consistent: Economics dictating the makeup of council membership should apply to all councils, not just to some.**

**Credit: Jeff Angers, Center for Sportfishing Policy From Sport Fishing Magazine, February 2019**

Within the U.S. marine fisheries management system, no two regions are more different than the Gulf of Mexico and the North Pacific. There are obvious differences like climate and geography, but one of the starkest distinctions is our fisheries – not only what we catch, but how we catch ... and how we manage.

While commercial fishing is clearly the more dominant of the two sectors in Alaska, recreational fishing is undoubtedly the economic powerhouse in the Gulf of Mexico. So, why do we see such disparate treatment in the way each sector is represented on the Gulf and North Pacific fishery management councils?

First, let's make sure we are comparing apples to apples. When you look at NOAA Fisheries' report Fisheries Economics of the United States 2016 and compare the economic impacts of recreational and commercial fishing across shared fisheries and remove imports, you get a true picture.

At the national level, recreational fishing generates 472,020 jobs and nearly \$68 billion in sales annually compared to 266,117 jobs and nearly \$20 billion in

sales by commercial fishing. Despite that outsized economic impact, anglers catch only 2 percent of the fin-fish taken from our oceans each year. In other words, a lot fewer fish die for a lot more economic output.

Now, back to the comparison of how fisheries are managed in the North Pacific and in the Gulf.

In the North Pacific, the proportion of value added to the economy by commercial fishing in shared fisheries is 91.18 percent to 8.82 percent by recreational fishing. This economic disparity translates to commercial interests controlling 10 out of 11 votes on the North Pacific Council.

**If representation for the predominant economic power serves well in the North Pacific, it should serve well in the Gulf of Mexico and across all councils.**

To the contrary in the Gulf of Mexico, the proportion of value added to the economy by commercial fishing in shared fisheries is 3.39 percent to 96.61 percent by recreational fishing. But representation on the Gulf Council between commercial and recreational does not reflect the economics on the ground. Consider the recent, divisive push to privatize marine resources for certain commercial users (including fishing-charter and for-hire operators) and you have a recipe for conflicts of interest. Add in



**Commercial and recreational fishing are both big industries in America, but you would not know it based on the inherent bias in federal fisheries management.** *Courtesy CSP*



those council members who are both commercial harvesters and charter operators ... and in the final tally, commercial votes actually outnumber recreational votes on the Gulf Council – a glaring difference from the North Pacific.

The most under-represented stakeholders in the Gulf are the 2.5 million individual anglers fishing from their own boats. The process has put anglers at a disadvantage for too long, and it's time to turn the scale.

Nationally, friends of commercial fishing have more pull on almost all regional councils. Yet, recreational fishing contributes far more to the American economy.

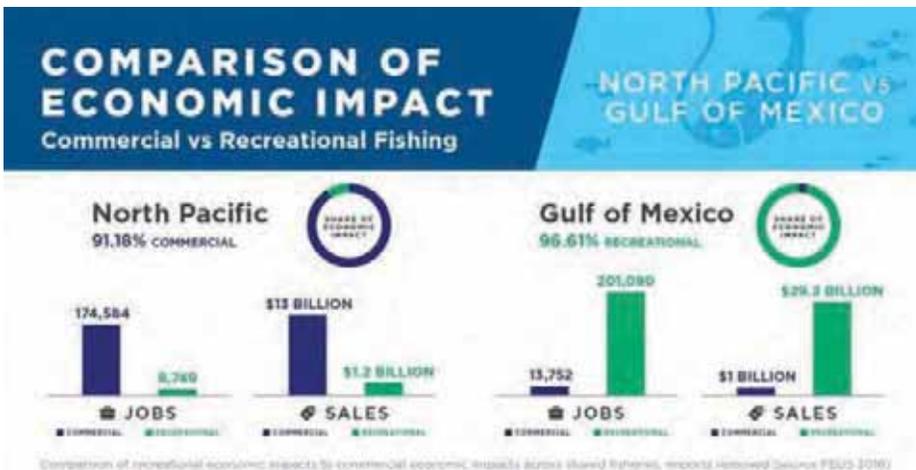
What I'm highlighting is this: If representation for the predominant economic power serves well in the North Pacific, it should serve well in the Gulf of Mexico and across all councils.

However, there's a misconception in the Southeast that Gulf Coast governors must nominate someone from the commercial, recreational, for-hire charter fishing sectors and someone else considered in the "other" category. This requirement strangely was inserted into the 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act for the Gulf Council only, and it was meant to benefit the agenda of anti-recreational interests in the region by empowering federal bureaucrats – not duly elected governors – to pick whomever they want to serve.

Thankfully, this twisted, manipulative provision expired in 2012. Therefore, there is no federal requirement limiting the choices of governors. This is rightfully so, because governors should be able to choose representatives from their states who best represent the interest of their states.

Acceptance of overwhelming representation from the predominant economic power in the North Pacific should be the same in the Gulf of Mexico and everywhere else. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. There will always be some in the Gulf who aim to divide and conquer each sector to achieve their goal of fewer Americans on the water through the privatization of public resources. But if we're all playing by the same rules, then it's time for the bureaucracy to lift its finger from the scale and be fair and equitable across all regions.

*Jeff Angers is president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy, a nonpartisan organization focused on maximizing opportunity for America's saltwater recreational anglers.*



**The marine fishing economy in the North Pacific is 91 percent reliant on commercial fishing; accordingly, the North Pacific council has 10 of 11 voting members representing commercial fishing. The Gulf of Mexico marine fishing economy is 97 percent reliant on recreational fishing; yet, the Gulf council's voting representation doesn't come close to similarly reflecting the overwhelming importance of its recreational-angling constituents.** *Courtesy CSP*

# CCA Florida Wins With Walking Tree Brewery IPA's for Waterways Campaign

During the months of March, April and May, Walking Tree Brewery along with their distribution partners will donate a portion of the proceeds from their Mangrove Series of IPA's to CCA Florida and support our efforts to protect Florida's Waterways and Fisheries. "As a company comprised of mostly Treasure Coast natives, we feel an obligation to bring awareness and to do what we can to aid causes that protect our delicate eco systems," said Danny Rey, Sales and Marketing Director for Walking Tree Brewery. "Most of us have grown up enjoying the Indian River

Lagoon and surrounding beaches our whole lives and we feel privileged to now have a platform to help bring more awareness to the causes that are near and dear to us."

The campaign features Walking Tree Brewery's yearly release of their Mangrove Series of IPA's. The beers are named after the different species of mangroves that are native to Florida and are just as diverse as Florida's eco-systems. White Walking Tree IPA is a traditional west coast style IPA featuring notes of bitter citrus while maintaining a crisp and refreshing finish. Black Walking

Tree IPA is named after the Black Mangroves and offers rich and roasty notes of chocolate and coffee balanced with a floral, citrus nose provided by the hops. Red Walking Tree IPA offers a malty sweetness accompanied by fruity notes to provide a crisp and flavorful malt forward IPA. And finally, the Buttonwood Double IPA is a true delight for the hop head with heavy fruit notes and piney bitter hop bite. Enjoy any of these IPA's at your favorite bar or restaurant and help save a waterway today. For additional information, visit [walkingtreebrewery.com](http://walkingtreebrewery.com).





