

SUMMER 2019

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

# SEA WATCH

PRESENTED BY **CONTENDER**

**FL Anglers are  
Winning Big in STAR  
2019 Habitat Update**

**Stock Enhancements:  
Redfish + Snook**





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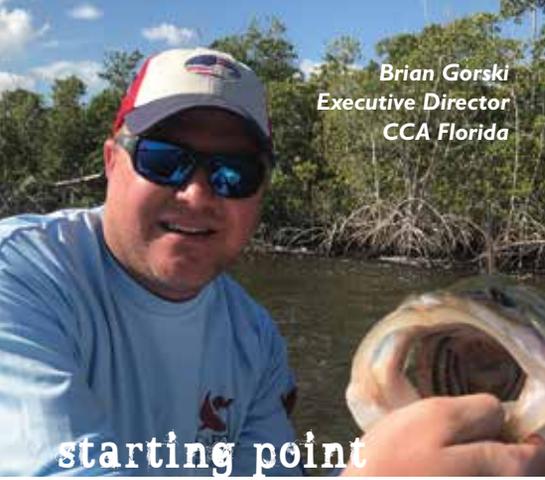
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CCA Florida

starting point

## Dedicated

As an organization, CCA Florida has grown over the years – in both our membership and our focus. We’ve always been dedicated to supporting recreational anglers and the fisheries that we all love, and we need to have flourishing habitats and healthy waters to do so. Over the years, it’s become much more clear that you can’t have one without the other.

CCA Florida has taken a more proactive role in habitat and environmental restoration over the last five years, which includes everything from clam and oyster restorations, shoreline stabilizations, seagrass restorations, creation of inshore and offshore artificial reefs, coastal clean-ups, research projects and so much more. All of these projects positively affect water quality, and we’ll continue to support these efforts with our legislative work and partnerships to ensure we have a seat at the table and a voice in the discussion.

We’re committed to continuing these efforts in 2019 and beyond, and we need your help. Throughout this edition of Sea Watch, you’ll read about many of the habitat projects underway or planned for the future. As a membership-driven nonprofit, it takes our members to advance these initiatives and create more opportunities to continue this work.

Join us in these efforts to enhance and conserve our marine resources in Florida. Your engagement can be as simple as a ‘follow’ or a ‘like’ on social media sites, or a share of our communication or emails. Of course, we’d always love to have you engaged at events such as attending public hearings or participating in volunteer opportunities. But we’ll take your involvement however it works best for you. Visit [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org) today for the latest news, events and opportunities to connect with us, or email us at [info@ccaflorida.org](mailto:info@ccaflorida.org).

Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

STARTING POINT



## Take the Habitat Pledge!

JD Dickenson  
Chairman

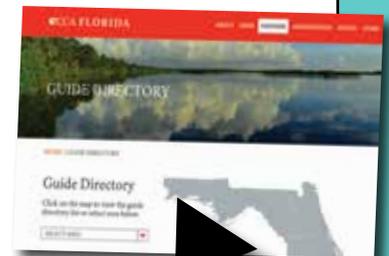
Stated simply, over the last few generations, the word about Florida has gotten out. People from all over continue to come to enjoy our state’s lifestyle and unique marine resources. In order to make room for that growth, we have altered Florida’s coastlines and natural plumbing and filtration systems, which has largely been to the detriment of our coastlines. It is exactly this historically unparalleled growth that has threatened the very nature of Florida herself. The end result has been long term, large-scale habitat and water quality degradation. Thus, the marine conservation battlegrounds facing anglers have moved over the years and we face as many conservation challenges now as we ever have before.

Years ago, CCA Florida leadership recognized that if we are going to carry forward the organization’s mission to conserve and protect Florida’s marine resources, habitat and water quality issues would be paramount. As anyone who has been involved in this fight knows, these issues are as diverse, complex and varied as Florida’s coastlines themselves. CCA has spent the greater part of the last decade putting mangroves, seagrasses and oysters, natural filtration systems that create cleaner water, back in Florida waters. The ecological value of Florida’s coastal habitat is obvious to all of us that spend time on the water. But we have also spoken about the sheer economic value of these resources. According to a 2017 report published by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), Florida’s estimated 2.2 million acres of seagrasses provide a \$20 billion dollar economic value to the state. And that’s just seagrass! Imagine the combined value of oysters, mangroves and other components of living shorelines in Florida.

*(continued on page 37)*

## 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.





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## PROUD CONSERVATION PARTNER OF



Along with statewide members, partnerships are the lifeblood of CCA, helping to support habitat and environmental restoration efforts and lead support of industry issues affecting recreational anglers.



# RHODAN MARINE SYSTEMS EXPANDS COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING FLORIDA'S FISHING FUTURE

**Florida-based manufacturer demonstrates dedication to marine fisheries restoration with expanded statewide partnership with CCA Florida.**

In 2019, Rhodan Marine Systems stepped up to expand its partnership with CCA Florida to a \$100,000 commitment, and it's helping to lead amazing restoration work in the state. As the *Official Trolling Motor of CCA Florida*, Rhodan Marine Systems has partnered with the organization since 2016, growing their support annually and stepped up to the Marlin level sponsorship this year. The \$100,000 commitment will directly benefit habitat initiatives and other projects throughout the state, including offshore

and nearshore reef projects, shoreline stabilizations, stock enhancements and more.

The company's commitment extends beyond a financial donation, and leaders have demonstrated their commitment to conservation. Most recently, Rhodan President Lindsay Ambler and Vice President Kyle Hagen participated alongside CCA Florida in the organization's red tide recovery restocking initiatives. These efforts have included the release of over 34,000 redfish and snook on Florida's west coast following red tide events.

The Sarasota-based manufacturer of HD GPS guided trolling motors first partnered with CCA Florida in 2016 and provided over \$25,000 annually to the organization, including product and financial support. The expanded partnership increases the annual donation to over \$100,000 to support ongoing efforts.

"We are extremely grateful to our partners, including the team at Rhodan, for their ongoing support that is so critical to our efforts," stated CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski. "Rhodan has been a tremendous partner, and we're honored to work with their leadership team to expand our outreach efforts as well as provide our members with opportunities to own their amazing products."

For information on how these partnerships support marine conservation, visit [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org). For the latest from Rhodan, visit [rhodanmarine.com](http://rhodanmarine.com).



# FLOGROWN AND CCA FLORIDA PARTNER TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION

This year, among others, an existing CCA Florida partner has stepped up to the plate to expand their support, and a new partnership was created with a leading lifestyle brand to support local efforts.

## Florida-based lifestyle brand joins forces with CCA Florida to enhance Florida's marine resources.

CCA Florida is excited to share its newest partnership with FloGrown, a Florida-based lifestyle brand. FloGrown has committed to a \$25,000 annual partnership which will specifically support the habitat and environmental restoration efforts and lead support of industry issues affecting recreational anglers.

Founded in 2011, FloGrown has evolved into a premier brand for proud Floridians to demonstrate their love for the state and lifestyle, and connects with CCA Florida members who fish, hunt, boat and enjoy the outdoors. This partnership marks the

brand's largest nonprofit agreement and company leaders have expressed their excitement to expand the brand's reach.

"The partnership with FloGrown is natural, as both of our organizations connect with Floridians who care about our marine resources and their sustainability for tomorrow," stated CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski. "With the support of FloGrown and our partners, we're able to enhance our habitat and environmental restoration efforts, which benefit anyone who enjoy the outdoors."

The partnership will directly benefit habitat initiatives and other projects throughout the state. These include offshore and nearshore reef projects, shoreline stabilizations, stock enhancements and more. Exclusive FloGrown and CCA Florida co-branded merchandise is available for purchase, so you can show your Florida pride! Visit FloGrown.com.



**"We are extremely excited to have partnered with CCA Florida and are looking forward to working closely together with its membership in order to raise more funds for conservation work around our great state."**  
—Jesse Welch, Founder

**"The CCA plays an important role in managing and conserving our game fish for future generations. We are proud to have partnered with CCA and hope to help make a difference with our fish resources."**  
—Steve Stock, Sales Manager

# Governor DeSantis Announces Full Funding Now in Place for Critical Tamiami Trail Project

In early June, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that full funding has been secured to complete the project to elevate the Tamiami Trail. The U.S. Department of Transportation has matched the state of Florida's \$40 million for the Tamiami Trail by awarding an additional \$60 million to fully fund and allow for the completion of the Tamiami Trail Next



Photo credit: Governor's press office

Steps Phase II project, which is critical to the Governor's plan to preserve the environment.

Expediting key Everglades projects, including the Tamiami Trail, is part of Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 19-12. Governor DeSantis, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection thanked President Donald Trump, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Florida delegation for their efforts.

"Expediting the Tamiami Trail project is a key component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Elevating the trail will allow for an additional 75 to 80 billion gallons of water a day to flow south into the Everglades and Florida Bay," said Governor DeSantis. "I thank President Trump and his administration, including Secretary Elaine Chao, for yet again proving their dedication to the people of Florida as we work to restore our water quality and protect our environment."

"I have continuously worked to ensure that Everglades Restoration remains a top priority in Congress. The Tamiami Trail project is just one component of that restoration plan, and once completed will provide increased water flows south of the trail," said Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart. "As then Chairman of the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I included \$300 million for the National Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) program in the Fiscal Year 2018 bill. I recognized the critical need for timely completion of the Tamiami

Trail Project and ensured this funding became law. With this \$60 million federal grant, the project can complete its second phase, leading to an additional 6.5 miles of elevated bridging. I thank and commend Secretary Elaine Chao for her unceasing commitment to Florida, and for all she has done for the Tamiami Trail project. I would also like

to commend Superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, Pedro Ramos for his dedication to the Everglades and to our community. I look forward to this project's completion and remain a steadfast advocate for the preservation and continued restoration of the Everglades."

"Thank you, President Trump and U.S. DOT Secretary Elaine Chao for recognizing the importance of this project to Florida's special eco-system," said FDOT Secretary Kevin J. Thibault. "We are also appreciative for all the hard work of our Congressional Delegation in securing this funding. Florida is grateful for the partnership with our federal partners."

"This announcement today is great news for Everglades Restoration and water quality in Florida," said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. "With the Governor's leadership and federal partnership, we will be able to complete critical water projects like the Tamiami Trail Bridge Project, and continue expediting our efforts to do more for Florida's environment now."

This year Governor DeSantis proposed, and the Florida Legislature approved, \$40 million in the FDOT work program as part of the state's contribution to the project. Everglades restoration is incumbent on federal-state partnership. For thirty years, raising the Tamiami Trail has been a restoration priority. By working together, the Florida Department of Transportation and the National Park Service now have the funding to restore water flow south to the Everglades.



# Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints Two to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

In July, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointments of Steven Hudson and Rodney Barreto to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

"I am pleased to appoint Steven Hudson and Rodney Barreto to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to help advance our state's conservation mission and help preserve Florida's natural resources for the enjoyment of all," said Governor DeSantis. "These individuals have a proven track record of public service and professional experience working to protect Florida's environment and wildlife."

"Governor DeSantis continues to demonstrate his commitment to protecting our environment and wildlife through the appointment of strong leaders such as Rodney Barreto and Steven Hudson to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission," said CEO of the Everglades Foundation Eric Eikenberg. "Both Barreto and Hudson are proven leaders in their own right who have demonstrated a care, depth and knowledge for the preservation of wildlife and habitat conservation, including the Everglades, to the benefit of future generations to come."

