

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



SEAWATCH

WINTER 2019

PRESENTED BY **CONTENDER**

Release
the East

STAR Recap

Descending Devices

CCA Habitat Update

DIGITAL & MECHANICAL RIGGING MEET

BIG-BLOCK



V6 POWER

Yamaha's award-winning 4.2-liter V6 four strokes set the standard for offshore performance. Not only do they feature impressive 4.2-liter big-block displacement, but they're also:

- ▶ **FLEXIBLE** — The entire lineup of 4.2-liter V6 four strokes—from the F225 and F250 up to the mighty F300—is now available with either mechanical or digital controls, for ease of repower
- ▶ **LIGHTER** — At 562 pounds (digital) and 551 pounds (mechanical), they're up to 73 pounds lighter than other four strokes in their class
- ▶ **FASTER** — Up to 19 percent faster than other 300-hp competitors, planing offshore boats with ease*
- ▶ **SMARTER** — Up to 17 percent better fuel economy, at cruise RPM, than comparable outboards*

Learn more about the powerful performance of our 4.2-liter V6 Offshore F300, F250 and F225 at YamahaOutboards.com/V6offshore.



*Testing conducted by Yamaha at Yamaha's test facility on a Grady-White® 257 Advance/300 hp, with each boat rigged for maximum performance. REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal flotation device and protective gear. © 2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. 1-800-889-2624

Reliability Starts Here.®



features



Descending Devices | 9



STAR Recap | 16



CCA Habitat Update | 26

departments

- top comments 4
- advocacy news 8
- around the state 12
- STAR news 16
- habitat horizon 23
- partnerships at work 34
- picture it 35
- sponsor spotlight 39
- CCA event schedule 40
- featured recipe 41



PEFC – Program for the Endorsements of Forest Certification
Recycled 10%. FSC Certified. The Forest Stewardship Council.

contents

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

Sea Watch is published three times a year by CCA Florida, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association.

Editorial/business inquiries and information requests: Mary Hillyer Peelen, P.O. Box 568886, Orlando, Florida, 32856-8886 407-854-7002

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CCA Florida, P.O. Box 568886, Orlando, Florida, 32856-8886

407-854-7002 • ccaflorida.org

Managing Editor
Mary Hillyer Peelen

Editor
Ted Forsgren

Creative Director
Debbie Dewell
Great Minds, Inc.
850-386-7401

Printer
Durrprint,
Tallahassee

CCA FLORIDA STAFF

Brian Gorski
Executive Director

Dan Askin
Chief Operating Officer

Trip Aukeman
Director of Advocacy

Frank Gidus
Director of Habitat & Environmental Restoration

Mary Hillyer Peelen
Director of Communications

Ted Forsgren
Special Advisor
Advocacy

Adam Miller
Senior Regional Director

Zack Batley
Regional Director

Amanda Krpan
Regional Director

Mandy Tuckus
Regional Director

Sara Anderson
Assistant Regional Director

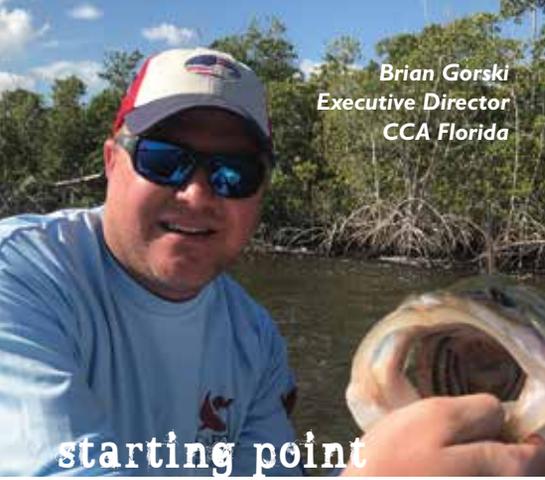
Zach Carroll
Assistant Regional Director

Miriam Askin
Administrative Director

Leiza Fitzgerald
STAR Director

Andrea Gillespie
STAR Assistant Director

Cover photo by Andy Wraithmell, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Brian Gorski
Executive Director
CCA Florida

Restore and Replenish

As 2019 comes to an end, we want to thank our loyal members, devoted sponsors and trusted partners for another successful CCA Florida year. From increasing conservation efforts to growing membership, CCA Florida continues to expand because of your support.

In the past five years, CCA Florida has taken a more proactive role in restoring, preserving and creating healthy habitats and flourishing environments along the coasts and across the state. From clam and oyster restorations, shoreline stabilizations, costal cleanups, seagrass restorations, creation of inshore and offshore artificial reefs, research projects and more, our efforts to fulfill CCA Florida's mission are more dynamic than ever before.

After successfully releasing more than 30,000 redfish on the west coast, this year's focus moved to the east. In September, CCA Florida and the Duke Energy Mariculture Center launched the East Coast Redfish Restocking Initiative: Release the East.

The redfish population has drastically declined as a result of water quality issues and loss of habitat, and the primary goal for this initiative is to help relieve the suffering redfish populations along Florida's east coast. In phase one of the program, CCA Florida's pledges to raise and release 100,000 juvenile redfish to help restock the east coast. Since the initiative's launch, nearly \$25,000 of the \$100,000 goal has

(continued on page 33)

STARTING POINT



Full Steam Ahead

JD Dickenson
Chairman

Just as 2018 was a disheartening year for anglers and marine conservationists in Florida, 2019 has offered real hope and the possibility of a promising future. For the first time in many years, we have political leadership that regards our marine resources with a conservation first mindset. Governor Ron DeSantis, Department of Environmental Protection Chairman Noah Valenstein, and others have been highly visible and undisputedly effective in advancing marine conservation and water quality causes in 2019. We have seen more conservation minded management of Lake Okeechobee, resulting in considerably improved water quality on both coasts. The Governor's Blue Green Algae Task Force has made practical recommendations to the Governor designed to avoid the water quality disasters of years past.

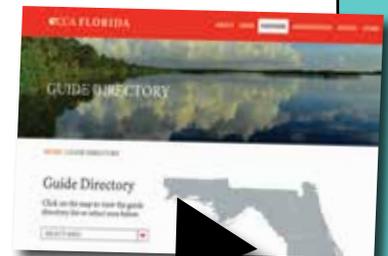
From the opening of a new Stormwater Treatment Area, to the advancement of much needed legislation designed to strengthen the regulation of sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, stormwater quality and agricultural runoff, 2019 has seen Florida conservation issues make some steady political headway. While the ultimate goal of Everglades Restoration remains a long way off, 2019 has at least felt like some progress.

But we still have a long way to go to ensure the long-term health of Florida's coasts. CCA Florida continues to fight off challenges to the now 25-year-old constitutional gill net ban. As always, our

(continued on page 33)

Looking For A Guide?

Log on to ccaflorida.org and choose from our regionalized directory of Florida guides who support CCA's conservation initiatives.





CATCH 'EM.
RELEASE 'EM.
PASS IT ON.

ENGEL®

PROUD CONSERVATION PARTNER OF



RELEASE THE EAST

In the past five years, CCA Florida has taken a more proactive approach in habitat restoration, most recently, focusing on restocking efforts for one of Florida's most iconic fish, the redfish. Last year, more than 30,000 redfish were released on the west coast, and this fall, the focus has moved to the east. In September, CCA Florida and the Duke Energy Mariculture Center launched the East Coast Redfish Restocking Initiative: Release the East.

The redfish population has drastically declined as a result of water quality issues and loss of habitat, and the primary goal for this initiative is to help relieve the suffering redfish populations along Florida's east coast.

"We've had members voicing concern for the lack of redfish across the state and it's our duty to address the issue," said CCA

Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski. "Redfish are an iconic species to our state and we need to work together to conserve this fishery for the next generation."

In phase one of the program, CCA Florida's pledges to raise and release 100,000 juvenile redfish to help restock the east coast. Since the initiative's launch in September, nearly \$25,000 of the \$100,000 goal has been raised from donors and partners. The funds collected are used for equipment, feed and supply costs, and although there is still a lot to be done, the future outlook is promising.

CCA Florida's East Coast Redfish Restocking Initiative is committed to ensuring this iconic fishery is healthy for generations to come. To support or learn more, please visit: releasethemfortomorrow.org.





REDFISH RELEASE RESTOCK

CCA Florida's East Coast Redfish Restocking Initiative

Anglers on Florida's east coast know that the redfish population has declined in recent years. And at CCA Florida, we know that something needs to be done to ensure this iconic fishery is healthy for generations to come.

