



SEAWATCH

PRESENTED BY CONTENDER

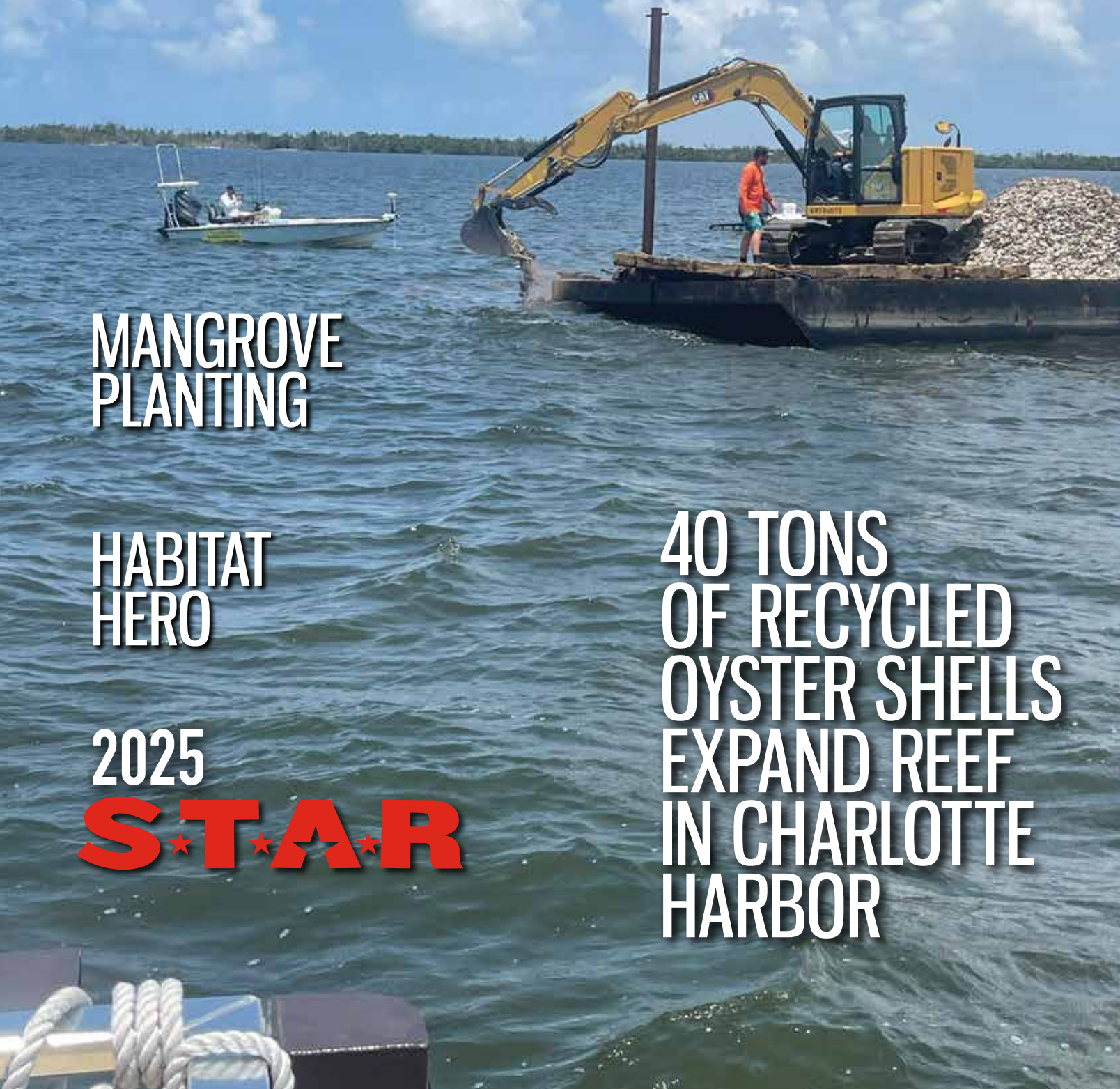
MANGROVE
PLANTING

HABITAT
HERO

2025

STAR

40 TONS
OF RECYCLED
OYSTER SHELLS
EXPAND REEF
IN CHARLOTTE
HARBOR



XTO
OFFSHORE

ENGINEERING THAT GOES FURTHER SO
/// YOU CAN GO FARTHER



Uncharted adventure is on the horizon—and the Yamaha 450 hp XTO Offshore® is ready to power it. 5.6 liters of V8 displacement, a Phase Angle Control charging system, and integrated electric steering combine to change the way you offshore. And with Helm Master® EX, it becomes a complete power platform that takes outboard engineering to the edge—and back.

Learn more at YamahaOutboards.com/XTO.



REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal flotation device and protective gear. © 2023 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. 1-866-894-1626

Reliability Starts Here.®



features

Adopt A Redfish | 10

STAR: Catch Any Fish This Summer And Win | 22

Eric Latimer Reef | 26

Recycled Oyster Shells Expand Reef In Charlotte Harbor | 50



contents

departments

advocacy news	6
habitat update maps	46
habitat pledge.....	58
picture it	60
don't miss it	68

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 Walther, 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 Walther

Creative Director
Debbie Dewell
Great Minds, Inc.
850-251-4430

Printer
Durruprint, Tallahassee

CCA FLORIDA STAFF

Brian Gorski
Executive Director

Adam Miller
Chief Operating Officer

Trip Aukeman
Director of Advocacy

Frank Gidus
Director of Habitat & Environmental Restoration

Mary Hillyer Walther
Director of Communications

Denise Perine
Controller

Zack Batley
Senior Regional Director

Mandy Tuckus
Director of Events & Membership

Will Ramsby
Regional Director

Jimmy Michaels
Regional Director

John Woodward
Regional Director

Kyle King
Regional Director

Colton Wadsworth
Assistant Regional Director

Joey Wadsworth
Assistant Regional Director

Mikey Uvino
Assistant Regional Director

Logan Kennovin
Assistant Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration

Maria Arguello
Logistics, Procurement and Inventory Manager

Leiza Fitzgerald
STAR Director

Andrea Gillispie
Assistant STAR Director

HEWES[®]

REDFISHER 16



A Serious Backcountry Boat That's Easy To Manage.

LOA: 16' 6" • Beam: 7'3" • Draft: 11" • Max HP: 115 • Fuel: 32 Gal



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION
FLORIDA

CONSERVATION | HABITAT | RESTOCKING | ADVOCACY

**CONTRIBUTED
\$12 MILLION**



SINCE 2010, CCA FLORIDA, AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$12 MILLION TO REBUILD FLORIDA'S MARINE HABITAT

**200 TONS
OF OYSTERS**



WERE SAVED FROM WASTE BY CCA FLORIDA IN THE LAST THREE YEARS. THUS FAR, 150 OF THE 00 TONS HAVE BEEN RECYCLED AND REDEPLOYED TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL REEFS



**MORE THAN 19,000 MEMBERS
ACROSS FLORIDA'S 67 COUNTIES**

IN LAST 10 YEARS

49
ARTIFICIAL
REEFS



125
HABITAT
PROJECTS



ADVOCATED
GAMEFISH
STATUS FOR
REDFISH

PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MARINE
RESOURCES AND ANGLERS'
ACCESS FOR
40 YEARS

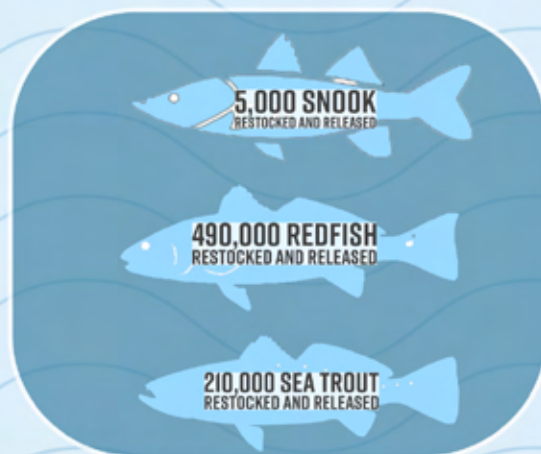
INITIATED NET BAN
CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

ADVOCATES AND CREATES
AWARENESS
FOR IMPROVING
STATEWIDE
WATER QUALITY

HELPED CONGRESS
INTRODUCE DESCENDING
DEVICE BILL AND
FORAGE FISH
CONSERVATION ACT

WORKED
WITH FWC TO
ENSURE MAXIMUM
ANGLER ACCESS
FOR RED SNAPPER

HELPED BAN LONGLINES
FOR BILLFISH
AND PELAGIC SPECIES



**\$1,000,000 IN CCA FLORIDA YOUTH
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SINCE 2015**



\$25 FROM EACH TAG GOES
DIRECTLY TO CCA
FLORIDA'S STATEWIDE
WATER QUALITY, HABITAT AND
RESTOCKING INITIATIVES

**CCA FLORIDA WORKED
WITH THE FLORIDA
LEGISLATURE
TO CREATE THE
CONSERVE FLORIDA'S
FISHERIES FLORIDA
LICENSE PLATE**



March 17, 2025

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Southeast Regional Office

Re: NOAA-NMFS-2024-0142-0002

Amendment 59 to the Fishery Management Plan
for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic

The undersigned groups representing the recreational angling community appreciate the opportunity to comment on Amendment 59 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic, which was published by NOAA seven days before the Biden Administration concluded. We share the frustrations expressed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council over the management trajectory of this fishery and NOAA's insistence on drastic management action for a fishery that is neither overfished nor undergoing overfishing.