## Steven Hudson

Hudson, of Fort Lauderdale, is the president and chief executive officer of Hudson Capital Group. He is also a board member and former chairman

of the Humane Society of Broward County and a founding board member of the Marine Research Hub, an alliance of marine research universities and community supporters headquartered in South Florida. Hudson owns Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee, Florida, a nearly 5,000-acre preservation dedicated to sporting clays, as well as quail, turkey and pheasant hunting. He earned his bachelor's degree in business economics from Southern Methodist University. Hudson is appointed to the remaining three years of a term.

## Rodney Barreto

Barreto, of Coral Gables, is the president and chief executive officer of Barreto Group. He served on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for 10 years under Governor Bush and Governor Crist. He is a member of the Guy Harvey Foundation Board, the Bonefish Tarpon Trust and the Coastal Conservation Association. Barreto received his bachelor's degree in professional studies from Barry University. Barreto is appointed to a five-year term.

*These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate. For more information, visit the Governor's website.*



Steven Hudson



Rodney Barreto

## angler's notes

SAFMC

Catch



Measure



Record



Release



Release

## SAFMC LAUNCHES ITS FIRST CITIZEN SCIENCE PILOT PROJECT

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has started its first citizen science pilot project, SAFMC Scamp Release. This project allows fishermen to use the mobile app, SAFMC Release, to provide information on released scamp grouper. The SAFMC Release app provides an easy-to-use platform for fishermen to collect data on scamp that are released, including information on length, depth, and location of released scamp, as well as release treatment and the condition of the fish when released. Information on released fish is a research priority identified by the Council and an important data component for stock assessments. If you're interested in joining the project or just hearing more about it, contact Julia Byrd at [Julia.byrd@safmc.net](mailto:Julia.byrd@safmc.net) or 843-302-8439 or visit the SAFMC Scamp Release web page.



## 2019 Regional Fishery Management Council Appointees Show Continued Progress for Recreational Fishing and Boating Community

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross recently announced the 2019 Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC) appointments. The strong showing from this year's class of appointments makes it clear that recreational fishing and boating remain key priorities for the Trump Administration.

The appointments of Scott Lenox, Tim Griner, Dr. Tom Frazer, Troy Williamson, Peter Hassemer, Marc Gorelnik, Cora Campbell, and Nicole Kimball all affirm that the Administration remains focused on selecting RFMC appointees who have a proven ability to balance all factors in complicated fishery management decisions.

The decisions made by RFMC members signifi-



cantly impact the nation's 10 million saltwater recreational fishermen, who support 472,000 jobs and generate \$68 billion in annual sales impacts according to NOAA Fisheries. The appointees chosen for this year's class continue a trend of the Department of Commerce balancing these important economic considerations while also prioritizing resource conservation first and foremost.

"These appointments are an important step forward for America's recreational fishing and boating community, and we're grateful that the Department of Commerce continues to move in the right direction on this issue," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center

for Sportfishing Policy. "We appreciate the continued leadership of President Trump and Commerce Secretary Ross on this issue as they ensure that America's public resources remain a part of our national heritage current and future anglers alike can enjoy."

"The Regional Fishery Management Councils are where the rubber meets the road for federal marine fisheries management, so it's critically important that the recreational fishing community be well represented," said Mike Leonard, vice president of Government Affairs for the American Sportfishing Association. "While the overall balance of the Councils still skews toward commercial fishing despite the two sectors being on par with each other economically, we appreciate Secretary Ross making continued progress in addressing this historic inequity."

"Recreational boating and fishing is a cherished pastime for millions of Americans and generates significant economic activity for our country each year," said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "We applaud the Administration for providing anglers with appropriate representation on Regional Fishery Management Councils and look forward to working with the Councils to advance our community's priorities."

"The Regional Fishery Management Councils can only be effective, as Congress intended under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, if they accurately reflect the interests of the region being managed," said Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation President Jeff Crane. "We very much appreciate Secretary Wilbur Ross for selecting council members who are well suited to represent both the recreational and commercial fisheries of their respective states."

"We appreciate the Secretary's ongoing efforts to establish a more balanced representation for recreational angling throughout the Council system," said

*(continued on page 34)*

# RHODAN MARINE SYSTEMS: OFFSHORE ANCHORING SPECIALISTS



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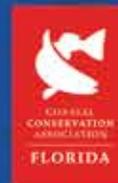
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## Risky Bet

### The Gulf Council takes a gamble on the most unaccountable player in the Gulf red snapper fishery.

With management of the red snapper private angling sector now officially in the hands of the Gulf states, it would be tempting to take a step back from this ever-contentious fishery and take a deep breath. But, given the discussions at the last Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting in Biloxi, that would be a mistake. While the significance of the management shift can't be overstated, it is important for anglers to remember that federal managers are still inclined to do the bidding of commercial interests and that means there are still reasons to be concerned about the overall health of Gulf red snapper in the long term.

In all the acrimony over the years between commercial fishermen and recreational anglers who target red snapper, it is often overlooked that an almost invisible third party held the real key to the recovery of this prized sport fish. Despite shrinking seasons and tighter bag limits, no management action of any kind was having a positive impact on red snapper until the hurricane season of 2005. That year, the Gulf was ravaged by storms, including Katrina and Rita, which ultimately reduced shrimping effort by more than 80 percent due to the destruction of most of the Gulf shrimp fleet. At roughly the same time, CCA had filed a lawsuit seeking to force NOAA to acknowledge the massive impact of shrimp trawl bycatch of juvenile red snapper, and ultimately prevailed. That victory resulted in a federal judge's order to NOAA to reduce mortality of juvenile red snapper in shrimp trawls by 74 percent. By judge or nature, the shrimp industry was finally identified as a significant harvester of red snapper and was forced to shoulder its share of the red snapper recovery.

With cheap shrimp imports flooding the U.S. and burdened by high fuel costs, the Gulf shrimp industry was slow to recover and the red snapper population started to boom. The steep upward trend in the snapper population launched right around 2006 and has been steadily climbing ever since. Harvest levels for both the commercial and recreational sectors have expanded significantly since then, although fundamental shortcomings in federal management have prevented anglers from taking full advantage of it. And all the while, reductions in shrimp trawl bycatch of juvenile red snap-



per have stayed well within the parameters set by the CCA lawsuit.

However, language in the judge's ruling in 2006 allowed the bycatch reductions to be rolled back as the red snapper population recovered and now the shrimp industry is working to push their harvest increases right to the limit. Led by a council member from Mississippi whose family business is shrimping, the Council approved a rollback of the bycatch reductions at its last meeting to just 60 percent, down from the original 74 percent. And it could be rolled back even further.

The Council seems content to chip at the underpinnings of the red snapper population and hope for the best. Advice from scientific staff suggests that there will likely be no impact from more dead juvenile red snapper in shrimp trawls despite an *expected increase in maximum additional effort of 5,797 days fished* as a result of the rollback. They may be right, but there is absolutely no certainty.

At a time when the Council's primary buzz word is "Accountability," it is entirely unclear how managers plan to keep the shrimp industry accountable. Whereas both the commercial and recreational sectors have hard poundage annual catch limits of red snapper and are not allowed to exceed those limits without paybacks the following year, the shrimp industry has no such hard limit. Furthermore, a minuscule fraction of the industry's trips have observer coverage, so managers really have no idea how much dead bycatch is going over the side. Without an annual catch limit or any way to verify what is being killed in the nets, the shrimp industry is perhaps the most unaccountable player in the entire Gulf red snapper fishery and it has just been cleared to ramp up effort.

All that is really known is that the one management action that can be directly tied to the remarkable recovery of Gulf red snapper is being eroded, and the Gulf Council is apparently willing to gamble that it won't have unforeseen (yet entirely predictable) consequences. Since managers are flying blind with regard to when the shrimp industry may cross the line and kill so many juvenile red snapper that it crashes the stock, the first signs of a problem will likely once again be the subject of intense acrimony and finger-pointing between commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. That is especially likely to be the case now that the commercial sector is managed by NOAA and

*(continued on page 37)*

# CCA Position on East Coast Conservation Zone

The Highly Migratory Species department within NOAA is looking at data collection in many longline closed areas, one being the area off Florida's East Coast. This area was closed to longline fisherman and has since become a spectacular swordfish and sailfish playground. Nationally, CCA responded.

Coastal Conservation Association urges NOAA Fisheries and the Office of Highly Migratory Species to be extremely cautious when evaluating these conservation zones and determining whether to maintain them, modify them or eliminate them. The initial decisions to close these areas to certain gear were due to the intense, indiscriminate and destructive nature of the gear. The results, particularly in the East Florida Coast Pelagic Longline Closed Area, are proof that some commercial gear is simply too destructive to be loosed in our oceans. There is now a robust recreational swordfish fishery off the east coast of Florida that has become an economic engine for the state. If we have learned anything from that particular gear restriction it is that traditional longline gear clearly extracts too high a price on our marine resources and its use should be phased out entirely. Cleaner gear, such as tended buoy gear, is a ready commercial alternative that is likely to avoid much of

the damage caused by longline gear and that is a fact that doesn't need more evaluation.

It is a worthy goal to seek new information to make the most informed decisions possible, but two recent exempted fishing permits sought to open the East Florida Coast (EFC) Closed Area to longlines. As such, the angling community has become highly suspicious of proposals that on the surface seek to collect better data but in reality are thinly veiled efforts to reopen those areas to indiscriminate commercial gear. The process to review the conservation zones should be as open and inclusive as possible, with opportunity for the public to provide input to managers at multiple stages. States adjacent to the areas under consideration should be fully consulted and integrated into the decision-making process. By no means should the process be streamlined or internalized so that just one agency or office has the responsibility for determining future management of a fishery. Our country is rife with examples of spectacular failure that occur when management entities charged with both promoting and regulating an activity hold all authority and decisions are made in backrooms.

Finally, since many of these conservation areas have been in place for relatively long

periods of time, analysis and data-gathering should go beyond the efficacy of certain gear types or whether the area has served its purpose. The agency has an opportunity to compare socio-economic data from before and after creation of the zones and analyze the impact of healthier, more accessible fisheries to the public. The quest for better data must surely include a modern determination of the highest and best use of these fisheries, and a thorough economic analysis of where the true value lies going forward.

NOAA Fisheries has a unique opportunity to evaluate areas that were identified as vital for healthy fisheries and manage populations there that are most likely in far better shape than when the areas were created. It would be a complete travesty to re-introduce commercial gear types that clearly caused the problems in the first place back into those areas. We applaud the agency's effort to collect better data, if this is truly an effort to include the public in making the most informed, thoughtful decisions possible. We implore everyone involved to look at all possible factors, consider the present and future potential of those areas, and approach this as an opportunity to build a better future rather than a return to a failed past.



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# South Walton Kids Fishing Tournament

Throughout the year, CCA Florida hosts youth fishing tournaments and clinics in different regions of the state. We aim to foster excitement for the outdoors, spending time on the water, and a lot of times, we get to see kids catch their first fish. For us, planting that seed of excitement for fishing and enjoying the outdoors is what it is all about!

In April, the CCA South Walton chapter held the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Tournament. Over 160 kids came out and received a rod and reel combo from Fish Florida, a beach rod holder, bait and tackle, t-shirt and lunch! Medals and awards were given to 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place in each age division. The weather was a gorgeous 80 degrees and sunny on Grayton Beach and this was the best year of fishing yet. Several pompano and whiting were weighed-in in each category!