We're working with the Duke Energy Mariculture Center to restock Florida's redfish population and you can help. Phase I of our east coast redfish restocking initiative includes the raising and release of up to 100,000 juvenile redfish, but we can't do it without you.

With your support, we can meet our \$100,000 goal, which will fund the equipment, feed and other supplies needed to support the effort. Feeding the broodstock and juveniles is a \$25,000 annual cost alone! Get more information online and donate today.

Corporate partnerships are welcome. Learn more online.

DONATE NOW

releasethemfortomorrow.org



September 27, 2019

RE: NOAA-NMFS-2017-0122 - Amendments 50A-F to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico



Dear Ms. Waters:

On behalf of America's millions of recreational anglers and boaters, along with the fishing tackle and boat manufacturing industries, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on Amendment 50 - State Management of Recreational Red Snapper.

For the past two years, the Gulf Coast states have managed the private recreational red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico under an exempted fishing permit (EFP) and it has been a tremendous success. We commend the state fish and wildlife agencies of the Gulf Coast not only for their willingness to take on this task but for developing a comprehensive plan for cooperatively managing this resource going forward. We have been greatly encouraged by the two-year effort put forth by the state fisheries directors to recognize and address the unique aspects of the recreational red snapper fishery in different regions of the Gulf. One-size-fits-all federal management of red snapper has proven to be functionally unworkable, with Gulf-wide recreational seasons decreasing to just three days prior to the implementation of the current EFP.

Under state management for the past two years, private recreational red snapper anglers have enjoyed longer red snapper seasons and become much more active partners in the states' data collection systems. The states have worked to provide greater flexibility to season timing and lengths, providing additional season days if adverse weather conditions in a region prevented anglers from catching expected numbers of fish or cutting seasons short if harvest estimates are higher early in the season. Under the exempted fishing permit, the states have created functional, flexible management regimes and data collection systems for recreational anglers that should serve as a model for other regions and species. This experience has demonstrated without doubt the Gulf states' ability to successfully manage marine resources and we fully support implementation of Amendment 50.

The recreational fishing community has long advocated that natural resource management often works best when it is local, active and hands-on. With the successful implementation of Amendment 50, we fully expect that the states will continue to produce management that is timely, adaptable and based on the latest information. Going forward, we encourage the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to evaluate this example of state management and consider shifting all red snapper management responsibilities to the states. We believe allowing each state to manage its entire fishery as well as evaluating the health of the red snapper biomass off its coast will provide the best path to ensuring the proper conservation of the resource and enhancing the public's access to it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hughes, President
 American Sportfishing Association
 Chris Edmonston, VP Government Affairs
 BoatU.S.
 Jeff Angers, President
 Center for Sportfishing Policy
 Patrick Murray, President

Coastal Conservation Association
 Jeff Crane, President
 Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
 Guy Harvey, Chairman
 Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation
 Nehl Horton, President
 International Game Fish Association
 Thom Dammrich, President
 National Marine Manufacturers Association

DESCENDING DEVICES

Bipartisan Effort Drops a Lifeline to Fish Reeled Up from the Deep U.S. Reps. Graves and Huffman team up to conserve reef fish in the Gulf

A coalition of recreational fishing and boating organizations is lauding the introduction of the DESCEND Act by Congressmen Garret Graves (R-La.) and Jared Huffman (D-Calif.). The DESCEND Act of 2019, or the “Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2019,” would require commercial and recreational fishermen to possess a descending device rigged and ready for use or venting tool when fishing for reef fish in Gulf of Mexico federal waters.

The recreational fishing and boating community has long advocated for the use of descending devices to reduce the mortality rate of prized reef fish such as snapper and grouper. When deep-water fish (more than 30 feet) are brought rapidly to the surface, they experience barotrauma – a condition where a buildup of gas pressure in their bodies makes it difficult or impossible to swim back down. If a fisherman releases the fish due to size, season or bag limit restrictions and the fish does not survive, this is a dead discard or wasted fish.

A descending device is a weighted hook, lip clamp, or box that will hold the fish while it is lowered to a sufficient depth to recover from the effects of barotrauma and release the fish. A venting tool is a sharpened, hollow device capable of penetrating the abdomen of a fish in order to release the excess gas pressure in the body cavity when a fish is retrieved from depth.

Possession of descending devices on board is required in other parts of the country, including several West Coast states and, starting next year pending final regulatory approval, in South Atlantic federal waters. However, similar regulatory action in the Gulf of Mexico has been held up due to concerns that such action would make ineligible an impending \$30 million project related to barotrauma reduction, funded through the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program.

The DESCEND Act would break through this bureaucratic roadblock by both allowing the \$30 million project to proceed and requiring possession of descending devices or venting tools.



“Given the economic and cultural importance of fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, we should be doing all we can to ensure the conservation of these fisheries,” said Mike Leonard, vice president of government affairs for the American Sportfishing Association. “Improving the survival of released fish has long been a sportfishing industry priority. We strongly support the DESCEND Act, and appreciate Reps. Graves and Huffman for their continued leadership on marine conservation policy.”

“The huge economic impact of the Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery depends on an abundance of fish and fishing opportunities. We commend this bipartisan effort led by Congressmen Graves and Huffman for tackling wanton waste of America’s fishery resources,” said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. “By following simple best practices such as the use of descending devices and venting tools, recreational and commercial fishermen can do a little extra to return alive many more fish to their deep-water homes.”

“Discard mortality and commercial bycatch are significant, hidden drains on our marine resources that must be confronted by all stakeholders and this legislation is a targeted effort that aims to decrease the impact of recreational angling on important species,” said Ted Venker, conservation director for Coastal Conservation Association. “No one likes to throw back a fish, see it float off and know that it’s a wasted fish. Given the availability and effectiveness of descending devices to address one of the main factors impacting the availability of

many species, particularly red snapper, this legislation makes sense and hopefully leads to greater awareness of the need to reduce all sources of discard and bycatch mortality.”

“Not only will ensuring that we can return fish to depth and minimize post-release mortality benefit fisheries conservation, it will increase angler access to those fisheries in the long-term,” said Chris Horton, fisheries program director for the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation. “Releasing more fish alive today will translate to more fish and more days on the water tomorrow.”

“Expanding the use of descending devices is sound conservation policy that will help ensure the health of fisheries for generations to come,” said Nicole Vasilaros, senior vice president of government and legal affairs for the National Marine Manufacturers Association. “The recreational boating and fishing community thanks Representatives Garret Graves and Jared Huffman for their leadership on this issue and we call on all members of Congress to support the bipartisan DESCEND Act.”

“Recreational anglers are the biggest champions of fish conservation in our country. One of the best ways to ensure survival for reef fish and to enhance conservation and grow the resource is by using descending devices to help fish adjust after being caught in deeper waters and avoid being eaten by predators in the process,” said Chris Macaluso, Center for Marine Fisheries director for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. “We applaud the authors and co-sponsors of this bill for their continued work with recreational fishermen to improve fishery management and resource conservation.”

Things looking up for bottom fish in the South Atlantic | South Atlantic Council approves descending device regulation to improve catch and release

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) made a landmark decision today by passing a rule requiring commercial and recreational fishermen who are fishing for snapper-grouper species to have a descending device readily available to release unwanted fish. The descending device would return the fish back to the depth from which it came, decreasing the harsh effects of barotrauma and increasing chances for survival.

“This is a big win for the fish,” said Richen Brame, South Atlantic Fisheries director for CCA. “Discard mortality is having a negative effect on a number of snapper-grouper populations and this requirement will help decrease the mortality on these important species. Every angler fishing in areas that might hold snapper, grouper and other similar species has a role to play to ensure a healthy future for these fish.”

The new rule, if approved by NOAA Fisheries, defines what a descending device is and provides enough flexibility to allow for homemade versions to decrease barotrauma, allowing anglers to be creative and innovative. There was universal support for the new rule with major commercial, recreational and environmental organizations all publicly supporting the proposed requirement.

“This is a win-win for the fisherman and the fish,” said Chester Brewer, a recreational angler and council representative from Florida. “I’m proud of how the entire council came together to address one of the major fishery management challenges we face and enact a common-sense regulation that will have a significant, positive impact on the health of these stocks.”

Research by NOAA Fisheries found that almost 30 percent of all red snapper caught by the recreational sector and almost 40 percent of snapper caught by the commercial sector died after release in 2017, causing a huge hidden drain on the species. The hope is that the

descending device requirement will decrease the discard mortality so more fish will survive to grow and add to the spawning stock. The SAFMC is committed to monitoring the use and efficacy of descending devices so any conservation gains would be used in future stock assessments, perhaps leading to larger populations and more robust abundance. Mortality of unwanted fish improperly released back into the ocean is one of the biggest problems facing fishermen and managers today.