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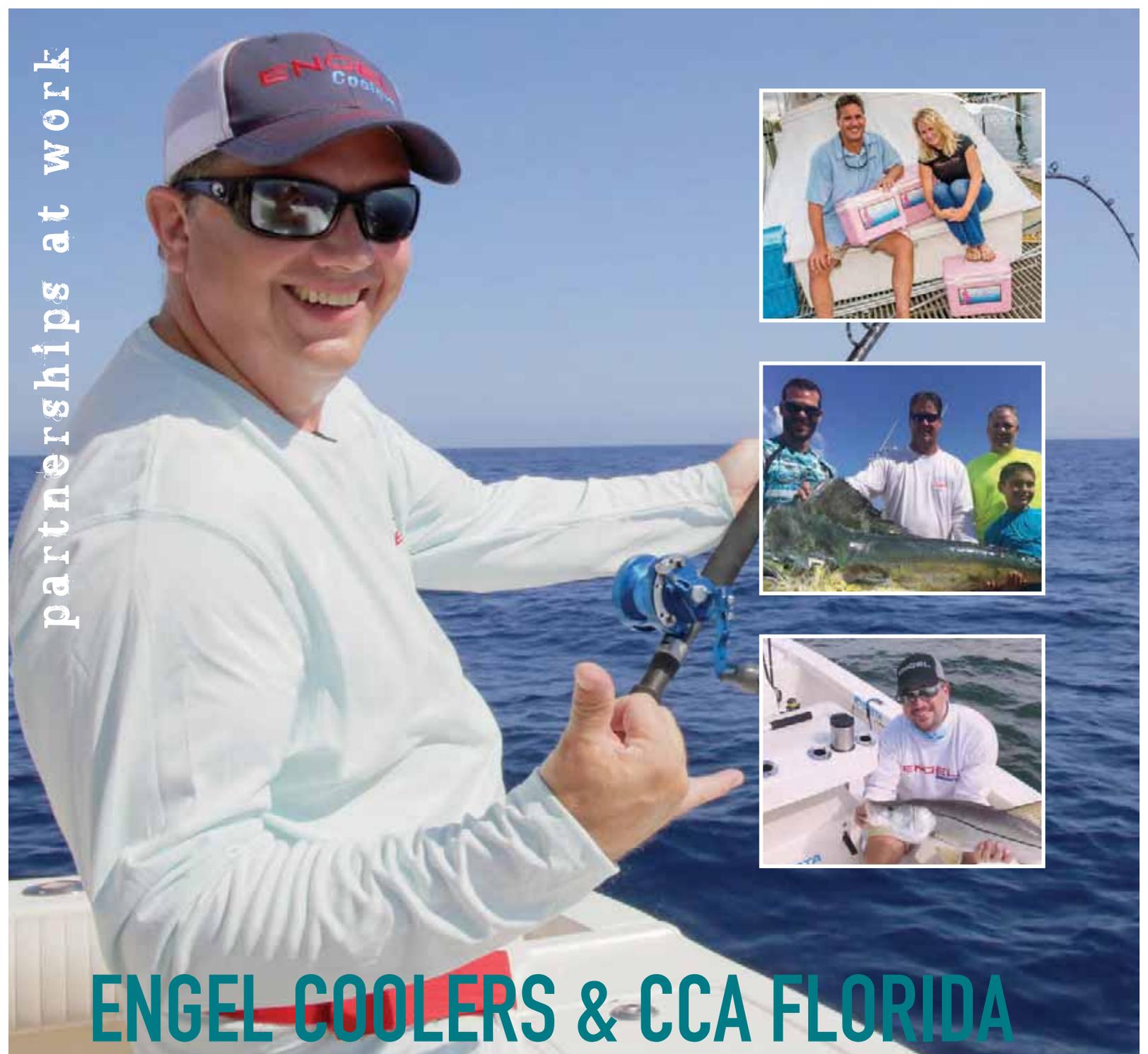
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partnerships at work



# ENGEL COOLERS & CCA FLORIDA EXPAND PARTNERSHIP & COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

**Florida-based high-performance cooler manufacturer demonstrates dedication to marine fisheries restoration with expanded statewide sponsorship.**



As a supporting member of the Center for Sportfishing Policy, the Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation and the American Sportfishing Association, Engel’s commitment to the industry extends beyond its support of CCA. The brand has consistently pushed for angler access, specifically S.1520, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 (Modern Fish Act). The Act was signed by the President on December 31<sup>st</sup> and will provide more stability and better access for anglers across the state.

As a company, and buoyed by the enduring support of owner and President Paul Kabalin, Engel supports CCA chapters nationally in addition to Florida, as well as programs to address state issues. These include the Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program, the Aquatic Invasive Species Program administered by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Lionfish Removal programs administered by Florida Fish & Wildlife, among others.

The leaders at Engel Coolers are dedicated to conservation personally as well, and walk the walk. Vice Presidents Rob Bowie and Mike Dixon are both Life Members and serve in local chapter leadership roles. In addition, Dixon is a member of the System Management Plan Work Group of the SAFMC, a steering committee of the Marine Resource Education Program put on by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, a member of the Government Affairs Committee of ASA, and serves on the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative board.

**“With the dedicated support of Engel Coolers, we’ve been able to grow our habitat and environmental restoration efforts, which benefit anyone who enjoys Florida and our marine resources. Engel has been a tremendous partner over the years, and we’re honored to work with their leadership and provide our members access to their incredible products.”**

—Brian Gorski, CCA Florida Executive Director

**“Engel is proud to renew and expand our partnership with CCA Florida again in 2019. We share common goals to educate Floridians about the need for conservation of marine habitat, promote proper stewardship of our coastal resources, provide unique experiences for anglers of all skill levels and encourage any and all to get out and have fun on the water. We look forward to the opportunity to engage with the local members, anglers and merchants who participate at the local chapter level.”**

—Rob Bowie, Vice President of Engel Coolers

CCA Florida is excited to have expanded our partnership with Engel Coolers, the pioneer in high-performance coolers, allowing our staff and members to enhance habitat and environmental restoration efforts and lead support of industry issues affecting recreational anglers.

The Jupiter-based manufacturer has partnered with CCA Florida since 2013 and provided over \$25,000 per year. The new partnership increases this to over \$100,000 in 2019 to support ongoing efforts.

The partnership continues Engel’s longstanding title as the *Official High-Performance Cooler of CCA Florida* and includes the donation of in-kind products as well as financial support, which directly benefits habitat initiatives and other projects throughout the state. These include offshore and nearshore reef projects, shoreline stabilizations, stock enhancements and more. Most recently, Engel joined CCA for the STAR competition. Engel’s sponsorship helps us educate anglers on conservation and supports a pre-season competition to encourage registrations.



**THANK YOU,  
ENGEL COOLERS!**

# REBUILDING FLORIDA'S REDFISH POPULATION: ONE REDFISH AT A TIME

**“We’re extremely excited to be leading an effort that will bring positive change to our marine resources, and our partnerships are what allow us to support this fishery, one redfish at a time. Between these releases, encouraging anglers to catch-and-release and promoting conservation, we’re going to see this fishery improve, and we’re honored to have the support of our Governor and other statewide offices to help make it happen.”**

—Brian Gorski,  
CCA Florida Executive Director

In 2018, redfish populations along Florida’s southwest coast were devastated as a result of red tide. While not a new phenomenon, the effects of the 2018 red tide were far reaching and anglers everywhere were concerned.

For years, CCA Florida has partnered with the Duke Energy Mariculture Center and helped advance conservation efforts through the CCA Florida STAR event. Last fall, we got together to discuss how we could help with red tide recovery and announced a plan to address the loss to the redfish population.

While the fishery will not improve overnight, at CCA Florida we are confident that we can help one redfish at a time. With continued partnerships such as our relationship with the Duke Energy Mariculture Center, and our many other sponsors, we are moving in the right direction.