"This is one of my favorite events of the year," said Amanda Krpan, CCA Florida Regional Director. "To see 160 fishing poles out on the beach, kids running around laughing and encouraging each other and parents helping each other out, it is all so great to see!" The event is all about getting off the couch and enjoying the outdoors! We look forward to making our 15<sup>th</sup> year even bigger and better!

# Cocktails for a Cause



Back in May, CCA Florida held a silent auction fundraiser at Legendary Marine Panama City Beach to benefit the Panama City community. Over 65 engaged guests attended the event and raised \$12,000 that will go back into the community through local habitat projects.

A special division was created in the recent CCA Florida Trash Tournament just for Panama City and Panama City Beach residents to help promote participation to clean the coastlines in the area. Another coastal clean-up will be organized in the fall, weather permitting, on a date to be determined.



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Thanks to the volunteers and members of the Treasure Coast Chapter for helping to remove trash and debris from Earman Island during the 12th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup!

Three additional islands were also cleaned during the event in late July.

## The 12th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup



## Tortuga Music Festival

We had an incredible time at the Tortuga Music Festival, educating the public about marine conservation in April!

Live Nation and RockThe Ocean puts on the fantastic three-day country music festival in Fort Lauderdale every April, and CCA Florida was honored to be one of 30 top conservation groups from across the country invited to join the Conservation Village in the heart of the festival grounds. Festival goers participated in a variety of activities and learn how they can #RockTheOcean.

CCA Florida engaged thousands through an interactive fishing game, live juvenile redfish, giveaways and more! Over one thousand attendees stopped in and learned about the CCA Florida mission and the good work we do around the state.





2019 Inter-Chapter Challenge:  
Congratulations to all of the winners!



This summer, members from across the state joined together for the 16th Annual CCA Florida Inter-Chapter Challenge (ICC) to share ideas, compare chapter initiatives and enjoy a day on the water. The family-friendly event is an all-release tournament and includes inshore and offshore divisions. This year's event welcomed 145 anglers and took place June 22nd at the River Palm Cottages in Jensen Beach, Florida.

The 2020 event will again take place in Jensen Beach at River Palm, on June 12th and 13th. For more information, visit our Facebook page or [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org).

# STAINS 101

## THE SCIENCE OF STAINS

### MADE SIMPLE

There are four basic types of stains on your boat, and each is removed using a different technology. Let *Stains 101* be your guide to understanding the science of stains. Discover how to properly identify and remove each of the four basic stains.

*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

Star brite Boat Wash will definitely remove most surface dirt. For tough grime and gunk, use a cleaner/degreaser, such as Star brite Xtreme Clean or choose a surfactant based on the surface: Non-Skid Deck Cleaner for non-skid, Vinyl Cleaner for vinyl, etc...



#### 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

Star brite Instant Hull Cleaner contains a modified oxalic acid that safely neutralizes tannins and rust. There's much more science behind it but trust us on this one, simply spray or wipe on and watch the stain disappear.



#### 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.



SW



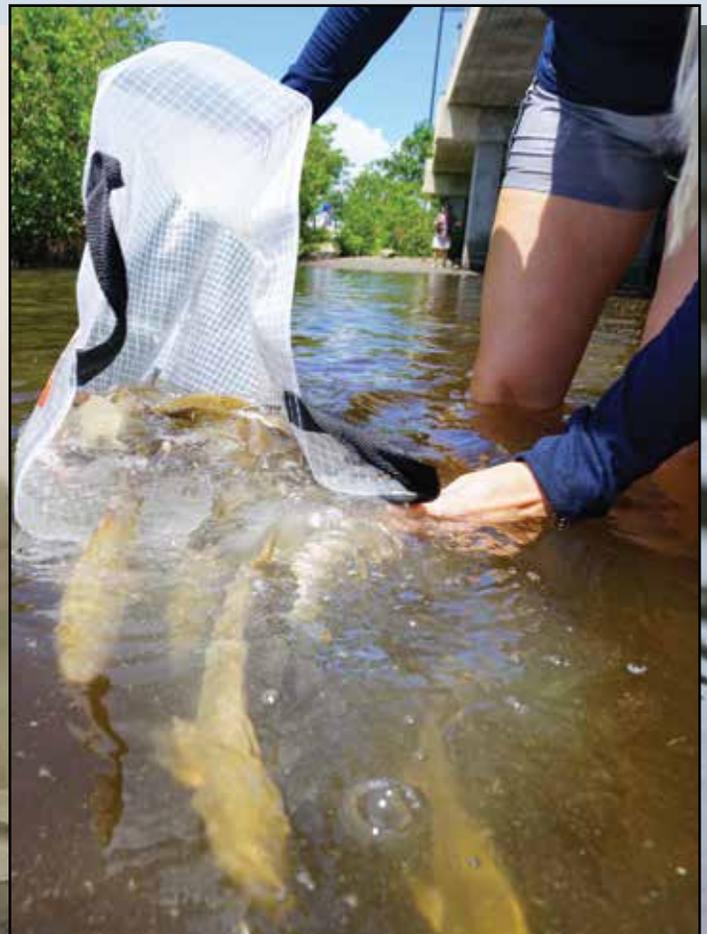
# Cca Florida Leads Efforts To Rebuild Iconic Redfish And Snook Populations

Following devastating red tide events in southwest Florida in 2017 and 2018, CCA Florida stepped up to the plate to lead recovery efforts of several of Florida's most iconic fisheries, including redfish and snook. Through partnerships with the Duke Energy Mariculture Center, FWC and Mote Marine Laboratory, we supported the raising and releasing of tens of thousands of hatchery-reared redfish and snook, with many released in southwest Florida, beginning this summer.

Along with Duke Energy and the FWC, we have released over 34,000 juvenile and adult redfish this year – including 10,000 in August in Port Charlotte – all hatchery-reared and donated by the Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River, into Florida waters hardest hit by red tide.

The snook initiative included the release of 5,100 juvenile snook, spawned in October 2018 at Mote's Aquaculture Park in Sarasota. Releases took place in May and June into Ainger Creek and Tippecanoe Environmental Park in Charlotte County. The \$220,000 initiative was funded through the renewed Adopt-A-Snook program, giving donors the ability to follow their adopted snook's progress and growth with PIT identification and tracking.

Working with our partners, we hope to conduct similar releases in the future, including expanded areas and species. Anglers can become engaged by joining CCA Florida at [JoinCCA.org](http://JoinCCA.org). Or visit us on our Facebook page.





# CCA FLORIDA WRAPS UP ANNUAL 101-DAY FISHING COMPETITION

CCA Florida STAR, presented by Yamaha, officially wrapped on Monday, September 2nd and CCA Florida has announced over 100 winners in the 101-day, family-friendly fishing competition. CCA Florida launched STAR in 2015 and has since awarded over \$1.2 million in prizes and scholarships to anglers of all ages and skill levels from Florida and beyond in the conservation-focused catch-and-photo event.

As the organization's largest STAR event to date, with over 6,200 registered anglers, the 2019 event will officially conclude with CCA Florida and partners awarding over \$400,000 in prizes and scholarships to anglers from across the state. The upcoming awards banquet presented by Visit Space Coast is Saturday, October 19th at The Melbourne Auditorium in Melbourne, Florida.

Divisions included the iHeart Radio STAR Signature Tagged Redfish Division, which offered a brand-new GMC Sierra from Conley Buick GMC of Bradenton and new boat packages from Contender Boats, Pathfinder Boats, Hewes Boats, Relentless Boats and Carolina Skiff. In this division, CCA will award three anglers with new boats from Contender and Pathfinder, both powered with Yamaha Outboards, and a new GMC Sierra from Conley Buick GMC. In addition, 98 anglers will be awarded prizes from the 16 other divisions including additional boat, motor and trailer packages, electronics, fishing gear and more.

The awards banquet is open to the public and will include dinner, open bar, raffle, live and silent auctions and live entertainment from Kevin MaC. Tickets are \$55 for adults and \$25 for youth attendees with each guest receiving a goodie bag that includes t-shirt and Realtree Fishing tumbler courtesy of Boaters Exchange. Additional information and purchase of tickets can be found on the STAR website, at [ccaflstar.com](http://ccaflstar.com).

Registration for the 2020 STAR competition is now open! For more information on STAR, visit our Facebook page or [ccaflstar.com](http://ccaflstar.com). Check out the full winner list!

## **iHEART RADIO TAGGED REDFISH DIVISION:**

*1st Tagged Redfish:* GMC Sierra Pick-up Truck, Conley Buick GMC of Bradenton: Clifford Herring, Hudson, FL

*2nd Tagged Redfish:* Pathfinder 2200TRS, 150hp Yamaha, Humminbird Helix & Minn Kota Trolling Motor: Bill Goodson, Englewood, FL

*3rd Tagged Redfish:* Contender 24, 250hp Yamaha & Rolls Axle Trailer: Andrew Montgomery, Port Charlotte, FL

## **SALT MARSH SKIFF BY ANKONA BOATS - OPEN INSHORE DIVISIONS:**

### **Stumpnocker Boats Spotted Trout Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Stumpnocker 17ft tiller, 40hp Yamaha & Continental Trailer: George Peters, Apopka, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* 8' Power Pole Pro Series II Shallow Water Anchor: Robert Day, Williston, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* Power Tech Propeller gift certificate \$750: Cathy Slate, Vero Beach, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Bull Bay Rod & Florida Fishing Products Reel with Luna Sea Cush it: Johnny Gilland, Homosassa, FL

*5th Prize Drawing:* Costa Sunglasses with Throwraft PFD: Michael Friedman, Land O Lakes, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Clenzoil Marine Lubricant \$150 prize package: Josh Smith, Milton, FL

### **Piranha Boatworks Snook Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Piranha RASO 140 with 15hp Yamaha & trailer: Stephen Clack, Palm Harbor, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* 8' Power Pole Pro Series II Shallow Water Anchor: Kevin Hamlin, Homosassa, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* Power Tech Propeller gift certificate \$750: James Tintle, Valrico, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Bull Bay Rod & Florida Fishing Products Reel with Luna Sea Cush it: Jay Young, Jupiter, FL

*5th Prize Drawing:* AFTCO \$250 prize package: Billy Fordham, Ridge Manor, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Clenzoil Marine Lubricant \$150 prize package: Elvis Rodriquez, St. Petersburg, FL

### **T-H Marine Non-Tagged Redfish Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Salt Marsh Skiff 1656 with 40hp Yamaha, w/Atlas jack plate & Float On Trailer: Christopher Culpepper, St. Augustine, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* T-H Marine prize package includes Atlas Jack Plate: Cherlyn Arnold, Vero Beach, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* Power Tech Propeller \$750 gift certificate: Michael Walter, Sarasota, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Bull Bay Rod & Florida Fishing Products Reel with Luna Sea Cush it: Nancy Mach, Land O Lakes, FL

*5th Prize Drawing:* Costa Sunglasses & Throw Raft PFD: Randall Waltman, Crawfordville, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Clenzoil Marine Lubricant \$150 prize package: Joe Sheaffer, Rotonda West, FL

### **ENGEL COOLERS - OPEN OFFSHORE DIVISIONS:**

#### **Grouper Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Yamaha 115hp with Engel 240 Hard Cooler: Ted Nixon, Monticello, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* Humminbird Solix 12: William Peebles, Silver Springs, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* T-H Marine \$750 gift certificate: Gina Kanyha, Sarasota, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Bull Bay Rod Reel Animals Signature Series 20# Medium Heavy Fast Action 7'6" & Florida Fishing Products reel with Luna Sea Cush it: JT Surles, Crawfordville, FL