“Anglers everywhere are increasingly aware of barotrauma and many have taken it upon themselves to find ways to properly release fish to increase survival. No one likes to throw back a fish and see it float off and know that it’s a wasted fish,” said Ted Venker, conservation director for CCA. “Given the availability and effectiveness of descending devices to address one of the main factors causing short seasons for many species, particularly red snapper, this requirement only makes sense. We commend the South Atlantic Council for its thoughtful approach and hope that this opens a door for other councils to implement similar conservation measures.”

For the purposes of this requirement, the South Atlantic Council defined descending devices as “an instrument to which is attached a minimum of a 16-oz weight and a length of line that will release the fish at the depth from which the fish was caught or a minimum of 50 feet. The descending device attaches to the fish’s mouth or is a container that will hold the fish. The device must be capable of releasing the fish automatically, by the actions of the operator of the device, or by allowing the fish to escape on its own. Since minimizing surface time is critical to increasing survival, descending devices shall be readily available for use while engaged in fishing.”

The regulation must still be approved by NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Department of Commerce before going into effect.



REALTREE
FISHING™

WWW.REALTREE.COM



WE ARE FISHING

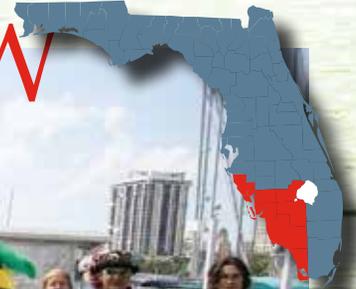


**PARTNERS IN
CONSERVATION**

REALTREEFISHING.COM | [@REALTREE.FISHING](https://www.instagram.com/REALTREE.FISHING)

©2019 Jordan Outdoor Enterprises, Ltd. 1782-198





In October, CCA Florida supported the 22nd Annual Yerrid Foundation Grand Slam Celebrity Fishing Tournament hosted by National Pediatric Cancer Foundation in Saint Petersburg. Children, who are battling or battled cancer, participated in derby activities and fished off the docks at The Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort and Golf Club with help from local CCA members and event volunteers. Following fishing, the children enjoyed a variety of activity stations including knot tying and casting. The event ended with a delicious lunch and awards ceremony.

RHODAN MARINE SYSTEMS: OFFSHORE ANCHORING SPECIALISTS



COMING FALL 2019!

NMEA 2000® Compatible
Full Integration with Simrad®
and Lowrance® MFD's
Secondary control of
the motor from the helm



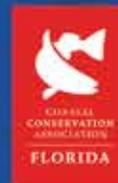
Precision dynamic positioning
to hold location within a 3 foot
circle, even in rough water

30% to 50% longer battery life due
to advanced motor & electronics
technology

36" to 96" shafts & highest thrust
for vessels up to 40 ft & 15,000 lbs

36v - 120 lbs Thrust
24v - 80 lbs Thrust
12v - 55 lbs Thrust

Official Trolling Motor
of CCA Florida



SET IT. FORGET IT. CATCH MORE FISH.

RhodanMarine.com | 941-706-4578 | Sarasota, FL

RHODAN
HDGPS ANCHOR+



CCA Florida once again made a huge splash at ICAST with our special guests, happy hours, and free giveaways! ICAST is the world largest fishing trade show that takes place in Orlando every summer. Our special guests included Captain Rick Murphy, Brie Gabrielle, Captain Blair Wiggins, Capt. Mike Anderson, Steve Whitlock, Joyful Enriquez, Eric Estrada, Anastasia Musick, Peter Agardy, and Dennis Friel! Free beer was provided by SweetWater Beer and served in CCA x Engel stainless steel tumblers. We shared the CCA message with various companies and other top organizations through meetings, seminars, and more!

Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and members for making ICAST 2019 another fantastic event.



CENTRAL



As sportsmen and conservationists, passing on our passion for Florida's resources is one of the most important legacies we can give our children, and often times, this begins by simply teaching a kid to fish. CCA Florida is involved in youth angling opportunities to ensure the longevity of the sport, and in October, the CCA Clermont Chapter hosted its inaugural Kid's Fishing Clinic and it was a huge success. The community rallied behind this event with help from FISH Florida, the City of Clermont, Lake County, Florida Angler, SeventyOne, FWC, Clermont Oyster Bar, Powell Studio Architecture, Florida Fishing Products, Live Target Lures, DOA Lures, Danco Pliers and many others. Educational stations included Environmental Stewardship, Knots and Rigging, Casting, Artificial Lures and Techniques and Conservation. All participating youth anglers received a free rod and reel provided by FISH Florida and instruction on how to use them. The future of fishing is the next generation and we were excited to host this special event.



NE



The 29th annual CCA Gainesville Banquet was held on September 12 in the Touchdown Terrace of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville. It was a great evening of fun, seafood, and conservation as we raised funds to support CCA Florida's mission to protect and preserve Florida's marine environment. We have outgrown this venue and are excited to move to a larger venue next year! For more information about the Gainesville Chapter, contact Regional Director Amanda Krpan, akrpan@ccaflorida.org.



CCA FLORIDA STAR RECAP



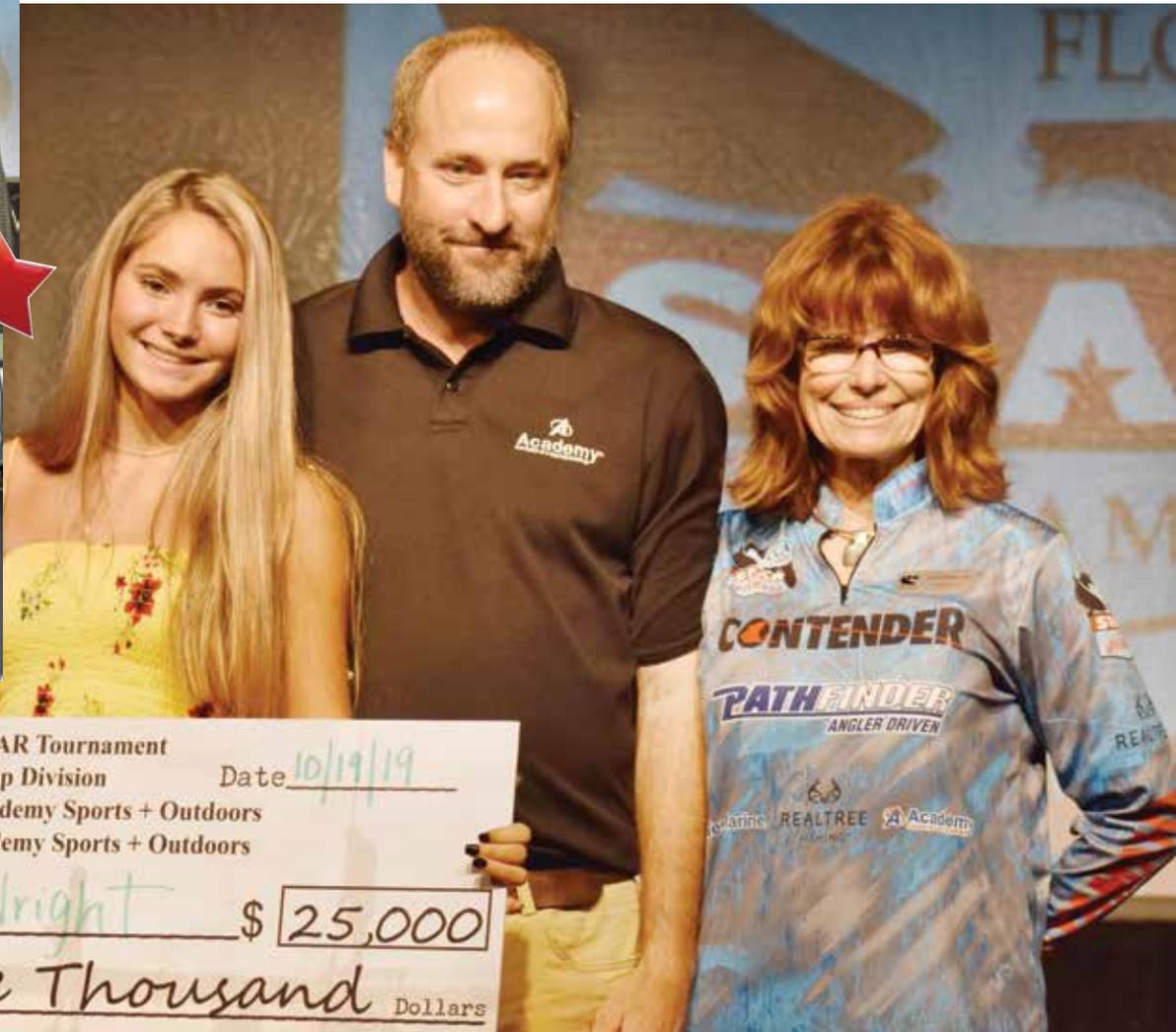
Coastal Conservation Association Florida STAR presented by Yamaha, had “lines out” on Monday, September 2 after receiving more than 20,000 catch entries from nearly 6,000 anglers during the 101-day, family-friendly fishing competition. For the fifth year, STAR was the largest fishing competition in the state, making sponsors and recreational anglers truly STAR struck! In October, the STAR competition celebrated winners by distributing nearly \$400,000 prizes and scholarships.