To recap, the South Atlantic Council has long been exasperated by the lack of reliable information on both recreational fishing effort and on the present status of the red snapper population in the South Atlantic. The Council's repeated requests for clarity and better information have routinely been ignored or brushed aside.

In the face of mostly poor data and always incongruent information, Council members did not see a management emergency. Turns out, they were right. Waiting for the results of the independent assessment known as the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count would present a clearer picture and confirm the condition of the population. They were denied that. Without a current NOAA benchmark stock assessment on which to base management action, Council members asked for an update assessment. They were denied. With knowledge that NOAA's own Marine Recreational Information Program has been over-estimating recreational effort and harvest by up to 40 percent in some fisheries, Council members expressed a desire to review the results of multiple state projects aimed specifically at better understanding recreational discards. They were denied.

Even as recently as this month, NOAA was unwilling or unable to explain exactly how their models are projecting such astounding levels of recreational discards in the red snapper fishery. By comparison, the State of Florida's reef fish survey projects significantly fewer recreational discards in the South Atlantic, and yet no effort has been made to understand this discrepancy despite the fact that the vast majority of recreational effort in this fishery originates in Florida.

Throughout the entire debate over South Atlantic red snapper over the past several years, the South Atlantic Council has been tasked with making drastic cuts against their better judgement and their knowledge from those on the water, which indicated the fishery was thriving.

With opaque models and questionable data creating a paper overfishing crisis, it is no surprise that NOAA was sued to end the alleged overfishing by the recreational sector. Despite the high levels of uncertainty in just about every aspect of the fishery, NOAA elected to settle the lawsuit. To their credit, the South Atlantic Council remained firm in its conviction that based on the scant information NOAA had provided, it could not justify draconian management measures that would be needed to satisfy that settlement. NOAA elected to circumvent the Council process and unilaterally generated Amendment 59 to address a crisis its own system created. NOAA published this Secretarial action a week before President Trump was inaugurated.

To the average angler, management of the South Atlantic red snapper fishery is now completely nonsensical. Anglers have been restricted to fishing for red snapper for just a handful of days a year for more than a decade, and it is now difficult to catch anything other than a red snapper offshore in many places. Yet anglers are being told the situation is still so dire that hook-and-line fishing for 55 species off a sizable portion of Florida's east coast must be closed entirely for three months of the year and that doing so will, perhaps, extend the red snapper season to four days. And the way Amendment 59 is contorted, the red snapper season will never get any longer.

Ironically in the course of producing Amendment 59, NOAA somehow managed to generate the update assessment that the Council had requested. That assessment update confirmed the South Atlantic Council's suspicions about the status of the stock and the need to revise management targets for red snapper. The Council likely would have supported such action if the update assessment's conclusions had been made available when the Council requested that exact information.

Based on the update assessment, Action 1, Alternative 2 (preferred) in A59 establishes that the stock is no longer undergoing overfishing by revising the FMSY proxy for snapper based on the banner recruitment, which satisfies the second component of the lawsuit. Action 2 sets an Annual Biological Catch (ABC) of 509,000 fish, which represents a substantial increase. That is where this amendment should ultimately stop. Instead, NOAA elected to pursue a series of additional actions that can

only be described as punitive overreach in pursuit of its agenda for constricting recreational angling and denying access to America's public waters. Nothing in the remaining actions is required by the Magnuson Stevens Act and none of them are required by the lawsuit settlement.

Action 3 proposes to establish an ACL that is split into harvest and discards even though the SSC has told NOAA previously that the discard data for ANY fishery is far too uncertain to set two separate ACLs, with one being discards. Action 4 proposes a closure to all hook-and-line fishing for 55 species off a unilaterally selected section of Florida that will do incalculable damage to businesses related to recreational angling in order to add approximately four days to the recreational red snapper season – despite the fishery not being overfished or undergoing overfishing. Action 5 proposes an increase in the commercial trip limit for red snapper and modifies the commercial season despite discard data in that sector being as uncertain as in the recreational sector. Action 6 proposes to shid the meager recreational fishing season to Saturdays and Sundays only and beginning in June rather than July, without any clear benefits to anglers or the red snapper stock.

Beyond Actions 1 and 2, Amendment 59 is a convoluted response to a paper crisis, manufactured by highly

suspect NOAA models and done without normal public process and outside the SSC review process. Past Actions 1 and 2, the amendment devolves into a thinly veiled attempt to go beyond both the lawsuit and the Magnuson Stevens Act to pursue NOAA's own vision for recreational angling management, a vision that is limited by an inadequate data system, infrequent stock assessments and a lack of understanding of the recreational angling sector.

As the administration observes an important regulatory pause, we ask the Secretary to take the opportunity to withdraw this ill-conceived January 13, 2025, proposed rule that unnecessarily restricts public access in the South Atlantic Ocean. The rule was not based on the best scientific information available, and it needs to be fully recast. States are capable of managing the South Atlantic fishery, and we are looking forward to helping the Secretary foster State Management.

Sincerely,

BoatU.S. Guy Harvey Foundation

Bonefish and Tarpon Trust International Game Fish Association

Center for Sporhishing Policy Marine Retailers Association of the Americas





NOAA Releases Final Rule on South Atlantic Red Snapper

NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule today on Amendment 59 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic that largely avoids draconian management measures for the red snapper fishery that were originally proposed in the amendment. While the final rule fails to improve access to a healthy red snapper population or address glaring deficiencies in recreational angling data, it does withdraw a threatened bottom closure off the east coast of Florida and sets a two-day recreational red snapper season in 2025 on July 11-12.

"Fending off closures and scraping for a two-day season is the best anglers can hope for under federal management. The rule today is not a particularly satisfactory ending to this chapter of red snapper management, but it does avoid the worst that could have happened, and it took an enormous amount of engagement and outcry from the angling public and from elected officials to achieve even this," said Bill Bird, chairman of the CCA National Government Relations Committee. "The best that can be said is that


the final rule sets the stage for management to shift to the states so we can leave the erratic uncertainty of federal management behind."

Secretarial Amendment 59 was the culmination of a roughly two-year battle between NOAA and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council over the red snapper fishery, with disputes over everything from NOAA's suspect recreational data gathering program to the lack of information on the current state of the red snapper population.

The long, frustrating history of red snapper has garnered increasing attention of elected officials and resulted a groundswell of support in the region for shifting management of the popular sport fishery to the states. Recently, the governors of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina signed a joint letter to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick requesting that the states take over management of red snapper, and almost the entire Congressional delegation of South Carolina signed a similar letter to Sec. Lutnick seeking the same solution. In April, the state of Georgia budgeted almost \$350,000 to establish a reef/migratory data collection program that could support future state management of offshore fisheries.

"The Gulf Coast and West Coast states have had similar, negative experiences with federal fisheries management and elected to take on a greater role in the management of the fisheries off their coasts with much success," said Bird. "It is encouraging that the South Atlantic region is moving in this direction. While it will take a lot of work and investment, we believe management by the states will ultimately result in better data and greater transparency and trust with the angling public. It is a much better alternative to the heavy-handed roller coaster ride of the federal management system."



A man wearing a blue baseball cap with 'FCCA FLORIDA' on it, sunglasses, and a grey t-shirt with a circular logo that says 'FLORIDA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION'. He is smiling and holding a large red snapper by its mouth. The background shows the ocean and the back of a boat with outboard motors.

DECISION AVOIDS BOTTOM CLOSURES, BUT PROMISES MORE OF THE SAME FOR FRUSTRATED RED SNAPPER ANGLERS

ADOPT-A-REDFISH

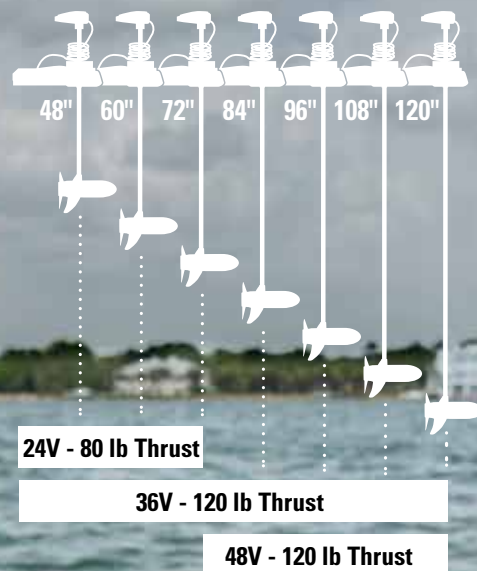
In May, CCA Florida launched the third installment of its Adopt-A-Redfish program and released 115 hatchery-reared, sub-adult redfish (averaging 15 to 19 inches) from the CCA Florida and Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Biscayne Bay at Matheson Hammock Park.

BISCAYNE BAY

SET IT, FORGET IT, CATCH MORE FISH.

WITH RHODAN'S LATEST, REIMAGINED
PRECISION GPS-GUIDED TROLLING MOTOR

DIRECT NMEA2000 INTEGRATION
WITH RAYMARINE, SIMRAD, & LOWRANCE.