*5th Prize Drawing:* Costa Sunglasses with Throwraft Survivor floatation device: Ken Halphen, Palmetto, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Clenzoil Marine Lubricant \$150 prize package: Christopher Hueston, Miami, FL

### **Tigress Outriggers & Gear Dolphin (Mahi Mahi) Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Yamaha 115hp Outboard & Tigress Outrigger XD Top Mount and XD Carbon Fiber Outrigger package: David Glyuas, Naples, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* Tigress Outriggers & Gear prize package \$1,500: Matt Canestrari, Satellite Beach, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* Humminbird Helix 10: Debbie Furtak, North Palm Beach, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Bull Bay Rod Reel Animals Signature Series 20# Medium Heavy Fast Action 7'6" & Florida Fishing Products reel with Luna Sea Cush it: Adam Handley, Orlando, FL

*5th Prize Drawing:* Costa Sunglasses & Throw-raft Survivor Floatation device: Corey Maysles, Apollo Beach, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Clenzoil Marine Lubricant \$150 prize package: Devin Sanderson, Palmetto, FL

### **Cannon Kingfish Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Salt Marsh Skiff Savanaha with 9hp Yamaha & pair of Cannon Uni-Troll 10 STX-TS: Robert Pelosi, Palm City, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* Tigress Outriggers & Gear prize package \$1,500: Andrew Susla, Palm City, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* \$750 Academy Sports+ Outdoor gift card: Scott Finkler, Destin, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Bull Bay Rod Reel Animals Signature Series 20# Medium Heavy Fast Action 7'6" & Florida Fishing Products reel with Luna Sea Cush it: Robert Buzaki, Orlando, FL

*5th Prize Drawing:* Ocean Tamer Bean bag with Throwraft Survivor Floatation device: Don England, Carrabelle, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Clenzoil Marine Lubricant \$150 prize package: Frances Surels, Monticello, FL

### **Humminbird Tarpon Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Minn Kota Terrova, Solix 10, Minn Kota Talon, \$750 T-H Marine gift card, Minn Kota Charger, Costa Sunglasses gift certificate, \$500 Academy gift card, Engel Cooler, 2 Throw Rafts: Brian Nelson, Sarasota, FL

### **Ladies Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Body Glove Inflatable Kayak: Lori McDaniel -Mary Esther, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* \$250 AFTCO gift card & \$250 West Marine gift card: Kristin Sutherland, St. Augustine, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* Anisa Stewart Design \$250 jewelry gift certificate: Christine Calyore, Naples, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Costa Sunglasses gift card: Leslie Walter, Sarasota, FL



*5th Prize Drawing:* \$125 Live Target and Luna Sea gift package: Deborah Whitman, Sarasota, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Throwraft Personal Floatation Device: Debra Casciato, Ocala, FL

### **Fly Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* LIVE Watersports L2 Fish Paddleboard: Gary Droze, Tallahassee, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* Traeger Grill prize package: Alan Kuhre, Naples, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* Power Pole Micro Shallow Water Anchor: Jay Wright, Windemere, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Costa Sunglasses gift certificate: Corey Wheeler, Port St. Lucie, FL

*5th Prize Drawing:* Papa's Pilar gift package: William Roberts, Crawfordville, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* Academy Sports + Outdoors \$150 gift card: David Andrews, Jacksonville, FL

### **Old Town Kayak Division**

*1st Prize Drawing:* Old Town Predator PDL Angler with Pedal Console: William Nieman, St. Augustine, FL

*2nd Prize Drawing:* Traeger Grill Package: Jacob Weisbrod, Oviedo, FL

*3rd Prize Drawing:* Costa Sunglasses gift card: William Barfield, Panama City, FL

*4th Prize Drawing:* Howler Brothers prize package: Kris Hawk, Loveland, OH

*5th Prize Drawing:* \$200 Academy Sports + Outdoors gift card: Donald Waiberman, Lutz, FL

*6th Prize Drawing:* LIVETARGET lure package: Jim Leas, New Port Richey, FL

### **ACADEMY SPORTS + OUTDOORS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DIVISION**

*1st prize:* Approximately \$25,000 Academy Sports + Outdoors Scholarship: Valerie Wright, Windemere, FL

*2nd prize:* Approximately \$25,000 Realtree Fishing Scholarship: Angelina Rodriguez, Clearwater, FL

*3rd prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Beall's Department Store Scholarship: Louis Leblanc-Simard, Ellenton, FL

*4th prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Talk of the Town Restaurant Group Scholarship: Vincent Cianciolo, Cape Coral, FL

*5th prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Southeastern Environmental Scholarship: Marley Larkin, St. Petersburg, FL

*6th prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Talk of the Town Restaurant Group Scholarship: Presley Armstrong, Valdosta, GA

*7th prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Coastal Conservation Association Scholarship: Seth Pope, Port Charlotte, FL

*8th Prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Rob Wade Phillips Fund Scholarship: Shawn McCormick, Merritt Island, FL

*9th Prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Carolina Skiff Scholarship: Nathan Bailey, Merritt Island, FL

*10th Prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Carolina Skiff Scholarship: Logan Ehlers, Melbourne, FL

*11th Prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Tailin Toads Scholarship: Myles Stiller, St. Petersburg, FL

*12th Prize:* Approximately \$5,000 Florida Sports Coast Scholarship: Madison Hartley, Melbourne Beach, FL

### **YOUTH HONORABLE MENTION:**

*1st Prize:* \$250 Academy Sports + Outdoor gift card presented: William Peebles, Silver Springs, FL

*2nd Prize:* \$250 Academy Sports + Outdoor gift card: Sebastian Shenk, Nokomis, FL

*3rd Prize:* \$250 gift card: Dakota Ahles, Jacksonville, FL

*4th Prize:* \$250 gift card: Dylan Engel, Bradenton, FL

*5th Prize:* \$250 gift card: Brandon Sanetz, Palm City, FL

*(continued on page 38)*



# THE CHANGING FACE OF CONSERVATION





Parker Kleppinger is like many boys – he enjoys the outdoors and being on the water. He began fishing in the STAR competition in 2017 with the hope of winning a scholarship and became engaged, specifically with the Trash Division. He began sharing the importance of cleaning up our shorelines with friends and family, and at the end of the competition in 2018, was awarded a \$25,000 scholarship from Realtree Fishing in the Youth Scholarship Division presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors. But the award simply fueled his passion for conservation.

Following the competition, Parker would pick up trash every chance he had, but he wanted to do more. This Spring, he took his conservation efforts a step further and initiated a beach and shoreline clean

up with friends and family. Coordinated by Parker, a group of eight kids started at Coquina Boat Ramp in Manatee County and moved to Jewfish Key, removing any and all trash and debris they came across. The young conservationists filled trash bags, buckets and even the boat's live well to remove as much garbage as they could carry.

Parker's mom shared, "It was definitely an eye-opener for all of us and the other families that were participating to see how much trash is in our waters and how devastating it can be for our marine life. It was such a great experience and Parker was able to share what CCA and the STAR competition are all about with his friends and peers."

Parker plans to organize future clean up events throughout the year, and we're

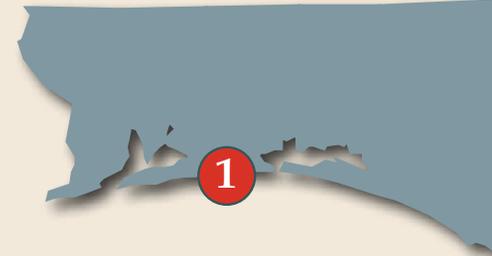
honored to have him as a part of our engaged membership. These are the faces of conservation for today, and tomorrow.

*Students who participate in the CCA Florida STAR Trash Division are also eligible for community service hours. CCA Florida verifies one half-hour of community service to each student who picks up a full five-gallon bucket of trash and debris and disposes of it properly. For details on this or other STAR questions or comments, contact Leiza Fitzgerald, STAR Director at [lfitzgerald@cca-florida.org](mailto:lfitzgerald@cca-florida.org).*

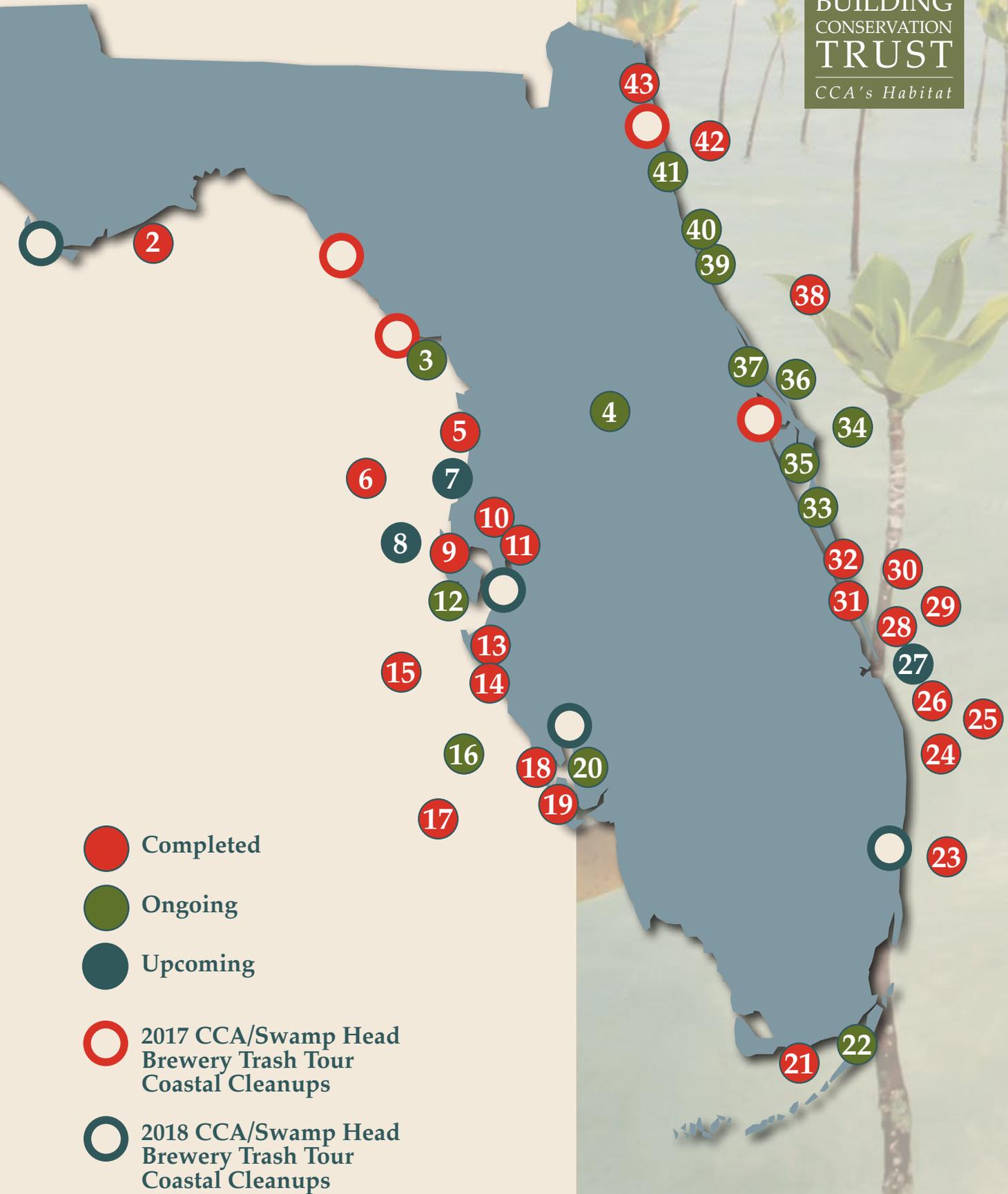


# HABITAT PROJECTS

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



*Maverick*  
Fish the Legend.