As the state’s leading organization

dedicated to marine fisheries conservation, education and advocacy, CCA Florida designed STAR as a catch-and-release competition to educate the general public about the importance of conservation. And participating in CCA STAR was made easy with the state-of-the-art smartphone app, as it eliminated the need for a catch to be weighed or harvested. STAR participants uploaded his or her entry photo with the 2019 West Marine official STAR measuring device. Anglers of every skill level throughout Florida had the opportunity to win, as

it was not based on the biggest fish or the most entries, but determined by a drawing from the verified entries per division (excluding the iHeart Radio tagged redfish, tagged Mahi Mahi, guides, conservation and the Lionfish divisions).

During the competition, 12 of 162 iHeart Radio STAR tagged redfish were recaptured. Three of those 12 fish were caught by CCA Florida STAR registered anglers. The three tagged-redfish winners could choose a GMC Sierra 1500 crew cab pickup truck offered by Conley Buick GMC



CCA Florida STAR Tournament
 Youth Scholarship Division Date 10/19/19
 Presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors
 Awarded by Academy Sports + Outdoors

Pay To The Order Of Valerie Wright \$ 25,000
TwentyFive Thousand Dollars



Bradenton or select one of the donated boats: Contender 22 Sport, Pathfinder 2200 TRS, Hewes 16 Redfisher, Carolina Skiff 21 or Relentless Aluminium Flats/Bay boat, all powered by Yamaha with a custom trailer included.

To celebrate winners and participants, the CCA Florida STAR Awards Banquet and Ceremony presented Visit Space Coast was the competition's grand finale. It was a wonderful night with CCA staff and sponsors awarding more than 100 anglers nearly \$400,000, of the \$500,000 available, in prizes including \$100,000 in college scholarships.

A competition designed for the whole family, gave nearly 1,200 youth anglers the opportunity to participate in STAR. One of the \$5,000 scholarship winners was 9-year-old Presley Armstrong, who spent the summer fishing with her grandfather. While being recognized during the Awards ceremony, Presley and her grandfather came to the stage, not to accept her scholarship but to announce that she would like her prize to be donated to the Bahamas relief efforts – a true STAR moment.

In addition to the Awards ceremony, the STAR banquet featured a performance by Nashville artist Kevin MaC, silent and live auctions, Kids Fun Zone, dinner from Texas Cattle Company, open bar provided by Carroll Distributing, Devils River Whiskey, Papa's Pilar and Tito's along with Realtree Tervis Tumblers from Boaters Exchange and STAR t-shirts for all 500 guests.

From "lines in" to finish, 2019 STAR continued the competition's success and



CCA Florida is eager to kick off STAR 2020 on May 23!

Since the inception of CCA Florida STAR in 2015, CCA Florida has awarded more than \$1 million in prizes and \$500,000 in college scholarships to youth anglers.

STAR 2020 begins May 23, during Memorial Day weekend, and concludes on

September 7, Labor Day. There will be 108 days of fishing and more than \$500,000 in winnings. Register today!

For a complete list of 2019 winners, prizes awarded, more information on the STAR competition and how to register for 2020, visit www.ccaflorida.org or www.ccaflstar.com.



iHeart
RADIO



Thank you iHeart Radio and local partners for your support of

CCA FLORIDA | STAR

and the iHeart Radio Tagged Redfish Division.

CCA FLORIDA
ccafloida.org

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Become a Life Member Today

As a CCA Florida Life member, you help support Florida's marine fisheries, habitat, waterways, coasts and more. Join us as we continue to work toward enhancing these resources and Florida's fishing future.

Invest in a CCA Florida Life Membership and receive these amazing gifts:

HD30 Engel Cooler

Engraved "CCA Florida Life Member"
Rhineland Santoku Pocket Knife



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.

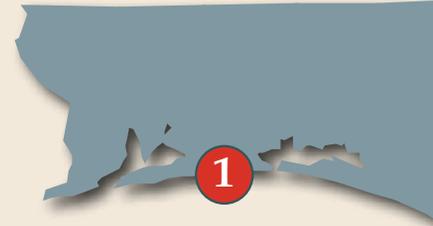
THE SOLUTION

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.



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 more than \$4.6 million 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. Pat Kelly Memorial Reef
22. CCA Florida Bay Seagrass Restoration
23. CCA/UNF Florida Bay Turtle Grass Research Project
24. CCA John Michael Baker Memorial Reef - Broward County
25. CCA/BCT Goggle Eye Reef
26. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation Reef
27. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation "No Shoes" Reef
28. CCA/BCT/Palm Beach County Memorial Reef
29. CCA/Florida Oceanographic Society Seagrass and Oyster Restoration
30. CCA/MCAC Brause Girls Reef
31. CCA Curtis Bostick Reef
32. CCA/Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Seagrass Restoration
33. CCA Indian River Lagoon RISSA Seagrass Buoys and Oyster Restoration
34. CCA Spotted Seatrout Acoustic Study
35. CCA/Brevard County Artificial Reefs
36. CCA/Additive Fishing/FWC/UF Indian River Lagoon Clam Restoration
37. CCA/UCF Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Restoration
38. CCA/UCF/NPS Canaveral Nat'l Seashore Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
39. CCA/BCT Lady Philomena Cargo Ship - Volusia County Reef Site No. 12
40. CCA/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
41. CCA/Heineken/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
42. CCA/City of Fernandina Living Shoreline Oyster Restoration
43. CCA/BCT Starship Reef
44. CCA/BCT Jacksonville River Reef



- Completed
- Ongoing
- Upcoming

2017 CCA/Swamp Head Brewery Trash Tour Coastal Cleanups

2018 CCA/Swamp Head Brewery Trash Tour Coastal Cleanups

Redfish Stock Enhancement Locations - Total of 200 Adults and 34,000 Juveniles released

Snook Stock Enhancement Location - 5,000 Juveniles released

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!

IRL Clam Restoration Project

In 2017, Capt. Blair Wiggins contacted CCA Florida to discuss his concerns for the demise of clams in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). Blair described how he vividly remembered wading the IRL as a child and



walking on acres and acres of clam beds. As a fisherman and guide on the water daily, he observed first-hand the excessive commercial take of the clams, the declining water quality, and the ensuing drop in numbers year after year. Blair's observation in 2017 was that the clams had virtually disappeared and it seemed to coincide with the significant increase in algae blooms and the resulting die-off of the seagrasses. To Blair, this looked to be the last straw and the tipping point in which the filtering clams could no longer keep up with the negative anthropogenic impacts to the water quality of IRL.

A few months later, CCA Florida was contacted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the University of Florida's (UF's) Whitney Laboratory to partner on a grant titled, "Restoration of Clam Populations in the IRL for Water Quality Improvement." The primary

goal of the project is to immediately initiate clam restoration in the IRL by repatriating hardy varieties of native clam species and assessing the survivorship under various environmental conditions. This work will form the foundation for restoring shellfish populations in the IRL. CCA Florida committed \$24,140 of an in-kind match for the grant along with a \$10,000 cash donation from CCA's Music City Chapter in Nashville. According to the grant application, "Through a multi-partner team, we propose to build upon the previous studies and leverage recent environmental stressors (algal blooms, hypoxia) that have naturally selected for the hardiest filter-feeding clams in the north and north-central IRL, by collecting surviving individuals of historically abundant species (e.g., hard clam, Mercenaria mercenaria/campechiensis, sun-ray venus clam, Macrocalista nimboza and

(continued on page 24)





IRL CLAM RESTORATION PROJECT

continued from page 23

dwarf surf clam, *Mulinia lateralis*) in these environmentally stressed areas. We will conduct synoptic surveys of the IRL to assess clam populations/density including historic clam communities and past research areas (focusing especially on southern Mosquito Lagoon, northern IRL between Titusville and Port St. John, and Banana River); collect broodstock of the targeted taxa and experimentally determine tolerance of the selected bivalve species to key environmental stressors (e.g., salinity, hypoxia, calcium carbonate saturation). The IRL clams will also be compared with similar specimens collected from healthy northeast Florida populations and aquaculture stock for these ex situ trials; spawn the collected taxa and

rear larvae to field transplant size ('seed') at the Whitney Laboratory's research shellfish hatchery and land-based nursery for the purpose of repatriating the targeted bivalves to the IRL and hastening system recovery; outplant hatchery-reared clams to strategic locations in the IRL (based upon historical sites and current water quality trends) including existing partner lease areas and fate-track survivorship and growth; conduct targeted tissue histology sampling for the documented chronic IRL gonadal neoplasia condition to assess current trends and potential barriers to restoration. This condition has historically been a major factor for the hybrid (*Mercenaria mercenaria/campechiensis*); develop a clam restoration strategy for the IRL and share results with the restoration community and shellfish industry. The data, results, and

strategy will be compiled into a final report produced by Univ. of Florida Whitney Lab in conjunction with partners.