Official
Trolling Motor
of CCA Florida

RHODAN

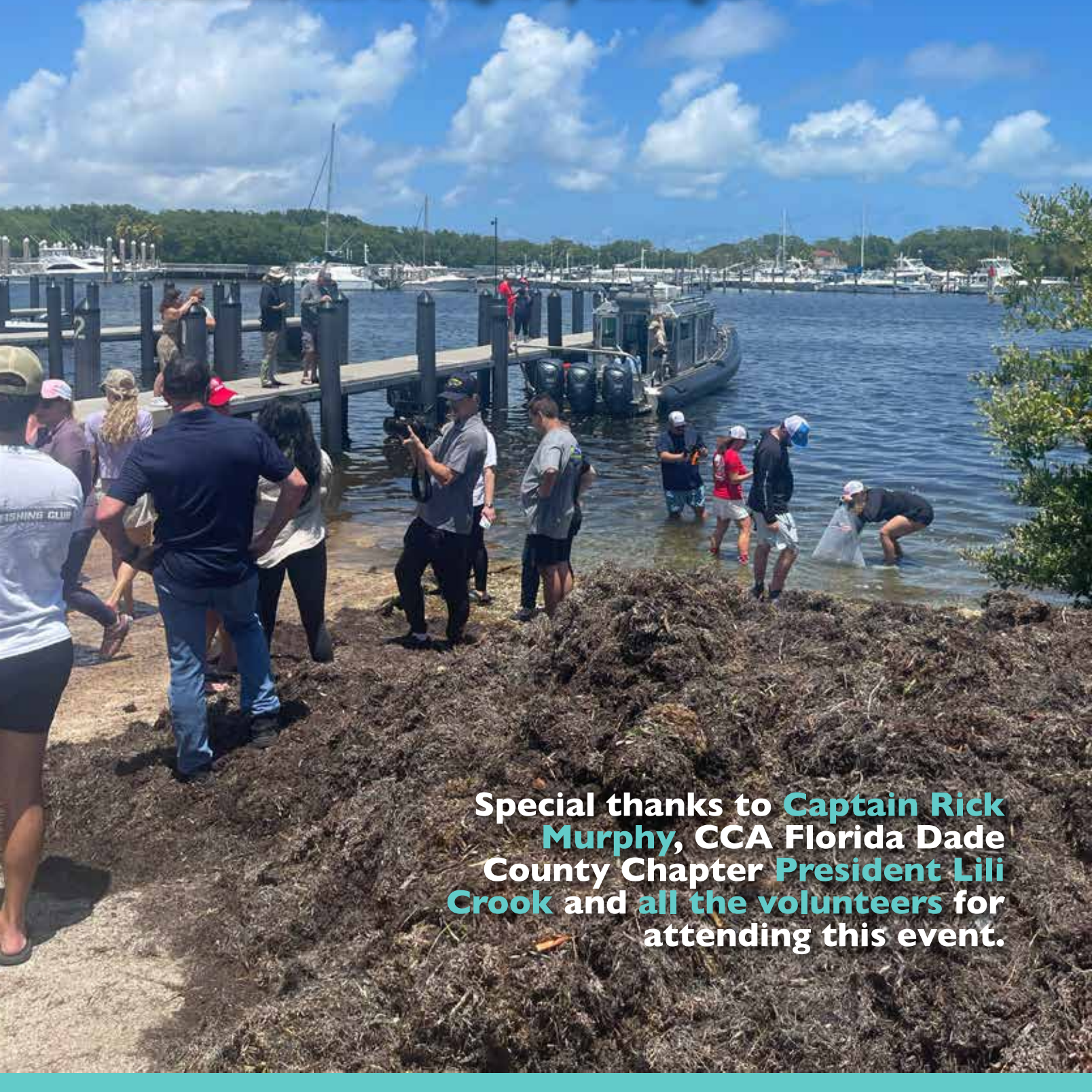
RhodanMarine.com

ADOPT-A-REDFISH

BISCAYNE
BAY



During the event, nearly 50 participants released his or her adopted fish into the water, and all the fish were tagged with external anchor tags that included a designated tag number as well as a phone number on each side of the tag to call when the fish is caught by an angler.



Special thanks to Captain Rick Murphy, CCA Florida Dade County Chapter President Lili Crook and all the volunteers for attending this event.



Scan to watch how to prepare
at @catch_cook on Instagram

"On a blackened snapper kick over the weekend, maybe mainly because my new YETI cast iron pans make it so easy. Kinda obsessed. I made my own blackening spice, but you can buy store-bought and is just as good. Dip in melted butter, coat with spice, put in a screaming hot pan and baste with even more butter. About 3 minutes per side and done. Serve with lemon wedges and throw in some cheesy taters au gratin for good measure."



Blackened Red Snapper with Au Gratin Potatoes

AU GRATIN POTATOES:

- 4 russet potatoes, sliced into 1/4" medallions
- 1 1/2 c heavy cream
- 1/2 c whole milk
- 1/4 c all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 2 c grated sharp or mild Cheddar

BLACKENED RED SNAPPER:

- 4 large red snapper fillets
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 3-4 tbsp blackening spice (store-bought or recipe below)

Avocado or canola oil for cooking

GARNISH:

- Lemon wedges
- Fresh parsley

BLACKENING SPICE:

(Combine all thoroughly.)

- 1 tbsp paprika
- 2 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp cayenne
- 2 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano

AU GRATIN POTATOES: Preheat oven to 400° and grease an 8" cast iron skillet (I used the new YETI cast iron skillets for this recipe, amazing quality!) or baking dish.

In a large bowl whisk the cream, milk, flour and garlic salt until well-incorporated. Stack the potato medallions to the prepared baking dish and pour the cream mixture evenly all over the top.

Cover the skillet with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Remove the foil and bake another 20-30 minutes. Just before serving, top dish with cheese and return it to the oven until the cheese is melted and bubbly, about 5 minutes.

BLACKENED RED SNAPPER: Heat a 10" cast iron skillet over high heat for about 3-5 minutes, until very hot. While your skillet heats, prepare your fillets.

Place butter and minced garlic in a microwave-safe dish and heat in microwave until completely melted. Dip each fillet in melted garlic butter then generously coat on both sides with seasoning. Repeat with all fillets until all are coated.

Add about 2 tablespoons of oil to your hot skillet (oil will likely smoke). Gently place fillets in skillet without overcrowding. After about 2 minutes of cooking, spoon over about 1 tablespoon of the melted garlic butter over each fillet. Cook an additional 2 minutes or until the underside looks charred. Carefully flip fillets and again spoon over about 1 tablespoon over each and cook an additional 1-2 minutes or until fish is cooked through. Transfer to a warm oven and repeat with remaining fish.

TO SERVE: Add a generous portion of potatoes and 1 or 2 fillets to a plate. Top entire plate with a spoonful of the melted garlic butter, squeeze of lemon, fresh parsley and chopped green onion.

Substitutions or notes: The red snapper can be substituted with any white, flaky fish. If your fillets are very large, you can cut them in half.

Featured Pairing from WINE FOR THE PEOPLE

Wine For the People's 2022 La Valencia Sauvignon Blanc, grown in the mountains of West Texas, is a perfect match for Gulf Red Snapper.

Bright with baked citrus notes, a creamy texture, and clean finish will balance the cheesy potatoes and smoky, charred fish.



Dust off your boots and grab your balloons!



CCA FLORIDA 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

*Join us for an unforgettable night honoring
40 years of conservation, community,
and commitment to Florida's coastal resources.*

THE EVENING INCLUDES:

Cocktail Hour & Silent Auction

Seated Dinner with Stories that Matter

Live Auction & Fundraising Moments

Special Presentations & Awards

Live Performance by Country Music Legend

CLINT
BLACK
L

FOR MORE
INFO AND TO
PURCHASE
TICKETS



THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 11TH, 2025
DOORS OPEN @ 5:30PM

ROSEN SHINGLE CREEK
9939 UNIVERSAL BLVD
ORLANDO, FL 32819





2025

STAR

**CATCH ANY FISH
SUMMER AND**

CCA FLORIDA STAR COMPETITION PRESENTED BY YAMAHA HAVE ANGLERS ACROSS THE STATE IN HOT PURSUIT OF THOSE VALUABLE GREEN TAGS!

Since the launch date on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend there have been two STAR tagged redfish recaptured by anglers who were not CCA members nor registered in the STAR competition. The rest of the summer will have anglers of all ages and skill levels not only chasing tagged fish but catching and logging non-tagged species in the 9 different divisions that include inshore and offshore species for a shot at their share of \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships.

In the signature Tagged Redfish Division presented by T H Marine, winning anglers will have their choice of prizes including Yamaha-powered boat packages including two Carolina Skiff E24 DLX CC, Sea Born 22LX, Spyder 19FX Vapor and Micro Draft Skiff 22 Extreme powered by Yamaha outboards. "The last 10 years of competition is proof that tagged fish can be caught and winning anglers would get to pick from the prizes available, but remember any fish you catch can be entered to win something, you just need to be a member and registered for STAR when you go fishing" said Leiza Fitzgerald, STAR Director.

(continued on page 18)



SH THIS WIN!



In the signature Tigress Tagged Dolphin Division the first tagged dolphin caught will earn the CCA member and registered angler \$10,000 cash from Tigress Outriggers and Gear.

On average 4 STAR tagged redfish are released per Florida's coastal counties with

Charlotte and Citrus counties being destination counties with each having a total of 8 tagged fish released in their waters. Hint ... in 2019 two of the winning fish were from Charlotte County and 2017 each year has had tagged fish caught in each county but the

anglers were not registered. You may want to plan your next fishing weekend in one of our two destination counties. There are plenty of opportunities for anglers to catch a winning fish but they better be registered and a CCA member or it will just be another VERY SAD fish tale.