We hope to conduct similar releases in the future and are constantly working for recreational anglers, fighting for clean water, defending access and supporting fisheries. Anglers can become engaged by joining CCA Florida at [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org). Or visit us on Facebook.



**“With the release of this new life in the water, there is new life in our efforts to protect and restore our environment. I’ve heard from those throughout Florida who understand that our water must be safe for our families, visitors and economy. That’s why the budget the Governor has recommended to the legislature includes an unprecedented \$625 million to support water quality efforts and ensure a clean and abundant supply of water for our future.”**

—First Lady Casey DeSantis



**“We are thankful for the leadership and efforts of CCA and Duke Energy on making this redfish enhancement possible. We are proud to be a partner.”**

—Eric Sutton, FWC Executive Director

The Duke Energy Crystal River Mariculture Center is a multispecies marine hatchery established to offset the impacts of cooling water systems used at the Crystal River Energy Complex in Citrus County. The center cultures marine species for release into the Gulf of Mexico. Since opening in 1991, the center has released to local coastal waters more than 2.7 million spotted sea trout, red drum and shrimp juveniles.

Since 2016, the Duke Energy Mariculture Center has grown its support of CCA Florida and the STAR event by providing hatchery-reared redfish for the statewide catch-photo-and-release competition. In 2019, the center’s support grew even more to provide over 16,000 redfish for CCA Florida and the center’s joint release into red tide affected waters in southwest Florida.

Along with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and together with the Mariculture Center, we began releasing over 16,000 juvenile and adult redfish in southwest Florida counties in February. We traveled south, beginning in Pasco County, and released approximately 2,000 juvenile fish and 25 adult fish per county. With releases in Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties, the total donation cost from the center totaled over \$150,000.

In March, First Lady Casey DeSantis, Secretary Noah Valenstein of the Department of Environmental Protection and State Representative Bob Rommel joined with us to release redfish in Collier County.

*(continued on page 19)*



**“Duke Energy is committed to helping protect and preserve Florida’s natural environment. Our Mariculture Center advances environmental stewardship throughout the state by partnering with state/local agencies and universities on restoration projects. The redfish we are donating will have long-term positive environmental impacts in the affected areas and we’re proud to play a small part in the solution to the recent red tide occurrence.”**

—Catherine Stempien, Duke Energy Florida President





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# SUPPORT CONSERVATION: SUPPORT STAR

**You're Already a Member. What's Stopping You?**

As the largest family-friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida, CCA Florida STAR runs from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day and boasts amazing prizes for anglers of all ages and skill levels! As a member of CCA Florida, you understand the importance of conservation, and your registration supports the cause and gets you a shot at major prizes, including new boats, a new truck, scholarships, gear, kayaks and so much more.

A unique combination of conservation, data collection and education, plus prizes and scholarships valued at \$500,000, makes CCA Florida STAR the can't-miss summer-long fishing competition. No other fishing tournament in Florida has the ability to engage anglers of all ages and experience levels, including non-anglers who can participate and win simply by collecting trash and debris.

Developed by CCA Texas and CCA Louisiana, the Florida STAR competition launched in Florida in 2015 with a focus on conservation through the use of technology and a catch, photo and release format. CCA Florida uses the social media-based event to educate the public on the importance of protecting Florida's marine resources. STAR's smart phone app eliminates the requirement for anglers to harvest or capture and transport fish and constantly promotes the proper handling of all species in the competition.

The 101-day, family friendly angling competition offers \$500,000 in prizes in 17 divisions including tagged, non-tagged, inshore and offshore species. Anglers have their shot at prizes from brand new boat, motor and trailer packages, to cash, marine electronics, Yamaha motors, scholarships and much more.

## The 2019 STAR competition includes:



### Prizes in the signature Tagged Redfish Division including:

- a Contender Boats 22 Sport
- a GMC Sierra pickup truck
- a Pathfinder Boats 2200 TRS
- a Hewes Redfisher 16
- a 21' Carolina Skiff
- a Relentless Boats 24ft Aluminum Bay/Flats boat

*all powered by Yamaha Outboards*

### Prizes for the first two youth anglers in the signature Tagged Redfish Division including:

- two Carolina Skiff boats, powered with 40 HP Yamaha motors and trailers
- Minn Kota trolling motor
- Humminbird electronics

**The Tagged Dolphin Division (Mahi Mahi):** offers \$10,000 cash to the first STAR registered CCA member who catches one of the eligible 20 tagged dolphin released in the coastal waters of Florida

**Current New Tide Members (CCA members) ages 6 – 17 can enjoy continued free registration in the Youth Scholarship Division,** presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors offering \$100,000 in scholarships, including:

- \$25,000 from Academy Sports + Outdoors and Realtree Fishing
- \$5,000 from each of many partners including Bealls Stores Inc., Southeast Environmental Solutions, Talk of the Town Restaurants, Visit Pasco, Eggnog Open Tournament/Tailin Toads and the Eagle Buick GMC/Robert Wade Phillips Fund
- The eligible species include non-tagged redfish, spotted seatrout, snook, tarpon, dolphin (Mahi Mahi), grouper, kingfish plus ladyfish, jack crevalle and sheepshead



**Most division winners are determined by a random drawing, not the biggest fish, a format that encourages participants of all ages to protect and conserve Florida's fisheries for future generations.**

**There are over 100 prizes being awarded simply for fishing this summer. You're already a member, so for only \$40, you're in! Register early and you could win a \$250 prize package during the early registration weekly promotions. Beginning April 1st, STAR will draw weekly winners of all registered anglers and award a \$250 Engel Coolers prize package. Get registered now! STAR is a great way to make your fishing more rewarding while supporting the conservation of our fisheries.**



## Register for Your Shot at Winning.

### Other divisions include:

**T H Marine Non-Tagged Redfish Division**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize of a Salt Marsh Skiff 1656 with Atlas Jack Plate, 40 HP Yamaha, trailer and five additional prizes

**Stumpnocker Spotted Trout Division**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize of a Stumpnocker 17 tiller powered by a 40 HP Yamaha with Continental trailer and five additional prizes

**Piranha Boatworks Snook Division**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize of a RASO 140 skiff with trailer and 15 HP Yamaha and five additional prizes

**Tigress Outriggers & Gear Dolphin (Mahi Mahi) Division**—XD top mount outrigger and 115 HP Yamaha as the first place prize and five additional prizes

**Cannon Kingfish Division**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize of a Salt Marsh Savanna with trailer and 9 HP Yamaha with Cannon Unitrol STX-TS and five additional prizes

**Grouper Division (Black, Gag, Red and Scamp)**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize of a 115 HP Yamaha and 240 quart Engel Cooler and five additional prizes

**Humminbird Tarpon Division**—one winner of a \$10,000 prize package which includes Humminbird Solix 10 and Minn Kota Terrova, T H Marine gift certificate, Costa Sunglasses and more (Winner will be determined by a random drawing of all catch photos entered. Eligibility requirements include proper handling of the catch.)