The grant was submitted to the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP) but unfortunately it did not rank high enough at that time to receive funding. CCA Florida then contacted Blair to inform him about the clam restoration project, to see if he was interested in it, and to explore ideas of finding funding elsewhere. This was followed up with a kick-off meeting at CCA Florida's Orlando office with Blair and his Addictive Fishing team, FWC, and UF. Blair's passion for restoring clams in the IRL led to the development of a new website (www.irlclamproject.com) by his team designed to bring awareness to the project and to raise funds. In addition to CCA's \$10,000, an additional \$7,000 was

donated by Addictive Fishing sponsors Dick's Sporting Goods and Star Brite. McCabe Productions, producers of Addictive Fishing Television created a video docu-series (www.youtube.com/aftv), and Capt. Jim Ross and his radio talk show, Catch a Memory Outdoors, were instrumental in spreading the word about the project and interviewing Blair and Dr. Todd Osborne from the UF Whitney Laboratory on Capt. Blair's television series.

Blair also organized a fundraising event with CCA at the Cocoa Civic Center in Brevard County. The fundraising event took place on October 5, 2019 and was a huge success. In typical Mogan Man style, Blair invited fishing guides and celebrities like Roland Martin, Shaw Grigsby, CA Richardson, Carter Andrews, Jim Ross, George Clark Jr., Bobby Lane, Josh Jorgensen, Lionel James, Mark Nichols, Dave Ferrell, and Matt Kechele, to name a few. The event began in the morning with a kids fishing derby with



the help of the guides and celebrities. In the evening, the fundraiser included a banquet complete with a celebrity dinner followed by a raffle, a silent auction, and a live auction. Speakers included the Mogan Man himself and Dr. Todd Osborne from the UF Whitney Laboratory. Over \$50,000 was raised in one evening for the clam restoration project. In addition to this, Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D., Executive Director of the IRLNEP, surprised everyone by presenting a grant award check at the event for \$103,322 for the project! The grant that was originally submitted in 2018 but did not get funded was re-submitted in 2019, and

the check was thoughtfully presented by Dr. De Freese at the fundraising event.

The IRL clam team is currently planning the deployment of the first generation of over 4,000,000 clams back into the IRL later this year. Next year's fundraising event for the clam restoration project will be even bigger and better! Details for the next fundraiser will be shared throughout the year by Addictive Fishing, CCA, Catch a Memory Outdoors, and others. For more information about the project or to donate, please visit www.irlclamproject.com or contact Frank Gidus at fgidus@ccaflorida.org.

SINFULLY SMOOTH WHISKEY



Forged From Greatness.

Devils River Whiskey owes its unique taste to our meticulous attention to detail. Made from naturally limestone-filtered water from the Devils River, our Sinfully Smooth Whiskey unmasks all the subtle nuances we work tirelessly to



The Official Whiskey of:



Sin responsibly. Devils River Bourbon Whiskey, 90 proof, 45% Alc/Vol. Produced and Bottled by Devils River Whiskey

2019 CCA HABITAT UPDATE

Since 2010, CCA Florida and BCT have contributed over \$800,000 which has been leveraged with our partners to create over \$4.6 million in habitat projects in Florida.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

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.

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 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.

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 Partnerships. 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



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.



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.

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.

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

CCA Florida donated \$5,000 toward

this fish monitoring project near Cedar Key. The Lone Cabbage Reef, located in Suwannee Sound off Florida's Big Bend coast, has been restored through a large-scale restoration project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Project construction occurred July through October 2018 and restored nearly 3 linear miles of oyster reef using limestone and shell. Enhanced abundances of juvenile fish species have been recorded for restored oyster reefs,

and these areas can provide prey items and refuge for juvenile fish and invertebrates. FWRI's Independent Monitoring (FIM) program has collected long-term stratified random sampling data in the Cedar Key and Suwannee Sound areas for over 20 years.

In October 2017, NCBS began directed sampling along the reef tract to increase spatial coverage of the projected restoration site, as a collaboration with the University of Florida. Six sites along the reef have been sampled every month, using a 70' center bag seine net. This gear-type is designed to target juvenile and small adult fish and invertebrates in shallow tidal flats with water depths less than 1.5m. Using the historic FIM data and the directed sampling data, the community structure and relative abundance of fish and invertebrates found along the reef before and after the restoration project was assessed. The restored reef may also enhance freshwater retention that could result in salinity changes that may also affect the nekton assemblages in the area. Overall, this study will provide insight into the short-term effects of oyster restoration on the nekton assemblages along Lone Cabbage Reef.

(continued on page 28)





ONGOING PROJECTS

Indian River Lagoon Spotted Seatrout Acoustic Study

CCA Florida donated \$25,000 cash and a \$57,000 in-kind match in 2018 to this three-year study. The studies' 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 only occur when they are spawning. Anglers record underwater sounds at pre-determined channel marker transects during the summer spawning season in Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties. Year 2 of the seatrout acoustic study wrapped up in September 2019 and plans are underway for the 2020 study next year. Capt. Dave Lear joined CCA Florida on the water on May 20, 2019 to conduct a series of acoustic transects for an upcoming article in TIDE Magazine, CCA's national publication. Year 3 of the acoustic study will take place during the months of August and September 2020. These 2 months have proven to be the peak of the spawning in the IRL based on our previous results.

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 CCA Broward 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 Chapter has been working on another deployment on the shallow dive reef for late November 2019, weather permitting.

Hurricane Dorian had disrupted the original plans for a summer 2019 deployment but a new opportunity to deploy before the end of the year surfaced. The plan is to deploy 15 donated concrete structures for a total of 111,000 lbs to the shallow dive reef in 70 feet of water. The Broward CCA Chapter has a goal to conduct one deployment per year on the John Michael Baker Memorial Reef.

Phoenix Reef

CCA Florida is working with Ingman Marine and the Charlotte Chapter to plan the second deployment on the Phoenix Reef. Last year's deployment was successfully completed on November 30, 2018, in approximately 50-feet of water (26°

45.582', -82° 28.443'). Ingman Marine has generously stepped up again 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. An additional \$8,500 has been raised for the reef, for a total of \$18,500.

IRL Clam Restoration Project

CCA Florida teamed up with Capt. Blair Wiggins and his Addictive Fishing team, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the University of Florida on a new project designed to restore clams in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). Please see the separate article about this project in this edition of SeaWatch Magazine.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Sean Gucken Memorial Reef

CCA Florida has been working with the Gucken family for almost 2 years in planning a memorial reef for Sean Gucken who passed away in 2017. Sean was a CCA member, free-diver, spear fisherman, recreational fisherman, and an all-round avid outdoorsman. The current plan is to deploy on the pre-permitted King's Reef in approximately 30-feet of water. 500+ tons of concrete materials have already been donated and are being held for the reef until deployment in the summer of 2020.

CCA/MBARA Artificial Reef, Mexico Beach

CCA Florida donated \$7,500 to this artificial reef project and the Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association (MBARA) has matched this contribution for a total project cost of \$15,000. This new

patch reef will be constructed at the pre-permitted Sherman Site located 11.9 nautical mile (nm) west of the Mexico Beach Canal, 13.0 nm south of St. Andrews Pass and 14.7 nm west of St Joe Bay. This 3 square nm area is located in approximately 80 feet of water and will consist of 7-8 structures weighing 5,000-6,000 lbs each and approximately 5-8 feet each in height. The estimated completion of the project is Spring-Winter 2020. According to MBARA, this new reef will attract a variety of species including red snapper, gray snapper, gag grouper and amberjack.