SPORTS

[illegible]

Gulf States Automation gives 6 anglers who catch a redfish with the most spots a share of \$25,000 in prizes including a SUP Customs Hybrid Skiff with Yamaha motor. For each species entry submit photos of your catch on a measuring board with the STAR Identi-

19

SPONSORS

STAR

Florida Sportfishing
Association

Melbourne
Strike Zone

iAngler
Tournament App

Road King

Power Tech
Propellers

Florida Fishing
Products

Bull Bay Tackle

AFTCO

Sweet Citrus Acres

Rod Runner

Reliable Fishing Bags

Kahuna Wagons

Elemental
Methods

Star brite

Barnes & Thornburg

Nextfish

Florida Insider Fishing Report

Reel Animals TV

Florida Sportsman Radio

Guidelines TV

Ocean Tamer Bean Bags

Anisa Stewart Jewelry

Talon

Fish Bites

Deck Gear

Mud Hole Custom Tackle

Beyond the Surface

Thrash Can Bucket Topper

Carolina Skiff

STAR



tifier in the photo but even better.... ANY fish you catch can be entered in the Power Pole Conservation Division for your shot at some really cool Power Pole equipment.

If fishing is not your thing, the Costa Kick Plastic Trash

Division presented by Papa's Pilar encourages anglers to collect plastic and trash from the coastal waters and shoreline and submit a photo of every full 5-gallon bucket they collect, just include The 2025 Official STAR Identifier in the photo and earn

9 DIVISIONS

AND ALL SALTWATER SPECIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE COMPETITION AND MOST WINNERS ARE DETERMINED BY A RANDOM DRAWING OF CATCH ENTRIES MADE.



a shot at a three day trip to Key West to visit the Hemingway Rum Distillery.

Make each fishing trip a fun family day because kids can also enter their catches. Youth anglers (ages 6-17) can register for free with their

current (\$10) CCA Florida New Tide membership and are eligible for prizes in the tagged fish divisions as well as the Youth Scholarship Division, Conservation Division and the Trash Division. Prizes for the two youth anglers in the

STAR tagged redfish division include a Carolina Skiff 16ft tiller skiff, sporting Humminbird electronics, Minn Kota trolling motor and powered with a Yamaha motor sitting on a trailer and the registered youth angler

(continued on page 22)

STAR



Now is the time to get registered and make your fishing more rewarding.

www.ccaflstar.com or 844-387-7827



who catches the first STAR tagged dolphin (mahi mahi) is eligible to win a \$10,000 scholarship. The Guy Harvey Foundation Youth Scholarship Division presented by Realtree Fishing offers \$100,000 in scholarships, two \$25,000 scholarships from Guy Harvey Foundation and Realtree Fishing and ten \$5,000 scholarships from Florida Sports Coast, Digital Sportsman, Florida Sportfishing Association, Florida Sports Coast, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Florida Cracker Ladies Tournament, Crystal River Redfish

Classic, Millers Marine and Sodium Fishing

Unlike traditional fishing tournaments, STAR is a competition that focuses on conservation. Recognized as a 'catch, photo and release' competition, STAR's smart phone app promotes the proper handling of all species and eliminates the requirement for anglers to harvest or capture and transport fish. "Our state's fisheries are here for everyone's enjoyment, and CCA Florida is constantly trying to improve them while promoting conservation, we understand that smart fishing

will preserve these resources for the future," said Brian Gorski, CCA Florida Executive Director.

There are 9 divisions and all saltwater species are included in the competition and most winners are determined by a random drawing of catch entries made. Registration is \$40 for current CCA Florida members or \$80 for non-members, which includes CCA Florida membership.



**START
RUN
STORE**

*Start up
with ease.
Every time.*

*Run faster,
cleaner,
smoother.*

*Store with
confidence
between use.*

WWW.STARTRON.COM
PROTECTION + PERFORMANCE



2025 STAR



A GREAT REASON TO FISH AND A GREAT WAY TO WIN! REGISTRATION TODAY FOR THE 2025 CCA FLORIDA STAR COMPETITION PRESENTED BY YAMAHA

2025 STAR begins May 24. Get registered today and if you recapture any year's STAR tagged redfish you will win a \$1,000 gift card from Engel Coolers.

To win, just snap a picture of the tagged redfish with the tag still in the fish, submit your photo via our FaceBook page, report to the phone number on the tag and be a current member and registered for 2025 STAR before you catch the fish for the win.

Start planning your fishing trips now to Citrus County (www.discovercrystalriver.com) or Charlotte County, Englewood/ Punta Gorda (www.pureflorida.com) they are all our destination counties and have more tagged redfish than any other counties.

STAR is Florida's largest family-friendly fishing competition giving anglers of all ages endless summer-long fun!

For more information on STAR, please visit www.CCAFLSTAR.com



THE CONSERVE FLORIDA'S FISHERIES LICENSE PLATE

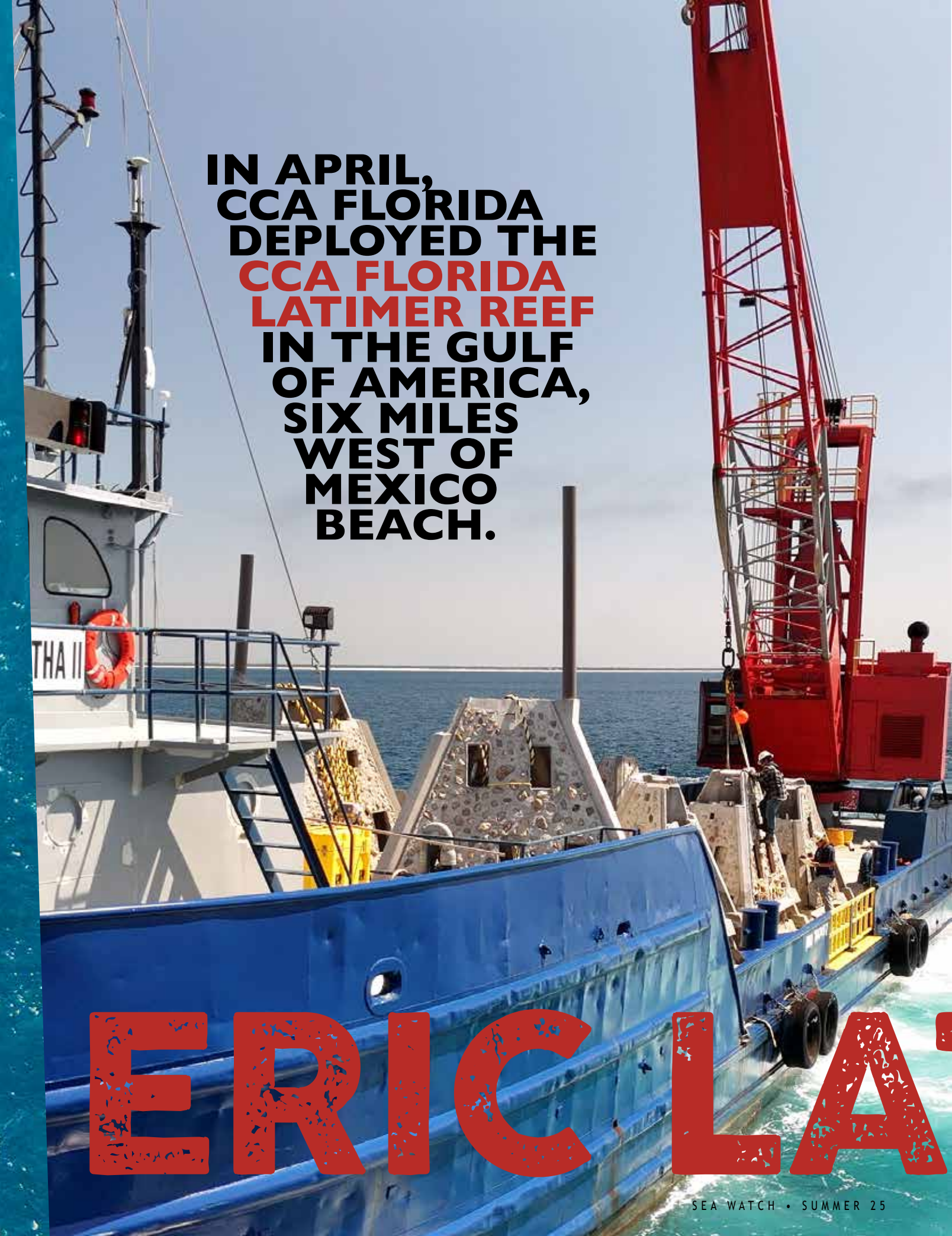


- > Show your support for Florida's fisheries, coastal habitats and marine resources on the road with a "Conserve Florida's Fisheries" specialty license plate!
- > To order the specialty plate, visit RedfishTag.com and complete the online form or visit your local tax collector's office
- > Online orders will be processed by our partners at the Indian River County Tax Collector's office. A representative will contact each purchaser to complete the transaction.
- > Personalized (vanity) plates orders can also be purchased online or in person
- > Funds from the sale of this license plate support protecting and enhancing saltwater marine resources, expanding habitat restoration efforts and promoting coastal environmental education

For additional information, please visit REDFISHTag.com



REDFISHTag.com



**IN APRIL,
CCA FLORIDA
DEPLOYED THE
CCA FLORIDA
LATIMER REEF
IN THE GULF
OF AMERICA,
SIX MILES
WEST OF
MEXICO
BEACH.**

ERIC LA



TIMELESS

ENGEL[®] COOLERS

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER FOR 60 YEARS

People have relied on ENGEL Coolers when adventure takes them out on the water, on the road, or off the beaten path. Based in Jupiter, Fla., we here at ENGEL have continued our mission to provide portable-refrigeration solutions for our customers and friends – something we've been doing since the launch of our portable AC/DC fridge freezers in 1962.



FIVE LIMESTONE REEF MODULES, SIZED 8 BY 10 FEET AND WEIGHING 5,000 POUNDS, ALONG WITH A 4,000-POUND ECOSYSTEM MODULE WERE DEPLOYED IN APPROXIMATELY 70 FEET OF WATER.