**Old Town Kayak Division**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize is an Old Town and five additional prizes

**Ladies Division**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize a Body Glove Inflatable Kayak

**Fly Division**—1<sup>st</sup> place prize of a LIVE Watersports L2 Fish Paddle board and five additional prizes

**Yamaha Guides Division**—Provides guides the ability to compete in the Tagged Redfish and Tagged Dolphin Divisions with the first STAR registered CCA captain winning a 150 HP Yamaha motor as well as 2nd and 3rd place prizes

**Power Pole Conservation Division**—encourages additional data collection of all species of fish caught during STAR with three prizes awarded

**Costa Kick Plastic Trash Division**—encourages trash and debris collection with three prizes awarded

**Lionfish Division**—helps with the removal of an invasive species and awards three prizes

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



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RELEASE.  
WIN.**

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- 101 Days of Fishing
  - \$40 entry for current CCA members.
  - All others \$75 entry fee includes one year CCA membership.
- Prizes For Additional Species
  - Snook, Trout, non-tagged Redfish, Grouper, Kingfish, Dolphin, Tarpon & Lionfish

Tagged Redfish Prizes Include Truck & Boat, Motor, Trailer Packages from...



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Frank Gidus, Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration

# Spotted Seatrout Study

In 2013, CCA member Scott Green and other CCA anglers were noticing a sharp decline in the spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) population in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). This was around the same time that a seatrout stock assessment report came out stating that their population in the IRL was healthy and doing fine. However, the stock assessment report did not seem to coincide with what Scott and many other CCA members were observing daily on the water; the seatrout numbers were dwindling, and in some areas they were completely gone. This was also following the severe freeze of 2010, three straight years of algae blooms, the 2011 super-bloom, and the subsequent seagrass die-offs in the IRL. Not only did Scott inform CCA of these observations, but he also took it upon himself to meet with several key individuals and groups on his own time to further discuss the issue. He first met with Troy Rice in 2013, the former Executive Director of the IRL National Estuary Program (IRL NEP), to discuss his concerns. Scott then met with scientists from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) in 2014, followed by Dr. Grant Gilmore, Jr. with Estuarine, Coastal and Ocean Science, Inc. in 2015. He met with FWRI again in 2015 and also got other CCA members involved as well as CCA staff.

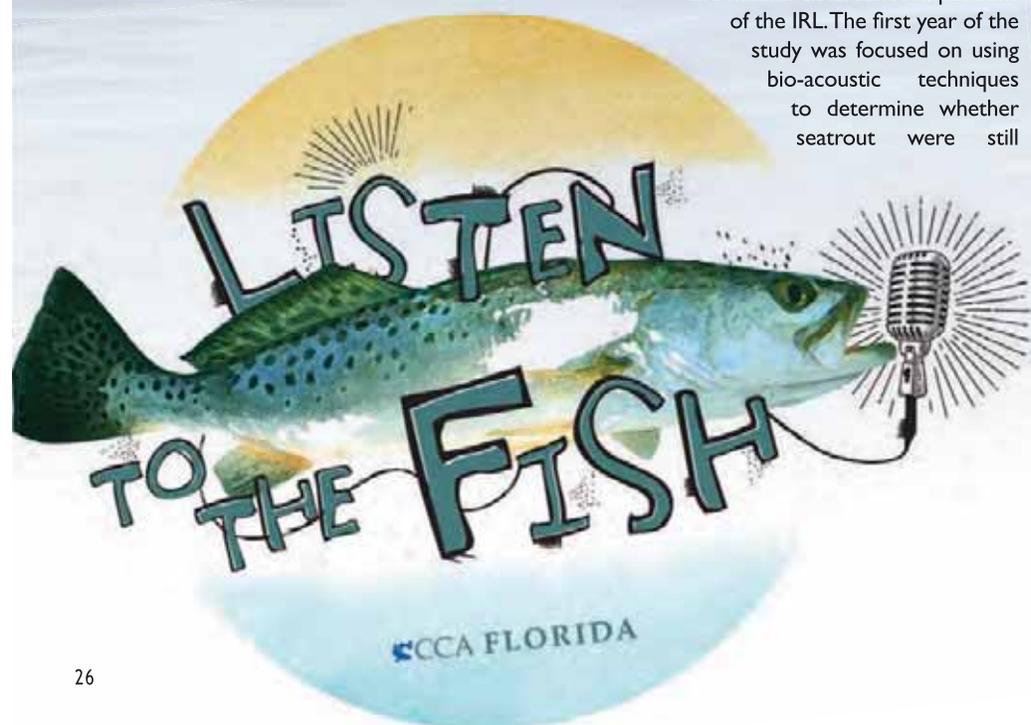
Information was shared with FWRI at the 2015 meeting about potential discrepancies with the stock assessment

findings and what fishermen were actually observing on a daily basis on the water. Scott and Dr. Gilmore shared the idea with FWRI of conducting a spotted seatrout study to quantify the seatrout stock utilizing underwater hydrophones to record the trout spawning in the IRL nocturnally during full and new moon phases. This methodology was different than the methodology used by FWRI and could potentially yield more conclusive evidence of the actual seatrout population, especially following several years of algae blooms and habitat destruction. Dr. Gilmore had spent several decades studying the seatrout population in the IRL using this methodology, while also studying the seagrass communities. With FWRI's cooperation, Dr. Gilmore spent the next year developing the guidelines and scope of work for this three-year project and in 2018, applied for a grant to fund the project through the IRL NEP. While the project was ranked by the IRL NEP, it ultimately was not awarded any grant funding. Dr. Gilmore then approached CCA for assistance and CCA agreed to fund the first year of the study through a \$25,000 cash donation and a \$52,000 in-kind match. The in-kind match consisted of over 1,700 hours donated by the volunteers, boat expenses, fuel, project management, etc.

The broad objective of the study was to determine spotted seatrout population spawning status and vulnerability to human and natural disturbance in portions of the IRL. The first year of the study was focused on using bio-acoustic techniques to determine whether seatrout were still

spawning at locations where they were historically documented by Dr. Gilmore and others. Acoustic transects were conducted by volunteer anglers using underwater microphones (hydrophones) as trout choral displays only occur when they are spawning. Anglers recorded underwater sounds at pre-determined channel marker transects over a six-month period in Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties. CCA volunteer anglers were first trained by Dr. Gilmore on how to use the electronic equipment (purchased by CCA) and how to recognize the spawning calls of the male spotted seatrout. He also worked with all the volunteers hands-on by training them at night at each of the transects in all four counties. The idea of directly involving and training anglers to conduct the acoustic monitoring was the brainchild of Dr. Gilmore, and an extremely important component to the overall success of the project. After all, it was anglers who first noticed the decline in seatrout and who have a vested interest in the long-term health of the fishery. Several individuals including Capt. Paul Fafeita (President of the CCA Treasure Coast Chapter), Mark Carter, Andy Steinbergs (CCA Habitat Committee Chairman), and Mike Conneen (Executive Director of Anglers for Conservation) were key players in the success of this project. Capt. Fafeita helped find many of the volunteer anglers and also coordinated the "on the water" activities of the project from beginning to end.

The acoustic recording portion of the project successfully kicked off in April 2018 and finished in September 2018 at the close of the spawning season. A total of three transects were established for the purposes of this study and their locations were based off of historical data where seatrout have been determined to spawn. Each transect was between five to eight miles in length and located at recording sites at Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) channel markers or other navigational aids such as bridges. A two-minute audio recording was made at each site to record and document seatrout spawning calls and to estimate the sound intensity (loudness) of the calls. The northernmost transect was in Brevard County extending from ICW marker number 15 north to ICW marker number 28 (just north of the S.R. 520 bridge), with a total of eight re-





recording sites. The second transect extended from ICW marker number 174 in St. Lucie County north to ICW marker number 160 in Indian River County, with a total of seven recording sites. The southernmost transect extended from ICW marker number 210 in St. Lucie County south to the Jensen Beach Causeway and ICW marker number 220 in Martin County.