Delray Dredge Hole Artificial Reef

CCA Florida, Palm Beach County (PBC), and Sandoway Discovery Center (SDC)

(continued on page 30)

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.

Upcoming Projects

continued from page 28

have partnered to create a new artificial reef off the coast of Palm Beach County. The total proposed budget is \$160,000 and CCA Florida has committed \$10,000 to the project. CCA Florida also recently submitted a Letter of Interest to Impact 100 Palm Beach County to apply for a \$120,000 grant for this project. Rodrigo Vera and Frank Gidus with CCA Florida,

and Danica Sanborn, SDC Executive Director, are working closely with Carman Vare, PBC Environmental Program Supervisor and Jena McNeal, PBC Environmental Analyst-Artificial Reef Coordinator, to purchase a steel-hulled vessel to deploy on this permitted artificial reef site. PBC has identified some available vessels for reefing and the funds from Impact 100, if awarded, would be used entirely for the purchase of the vessel, the required cleaning of the vessel, and deployment of the vessel. The

vessel would be purchased following announcement of the grant award, and would be cleaned and prepared for deployment by a licensed and approved marine contractor. The anticipated deployment date would be between the summer of 2020 and the summer of 2021.

Absolut Vodka (Pernod Ricard USA) CCA Oyster Recycling Expansion

CCA Florida is working with Absolut Vodka on a \$15,000 donation to go towards expanding our current oyster recycling program. This additional funding would potentially allow us to expand collection of oyster shells to approximately 5 restaurants, greatly increasing our recycling capacity.

Lemon Bay High School (LBHS) Prop Scar Restoration Project

The LBHS Marine Conservation Club is working on a sea grass restoration project near Catfish Creek in Charlotte County. They have applied for an FDEP permit to do prop scar restoration and it is close to approval. They will be purchasing the sedimentation tubes and shoal grass from Sea and Shoreline this year. The school would like to make this a regular project as prop scars are a major issue in this area. Their high school marine lab includes over 80 aquariums including a large touch tank and 2 aquariums over 3,000 gallons each. In addition to this, they have outdoor space just outside their lab with future plans to expand and grow seagrasses. CCA Florida donated \$2,500 to assist with their prop scar project, and will look to assist with finding equipment in the future as they expand to grow seagrasses. LBHS has agreed to match CCA's donation of \$2,500.

CCA/OAR/Wakulla County Reef Project

CCA Life Member and Carrabelle resident Bill Mickler has been working with Wakulla County and the Organization for Artificial Reefs (OAR) on a new offshore reef. The reef had been put on hold because of Hurricane Michael but has been revitalized with the recent \$60,000 grant award from FWC. OAR has committed \$10,000 to the project, but additional funds are required to get the materials trucked to the staging site.

CCA Official Partner
IGFA Corporate Member

LIVE THE Legend

#CCAFLOIDA | @CCA_FLORIDA | #CCAFSTAR

In full spirit of ERNEST HEMINGWAY
Captain Rick Murphy, Legacy Life Member of the CCA, gives back — one catch & release at a time.

PAPA'S PILAR
NEVER A SPOOKSTER
3
100% GRAPE VODKA
40% ALC/VOL (80 PROOF)
2018

PAPASPILARRUM — Ernest Hemingway — **@PAPASPILAR**



Rhineland Cutlery

==== ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ =====
X50 CR MOV 15 High Carbon German Steel



A Cut Above

Rhineland Cutlery founded in 1995

Industry experts worldwide consulted on all stages of design and development to create the ultimate line of cutlery

Growing reputation and international recognition for our exquisite, high performance culinary knives and accessories

Perfectly balanced, ergonomic and beautiful – our distinct handle with tapered bolster sets us apart

Dominant in personalized, luxury, corporate and every day gifting

Thousands of fans and partnerships across North America and beyond

Probably the best knife you'll ever use!

Use our engraving services to promote your business, impress your friends or create that perfectly unique gift!

rhinelandcutlery.com | 321-725-2101



Chairman Robert Spottswood
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

September 27, 2019

Dear Chairman Spottswood:

On behalf of America's millions of recreational anglers and boaters, along with the fishing tackle and boat manufacturing industries, we write to you in strong support of the science plan proposed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to achieve the management goals of Biscayne National Park (Park). We urge the Commission to proceed with its approval without delay to encourage fishery improvements within the Park boundaries as quickly as possible.



Our organizations have long been engaged in the development of regulations for the Park, having been involved in the development of the General Management Plan (GMP), which was finalized in 2015. We were discouraged that the final GMP recommended an extensive marine reserve that prohibited boating and angling access without first considering other, less restrictive options that could also increase size and abundance of fish stocks within the Park.

We have greatly appreciated the efforts of your agency to address the Park's needs through solutions that avoid large-scale closures within such an economically and ecologically important area. We applaud FWC and the Park for the development of the groundbreaking science-based proposal that is currently under consideration. FWC is renowned as a leader in fisheries management, and this innovative plan, based on sound scientific principles, continues that legacy.

As such, we request that the agency proceed without delay in approving the proposed science plan that includes Park-specific bag and size limits for important fish species and that the Park give the plan sufficient time for evaluation of its effectiveness once implemented before considering any other management alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and for all you do to ensure that Florida remains the "Fishing and Boating Capital of the World."

Sincerely,

Glenn Hughes, President
American Sportfishing Association
Chris Edmonston, VP Government Affairs
BoatU.S.
Jeff Angers, President
Center for Sportfishing Policy
Patrick Murray, President
Coastal Conservation Association

Jeff Crane, President
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Guy Harvey, Chairman
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation
Nehl Horton, President
International Game Fish Association
Thom Dammrich, President
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Starting Point

continued from page 4

been raised from donors and partners. The funds collected are used for equipment, feed and supply costs, and although there is still a lot to be done, the future outlook is promising.

Like the efforts to restock one of Florida's most iconic fish, each CCA Florida project is focused on positively affecting water quality. Through legislative work and support from dedicated partners, CCA Florida's vision to "ensuring the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them" remains to be the foundation for our cause.

We are committed to continuing our efforts in 2020 and beyond, but we need your help. This edition of Sea Watch features the many habitat projects underway or planned for the future. Our members, like you, are the fuel to ignite and propel these initiatives, in effort to create flourishing habitats and healthy waters for today and generations to come.

Happy New Year.

Chairman's message

continued from page 4

friends at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have worked tirelessly to advocate for our marine resources, including defending the net ban. Red tide remains a concern on the west coast of Florida and there are many millions of dollars, many projects, and many years to go before Comprehensive Everglades Restoration is accomplished. Other waterways around the state remain threatened. We continue to see the drying of the Apalachicola River floodplain caused by reduced freshwater flows. These and many other challenges are ahead of us.

Despite these challenges, we all deeply value the resources that we enjoy. We can choose to have beautiful, ecologically robust marine ecosystems if we collectively commit to that goal. In truth, I don't see that there is any other choice. The health of our state is inextricably bound to the health of these resources. The economy of our state is equally bound to the health of those resources. It is our obligation to ensure that they are conserved for future generations.

CCA Florida has been the leading voice for marine conservation in Florida since 1985. The issues have evolved and CCA has evolved with them. We now execute record breaking habitat restoration work all over the state. We participate in cutting edge fish hatchery and release work with snook and redfish. We still spend legislative sessions walking the halls of the Capital advocating for fisheries and those that love those fisheries. We do these things in conjunction with numerous partner organizations who share our commitment to conservation. CCA Florida will always be here, with 20,000 members strong and growing, tirelessly advocating for the marine ecosystems that we all cherish.

Next time you enjoy a great day on the water with friends and family, take a moment to be thankful for what we have and think about how you can help ensure the conservation of our coastal ecosystems. Thank you for your support of CCA Florida and your commitment to conservation.

Full Steam Ahead!



Family Time Reinvented

Enter the CCA Florida Pathfinder Raffle

CCA and Realtree Fishing camo leggings are now available!



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

CCA Florida is proud to partner with Free Sunshields and offer an exclusive CCA design, available online for \$7.99 plus free S&H!

What we're even more proud of, is that 25 percent of the proceeds from these CCA Sunshields come back to CCA Florida to support our habitat and advocacy initiatives.

Learn about the I-for-I Initiative and get yours online. Visit freesunshields.com and click I-for-I.



picture it



STAR winners are anglers of all ages





CCA SOLIDO SUN MASK



UPF 40 BLOCKS 97.5% OF THE SUN'S HARMFUL UV RAYS.



MOISTURE WICKING FABRIC KEEPS YOU CALM, COLLECTED AND DRY.