NAMED IN HONOR OF ERIC LATIMER, THE CCA FLORIDA AND DUKE ENERGY MARICULTURE CENTER MANAGER, THE REEF COMMEMORATES HIS INCREDIBLE DEDICATION TO FLORIDA'S MARINE RESOURCES. FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, ERIC HAS BEEN AT THE HELM OF MARICULTURE CENTER AND HAS RESTOCKED MORE THAN FIVE MILLION FIN FISH AND CRUSTACEANS DURING HIS TENURE.



CCA Florida Latimer Reef

CCA FLORIDA



ERIC LATIMER REEF



Scan to watch how to prepare,
at @catch.cook.eat on Instagram.



Seafood and Chorizo Paella

PAELLA:

- 4 ½ c chicken stock
- ½ tsp saffron threads
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- ½ red bell pepper, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 oz chorizo sausage, either ground or links sliced into thin half-moons
- 3 c Jasmine or short-grain rice
- 1 14 oz can fire-roasted diced tomatoes, not drained
- 1 c frozen green peas
- 1 lb large shrimp, peeled, deveined
- 1 lb mussels, rinsed, scrubbed
- 1 lb clams, rinsed, scrubbed

GARNISH:

- 1 c fresh parsley, chopped
- Lemon wedges

On your stovetop, bring the chicken stock to a boil. Stir in the saffron and turn off the heat. Let the saffron steep for at least 15 minutes while you prep the other ingredients. Season with salt if needed.

In a 12 or 14-inch cast iron pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion, bell pepper and chorizo and cook for about 7 minutes, or until the onion is translucent. Stir in the garlic and sauté another 3 minutes.

Pour in the rice and fry, stirring often, for about 5 minutes, until the rice is coated with oil and combined.

Slowly pour in the stock, tomatoes and peas and lightly stir to combine.

Make sure the rice is evenly distributed over the bottom of the pan. Cover the pan and simmer the rice without stirring for 15 minutes, or until the rice absorbs most of the stock. If your pan does not have a lid, seal with foil.

Burrow the mussels and clams down into the rice with the hinge sides up so they release their juices into the rice. Then place the shrimp on top of the rice, arranged evenly around the shellfish.

Cover the pan again and cook for 5 to 10 minutes longer, until the rice and shrimp are both cooked through and the mussels and clams are open. (Discard any shellfish that stayed tightly closed once everything else is cooked.)

Using a spatula, check the bottom of the paella to see if you have achieved a golden brown crust. If not, set the pan over the heat, uncovered, for a few minutes to lightly caramelize the rice on the bottom. This crunchy, browned crust or the “socarrat” is considered a key element of a well-made paella.

Garnish with parsley and lemon wedges and serve immediately, family-style.

Substitutions or notes: The above recipe is adapted for cooking on an indoor stovetop, but I made this dish on an outdoor grill over hot coals. Either works great as long as you have consistent heat, a good cast iron pan and a lid. To make this dish more impressive, add in a few lobster tails, squid rings or scallops on top when you place in the seafood.

ERIC

**HIS PASSION FOR CONSERVATION AND
TIRELESS EFFORTS HAVE HELPED RESTORE
AND PROTECT FLORIDA'S COASTAL
ECOSYSTEMS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**



**THANK YOU, ERIC, FOR MAKING
A LASTING IMPACT FOR FLORIDA'S
FISHERIES!**

LEAVE
NO
TRACE
REEF





In June, the **CCA Florida Broward Chapter** and the **Urban Farming Institute** partnered with the **City of Fort Lauderdale** on a mangrove restoration project at George English Park.

Roughly 25 volunteers came out and **successfully planted 50 red mangroves** to help with water quality, shoreline stabilization and provide habitat for marine life.

MANGROVE PLANTING



habitat

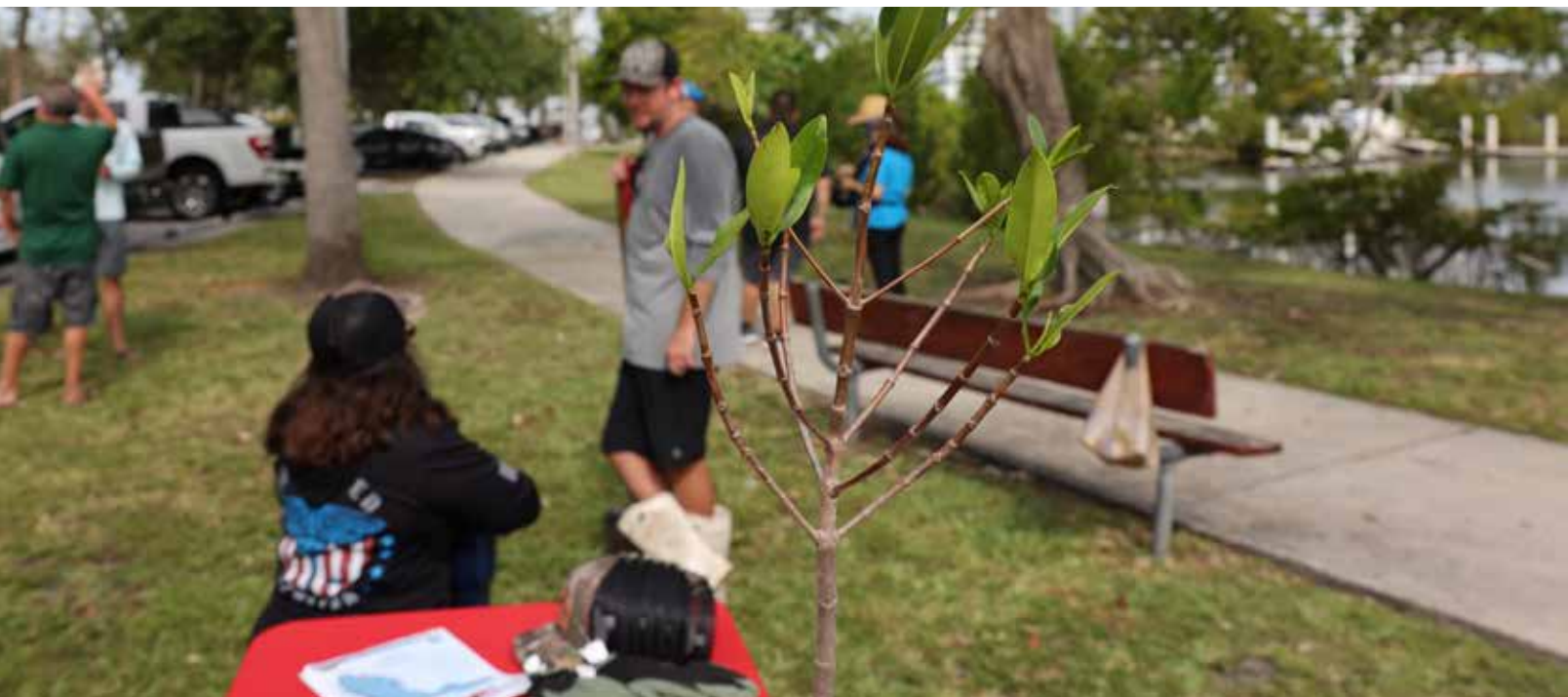
VE
G

CCA Florida directly advocated for a Chief Waterways Officer position in Fort Lauderdale to lead water quality initiatives, and Marco Aguilera was hired into this position just four weeks ago and already has this key project under his belt.

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT PARTICIPATED AND MADE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE.

MANGROVE





FISH HOW YOU WANT
ALL DAY



The Power-Pole CHARGE Marine Power Management Station does the work of three devices — a traditional battery charger, a charge-on-the-run and an emergency start system — all in one compact unit. The CHARGE automatically manages your power supply to all of your batteries and with the C-Monster app, you can monitor those batteries in real time, giving you the power to fish how you want for as long as you need to without having to worry about your power supply.

For complete details or to find a dealer, go to power-pole.com.



A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt, denim shorts, and red work gloves, is leaning over a rocky shore. She is smiling at the camera while holding a white plastic bag. The background is filled with dense green coastal vegetation, likely sea purslane, which has thick, rounded leaves and small green flowers. The ground is covered with grey, porous rocks.

HABITAT HERO

MEET
CHERYL
HUNTSINGER

Several years ago, CCA Florida began recognizing our members who have gone above and beyond with regard to habitat restoration in SeaWatch Magazine. In this edition we are recognizing Cheryl Huntsinger, of the CCA Manatee Chapter, as the next Habitat Hero. Born in Nashua, New Hampshire, and raised in the nearby town of Hollis, Cheryl's connection with nature began early. Her childhood was shaped by the outdoors, weekends spent camping across New Hampshire and Maine, and her first job at a local farm at just 14.

However, it was the ocean that ultimately captured her heart, a long-lasting love sparked by offshore fishing trips with her father in a 20-foot Wellcraft when she was only 10 years old. From the first moments battling cod and haddock in the deep waters off New England, Cheryl was hooked. Not just on fishing, but on the mysteries and wonders of marine life. Each trip was a new adventure, filled with whales, dolphins, sunfish, and sharks. She carried fish identification flashcards and became fascinated by the contents of fish stomachs spilled on deck: clams,

starfish, crabs—a peek into the unseen world below.