The transect methodology was set up by Dr. Gilmore and required that as the boat arrived at each ICW marker where hydrophone recordings were to be made, the engine and depth/fish finder were turned off as both significantly interfere with seatrout calls and the quality of recordings. Based on

current wind direction and tidal flow, the boat was then strategically put into the correct position to silently drift in the channel while the digital recordings were made. The seatrout have historically used the deeper and wider dredged channels and basins to spawn, as their sounds are carried further in these areas. A field data sheet was filled out for each transect location noting the date, time, location, size of the seatrout chorus and other species present producing sound. After the data sheets were completed, an audio recording was made with a digital recorder and underwater hydrophone for two minutes to record the seatrout calls. The data sheets and digital recordings were

then provided to Dr. Gilmore to produce a final report on the seatrout project. The report, titled, "Coastal Conservation Association Sponsored East Florida Assessment of Spawning by the Spotted Seatrout" was completed in December 2018.

The results of the acoustic surveys and report findings showed that spotted seatrout are still spawning in the IRL, and they are also spawning at some of the historically documented locations. However, there appears to be more seatrout spawning between Vero Beach and Fort Pierce than previously observed through Dr. Gilmore's work. A small population of seatrout were recorded spawning in Brevard County in spite of major seagrass loss in that area. The spawning is primarily taking place, as predicted by Dr. Gilmore, around the Cocoa Beach commerce and recreational center peninsula extending westward out into the Banana River. Further north of the S.R. 520 Causeway, spotted seatrout are no longer spawning in that region and there appear to be more sand seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*), also known as weakfish, spawning in the basin between Port Canaveral and S.R. 520 than historically observed. Since sand seatrout do not rely on seagrass habitat like the spotted seatrout, the loss of this habitat may not have impacted this species. A decline in spotted seatrout populations with seagrass loss may have acted as a competitive release for sand seatrout populations in the Banana River. Seatrout were also found to still be spawning in the Mather's Cove area in the southernmost section of Brevard County in the Indian River Lagoon.

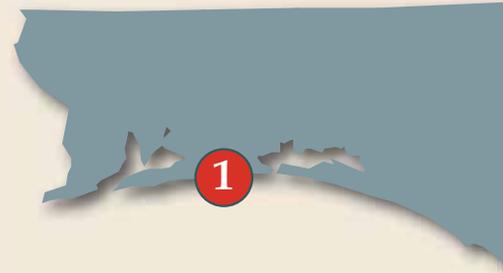
The results of the acoustic survey transects in Indian River and northern St. Lucie Counties indicated that spotted seatrout were spawning in this area from April to late September. The largest choral sound displays were observed in late August through September with 91 percent to 100 percent occurrence at all transect markers. Highest overall scores, 100 percent occurrence throughout the survey were at ICW marker numbers 170 to 164. According to Dr. Gilmore, this transect revealed the largest spotted seatrout spawning aggregation south of Brevard County, likely south of Cape Canaveral on the Florida east coast.

From what could be discerned from the

*(continued on page 30)*

# HABITAT PROJECTS

Since 2010, and in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust, CCA has contributed \$800,000 which has been leveraged with our partners to over \$4,500,000 in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!



1. CCA South Walton Artificial Reef Association, Inc. Reefs
2. CCA/BCT Billy's Barge Artificial Reef
3. CCA Oyster Shell Recycling Program - Lake County Landfill
4. CCA/UF/IFAS Centipede Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
5. CCA/BCT/Pasco County Artificial Reef Site #4
6. CCA/BCT Sean Gucken Memorial Reef
7. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch Fantasy Island Oyster Restoration
8. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch 2D Island Oyster Restoration
9. CCA/FWC Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Saltwater Pond
10. CCA/Ocean Aid 360 Crab Trap Rodeo Project
11. CCA/UCF De Soto National Memorial Living Shoreline Stabilization
12. CCA/Sarasota Bay Watch Clam Restoration
13. CCA/FWC Larry Borden Artificial Reef - Manatee County
14. CCA Phoenix Reef
15. CCA/Lee County USS Mohawk CGC Reef - Veterans Memorial Reef
16. CCA Pace Taylor Memorial Reef
17. CCA/BCT/Lee County Punta Rassa Oyster Restoration
18. CCA/BCT/Lee County San Carlos Bay Oyster Restoration
19. CCA Florida Bay Seagrass Restoration
20. CCA/UNF Florida Bay Turtle Grass Research Project
21. CCA John Michael Baker Memorial Reef - Broward County
22. CCA/BCT Goggle Eye Reef
23. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation Reef
24. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation "No Shoes" Reef
25. CCA/BCT/Palm Beach County Memorial Reef
26. CCA/Florida Oceanographic Society Seagrass and Oyster Restoration
27. CCA/MCAC Brause Girls Reef
28. CCA/St. Lucie County M/V Voici Bernadette Reef
29. CCA/Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Seagrass Restoration
30. CCA Indian River Lagoon RISSA Seagrass Buoys and Oyster Restoration
31. CCA Spotted Seatrout Acoustic Study
32. CCA/Brevard County Artificial Reefs
33. CCA/Additive Fishing/FWC/UF Indian River Lagoon Clam Restoration
34. CCA/UCF Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Restoration
35. CCA/UCF/NPS Canaveral Nat'l Seashore Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
36. CCA/BCT Lady Philomena Cargo Ship - Volusia County Reef Site No. 12
37. CCA/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
38. CCA/Heineken/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
39. CCA/City of Fernandina Living Shoreline Oyster Restoration
40. CCA/BCT Starship Reef
41. CCA/BCT Jacksonville River Reef



## Spotted Seatrout study

*continued from page 27*

limited data collected from Martin County, there were no spotted seatrout spawning at the major spawning sites around the Jensen Causeway. The Jensen Causeway area was historically a major seatrout spawning area. According to Dr. Gilmore, the seatrout spawning was so predictable that a permanent hydrophone listening station was deployed on the Jensen Bridge from 2006 to 2010 with internet access. During the 2018 survey, seatrout calls were not heard on this transect in Martin County until ICW marker numbers 210 and 212 were reached in St. Lucie County. Since these observations were made in April and May, it is possible that more seatrout were spawning on this transect in August and September, but were not recorded. It is also possible that seatrout that previously spawned in Martin County moved north to St. Lucie County due to the major declines in water quality and seagrass habitat in Martin County.

One exploratory transect was also made in Mosquito Lagoon with Dr. Gilmore, Scott Green and Frank Gidus on September 11, 2018 during the new moon phase to determine bioluminescent effects of seatrout spawning activity, and to determine if seatrout were spawning at sites isolated during Dr. Gilmore's 1999-2002 studies. The goal was to also determine if red drum spawning calls could be heard that had been mapped previously in Mosquito Lagoon. This transect was made from the southern end of "Whale's Tale" to the vicinity of "Porpoise Point", along with a stop in Haulover Canal. Some spotted seatrout were heard spawning during the survey, along with a spawning redfish in Haulover Canal.

Thanks to Dr. Gilmore and all the volunteers that participated in this study, this is the first time that anglers have been trained to locate and assess spotted seatrout spawning



Figure 1. Seatrout acoustic transect locations Brevard through Martin Counties.



sites in Florida waters using passive acoustic technologies. These results are promising for future angler monitoring and mapping of spotted seatrout (and other sound-producing species) spawning sites in Florida waters. Based on the results of this study, it is possible that once these techniques are learned by angling conservation groups, spawning sites could possibly be accurately mapped and protected in the future to ensure natural fishery hatchery production in the wild with negligible human subsidies.