\$5 FROM THE SALE OF EVERY CCA BY AFTCO PRODUCT IS DONATED TO FUND CCA CONSERVATION EFFORTS. AVAILABLE NOW AT AFTCO.COM.

★ AMERICA'S ★ ORIGINAL CRAFT VODKA®



Hi.

I'm **TITO BEVERIDGE**.
My Handmade American Vodka
beats the giant imports
EVERY DAY!



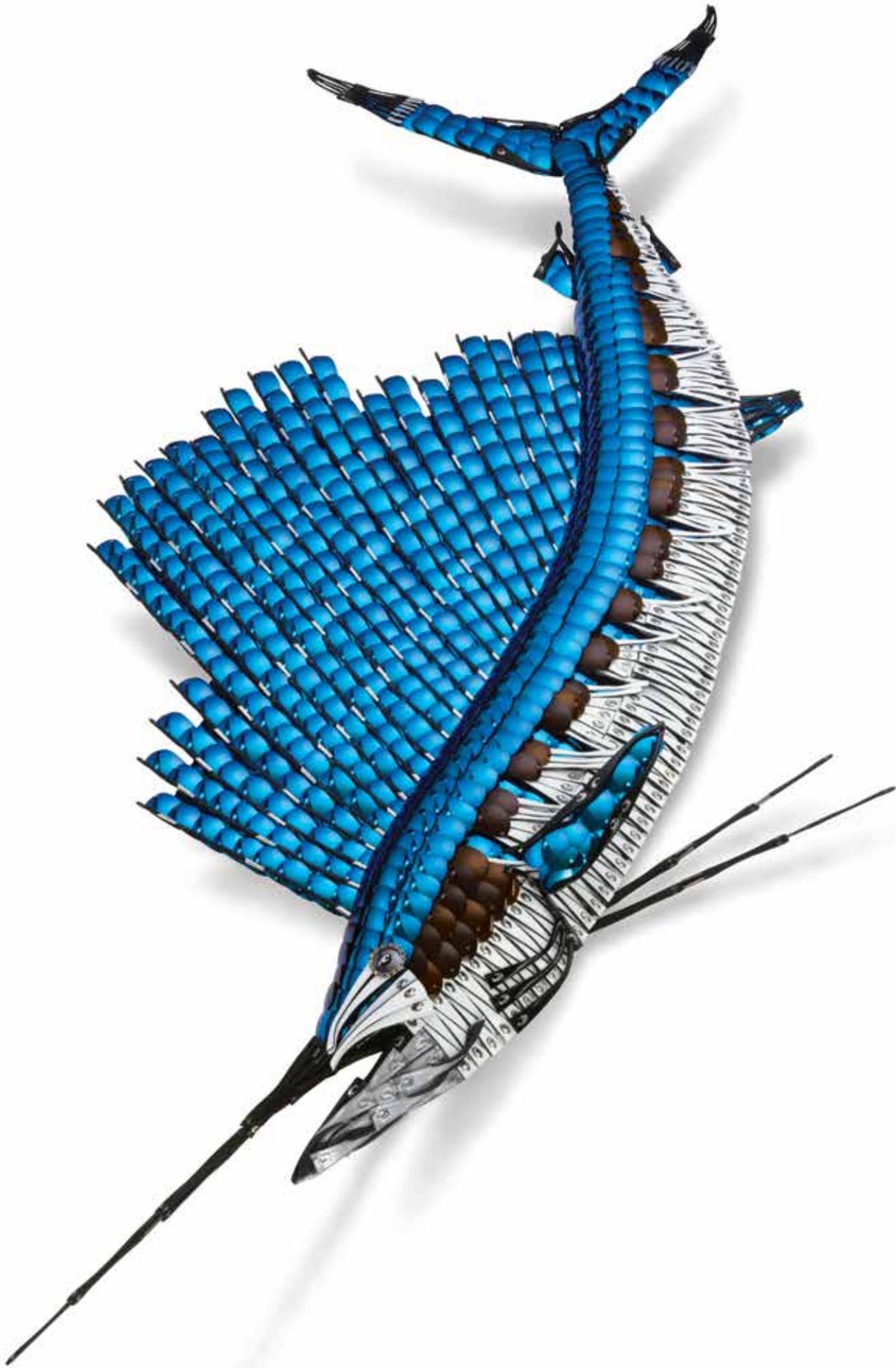
Certified



Gluten-Free

★ **TitosVodka.com** ★ Handcrafted to be savored responsibly.
DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION INC. 40% ALC./VOL. © 2017 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA.





PASSIONATE ABOUT FISHING SINCE 1983.



COSTADELMAR.COM





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



www.power-pole.com



Boat Detailing 101

As the Official Boat Cleaning Products supplier for CCA Florida, we thought we'd share our tips on how to keep your boat looking new, using products specifically formulated for boats, without harming the ecosystem. Detailing the boat can seem like a daunting task. However, if you break it up into segments, it's lot easier to accomplish. The trick is to start with the dirtiest tasks and then progress to the easier ones. The best part is that by doing it yourself, you know the job is done right.

Step 1: Removing Tough Dirt and Stains on Topsides

Dirty water flows down, so you want to begin cleaning the topsides before you tackle the hull. There are a wide variety of cleaners on the market, but to make the job as effortless as possible, choose wisely. Dish detergent is handy and cheap, but it creates a lot of suds and requires a lot of water to rinse clean. It will also strip away wax or polish, could etch fiberglass and should not be allowed to flow into local waterways. So instead of choosing a product that cleans pots and pans, look for a product formulated to clean fiberglass and painted surfaces. Star brite's Non-Skid Deck Cleaner utilizes chelating agents that break the bond between dirt, grime and the surface. Use a deck brush to spread it evenly over the area to be cleaned, let it work in for about 5 minutes, then use a soft or medium brush to lightly agitate the area before rinsing clean. The low-suds, biodegradable formula is perfect for cleaning textured deck surfaces

that trap dirt, but it is also a very effective choice for cleaning all other fiberglass surfaces, as well as vinyl, polished metal, plastic and painted surfaces that may have accumulated a lot of grime over the last boating season. Use a mild boat wash and rinse well to clean Lexan, Plexiglass or other plastic windscreens or windows. Please don't use bleach on or near your boat! Bleach can cause serious injuries to skin or eyes if splashed or spilled, and it will kill sea life if it gets into the water. Bleach can also damage vinyl, will strip wax or polish and can cause fiberglass to become dulled over time.

Step 2: The Hull/Transom

To deal with tough waterline stains on the hull, you'll need more than boat soap, so we suggest Star brite Hull Cleaner, which is now available in a "gel" formula that has a longer dwell time, especially on vertical surfaces such as transoms or hulls. The oxalic acid formula is great at dissolving tough waterline, leaf and rust stains, but it is much safer to use than hydrochloric or phosphoric acids. Walking around the hull, spray it liberally and let it work into the stains. Rinse well and re-apply to any stubborn spots, letting the formula work for a few minutes before rinsing clean. You may need to use a non-scuffing scrub pad to add some elbow grease. If you plan to apply a fresh coat of polish as the final step in this over all process – and you should – Hull Cleaner is the ideal preparation as it will remove any vestiges of old wax or polish, leaving a fresh, clean surface that will readily

accept the new polish. (Note: A good quality polymer polish will outperform any wax in terms of longevity and stain repelling action.) Pool Acid or toilet bowl cleaners are not a great choice as they are formulated for surfaces that a bear no resemblance to fiberglass and can damage the finish of the boat as well as the trailer in the event if spills or splashes.

Here's an important tip for those whose boats stay in the water and have bottom paint: do not attempt to clean bottom-painted surfaces! Bottom paint, sometimes referred to as ablative paint, is designed to slough off as the boat moves through the water, taking any deposits with it. It is not supposed to be pretty or shiny; any attempts to clean it may remove it, so simply leave it alone.

Follow up by cleaning the outboard/ stern drive or lower unit, using your favorite version of Star brite Boat Wash or Wash & Wax. This is the time to inspect the prop(s) for any nicks or dings and look at the sacrificial zincs to see if they need to be replaced. Next, inspect stainless steel fittings for oxidation or cracks. Use a cleaner wax to restore shine as needed, replace any cracked fittings or deck hardware.

Step 3: Special Situations and Surfaces

As you clean the boat, chances are you will come across rust stains "weeping" from stainless steel hardware. Just spray them with Star brite Rust Stain Remover

(continued on page 42)



event schedule

FEBRUARY

Naples Banquet Saturday, February 1

New Venue! New Meal! New Date! Live Band! Don't miss out on this year's exciting New CCA Naples Chapter Banquet and Auction located at Florida Sports Park 520 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674.