After graduating from Hollis Area High School in 1988, Cheryl continued her path into adult-

hood with a strong work ethic and love of nature. She entered the office products industry during her senior year of high school and has remained in that



career ever since. In February 1995, she relocated to Florida, where her passion for saltwater and conservation deepened. In 2003, Cheryl joined CCA when

local waters in Manatee County were threatened by a federal shutdown due to a lawsuit. Stepping up as a community advocate, she served as President

of the Manatee Chapter for five years and sat on the state board, playing an instrumental role in growing the chapter and organizing local fundraising banquets.

HABITAT HERO



P O W E R Y O U R P U R S U I T

ABYSS BATTERY

ABYSS (ə'-bis) comes from the Greek word ábyssos meaning "Bottomless, Boundless, and Immeasurable". The Unfathomable Depths of the Ocean are the world in which we are deeply rooted and from where we draw our name and our inspiration.

What sets us apart?

- More capacity and amp hours
- Smaller case size without sacrificing performance
- Proprietary software and design construction
- Pre-programmed AI
- Ability to learn and adapt, becoming more efficient over time

Discover the best Trolling Motor Lithium Batteries

that match the depth of your needs

DRAMATIC WEIGHT SAVINGS,
PERFECT FOR SMALLER BOATS.

24V Lithium Batteries

These lightweight marine batteries charge faster than traditional lead acid solutions while also providing longer run time between charges.



POWER YOUR BOAT LONGER,
FASTER, AND MORE EFFICIENTLY.

36V Lithium Batteries

Ideal for deep cycle applications in diverse marine environments, seasons, and temperatures, from calm weather to heavy winds!



855-719-1727 | www.abyssbattery.com

CHERYL HUNTSINGER

HABITAT HERO

Her environmental work took a new direction in 2016 when a casual observation during a spearfishing tournament near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge turned into a grassroots movement. Appalled by the trash littering the ocean floor, Cheryl rallied friends and divers to help clean it up. That summer, Suncoast Aqua Ventures was born. The non-profit, which Cheryl now leads as President, has since removed over 200,000 pounds of marine debris through reef and beach cleanups. She has participated in more than 100 cleanup and restoration events herself. Cheryl's contributions to habitat restoration are extensive.

With CCA, she has deployed oyster gabions to combat shoreline erosion, helped plant mangroves at Desoto Park, and taken part in fish tagging and stock

enhancement programs. She has supported numerous artificial reef deployments, including the sinking of the USS Mohawk in 2012, the On Eternal Patrol Submariners Reef in Sarasota in 2019, and the Rhodan Reef in 2024.

Looking ahead, Cheryl envisions a future where the CCA Manatee Chapter expands its focus on water quality and artificial reef deployments throughout the nearshore waters of Manatee and Sarasota County. She advocates for increased volunteer engagement, believing that the health of Florida's inshore and nearshore waters depends on community involvement and sustainable practices.

When she's not leading environmental initiatives, Cheryl is on the water fishing and diving. Ask Cheryl her favorite fish, and she won't hesitate. "Tarpon, I

have battled many, but I've never got my picture with one. #1 fish on the bucket list. It's a beautiful, majestic creature." She also loves the adrenaline of casting for pelagic species like spanish mackerel and bonita, drawn to the scream of the reel and the thrill of the catch.

Having been with CCA for over two decades, Cheryl takes pride in the organization's evolution, from regulatory victories like the net ban to recent habitat restoration efforts. She's especially proud of her role in bridging the gap between anglers and the scuba diving community, fostering a shared respect for the marine environment. As President of Suncoast Aqua Ventures, Cheryl continues to lead a growing network of divers, anglers, and ocean lovers with one motto: "It feels good to do good."



As a CCA Florida Life, Heritage or Legacy 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.

CCA FLORIDA
AND DUKE ENERGY
FLORIDA
JOINED
PROJECT
SEASAFE
FOR FOURTH
ANNUAL
CLEAN
WATER
COLLECTIVE



FOUR MILLION CLAM DEPLOYMENT
IN INDIAN RIVER LAGOON KICKED
OFF THE THREE-DAY EVENT IN
CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY,
VOLUNTEERS AND FISHING
CELEBRITIES PARTICIPATED IN
MANGROVE PLANTINGS,
COASTAL CLEANUP AND
CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS





Coastal Conservation Association Florida (CCA Florida), the state's leading organization dedicated to marine fisheries conservation, education and advocacy, and Duke Energy Florida joined Star brite for its fourth annual Project SeaSafe Clean Water Collective and deployed four million clams in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) to kick off the three-day event in celebration of Earth Day.

The clam deployment is a continuation of the Billion Clam Initiative, a large-scale effort led by CCA Florida in partnership with the University of Florida Whitney Laboratory and Capt. Blair Wiggins. The initiative uses state-of-the-art technology to deploy clams in effort to improve water quality and restore ecological balance throughout the IRL. To date, 53 million clams have been deployed in the Lagoon as part of the Initiative.

"CCA Florida is proud to join forces with Duke Energy Florida, Star brite and our conservation partners to deploy four million clams and kick off Project SeaSafe's Clean Water Collective," CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. "This community-driven event reflects our shared commitment to restoring the IRL and protecting one of Florida's most unique marine habitat. The deployment of

the four million clams was funded through the CCA Florida \$1 million Habitat Pledge by the North Lake Chapter.

For decades, the IRL's deteriorating water quality has caused its marine habitat to suffer. To counteract these effects, Project SeaSafe and its Clean Water Collective partners are taking a holistic approach to restoring one of Florida's most biologically diverse estuaries.

"Duke Energy Florida appreciates the collaboration with CCA, UF and Star brite to preserve Florida's most precious ecosystems. Together we have made significant impacts across the state," said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. "We understand the importance of environmental stewardship and the economic benefit it provides to the communities we serve."

In addition to the clam deployment, Clean Water Collective attendees participated in a vertical oyster garden (VOG) workshop, mangrove plantings, interactive science exhibits, beach cleanup and evening events while interacting with fishing celebrities and conservationists championing efforts to support the IRL.



PROJECT SEASAFE
IS BUILT ON ACTION,
WE'RE NOT HERE
TO TALK ABOUT
PROBLEMS—
WE'RE HERE TO DO
SOMETHING ABOUT
THEM. WHETHER
YOU'RE PLANTING
MANGROVES,
PICKING UP TRASH
OR RELEASING
CLAMS, YOU'RE PART
OF THE SOLUTION.

STAR BRITE'S PROJECT
SEASAFE CONSERVATION
DIRECTOR CORY REDWINE

CLEAN WATER COLLECTIVE

is a grassroots event designed to be a comprehensive, immersive experience with a science-driven mission to clean the water and rebuild the local habitat.



COMPLETED HABITAT PROJECTS



Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over \$12 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!



Artificial Reefs



Coastal Cleanups



Research/Monitoring



Clam Restoration



Oyster Restoration



Mangrove Restoration



Seagrass Restoration



Living
Shorelines



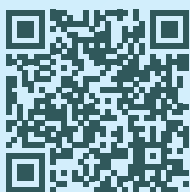
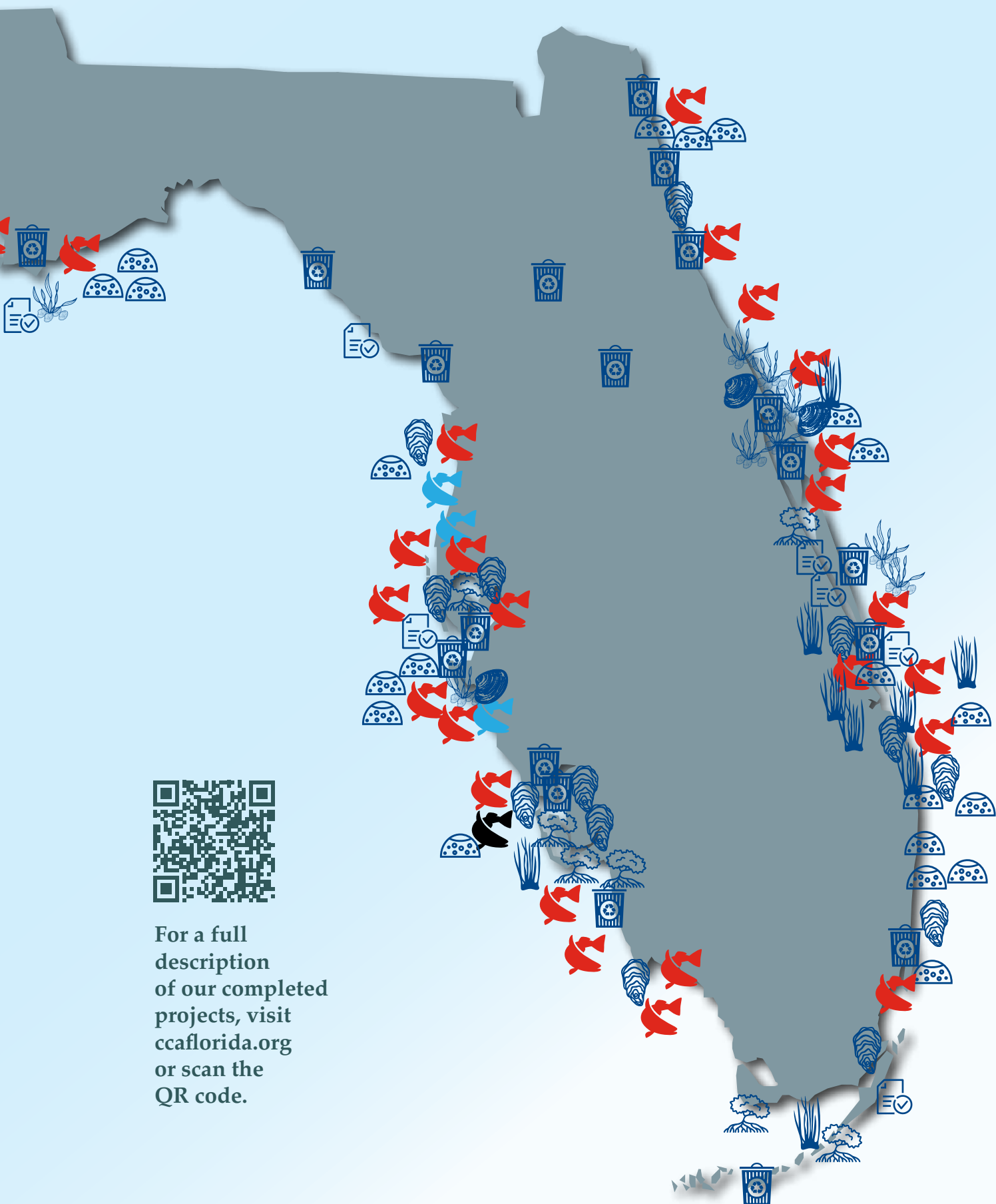
Redfish Stock Enhancement
Locations - 490,000 (3"- 30")