The acoustic surveys will continue in 2019 during the full and new moon phases in August and September, since these months had the largest concentrations of the spawning seatrout in 2018 in the IRL. Dr. Gilmore

and CCA envision training more dedicated anglers from all IRL counties to assist with this study. If more anglers volunteer and get trained, it would be possible to begin the surveys as early as April or May in 2019. Once the 2019 surveys are completed, the goal is to tag spotted seatrout and use existing seatrout monitoring sites to instrument in 2020 and make these sites accessible on the internet to train anglers and monitor fisheries production from anywhere. As with any important study such as this, funding is a critical component in the overall success. If you would like to volunteer to help with the study, or donate to the tagging and monitoring efforts, please contact Frank Gidus at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org).



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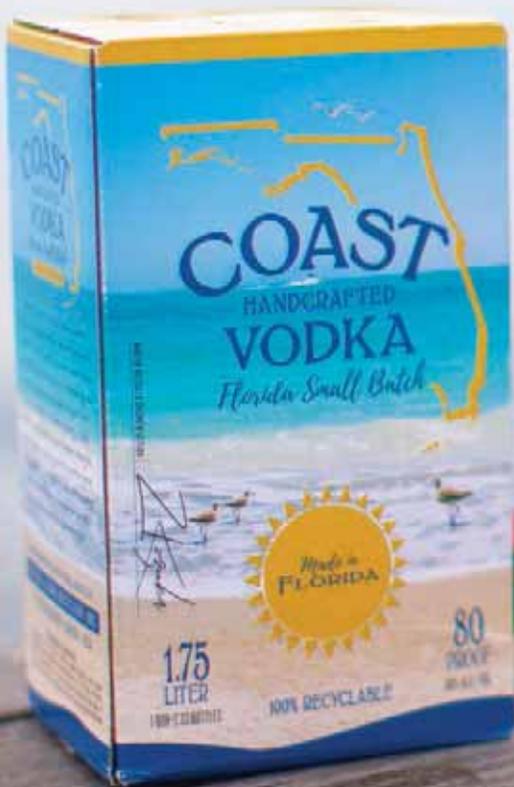


Perfect for diving, wading, and sun protection (SPF 50). Go to [CamoGirlUSA.com](http://CamoGirlUSA.com) to purchase these exclusive CCA leggings today. For every pair sold, 10% of the proceeds come back to CCA Florida!

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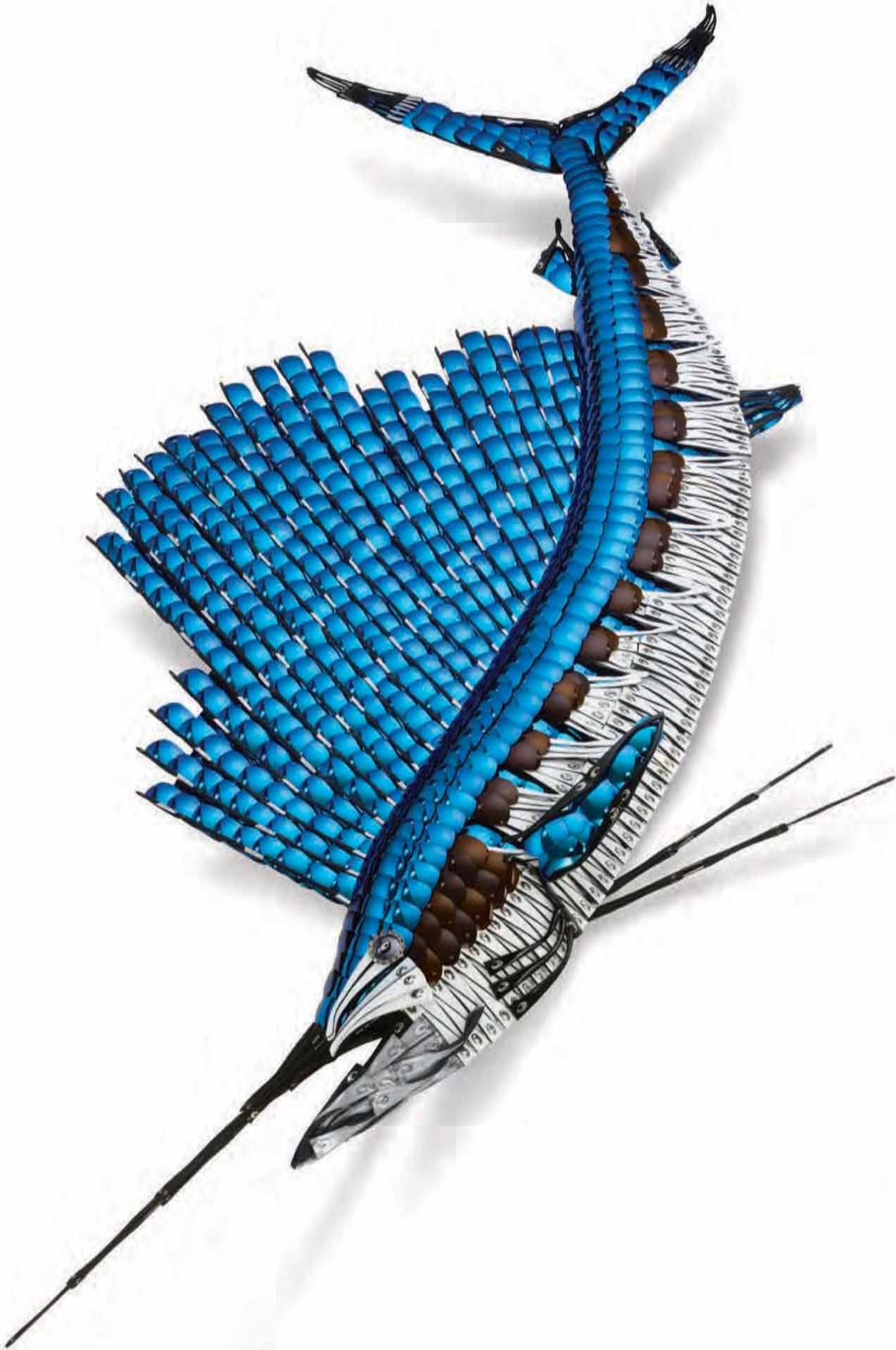


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*It's the science of stains; made simple.*

### SURFACTANT TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

## DIRT & GRIME



#### THE STAIN

Dirt, grime, gunk, muck. Fish blood, food, drinks. These are your surface stains.

#### THE SCIENCE

Most surface dirt will wash right off with boat soap and water. However, some gets ground in, especially on non-skid surfaces. That's where surfactants come in. Surfactant molecules fully surround the dirt molecules and lift them from the surface that you're cleaning. This allows them to be washed away with water. Chelating Agents are supercharged surfactants for specialized cleaning.

#### THE SOLUTION

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### ACID TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

## RUST & TANNIC STAINS



#### THE STAIN

Tree leaves, hull stains, rust stains, waterline stains, hard water stains, orange stains.

#### THE SCIENCE

Tannins are naturally produced in the decomposition of plant-based matter, and their signature orange-hued stains are dyeing your hull and fiberglass. Rust stains occur on the fiberglass around metal, where water leaches color from underneath the metal and deposits it on the surface. Removing these stains requires a chemical reaction with an acid.

#### THE SOLUTION

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### BLEACHING TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

## MOLD & MILDEW STAINS



#### THE STAIN

Black, brown, green, and even pink mold and mildew stains.

#### THE SCIENCE

Similar to grass stains, these stains are caused by organic material, and need something stronger than a surfactant alone to remove them. The oxygen in a bleaching agent attacks and breaks up these types of stains, and removes any discoloration.