**PATHFINDER**  
ANGLER DRIVEN

**MBG MAVERICK BOAT GROUP**

*Maverick*  
Fish the Legend.

**PATHFINDER**  
ANGLER DRIVEN

**HEWES.**

**COBIA**

**HEWES.**

**COBIA**

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE CCA FOR OVER THREE DECADES!

# What Do You Know About Oyster Restoration?

CCA Florida has taken a leading role in the restoration of oyster reefs on several coastlines in Florida. But do you know what oyster restoration means, or why it's critical to helping restore and enhance habitats?

- Oysters are an ecological keystone species in Florida found in estuaries along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.
- A single oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day, and a 1-acre oyster reef can filter 24 million gallons of water per day.
- Oysters are natural filters, feeding by consuming algae and other organic and inorganic particles from the water and improving water quality and clarity.
- Oyster reefs provide crucial habitat structure and species diversity for over 300 species including fish, shrimp, crabs, snails, sea anemones and invertebrates, which in turn provide food for bigger fish such as red drum and spotted seatrout.
- The clearer water filtered by oysters supports the growth of seagrasses, which also provide crucial habitat and ecosystem services.
- Oyster reefs provide effective protection and natural barriers from storms and sea level rise.
- Improved water quality and increased habitat greatly benefits recreational fishing and boating.
- Oyster reefs are the single most imperiled marine habitat on Earth, with over 85 percent of natural reefs lost to over-harvesting and poor water quality.
- Fortunately, oyster reef restoration efforts are very successful with hundreds of projects currently underway around the U.S.
- CCA Florida has collected over 60 tons of oyster shells to date that are donated by local restaurants.
- CCA Florida has recycled and donated 25 tons of these oyster shells to the De Soto National Memorial living shoreline restoration project, the Centipede Bay oyster restoration project in Hernando County, the Naples Bay oyster restoration project, and the Tomoka State Park shoreline restoration project in Volusia County.

*Interested in learning more and getting involved? Reach out. We'd love to have your help!*

*Contact Frank Gidus, Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org).*



# Habitat Hero

Several years ago, CCA Florida began recognizing individual members in each publication of Sea Watch Magazine who have gone above and beyond with regard to habitat restoration. In this edition, we are breaking the mold and recognizing two members and good friends - Bill Mickler and Alan Richardson.

Bill was born in Tallahassee and was raised in both Tallahassee and Alligator Point, Florida. He attended Leon High School, Tallahassee Community College and Florida State University. For as long as he can remember, Bill has always had a strong interest in fishing and the outdoors. He especially enjoys offshore fishing for grouper and the ubiquitous red snapper. His desire now is to give back to the resource that he has enjoyed his entire life.

He joined CCA in 2007 and has served on the Governmental Affairs committee and served as past CCA Big Bend Chapter president for four years. Bill is a CCA Life Member, current member of the Forgotten Coast Chapter and actively serves on the CCA statewide Habitat Committee. He is also an active volunteer with the Organization for Artificial Reefs (OAR), a local reef builder in the panhandle on which Alan Richardson also serves on the Board of Directors.

Bill was instrumental in the deployment of the CCA Billy's Barge reef which was successfully deployed off of Carrabelle in the Gulf of Mexico in July 2016. According to Bill, the idea actually started in early 2015 when a 200-foot barge was left abandoned in Apalachicola. Bill, together with OAR, began working on the permitting and planning to turn this barge into an artificial reef. However, during the process the opportunity was pulled from beneath their feet and barge was sold for scrap metal. Bill and OAR did not lose hope though and quickly put the word out that we were looking for another barge to sink as an artificial reef. Walter Marine stepped up to the plate and notified them that the "Anaconda" barge might be a candidate. Bill, on his own dime and time, didn't waste a minute and drove to Orange Beach, Alabama in December 2015 to inspect the barge which turned out to be the perfect vessel. He then contacted CCA Florida and the Building Conservation Trust (BCT) for support.

Bill has also actively participated in the deployment of Robbie's Reef, Prices' Point Reef, trash cleanup projects in St. Joe Bay, and helped CCA release 8,000 redfish in St. Joe Bay. Currently, Bill is working with Alan Richardson and OAR on reviving two exist-



ing reef permits with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Bill and Alan have recently obtained grants for each of these reefs and will seek additional funds to augment the grant funds. "The partnership of OAR, CCA and BCT has been a benefit to habitat in Wakulla and Franklin Counties. None of OAR's accomplishments would have been possible without its board and volunteers. After years of trying, OAR has been able to begin a relationship with Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab. "I intend to work with FSU to establish a relationship with CCA," Bill said. And not surprisingly, he is already looking down the road to partner with CCA for a reef off St. George Island in West Franklin County.

Alan Richardson was born in Valparaiso, Florida and was raised in nearby Crestview and Niceville Florida. He currently resides in Tallahassee where he has lived since 1981. Alan graduated from Crestview Senior High School and from FSU in 1990. He has



been a CCA member since the late 1990's, Chairman of OAR since 2004, past board member of the Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) from 1994-1999, past chairman of the Big Bend Saltwater Classic (BBSC) from 1996 to 1997, and served on the BBSC board from 1994 to 2003. The BBSC is a non-profit fishing tournament that directly benefits OAR and their mission to create and maintain artificial reefs in the Big Bend area of Florida.

Alan became interested in fishing and the outdoors at an early age back in the 1960's. He enjoys fishing for snapper along with grouper, king mackerel, flounder, redfish, trout, or really anything that bites! "My younger sister and I learned to fish out in front of my grandfathers' house in Niceville on Boggy Bayou with him as our mentor. We would catch trout, flounder, and we would occasionally cast for mullet. I'm not a very good cast netter though. He had a small john boat with an eight-horse Johnson outboard and that pretty much sealed the deal. I've owned several boats through the years and currently own a 26.6 Worldcat with twin 200 Yamahas," he said.

Alan became involved in artificial reefs back when he was a delegate from FWF for the BBSC board, and having enjoyed grouper fishing in the Big Bend Gulf, felt that he was making a difference in helping raise money for reef habitat. He served many years raising money for OAR and the OAR board asked him to actively help them with serving as a board member for OAR directly. As an OAR board member, Alan spearheaded the CCA Billy's Barge reef and explained how the project unfolded. "Billy Solberger was one of our board members for OAR and a good friend to us all. He was supposed to take my place as Chairman, but he died on us. That was a heck of a way to get out of being Chair! But seriously, we wanted to honor his memory with a memorial reef and we wanted it to be a 'big splash.' He enjoyed wreck diving so we started looking for a suitable project. His children - and especially his sister's family - raised funds but we were short of our goal for something substantial to deploy. I had met Bill Mickler from the Tallahassee Chapter of CCA through another former OAR board member, Tony Murray. Bill and I became fast friends and it was his perseverance that resulted in CCA's involvement monetarily through BCT and Florida CCA in the "Billy's Barge" project that we successfully deployed in 2016. We also deployed the "Prices Point" reef that

same year- on the same weekend to boot! Unreal," Alan said.

Alan has also been heavily involved in several other artificial reef projects including the Bob Bryson Reef (1997), Nick Cureton Reef (2007 and 2015), Dave Iacampo Reef (2007), Robby's Reef (2011, 2014, and 2016), Dixon Camp Reef Sites 1-2-3 (2014), St. Marks Reef (2014 and 2016) which has the Colin MacDonald Reef Module sited there, Prices Point Reef (2016), BBSC Reef in Gulf County, and the re-permitting of Marker 24 Barge Reef site and also Dog Ballard Reef, both in Wakulla County.

Currently Alan and OAR are working on a project in memory of Glen Peel, a diver who died offshore and whose body was never recovered. "You can only imagine what a real tragedy it was for the family. We are planning a memorial reef for him at Marker 24 Barge off St. Marks using reef balls. Again, his family and friends raised funds and we are supplementing that with a \$62,000 grant from FWC that we just won for Wakulla County. But funding won't be available until late 2019, so we're looking to deploy it in stages to get something in the water in his memory now," Alan said. They were also recently awarded another \$62,000 grant for the City of Carrabelle that will get funding for late 2019 to enhance the "Prices Point" Reef.

*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).*



# THE LATEST IN HABITAT RESTORATION

This year has been one of our busiest years for habitat restoration, and we couldn't be more thrilled with the projects – and results. With your support, engagement and investment, we've deployed off-shore reefs, stabilized shorelines, planted mangroves, restored oysters and clams back into the water and much more.

Join us for future projects this year and beyond, as we all continue to work together to conserve, as well as restore, our marine resources in Florida. For more information, contact Frank Gidus, Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration at [fgidus@ccaflorida.org](mailto:fgidus@ccaflorida.org).

## 2019 HABITAT UPDATE

### CCA Curtis Bostick Reef

On June 23, 2019, the CCA Curtis Bostick Reef was successfully deployed off the coast of St. Lucie County. The Voici Bernadette, a 180' cargo vessel, was sunk in 100' of water while over 280 boats and over 1,000 spectators surrounded the ship! With CCA's donation of \$50,000 (\$25,000 from the Music City Chapter), CCA was also awarded naming rights. We were honored to name the reef after the late Curtis Bostick, a founding member of CCA and a pillar in the angling community.



### Tomoka State Park Shoreline Stabilization

The objective of this project is to implement living shoreline techniques using planted mangroves, smooth cordgrass and oyster shell as recruitment substrate to restore an eroded area along the shoreline of Tomoka State Park. Following last year's donation of \$6,625 to UCF to fund this new project, CCA Florida was once again busy volunteering time and boat support on this project in 2019. During various restoration events from February through June, CCA volunteers continued to help transport and deploy oyster bags and plants along this important shoreline in Ormond Beach.

### Hernando County Ghost Ship Reef

In April, the Hernando County Port Authority and Aquatic Services Division deployed a decommissioned concrete sailboat referred to as the 'Ghost Ship' within Bendickson Reef, located 20 nautical miles west of Hernando Beach. The second phase of

this project included deploying 30 concrete reef balls around and inside the vessel to stabilize the wreck site. A total of 16,500 pounds of reef balls were deployed and almost 400 miles of travel were logged on the Gulf of Mexico as of May to complete this project.



### **Ghost Trap Rodeo (NOAA Marine Debris Grant Award)**

CCA Florida and OceanAid360 have completed six Ghost Trap Rodeo events throughout Tampa Bay in 2018-2019. With the help of hundreds of participants, hundreds of abandoned ghost crab traps were removed from Tampa Bay along with over 18,796 pounds of other marine debris. The abandoned crab traps are being recycled and donated to FWC, UNF, St. Mary's Riverkeeper and the FDEP Aquatic Preserves to use for creating new oyster reefs in the Jacksonville and Fernandina Beach area.

### **OUC Concrete Donation**

CCA Florida has been working with the Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) for donated concrete for artificial reef projects in Florida. In May 2019, OUC agreed to donate 1,000 tons of concrete to both St. Lucie County and Volusia County to support their ongoing artificial reef programs. The first 200 tons of concrete was delivered at no cost to St. Lucie County and placed inside the Voici Bernadette – the CCA Curtis Bostick Reef – to stabilize it on the bottom. OUC also joined CCA in June for the deployment of the vessel. The additional concrete materials will be delivered to Volusia County to be used on artificial reefs in the summer of 2020.