Snook Stock Enhancement
Locations - 5,150 (4"- 6")

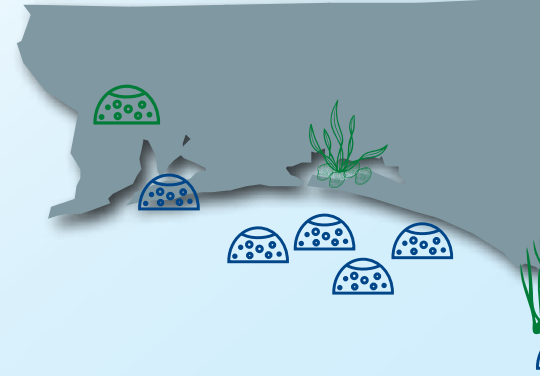


Spotted Seatrout Stock
Enhancement Locations -
150,000 (4"- 6")



For a full
description
of our completed
projects, visit
ccaflorida.org
or scan the
QR code.

UPCOMING & ONGOING HABITAT PROJECTS



Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over \$12 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!



Artificial Reefs



Coastal Cleanups



Research/Monitoring



Clam Restoration



Oyster Restoration



Mangrove Restoration



Seagrass Restoration



Living
Shorelines



Coral/Sponge
Restoration

 Upcoming

 Ongoing

40 TONS OF RECYCLED OYSTER SHELLS EXPAND REEF IN CHARLOTTE HARBOR



**CCA FLORIDA AND PARTNERS
DEPLOYMENT IN TURTLE BAY**

IN MAY, CCA FLORIDA PARTNERED WITH INGMAN MARINE, ABBOTT CONSTRUCTION, LEE REEFS, GASPARILLA ISLAND CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (GICIA), CAPT. JAY WITHERS, CLERMONT OYSTER BAR AND LAKE COUNTY TO DEPLOY FOUR DUMP TRUCK LOADS OF RECYCLED OYSTER SHELLS IN CHARLOTTE HARBOR FOR ITS FIFTH INSTALLMENT OF THE TURTLE BAY OYSTER REEF, FURTHER ADVANCING ONE OF THE LARGEST RECYCLED OYSTER REEF RESTORATION PROJECTS IN FLORIDA.

**MADE FIFTH OYSTER
AND HONORED MIKE ABBOTT**

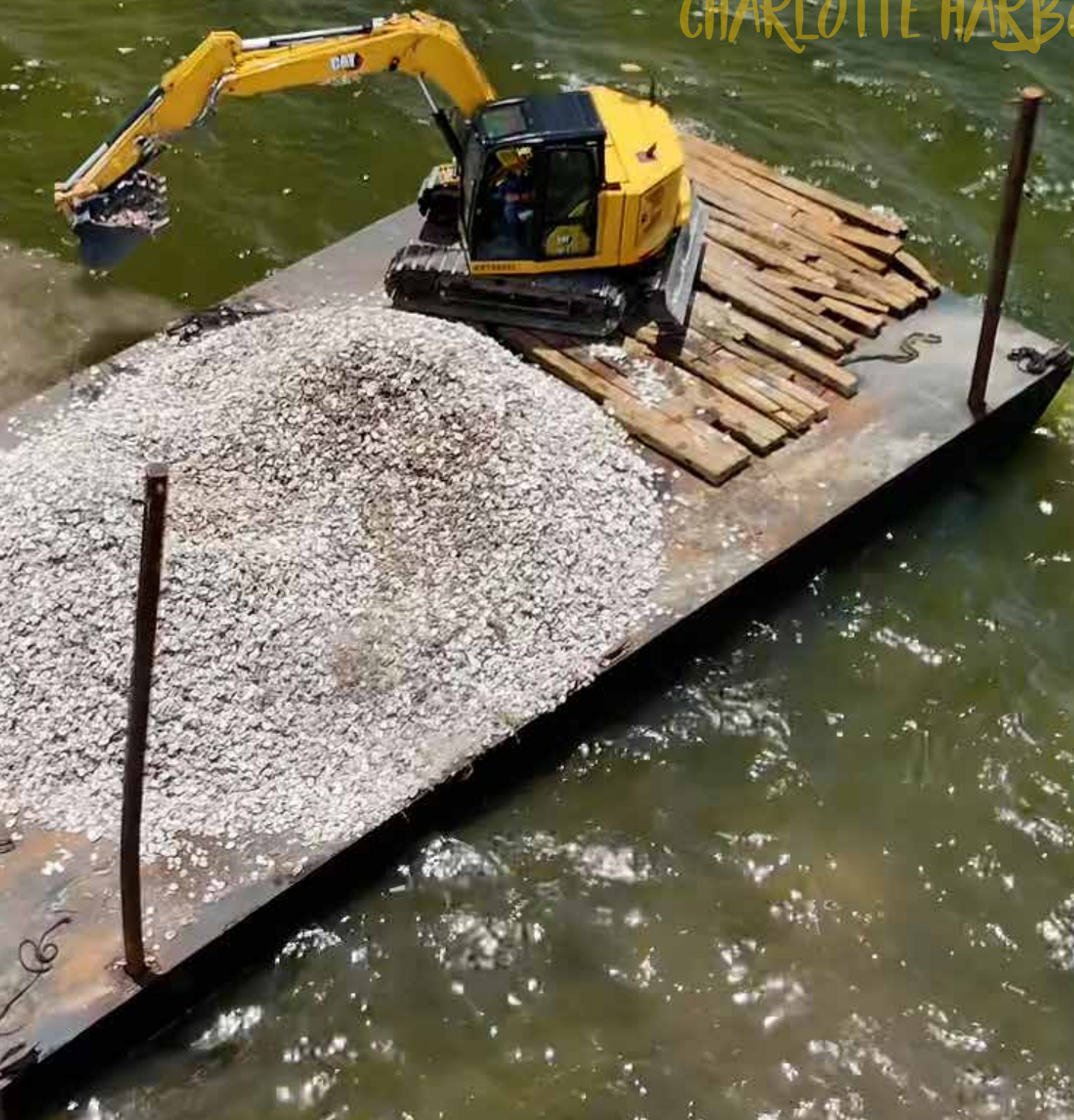
The latest deployment, the Mike Abbott CCA Florida Turtle Bay Oyster Reef Deployment, honors a dedicated conservationist and CCA Florida supporter committed to improving water quality in Southwest Florida and throughout the state. This expansion of the Turtle Bay Oyster Reef celebrates Abbott's efforts and reinforces CCA Florida's steadfast commitment to revitalizing Florida's marine habitat.

"The fifth oyster deployment in Turtle Bay not only honors Mike Abbott but showcases the dedication of our partners, volunteers and members who share a mutual vision for a healthier and more resilient coastal environment in Charlotte Harbor," CCA Florida Chief Operating Officer Adam Miller said. "Every oyster shell deployed represents a step toward restoring critical habitat and improving water quality for generations to come."

(continued on page 54)



40 TONS OF
RECYCLED OYSTER
SHELLS EXPAND REEF IN
CHARLOTTE HARBOR



The recycled oyster shells, donated by the Clermont Oyster Bar, are first dried for six months to kill any potential pathogens at CCA Florida's Oyster Recycling Facility in Lake County. The oysters are then transported to Placida, loaded onto a barge provided by Abbott Construction and deployed in Turtle Bay at a pre-permitted location.

"To date, nearly 130 tons of recycled oysters have been deployed in Turtle Bay," CCA Florida's Di-

rector of Habitat and Environmental Restoration Frank Gidus said. "With an estimated 85% loss of oyster reefs worldwide, we are proud to expand the Turtle Bay Oyster Reef for the fifth time in effort to restore the habitat and water quality in Charlotte Harbor, and we could not do it without the support of our community partners and members."

(continued on page 57)

40 TONS OF
RECYCLED OYSTER
SHELLS EXPAND REEF IN
CHARLOTTE HARBOR



FLINT&FLAME

OFFICIAL CUTLERY &
TRUSTED PARTNER OF CCA
SINCE 2016



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA

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

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
CONSERVATION WORLDWIDE

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

PATHFINDER

ANGLER DRIVEN



#1 FOR A REASON.



No matter where the water takes you, Pathfinder delivers performance that's as powerful as your mission—and as adjustable as your lifestyle.
Build your next Pathfinder with our boat builder tool today.

GARMIN

pathfinderboats.com

 YAMAHA

THE TURTLE BAY PROJECT is one of the most extensive oyster reef restoration efforts in Florida providing vital habitat for marine species, enhancing water quality and boosting recreational angling. Oyster reefs filter pollutants, create habitat for a variety of marine species and reduce turbidity which aids in seagrass growth.