#### THE SOLUTION

While most people believe that regular chlorine bleach is the answer, it also causes a lot of problems, such as breaking down fabrics and stitching and destroying gelcoats. Instead use Star brite Mildew Stain Remover—a buffered bleach formula—that attacks the stain without harming the surface.



### ABRASION TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

## SCUFF MARKS



#### THE STAIN

Black shoe marks, rub rail and bumper scuffs, marks left from dragging hoses and equipment.

#### THE SCIENCE

Scuff marks—or “transfer stains”—happen when material is transferred onto a surface and is mechanically bonded. Chemicals are rarely strong enough to remove these marks, since many times the material that has transferred is chemical-resistant (think of a rubber shoe). These abrasive marks require the same to remove them: abrasion.

#### THE SOLUTION

Star brite Ultimate Magic Sponge uses nano-sized scrubbers to grab hold and erase most marks easily. For your hull, use Premium Cleaner Wax to buff the stain away.



# Boat Cleaning 101

Cleaning the boat after a day on the water seems like a simple task. However, there is a right way and there is a wrong way. Here's what you need to know to get the best results.

## What Not to use (and Why)

Lots of folks say they don't need the fancy, expensive boat wash, reaching instead for the bottle of dishwashing detergent under the kitchen sink. The problem is twofold; dishwashing detergents are great at removing grease from pans but they will also strip off the wax or polish you spent hours applying. To make things worse, many of these soaps contain phosphates that can lead to algae blooms if they get into the waterways. They also require a huge amount of freshwater to rinse clean. Bleach is also often suggested as an all-surface cleaner, but as it can damage vinyl, burn skin or eyes and the runoff is lethal to sea life, we'd suggest you leave it in the laundry room. Star brite's wide line of biodegradable boat washes are formulated to clean boat surfaces safely without removing polish or

wax or creating undue amounts of suds. When cleaning the helm area, use boat wash and rinse carefully – the electronics may be waterproof but there's no point in testing that with a high-pressure water stream. Use Star brite Screen Cleaner to remove finger smudges.

For tough stains, toilet bowl cleaner or pool acid may seem like a great idea as they are very powerful. The problem is that they are created to clean porcelain or pool gunite, both of which are very different than fiberglass and gelcoat. These products can also be hazardous to users and should not be allowed to run off into waterways. Star brite Instant Hull Cleaner is formulated to clean fiberglass quickly, removing rust or waterline stains safely and easily and it is biodegradable.

## Use the right cleaner for each surface

To clean textured, non-skid decks, use a cleaner such as Star brite Non-Skid Deck Cleaner that gets into the grooves to lift dirt and fish blood. For other fiberglass

surfaces and vinyl seats and bolsters, use a boat wash. That same boat wash can also clean T-tops and bimini tops. Use Star brite Mildew Stain Remover on vinyl and decks as needed. It's also handy in the house or RV.

To protect fabric, apply Star brite Waterproofing after cleaning it; once a year will help keep it looking good while ensuring maximum water-repelling water action; avoid overspray onto plastic surfaces.

If the boat has bottom paint, leave it alone. It's not supposed to be pretty, lol.

Don't forget to flush the outboard engine and de-salt the trailer with Star brite Salt Off (it's also great for cleaning fishing and dive gear). Vinegar and other DIY concoctions are simply not as effective at removing salt and they do not provide the polymer barrier coating found in Salt Off.

Once you're done, apply a protective coat of one of Star brite's polymer polishes annually and use Boat Guard and Xtreme Protectant after each washing.

If you have any boat detailing questions, call Star brite's Tech Line at (800) 327-8583.



# event schedule

## APRIL

### **Hernando County Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, April 25**

This event will be held at the St. Anthony Catholic Church in Heffernan Hall and is guaranteed to be a blast! We will have a great meal and there will be an open bar! We know we now have your attention! For more information, please contact Zack Batley at (813) 943-8993.

### **Space Coast Chapter BBQ Friday, April 26**

The Space Coast Chapter welcomes you to our annual BBQ. Join us at a party for a cause! Come for the open bar, delicious BBQ, raw bar, raffles, auctions and fellowship. For additional information, please contact Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

### **Sarasota All Release Challenge + BBQ Friday & Saturday April 26-27**

The CCA Sarasota Chapter's Annual All Release Challenge and BBQ dinner presented by Rhodan Marine will take place April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The mandatory Captain's meeting will be at Mote Marine Aquarium on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Fishing starts Saturday morning and is followed by a BBQ dinner. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.

### **South Walton Kids Fishing Tournament Sunday, April 28**

Last year, we had 200 kids come out for our South Wal-

ton Kids Fishing Tournament at Grayton Beach! Each participant received a rod and reel combo, rod holder, tshirt, bait, and lunch! We witnessed many kids fishing for the first time and caught the fishing fever. Prizes are awarded for different age categories. **\*\*NEW for 2019\*\*** PRE REGISTRATION is required for this event. Go to [CCAFlorida.org](http://CCAFlorida.org) to register. For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

## MAY

### **Broward County Chapter Banquet & Auction Thursday, May 2**

The Broward County Chapter has been hard at work over the last year and successfully deployed two artificial reefs, so join us for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and Auction. We'll be back at Hugh's Culinary this year with an incredible evening planned. Join us at a party for a cause! Come for the two-hour open bar, delicious dinner, raffle and auction. For additional information, please contact Mike Lambrechts at (954) 830-0133 or Nick Pectol at (321) 271-7723.

### **Panama City Cocktails for a Cause Thursday, May 9**

Last October, Hurricane Michael struck the Panhandle of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane. The damage done to Panama City, Mexico Beach, Port St. Joe and surrounding areas was catastrophic. This area will take many years to rebuild. The coastline, bay, and beach side is full of debris. CCA Florida

wants to make a difference in these waterways over the next few years. We are planning a Cocktails for a Cause event where we will raise money to mitigate these cleanup efforts! Join us at Legendary Marine. RSVP online at [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org) on the Panama City Chapter page. For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

### **Big Bend Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, May 16**

The Big Bend Chapter welcomes you to our 2019 Banquet and Auction presented by Brady Squires, CFP, of Merrill Lynch! We will again be hosting this event in the University Center Club at Doak Campbell Stadium from 6 – 10 p.m. Your banquet ticket includes a one-year CCA membership, open bar and catered dinner. Don't miss out on our one-of-a-kind silent auction, raffle and live auction full of amazing vacation getaways, fishing gear, jewelry, and much more! For more information, please contact Amy Kuehnert at [akuehnert@ccaflorida.org](mailto:akuehnert@ccaflorida.org).

### **Homestead Chapter Banquet & Auction Thursday, May 16**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA Homestead Banquet and Auction is coming up quick and this year we'll be moving the event to the Champions Club in the Homestead-Miami Speedway! Join us at a party FOR THE FISH! Come for the open bar, delicious dinner, raffle and auction. For additional information, please contact Nick Pectol at (321) 271-7723.

### **Jacksonville Chapter BBQ Friday, May 24**

The Jacksonville Chapter welcomes you to our Annual BBQ. This year we will be in a great new venue, the Fishweir Brewery! Join us at a party for a cause! Come for the open bar, delicious BBQ, raffles, auctions and fellowship. For additional information, please contact Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

### **CCA Florida STAR Saturday, May 25 – Monday, September 2**

Join in for a summer filled with fishing and fun! CCA Florida STAR is a statewide, 101-day catch-photo-release competition for anglers of all ages. Entry is \$35 for current CCA members and current CCA Florida Youth members fish for free! Register for your opportunity to win in one of 17 inshore and offshore divisions with nearly \$500,000 in prizes and college scholarships. For additional information, please contact Leiza Fitzgerald at (844) 387-7827 or visit the website at [ccaflstar.com](http://ccaflstar.com).