### **Addictive Fishing/ CCA FL/UF/FWC Clam Restoration Project**

CCA Florida teamed up with Capt. Blair Wiggins from Addictive Fishing, FWC and the University of Florida (UF) to restore clams in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). This is the first and only project of this type in the IRL. The primary goal of this restoration project is to immediately initiate clam restoration in the IRL by repatriating hardy varieties of native clam species and assessing their survivorship under various environmental conditions. The CCA Music City Chapter donated \$10,000 to the project. CCA also teamed up with UF and FWC and applied for grant funding for this project through the IRL National Estuary Program. In May 2019, the grant was awarded in the amount of \$103,322, and included a \$105,591 match. Please visit [irl-clamproject.com](http://irl-clamproject.com) for more information.



### **John Michael Baker Memorial Reef**

Two new artificial reef deployments were conducted last summer off the coast of Broward County in memorial of John Michael Baker, a member, avid diver and angler who passed away in a tragic boating accident in 2015. The projects were led by members of the Broward County Chapter, who secured a five-year permit from Broward County for an area just offshore of Fort Lauderdale between Oakland Park Blvd. and Birch State Park. The Broward County Chapter is working on another deployment on the deeper fishing reef for later in 2019.

### **Indian River Lagoon Spotted Seatrout Acoustic Study**

Year two of the seatrout acoustic study is set to kick off in August 2019. Last year, CCA Florida donated \$25,000 and a \$57,000 in-kind match to the three-year study. The study's broad objective is to determine spotted seatrout population spawning status and vulnerability to human and natural disturbance in the IRL. Acoustic transects are conducted by CCA volunteer anglers using underwater microphones (hydrophones) as trout chorals 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. 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.

### **Brevard County Reefs**

CCA Florida has an ongoing partnership with Brevard County to support their artificial reef program. This year, CCA donated \$2,000 to contribute toward their upcoming summer deployments. As in years past, CCA also wrote a grant support letter on behalf of Brevard County for an FWC artificial reef grant in which they were

awarded funding. CCA Life Member Greg Harrison has been working on the Brevard artificial reef program for many years and has observed excellent invertebrate species growth on them as well as black sea bass, juvenile red snapper, crabs and large schools of baitfish.



### **Phoenix Reef**

CCA Florida is once again working with Ingman Marine and the Charlotte County Chapter to plan the second deployment on the Phoenix Reef. Last year's deployment was successfully completed on November 30, 2018, in approximately 50' of water (26° 45.582', -82° 28.443'). Ingman Marine has generously stepped up and donated \$10,000 towards the second deployment, with a goal of adding to the reef annually to make it one of the largest reefs in southwest Florida.

*(continued on page 32)*



**City of Fernandina Living Shoreline Oyster Restoration Project**

CCA Florida donated \$5,000 towards this new project that began in the spring of 2019. The project consists of deploying 1,500 linear feet of living oyster shoreline along the historic old town Fernandina waterfront. Recycled crab traps donated from the Ghost Trap Rodeo in Tampa Bay and oyster shells will be used to provide substrate for living oyster reefs to propagate. Through partnerships with local high schools and community groups, citizen scientists and community volunteers are being trained by local oystermen to construct and deploy the reefs and monitor the shoreline once installation is complete.

**Living Shoreline and Oyster Reef Restoration in Mosquito Lagoon**

CCA Florida once again partnered with the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the Marine Discovery Center on a grant titled: Living Shoreline and Oyster Reef Restoration in Mosquito Lagoon: Continuation of Successful Models and Successful Part-

nerships. The grant was awarded in May 2019 in the amount of \$88,585, along with an in-kind match of \$88,106. The funds are being used in 2019 to continue their highly successful oyster reef restoration and living shoreline stabilization in Mosquito Lagoon. CCA also continues to provide volunteers and boat support for their program, with several events already completed in 2019.

**UPCOMING PROJECTS**

Sean Gucken Memorial Reef (Pinellas County)

CCA/Indian River Land Trust/ BTT Juvenile Snook and Tarpon Nursery Project

Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association (MBARA)/CCA Artificial Reef

Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS) Lone Cabbage Oyster Reef Fish Monitoring

CCA/OAR/Wakulla County Reef Project

CCA Oyster Recycling Expansion with Absolut Vodka

Lemon Bay High School Prop Scar Restoration Project (Charlotte County)



**Statewide Trash Tour Brings out Crowds**

On June 8th each year, we celebrate the ocean, its importance in our lives and how each of us can protect it, no matter where we live. World Oceans Day raises the profile of the ocean, connects people worldwide and inspires continuing action year-round to protect and restore this amazing resource that we all depend on.

CCA Florida is committed to protecting and preserving Florida's marine resources. This year, for World Oceans Day, CCA Florida came up with a fun way to get people involved in cleaning up our coastlines. We targeted people who were on or near the water in Florida from Saturday, June 1st to Saturday, June 8th. CCA Florida asked that people pick up some trash while they were already outside enjoying our natural resources! And for those who are highly competitive, they could pick up trash all week for a chance to earn the top spot on our leaderboard! The tournament rules were simple. Pick up trash on any coastline, body of water, river, or other waterway and take a picture of the haul. For each 5-gallon bucket or equivalent, the participant received one raffle entry.

Thanks to event prize sponsors including Academy Sports + Outdoors, Reel Skipper, Zen Strawz, Sea Shur Jewelry, Bote Boards and Kula, Costa Sunglasses, Mermaid Life, Whiskey Coast Designs, AFCTO and Engel Coolers, we were able to give away some seriously cool prizes!

We had over 100 participants registered and together, logged over 300 buckets of trash! The event was free to participate and we hope to hold more events like this in the future.

Special thanks to iAngler Tournament App for allowing us to use their platform.

*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.



*Maverick*

Fish the Legend.

## Progress for Recreational Fishing and Boating Community

continued from page 10

Patrick Murray, president of the Coastal Conservation Association. "This Administration has made it a priority to understand the challenges anglers have faced in the federal fisheries management system and is working to address them. These appointments are another step in the right direction."

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Scott Lenox will be a valuable contributor to the Mid-Atlantic Council and will help provide better balance to the overall composition. He is the owner of Fish in OC and host of Ocean City's fishing television show

"Hooked on OC". He has worked in the fishing industry and fished the waters in and around Ocean City for over 25 years. He is a member of Maryland's Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and participated in NOAA's Marine Resources Education Program.

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.** Tim Griner's thoughtful, objective approach on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has rightfully earned him reappointment. Mr. Griner owns a successful seafood supply company and holds federal vessel permits for snapper/

grouper, dolphin/wahoo, and king and Spanish mackerel.

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.** A fair, balanced, and valuable member of the Gulf Council, Dr. Tom Frazer is also well deserving of his reappointment. As the recently appointed chief science officer for the State of Florida, current chair of the Gulf Council, and director of the University of Florida's School of Natural Resources and Environment, he is well-qualified to serve on, and chair, the Gulf Council.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. A true recreational angler and legend in marine conservation circles, Troy Williamson has extensive experience in the fisheries management arena, including serving on several Gulf Council advisory panels; the Executive Committee of Harte Research Institute, and formerly representing the State of Texas on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Pacific Fishery Management Council. As a voting member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council as designee for the State of Idaho Principal Official since 2015, Peter Hassemmer is well-positioned to step into Idaho's obligatory seat. During his 26 years at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, from which he recently retired, he worked in research and management arenas and served on many Columbia River basin and west coast technical and management bodies.

**Pacific Fishery Management Council.** Marc Gorelnik serves as vice chair of the Pacific Council and was reappointed, acknowledging his reputation as a knowledgeable, effective, and well-respected leader in the fisheries management community. In addition to his role on the Council, he serves as director of Coastside Fishing Club and is active with the Golden Gate Salmon Association, Coastal Conservation Association-California and American Sportfishing Association.

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council.** New Alaska appointee Cora Campbell has extensive experience and knowledge related to Alaska fisheries management, having served as a fisheries policy advisor for two Alaska governors, as a former commissioner for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and a lifetime of involvement in fisheries organizations.

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council.** Alaska appointee Nicole Kimball has dedicated her career to fisheries management. She worked as a fisheries analyst for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and as a federal fisheries coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and is now with the Pacific Seafood Processors Association.

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# CCA Florida and partners deploy new reef honoring a founding CCA Florida member

## 180-foot steel ship becomes the CCA Curtis Bostick Reef off St. Lucie County

This summer, along with many partners, CCA led the deployment of the Voici Bernadette, creating the newest artificial reef in St. Lucie County. The CCA Curtis Bostick Reef, consisting of the 180' steel vessel the Voici Bernadette - seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection - was deployed on Saturday, June 23, 12 nautical miles southeast of the Ft. Pierce Inlet at approximately 27° 23.485'N, 80° 02.124'W. More than 200 boats and over 1,000 spectators joined at sea to watch the deployment and honor Curtis Bostick, a true advocate for the cause.

Bostick was a devoted angler and conservationist. In addition to his many years of direct involvement in the federal fisheries management process, he was founding

member of CCA Florida and took key leadership roles in both the state and national organizations. He was a founding member of the board of the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust and most recently served as treasurer of the Center for Sportfishing Policy.

"This reef adds a vital structure that will become a thriving asset for marine life and anglers for generations to come," said Patrick Murray, president of CCA. "It is a fitting tribute to Curtis Bostick, who was truly a legend in marine conservation. Curtis brought an amazing set of business skills in finding pragmatic solutions for the challenges facing our nation's coastal waters and was an effective and passionate advocate for the role of anglers as stewards of our marine resources. We are proud to honor his life and conservation legacy with this reef."

The steel ship will serve as the primary reef structure, with high profile sides that will mimic the pinnacles of the Oculina Banks deepwater coral reefs unique to the

Treasure and Space Coasts. In addition, the ship contained over 200 tons of concrete, donated by Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC), to stabilize the vessel in an upright position in approximately 100-feet of water. Post-deployment dives show that the concrete did exactly as it was expected, and the vessel sits perfectly upright.

"We understand the many benefits of artificial reefs, to our fisheries, our economies and our members," said Brian Gorski, CCA Florida Executive Director. "With our partners, we've deployed three artificial reefs similar to this structure in the state since last year and we're looking forward to more."

The total project cost of over \$100,000 was supported by partnerships, including CCA Florida, CCA's Building Conservation Trust - the national habitat program of CCA, 5Fin Clothing, the CCA Music City chapter, St. Lucie County and MMPS Environmental, Inc.





# FWC Law Enforcement Update

## Fwc Uncovers Major Fish And Wildlife Violations In Long-Term Undercover Investigation

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.



A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) investigation led to the arrests on Friday, Aug. 9, of three suspects in Levy and Pinellas counties for violating state laws pertaining to illegally harvesting and selling various fish and wildlife. Fifteen additional suspects were served with notice to appear citations in Levy, Orange, Pinellas and Broward counties.

As part of a long-term investigation initiated in May 2017, FWC investigators managed to engage with this group of associates to gain information and evidence. The suspects were taking deer out of season, alligators without licenses and permits, and protected gopher tortoises. During a closure in response to red tide, they illegally took snook, jeopardizing the fishery's recovery.

dizing the fishery's recovery.

"Organized criminal operations like this pose serious environmental and economic consequences," said Col. Curtis Brown, head of FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. "They damage our precious natural resources and create black markets that undermine the legal process. We do our best to put a stop to these crimes, supporting law-abiding business owners, landowners and those who enjoy recreating in Florida."