Mid Coast Banquet Thursday, February 6

The 2020 CCA Mid Coast Chapter's 13th Annual Banquet and Auction presented by Costa will be held at the Ocean Front Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach! The party will kick off at 6 p.m. with an open bar and dinner served at 7:30 p.m. You do not want to miss this one, so grab your buddies and come on out! For additional information, please contact Sara Anderson (321) 604-9113.

Ocala Banquet Friday, February 14

We're at the beautiful Circle Square Commons again for 2020. Bid on exotic trips, boat items, jewelry, home décor and more! Get your tickets now before the event sells out! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

Florida Fun Shoot Friday, February 21

Join us at the award-winning Quail Creek Plantation for our seventh Annual CCA Florida Sporting Clays Fun Shoot at Quail Creek Plantation 12399 Northeast 224th Street, Okeechobee. Enjoy a fun day shooting along with lunch, auction and raffle. For additional information, please contact Zack Batley at (813) 943-8993.

Manatee Banquet Thursday, February 27

The 21st Annual Conley Buick GMC Manatee County Banquet and Auction presented by Avid Insurance and Arctic Air Services

will be held on February 27 at the Bradenton Area Convention Center. The banquet features an open bar and catered dinner by Texas Cattle Company. Doors open at 5 p.m. For additional information, please contact Mandy Tuckus at (786) 417-6782.

MARCH

Citrus Banquet Thursday, March 5

The 33rd annual CCA Citrus banquet and auction will be held at Rock Crusher Canyon in Crystal River. Tickets are \$80 per person and corporate sponsor tables are \$1,250 for a table of ten. For additional information, please contact Mike Friddle at (352) 697-2188 or Ben Branch at (352) 586-2007.

Emerald Coast Banquet Thursday, March 5

Held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center, this banquet is gearing up to be our biggest and best yet! The evening will feature a catered dinner, silent auction, raffle prizes, live auction, bar, and so much more! Get your tickets now! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

Fort Myers Banquet Thursday, March 12

Check out this year's new venue for the 33rd Annual Banquet and Auction presented by Suncoast Beverage Sales. The banquet will be held on March 12 at the Suncoast Credit Union Arena, located at 13351 FSW Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33919. This event will feature an open bar with all the great Budweiser products, world class steak dinner from Texas Cattle Company, plus great raffle and auction items. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674.

Charlotte Banquet Thursday, March 26

Join us for the Charlotte Banquet and Auction on March 26 at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. The event will include silent

auction, live auction, dinner and more. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674.

Polk Banquet Thursday, April 2

Held at the Bartow Civic Center, this 34th annual event is one you will not want to miss. Tickets are \$90 per person or \$170 per couple. Corporate and reserved tables are \$1,275 for a table of 8. For additional information, please contact Zack Batley at (813) 943-8993.

South Walton Kids Fishing Tournament Sunday, April 5

Last year, we had 200 kids come out for our South Walton Kids Fishing Tournament at Grayton Beach! Each participant received a rod and reel combo, rod holder, t-shirt, bait, and lunch! We witnessed many kids fishing for the first time and caught the fishing fever. Prizes are awarded for different age categories. Pre-registration is required for this event. Go to CCAFlorida.org to register. For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

Lake Banquet Thursday, April 16

The CCA Lake County Banquet and Auction will be held at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora once again this year. Please join us for a great event featuring a live auction, silent auction, and extensive raffle! Please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674.

Knights Banquet Friday, April 17

Join us for the sixth annual UCF Chapter Banquet and auction on April 17 at Carl Black & Gold Cabana Club Spectrum Stadium, 4465 Victory Way, Orlando. For additional information, please contact Adam Miller (407) 401-7674 or Mandy Tuckus (786) 417-6782.

**Tampa Banquet
Thursday, April 23**

The venue for the 35th annual Tampa banquet will be Higgins Hall. Single tickets are \$100, couples are \$190, and sponsorships start at \$900. For additional information, please contact Zack Batley at (813) 943-8993.

**Hernando Banquet
Thursday, April 30**

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

MAY

**Big Bend Banquet
Thursday, May 14**

The Tallahassee Chapter of CCA Florida invites you to an evening of fun and fund-raising! Our event is held in the University Center Club of Doak Cambell Stadium. Reserve your spot early by going to CCA-Florida.org. We look forward to having another great year in Tallahassee! Visit our Facebook page for event updates! For additional information, please contact Amanda Krpan at (407) 401-7675.

**Homestead Banquet
Thursday, May 21**

Join us in celebrating the Homestead Chapter's fourth Annual Banquet and Auction at the Homestead – Miami Speedway! The Speedway was an amazing host of last year's event and we are very excited to be returning in 2020! This event is sponsored by Sportsman's Adventures, Florida Insider Fishing Report, and Contender Boats and is definitely one party you don't want to miss! For additional information, please contact Adam Miller at (407) 401-7674.



CAMPFIRE OLD FASHIONED

INGREDIENTS:

1.5oz Devils River Bourbon Whiskey

2 Dashes Bitters

2 Tsp Simple Syrup (made of equal parts of melted marshmallow, water, and sugar)

Garnish: a flamin' marshmallow!

INSTRUCTIONS:

Add bitters and simple syrup into a glass and stir.

Pour in the bourbon and garnish with a flamin' marshmallow!

**Image and recipe sourced from a paid partnership with @coupleinthekitchen*

Boat Detailing 101

continued from page 39

to eliminate these quickly. Seal the now-cleaned area (and stainless steel surface) with Star brite Premium Marine Polish. GPS units, chart plotters and depth finders have housings that can withstand a lot of use and weathering, but the screens are probably in need a good cleaning. Star brite's Screen Cleaner & Protectant was formulated specifically for use on all plastic surfaces. It lifts and removes water spots, deposits and fingerprints, leaving the screen streak-free

and easy to read. The protective coating will help resist UV exposure. If you find any black heel marks on the deck from guests who wore street shoes, Star brite's Magic Sponge makes them disappear.

Step 4: Inspect for Oxidation/ Seal the Surface

Now that the hull and other fiberglass exterior are clean, check for oxidation. If the fiberglass and painted areas are shiny,

you can skip the rest of this and apply a protective coat of Star brite Premium Marine Polish. The rule of thumb is that if you wipe your hand over the surface and it comes away "dusty" you need to compound the hull. If there's no dust, but the surface is slightly oxidized or hazy, Star brite Cleaner Wax or Restorer Wax can restore the shine. If you need to compound the hull, use a random orbital buffer and go slowly to avoid damaging the gel coat. In all honesty, compounding may be a task best left to the pros, but do not let a detailer talk you into compounding a hull that doesn't need it.

With the fiberglass and paint uniformly shiny, apply a protective coating of a good quality polymer polish. The shine we get from polishing is a happy bonus – the real reason to polish is to provide a barrier against UV exposure, stains and dirt that can make your boat look not so great. Forget about waxes that only last 3 months in the Florida climate; go with a polymer polish that bonds to the treated surface for unrivalled protection against the damaging effects of sea, sun, dirt and weather. Star brite's Premium Marine Polish with PTEF is one of the best, yet easiest to use polishes available for fiberglass, painted and polished metal surfaces. It is also a great way to keep your car or truck looking great. To keep non-skid decks looking good, use Star brite Non-Skid Deck Cleaner, followed by Star brite Non-Skid Deck Wax.

Step 5. Keep it Clean

Now that the boat is looking good, keep it that way. Always wash the boat after every day on the water. Avoid dishwashing soaps that can strip off polish and may contain phosphates that can lead to algae blooms; Star brite Boat Washes are biodegradable and are formulated specifically to clean all marine surfaces. Use Star brite Vinyl Clean and Vinyl Guard to keep seating surfaces and bolsters looking like new and use Star brite Boat Guard spray detailer as the finishing touch after washing the boat.

Here is a Star brite Insider tip: Stash a bottle of Star brite Xtreme Clean on the boat to deal with any spills or stains when they happen, from fish blood to red wine. The trick is to make sure spills don't have time to "set" and become tough to remove, so spray them with Xtreme Clean and wipe or rinse clean. Xtreme Clean can be used on any surface on the boat, as well as around the house, garage, vehicles or to clean tools and power equipment.



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 lovethefish.com.

 **CCA**
FLORIDA

ccaflorida.org

ANGLER DRIVEN. CONSERVATION MINDED.

PATHFINDER AND CCA FLORIDA

EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & HABITAT CONSERVATION



PATHFINDER
ANGLER DRIVEN

CONTENDER

ALWAYS IN THE GAME



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA

28_T



POWERED BY



CONTENDERBOATS.COM