## JUNE

### **Inter-Chapter Challenge Friday & Saturday, June 21 - 22**

The 2019 Annual CCA Florida Inter-Chapter Challenge (ICC) is scheduled for June 21-22, 2019 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 2019 event will again feature an inshore and offshore division as well as youth, fly and ladies divisions. Included in your entry fee are Texas Cattle Company dinners Friday and Saturday night, tournament T-shirts and a goody bag. Other events include the Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament and Black Jack Friday night, plus raffles and open bar all weekend! Please visit [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org) to download the complete rules and entry list. For more information, please contact Amy Kuehnert at [akuehnert@ccaflorida.org](mailto:akuehnert@ccaflorida.org).

## AUGUST

### Pasco County Chapter Banquet + Auction Friday, August 23

The 27<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

### Space Coast Chapter Banquet & Auction Thursday, September 5

Please make plans now to join us on September 5<sup>th</sup> for the 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Gainesville Banquet & Auction

Thursday, September 12

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Gainesville Banquet presented by Merrill Lynch will be at The Swamp's Touchdown Terrace! Tickets are going for just \$85 each and include a delicious dinner, CCA Membership, live auction, raffles, silent auction, and so much more! If you buy before July 27th, Corporate Sponsor Tables with gifts are only \$1,000 (regularly \$1,100). Get your spot before we sell out! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (352) 278-2708 or Mark Hurm at (352) 378-9422.

### Pinellas Chapter Banquet + Auction

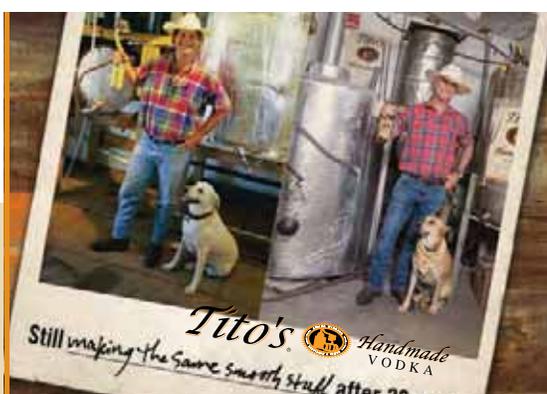
Thursday, September 12

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.

### South Palm Chapter Beach Banquet & Auction Thursday, September 19

Join your local CCA South Palm Chapter for their annual banquet and auction! The evening will feature an open bar, delicious dinner, raffles, silent auction and live auction. Saltwater Brewery will be donating the beer for the night and world-renowned artist, Peter Agardy, will be on hand signing prints.

(continued on page 42)



Still making the same smooth stuff after 20...  
**Tito's** Handmade VODKA

### TITO'S TOAST



#### INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 0.33 oz TEXAS WILDFLOWER HONEY
- 0.25 oz FRESHLY SQUEEZED LEMON JUICE
- 3 oz CHAMPAGNE OR SPARKLING WHITE WINE

#### INSTRUCTIONS

COMBINE TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA, HONEY, AND LEMON JUICE IN A SHAKER WITH ICE. SHAKE, AND STRAIN INTO CHAMPAGNE FLUTE. TOP WITH A SPLASH OF CHAMPAGNE.

#### GARNISH

LEMON TWIST OR WHEEL AND A STRAWBERRY

### TITO'S CLASSIC COSMO



#### INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 1 oz TRIPLE SEC
- 0.75 oz FRESHLY SQUEEZED LIME JUICE
- SPLASH OF CRANBERRY JUICE

#### INSTRUCTIONS

COMBINE ALL INGREDIENTS IN A COCKTAIL SHAKER WITH ICE. SHAKE WELL, AND STRAIN INTO A CHILLED MARTINI GLASS.

#### GARNISH

LIME WEDGE OR WHEEL

# event schedule

## **Sarasota Banquet Friday, September 27**

This is a great event that you won't want to miss, so please reserve your tickets early! Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Banquet is presented by Capstan Financial Consulting Group and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. Tickets are just \$110 per person or \$200 per couple and include a two hour open bar, catered dinner and CCA membership. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674.

## **OCTOBER**

### **Orlando Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, October 3**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCA Orlando Banquet presented by Winter Park Construction is the Sportsman's Ball of Central Florida. Hosted at the Winter Park Community Center, the banquet is black tie quality without the black tie and uncomfortable clothes. The event will be catered by Arthur's Catering and Events including delicious appetizers, gourmet meal and open bar all night long featuring Tito's Handmade vodka and Papa's Pilar Rum! Tell your friends and come support your Orlando Chapter. Seating is limited, so get your tickets or Corporate table now! For additional information, please contact Dan Askin at (407) 401-7671.

### **Forgotten Coast Chapter Banquet + Auction**

#### **Thursday, October 10**

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

the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe. 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 (352) 278-2708.

### **Treasure Coast Chapter BBQ Friday, October 11**

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 County Chapter Banquet & Auction Thursday, October 17**

Join your local CCA Dade Chapter for their annual banquet and auction being held at a new great venue - Miami Marriott Dadeland! The evening will feature an open bar, delicious dinner, raffles, silent auction and live auction so make plans now!

### **Peace River Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, October 17**

Join CCA Florida in celebrating the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace River Banquet! This year's event will be held at the Turner Agri-Civic Center in Arcadia. If you live anywhere near this part of the state please come on out for a great event! Tickets are just \$85 per person and include a great steak from our friends at Texas Cattle Co. This is one of CCA Florida's newest chapters and their banquet is quickly becoming one of our larger events.

Please be sure to reserve your tickets early if you plan on attending this year! For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.

### **STAR Awards Ceremony + Banquet Saturday, October 19**

Come help celebrate with nearly 100 winners who will be awarded their share of \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships. Enjoy live entertainment, open bar, dinner from Texas Cattle Company, raffles and silent and live auctions with great trips, fishing related items and more. Join us Saturday, October 19 from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Melbourne Auditorium in Melbourne, FL. For more information, contact Leiza Fitzgerald at (844) 387-7827.

### **Pensacola Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, October 24**

This year's CCA Pensacola Banquet presented by Budlight is going to be our best yet! Tables seat eight and come with eight CCA memberships, open bar, dinner, table gifts, framed art by our featured artist, a full page program ad and priority seating. What are you waiting for? For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (352) 278-2708 or Mimi Bass at (850) 516-4966.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Jacksonville Chapter Banquet & Auction Thursday, November 7**

Don't miss out on this year's Jacksonville Banquet presented by Merrill Lynch at the beautiful, timeless Garden Club of Jacksonville located downtown on the water's

edge! There will be great raffles and auction items, as well as steak dinner and open bar! Single tickets start at just \$85 and include CCA membership! For additional information, please contact Pat Orman at (904) 728-8793.

### **North Palm Beach Chapter Banquet & Auction Thursday, November 7**

Join your local CCA North Palm Beach Chapter for their annual banquet and auction being held at a new great venue - The Pelican Club! The evening will feature an open bar, delicious dinner, raffles, silent auction and live auction so make plans now!

### **Clermont Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, November 14**

Please join us for this fifth time event in the heart of Clermont. Due to last year's success we have had to find a larger venue and we're now excited to be hosting our event at the Clermont Arts and Recreation Center! The fun starts at 6 p.m. with an open bar followed by a catered dinner by our good friends at Texas Cattle Company. Tickets are limited and will include open bar, steak dinner, and a one year CCA membership. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.

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