"Many Floridians make their living in and around Florida's waters, and when a group of individuals disregard the conservation efforts of so many, it's encouraging to see the FWC and agency partners work hard to bring those individuals to justice," said JD Dickenson, Coastal Conservation Association Florida chairman. "CCA Florida is proud of the hard work that FWC officers do in protecting the resources that we all enjoy."

"As an advocate for sportsmen's groups in Florida, I applaud FWC law enforcement for its efforts to protect our resources," said Lane Stephens, a long-time lobbyist for hunting and fishing organizations in Florida.

There are still aspects of this investigation that are ongoing, and additional charges may be forthcoming.

The public can also help by reporting suspected violations to the FWC. Call the Wildlife Alert hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or text or email to [Tip@MyFWC.com](mailto:Tip@MyFWC.com).



## Chairman's message

*continued from page 4*

Treasuring Florida's marine resources and the experiences that they provide is what makes us all anglers and disciples of Florida's natural world. We are members of CCA Florida because we treasure Florida's marine resources, and because we want *others* to experience and treasure them as well. As a boy growing up in Florida, some of my most memorable experiences were on Florida waters. Now, as a parent, it is critically important to me that my children have the same opportunities to enjoy and learn from Florida's remarkable marine resources. That is the very nature of CCA Florida's conservation ethic and is the basis of the organization's habitat pledge. We pledge to continue to honor these resources by doing everything in our power to conserve and restore them. Read more about CCA Florida's habitat commitment and successes in the pages that follow.

Together we need to look for ways of interacting with our surrounding environment that acknowledge and focus on the health and importance of our ecosystems. We need to develop our communities, and our conservation methods, in ways that encourage and promote marine life rather than limit it. The only way that this can be realized is if we as an angling community take actions that demonstrate to each other and to our children that these issues matter. CCA Florida's robust and rapidly growing habitat efforts seek to send that message and are designed to plant the seeds within our own ranks and in our communities that we hope will germinate into future habitat and water quality projects.

We are all very fortunate to live in a beautiful place with unique marine resources. But it is a place that presents seemingly endless challenges and risks to the health of the very natural resources that make it beautiful to begin with. CCA Florida's established habitat commitment is a small step towards meeting those challenges and we hope you will support our efforts. I am proud to say that CCA Florida continues to be a powerful steward of Florida's marine resources and has accomplished much to ensure that future generations will have the chance to treasure Florida's marine resources as we do. Join us, and help us fulfill our pledge to Florida's marine habitat.

## Risky Bet

*continued from page 12*

private anglers are managed by the states.

We can only hope that if the red snapper population takes an "unexpected" downward turn in the next few years, this action will be remembered, and it won't take another lawsuit to identify the culprit. History has shown that a healthy red snapper population is tied directly to shrimp-

ing effort. As bizarre as it seems, here at the conclusion of a bruising decade of Red Snapper Wars, the Gulf Council appears entirely willing to gamble all its past winnings and perhaps the future of the fishery on a very sketchy hand. The big problem is that if they're wrong, everyone sitting at the table loses.



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*(Actual boat not shown)*

**POWER POLE CONSERVATION DIVISION:**

*1st Place:* Power Pole 8ft Shallow Water Anchor: Angie Izzi, Pensacola, FL  
*2nd Place:* Power Pole Micro Shallow Water Anchor: Michael Calyore, Naples, FL  
*3rd Place:* Hydro Glow Underwater Light prize package: John McCarthy, Citrus Springs, FL

**TOMO SPEARGUN LIONFISH DIVISION:**

*1st Place:* TOMO Speargun Double Barrel speargun: Andy McKeown, Pensacola, FL  
*2nd Place:* \$500 T-H Marine gift card: Stephen Bouwer, Bradenton, FL  
*3rd Place:* \$250 AFTCO prize package & \$150 West Marine gift card: Benjamin Coleman, Port Charlotte, FL

**COSTA KICK PLASTIC TRASH DIVISION:**

*1st Place:* \$1,500 check presented by Waxhead Sun Defense & Costa Sunglasses gift certificate: Dane Dellenbach, Weston, FL

*2nd Place:* Body Glove Mariner XL Fishing Inflatable Stand Up Paddleboard: Laura Barron, Dunedin, FL

*3rd Place:* \$125 Academy + Outdoors Gift Card and Costa Sunglasses gift card: Ellen Priest, Crystal River, FL

*Most buckets gathered:* \$250 Academy + Outdoors gift card: John Nooney, Jacksonville, FL

**FUN FISHING PHOTOS:**

\$100 Academy + Outdoors gift card: Noah Mundt, Jupiter, FL

\$100 Academy + Outdoors gift card: Leela Puffenburger, Bradenton, FL

\$100 Academy + Outdoors gift card: Marcia Ellett, Gainesville, FL

**LIVETARGET LURE WINNER:**

*LIVETARGET Lure Package:* Courtney Hueston, Miami, FL

**FLORIDA INSIDER FISHING REPORT FISHING TRIP WINNERS:**

*T-H Marine Non-tagged Redfish:* fishing trip with North East Region Captain Tommy Derringer: Ralph Rodriguez, Clearwater, FL

*Stumpnocker Boats Spotted Trout:* fishing trip with Central West Region Captain Geoffrey Page: Michael Diponzio, Longwood, FL

*Piranha Boats Snook:* fishing trip with South West Region Captain Ron Hueston: Chris Clark, Inverness, FL

*Groupers Division:* fishing trip with Panhandle Region Captain Pat Dineen: Jon Kukkk, Naples, FL

*Tigress Outriggers & Gear Dolphin:* fishing trip with Keys Region Captain Randy Towe: Travis Smith, Gainesville, FL

*Cannon Kingfish:* fishing trip with South East Region Captain Jimbo Thomas: Douglas Sweeney, Vero Beach, FL

*Humminbird Tarpon Division:* fishing trip with North West Region Captain Jeff Hagaman: Benjamin Kirby, Merritt Island, FL

























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SEA WATCH • SUMMER 2019



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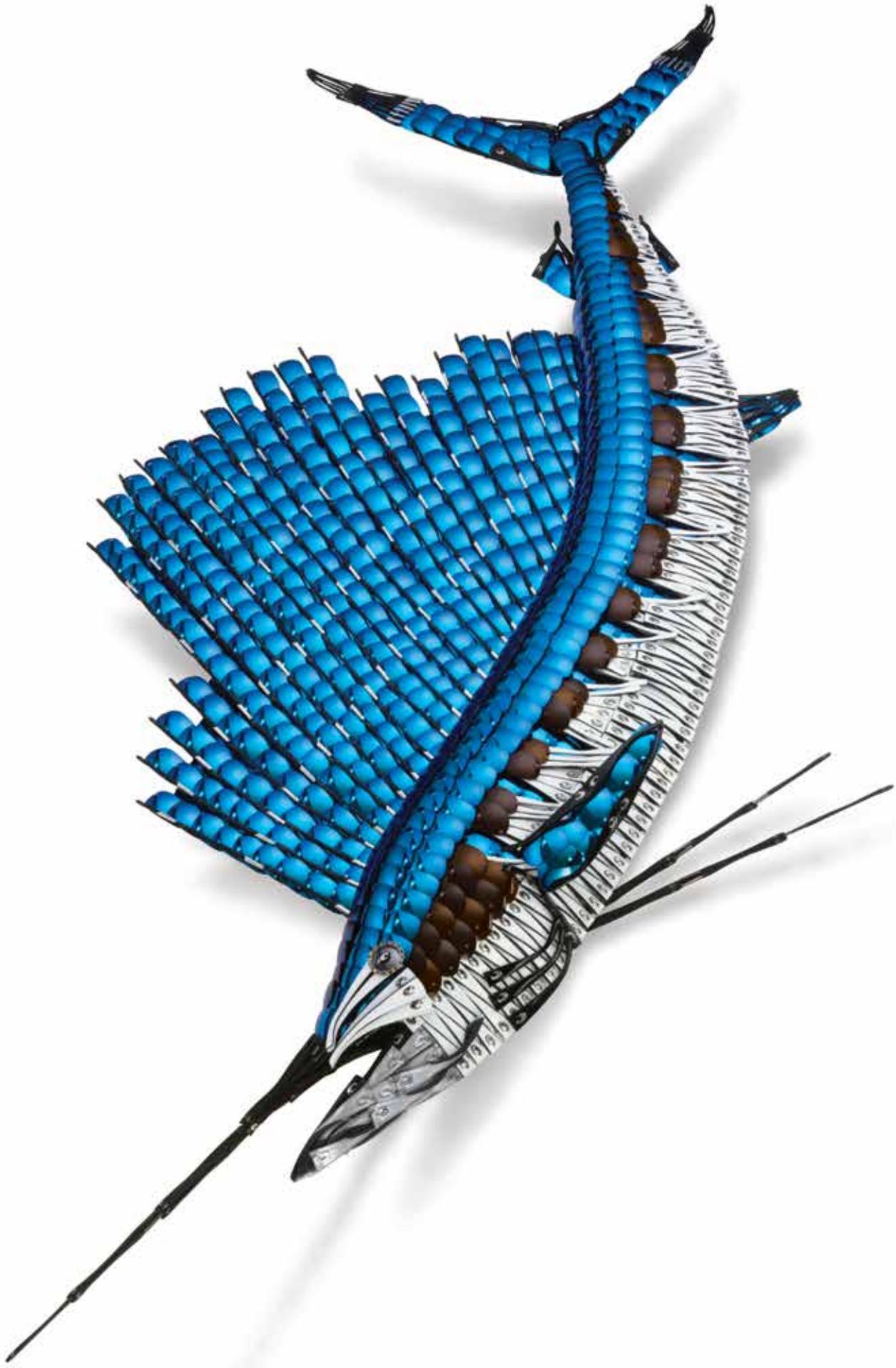


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# Star Brite "Stains 101"

Stains happen, even on the best-maintained boats. The trick is knowing how to remove them quickly and easily. Even better is knowing how to help prevent them from re-occurring. As the Official Cleaning Products of CCA Florida, we're here to cover all that and maybe a bit more.

Let's start by categorizing stains and choosing the right Star brite solution.

## Everyday Dirt & Grime

This is what we see after a normal day out on the water; stains from spilled food or drinks, muddy footprints, fish blood or sunblock stains.

Start by applying Star brite Non-Skid Deck Cleaner to the deck, following directions to let the chelating agents begin to break the bond that holds stains and dirt on the deck. While that is working, mix a bucket of Star brite Boat Wash and apply to all fiberglass, metal, plastic, vinyl and rubber surfaces. The surfactants will loosen dirt, grime and salt deposits so they can be easily rinsed off. Now use your Star brite deck brush and handle to lightly scrub the deck, followed by a thorough rinse of the entire interior.

If you have sunblock stains on the seats or swim platform, apply Star brite Ultimate Xtreme Clean. Stubborn stains may require gentle scrubbing with a Star brite Magic Sponge. To protect vinyl surfaces, apply Star brite Ultimate Vinyl Guard.

## Rust Stains, Black Streaks and Waterline (Tannic) Stains

We all have experienced rust stains from dropped hooks, "weeping" stains under stainless hardware, black streaks under rubrails and brown stains at the bootstripe. The solution is Star brite Rust Stain Remover, Black Streak Remover and Instant Hull Cleaner. These begin dissolving the stains on contact, followed by a light scrub and a thorough rinsing. To help prevent future stains, apply a protective coating of Star brite Premium Marine Polish to the cleaned surfaces.

## Mold & Mildew Stains

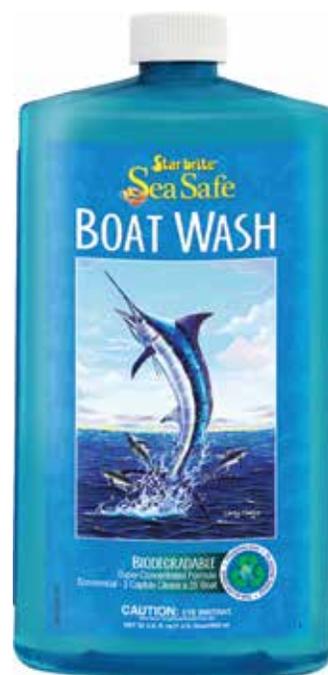
Mold stains form wherever there is moisture and a lack of sunlight and ventilation. This means cushions and bolsters as well as in-deck storage areas and console

interiors are prime breeding grounds for mold and mildew. Bleach is a caustic chemical that may seem like a great solution, but it is hard on fiberglass and vinyl and can injure users if it is splashed or spilled. It is also hard on the environment and any fish in the surrounding water. A better choice is Star brite Mildew Stain Remover, which begins working on contact. A little bit of scrubbing with a soft brush followed by a fresh water rinse is usually all that is needed to eliminate ugly mold and mildew stains.

## Scuff Marks

These unsightly scuffs happen when the boat rubs against a dock or piling, you drag a cooler across the deck or when your guests make poor footwear choices. Star brite's Magic Sponge is a pad made up of millions of micro-bubbled cleaning compound. Rub them across a slightly moistened surface to wipe away scuffs or stains. The Magic Sponges make cleaning easy, but they won't scratch, making them safe for vinyl, fiberglass and pretty much any other surface on the boat. The XL Magic Sponge is sized for big projects while the Original Magic Sponge is sized just right to be tucked away on the boat for fast cleanups.

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



# event schedule

## SEPTEMBER

### **South Palm Beach Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, September 19**

Join us for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA South Palm Beach Banquet and 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 \$140 per person or a 10-seat corporate table is \$1,700. For additional information, please contact Rebekah Bourque at (561) 676-5265.

### **Sarasota County Chapter Banquet + Auction Friday, September 27**

This event has been sold out the last six years in a row, please reserve your tickets early! This year's featured artist is KC Scott and our Celebrity guest will be Capt. Rick Murphy! 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 \$210 per couple and include a two-hour open bar, catered dinner and CCA membership. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.

## OCTOBER

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

Mark your calendars for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCA Orlando Banquet and Auction presented by Winter Park Construction. This is an event that you will not want to miss and it is all being held at the Winter Park Community Center. Tickets are just \$200 per person or \$350 per couple. Your ticket includes a delicious meal by Arthur's Catering, open bar, a one-year CCA membership, auctions, raffles and more. For additional information, please contact Mandy Tuckus at (786) 417-6782.

### **IRL Clam Restoration Fundraiser Banquet Saturday, October 5**

Please join Capt. Blair Wiggins and the Clam Team on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Downtown Cocoa Civic Center and Riverfront Park for a fun evening with celebrities including Flip Pallot, Shaw Grigsby and George Poveromo, great food and an even better cause....to save The Indian River Lagoon. Festivities start with a kids fishing derby in the morning, afternoon concert in the park, silent and LIVE auction and dinner/banquet to follow - one night of fun for an important cause! For additional information please contact Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

### **Dade County Chapter Banquet + Auction Friday, October 11**

Join us for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA Dade Chapter Banquet and Auction presented by Contender Boats! Join us at the Marriott Miami Dadeland 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 Rebekah Bourque at (561) 676-5265.

### **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. The winner of the 2019 Contender boat raffle will be drawn at this banquet! Tickets are just \$85 per person and include a great steak for 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.

### **CCA Florida STAR Awards Ceremony Saturday, October 19**

Come enjoy the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA Florida STAR Awards Banquet presented by Visit Space Coast! Nearly \$500,000 in prizes awarded with fortunate anglers winning a GMC truck, boat, motor & trailer packages, scholarships and

other great prizes. The Awards Banquet will take place on October 19 from 5 to 10 p.m. at The Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne, FL. You do not need to be selected as a winner in STAR to attend. If you live anywhere near this part of the state, please come on out for a great event! Tickets are just \$55 per person, \$25 for youth and includes a great meal from our friends at Texas Cattle Co, performance by emerging Nashville artist Matt Stillwell, open bar, auctions, raffles and a kids zone! Please be sure to reserve your tickets early if you plan on attending this year! For additional information, please contact Andrea Gillespie at (844) 387-7827 or agillespie@ccaflorida.org.

### **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 8 and come with 8 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 local Chapter President, Mimi Bass at (850) 516-4966.

## NOVEMBER

### **Treasure Coast Chapter BBQ Friday, November 1**

Come on out to the Treasure Coast BBQ at the Walking Tree Brewery! There will be free beer and great BBQ! Tickets are just \$55 and include CCA membership! For additional information please contact Paul Fafeita at (772) 473-8475 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

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

Join us for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual CCA North Palm Beach Chapter Banquet and Auction presented by Grand Slam Tackle. Hosted at the beautiful and brand-new Pelican Club. This casually elegant affair is sure to be a great time! For additional information, please contact Rebekah Bourque at (561) 676-5265.

### 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 raffle, and auction items, as well as steak dinner and open bar! Single tickets start at just \$90 and include CCA membership! For additional information, please contact Mark Feagle at (904) 607-1139 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

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

Please join us for this fifth time event in the heart of Clermont. We are excited to announce that this year's event will be held at the Clermont Arts and Recreation Center. Our featured celebrity guest will be Chad Crawford from How to Do Florida and our featured artist will be Will Blaine with AB Newton & Company! The fun starts at 6 PM with an open bar followed by a catered dinner by our good friends at Texas Cattle Company. Tickets are only \$90 and include open bar, steak dinner, and a one-year CCA membership. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.

### Forgotten Coast Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, November 14

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forgotten Coast Banquet was postponed due to Hurricane Michael last October. Our event this year will be 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.

### St. Augustine Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, November 21

Mark your calendars for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Augustine Banquet and Auction. If you missed this great event last year then you probably already know you don't want to miss out again! Tickets are just \$80 per person or \$150 per couple, corporate tables are still available. For Additional information, please contact Luke Kelleher at (910) 619-2202 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

## DECEMBER

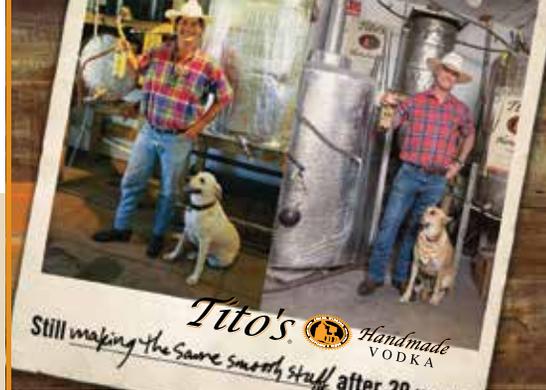
### South Walton Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, December 5

The South Walton Banquet will once again be held at the beautiful Lake House in Watercolor. Tables of 8 begin at \$1,000 and include an open bar for the evening for you and your guests. This is a great opportunity for some holiday shopping. We've sold out quickly the last two years, so make sure you get your tickets early! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (352) 278-2708 or Andy McAlexander at (850) 259-8283.

### Lake Mary Chapter Banquet + Auction Thursday, December 5

Mark your calendars for the Annual Lake Mary Banquet and Auction. You don't want to miss out on this great event at the best banquet venue in the state! Tickets are just \$90 per person or \$150 per couple, corporate tables are still available. For additional information, please contact Brian O'leary at (813) 494-2145 or Jeff Dobbertien at (904) 982-4144.

(continued on page 46)



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

## TITO IMBIBES



### INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 2 oz COLD BREW COFFEE
- 0.5 oz COFFEE LIQUEUR
- 0.5 oz HAZELNUT LIQUEUR
- SPLASH UNSWEETENED ALMOND MILK

### INSTRUCTIONS

SHAKE TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA, COLD BREW COFFEE, AND HAZELNUT AND COFFEE LIQUEURS IN A COCKTAIL SHAKER. POUR INTO A TALL GLASS OVER ICE, TOP WITH A SPLASH OF UNSWEETENED ALMOND MILK, AND SWIZZLE 'TIL FROSTY.

## TITO'S HAIR OF THE DOG



### INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA
- 3-4 oz YOUR FAVORITE BLOODY MARY MIX (EVEN BETTER, MAKE YOUR OWN!)

### INSTRUCTIONS

COMBINE TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA, BLOODY MARY MIX AND ICE IN A COCKTAIL SHAKER. SHAKE WELL, AND POUR EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE ICE, INTO A GLASS.

### GARNISH

GO WILD (IT DOESN'T MAKE YOU A BAD PERSON). TRY CELERY STALKS, OLIVES, DILL PICKLES, PICKLED GREEN BEANS, LEMON, PARSLEY, BACON, CHEESE CUBES, BOILED SHRIMP, ETC.

# event schedule

## Eagles Chapter Banquet + Auction Saturday, December 7

Presented by The Tiki Bar, this banquet will once again be held at in the Cohen Center Ballroom on the Florida Gulf Coast University campus. Corporate tables of 8 be-

gin at \$1,000 include an open bar for the evening for you and your guests as well as one-year CCA memberships and dinner by Mission BBQ. We will have plenty of amazing items in our silent auction, raffle, and live auction! For additional information, please contact Amy Kuehnert at 407-401-7680 or akuehnert@ccaflorida.org.



# Pure. Muscle.

## And cheaper than a gym membership.

We're raffling off a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 396 Custom Hardtop and it could be yours for a \$25 raffle ticket. Get tickets online now at [lovethethefish.com](http://lovethethefish.com).



[ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org)



## Boniface-Hiers Automotive Group Revs Up Support of CCA Florida

This summer, CCA Florida and Boniface-Hiers Automotive Group announced a new promotion to support marine conservation. It's new for CCA Florida and different from past boat raffles. Classic car lovers listen up - a \$25 ticket can win you a beautiful 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 396 Custom Hardtop while supporting conservation initiatives in Florida.

Over 23 years ago, AJ Hiers began giving back to the community, and as a leader in the car business, decided that a car raffle was a great way to raise money with a Grand Prize that would appeal to just about anybody.

For the 2019/2020 Grand Prize, AJ has purchased a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle SS and has committed 100% of the proceeds to CCA Florida.

This 1970 Chevelle is an original SS 396 car transitioned to a more modern custom. The SS received a frame-off restoration with many custom modifications, including the suspension. The big-block 396ci engine was upgraded and modernized with a super-performance Holley Sniper fuel injection system, including a new MSD electronic ignition. The engine transfers power through a rebuilt GM TH400 automatic transmission and a GM 12-bolt 3:32 posi-traction rear end. The custom exhaust includes Hooker competition long tube headers, Flowmaster mufflers and an X-pipe.

This custom Chevelle is equipped with Wilwood 4-piston disc brakes at all four corners. For the warm months, a new Vintage Air Sure Fit Gen IV air conditioning system was installed. The custom Chevelle rides on Ridler custom 18" front and 20" rear rims.

*The drawing will be held in September 2020. For details, official rules and to purchase tickets, visit the store on [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org).*

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