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.



CCA FLORIDA'S TO OYSTER REEF

Oyster reefs play a vital role in Florida's coastal ecosystem for marine life, and buffers against shoreline erosion, habitat destruction, and declining water quality, natural



S THREE KEYS RESTORATION

tems, serving as natural water filters, essential habitats
sion and storms. However, due to overharvesting,
al oyster populations have suffered significant losses.

1 ENCOURAGE TO RECYCLE

A critical component of oyster reef restoration is the availability of high-quality substrate, and nothing works better



**CCA FLORIDA
IS COMMITTED
TO REVERSING
THIS TREND
THROUGH
THREE KEY
INITIATIVES
AIMED AT
RESTORING &
PROTECTING
OYSTER REEFS
ACROSS THE
STATE.**



RESTAURANTS OYSTER SHELLS

than “green” oyster shells themselves. CCA Florida is working to create a sustainable supply of recycled oyster shells by

encouraging restaurants to participate in shell recycling programs.

(continued on page 62)



CCA FLORIDA OYSTER RESTORATION

3 Initiatives

“Conservation today, habitat tomorrow”

Let's all play a part in conserving and protecting Florida's marine resources by increasing measures to protect the Eastern oyster in Florida.



Encourage and Facilitate Oyster Aquaculture



Expedite Oyster Restoration Permits



Encourage Restaurants to Recycle Oyster Shells

ccafloida.org/habitat-restoration



By encouraging oyster shell recycling through potential state-funded incentives, CCA hopes to increase restaurant participation efforts statewide. Educating restaurants and the public about the importance of oyster shell recycling can further enhance this initiative. When properly collected and



processed, these recycled shells serve as a foundation for new reef structures, accelerating restoration efforts.

Several Florida restaurants are already contributing to this program, including Clermont Oyster Bar, BOB's (Brooksville Oyster Bar), Seafood Seller in Crystal

River, The Troff in Eustis, Florida Cracker Oyster Bar & Grill in Keystone Heights, Runabout Brewing in Orlando, and Gary's Oyster Bar in Lake Alfred. Their efforts are helping to reduce waste disposal costs while providing essential material for rebuilding oyster reefs.



2 ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE OYSTER AQUACULTURE

One of the most effective ways to restore Florida's oyster populations is by expanding oyster aquaculture.

(continued on page 64)





By supporting the development of oyster farming, we are able to alleviate pressure on natural reefs while enhancing the overall health of the ecosystem.

Oyster aquaculture provides multiple benefits. First, it helps reduce

3 EXPEDITE OYSTER RESTORATION PERMITS



strain on wild oyster populations by offering a sustainable alternative to harvesting natural reefs. Additionally, farmed oysters act as powerful filter feeders, removing excess nutrients from the water and improving overall water quality. Lastly, these aquaculture

operations create valuable habitat for various marine species, fostering biodiversity and strengthening the resilience of coastal ecosystems.

For oyster restoration projects to succeed, the federal permitting approval process must be expedited. CCA Florida is advocating for the Army Corps of Engineers to streamline the oyster reef restoration process. Aligning this process with the existing framework set by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will help streamline the approval

of essential restoration projects.

Expanding oyster restoration permits will lead to increased restoration efforts across Florida's coastline. By expediting the permitting process, CCA and other conservation organizations can initiate projects more quickly, leading to faster and more effective reef rebuilding.

BY FOCUSING ON THESE THREE KEY STRATEGIES, CCA FLORIDA IS TAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO RESTORING THE STATE'S OYSTER POPULATIONS. THROUGH RESTAURANT PARTNERSHIPS, AQUACULTURE EXPANSION, AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS, THESE INITIATIVES WILL HELP REBUILD OYSTER REEFS, ENHANCE MARINE BIODIVERSITY, AND ENSURE A HEALTHIER COASTAL ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THE \$1,000,000 HABITAT

Welcome to the future of environmental conservation in Florida. CCA Florida is proud to announce the launch of a monumental grass-roots initiative – The \$1,000,000 Habitat Pledge.

OUR GOAL Elevating Conservation

At the heart of this initiative is a clear and compelling goal: to substantially elevate CCA Florida's conservation commitment through the successful completion of 20 additional coastal habitat projects across the state. These projects represent more than just environmental restoration; they symbolize our collective commitment to conserving Florida's natural beauty and biodiversity for future generations.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW A Statewide Call to Action

Spanning over two years, this initiative places a strong emphasis on engaging our statewide CCA chapters in meaningful local habitat projects. It's an invitation for chapters to actively participate and contribute to our statewide conservation efforts.

Throughout the duration of the program, CCA Florida is set to disburse 20 grants, each valued at \$50,000, to CCA chapters that successfully complete the grant application process and receive approval from our Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration. This initiative has been made possible through the generous donations of CCA Florida members and our dedicated partners, reflecting a community united in its passion for conservation.

1,000,000 PLEDGE



Launched in January 2024, this groundbreaking effort marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to sustainable coastal habitat restoration.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A Snapshot of Our Commitment



A Pledge of \$1,000,000: We've dedicated a substantial sum to support the success of CCA habitat projects across the state.

Focus on CCA Statewide Chapters: CCA Florida chapters are encouraged to participate and make a difference in their local communities. All grant applications must be approved and submitted by a local CCA Chapter committee.

A Two-Year Initiative: This is a sustained effort, supporting long-term conservation measures and stakeholder engagement.

Annual Donations: \$500,000 will be allocated each year, reflecting our ongoing commitment to this cause.

Selecting 20 Projects: CCA Florida will select 20 habitat projects, each will receive a \$50,000 grant to spearhead this conservation commitment.



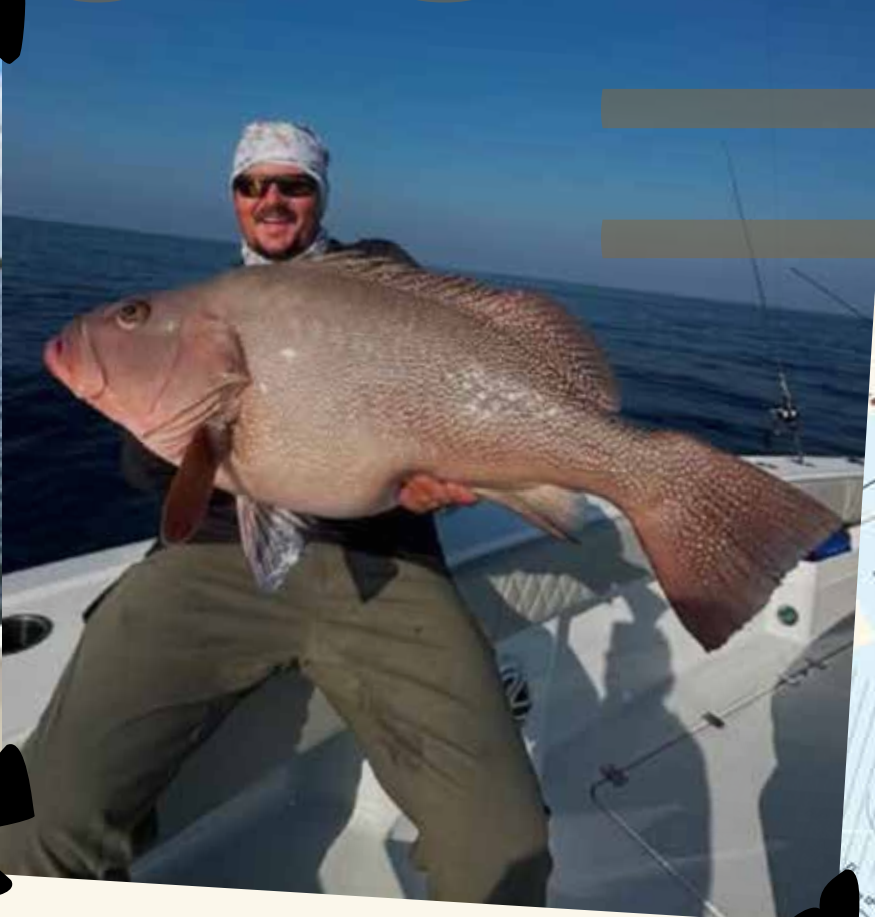


PICTURE





PICTURE



RAFFLE PACKAGES RETURN

Choose from the Grander, \$500, \$250 or \$100 raffle pack for the ultimate selection of tickets!

GRANDER - Six (6) Contender 28T tickets, Seven (7) Pathfinder 2200 TRS tickets, Seven (7) Contender 24S tickets and nine (9) Hewes Redfisher 16 tickets (a \$480 savings)

**INTRODUCING VARIETY
RAFFLE PACKAGES**



**CCA FLORIDA
RAFFLES**

THE \$1000 TICKET PACK
29 TICKETS - YOU SAVE \$480

CCA FLORIDA

Contender 28T
6 tickets \$600 value

Pathfinder 2200 TRS
7 tickets \$350 value

Hewes Redfisher 16
9 tickets \$180 value

Contender 24S
7 tickets \$350 value

\$500 - Three (3) Contender 28T tickets, Four (4) Pathfinder 2200 TRS tickets, four (4) Contender 24S tickets and Six (6) Hewes Redfisher 16 tickets (\$320 savings)

**INTRODUCING VARIETY
RAFFLE PACKAGES**



**CCA FLORIDA
RAFFLES**

THE \$500 TICKET PACK
17 TICKETS - YOU SAVE \$320

CCA FLORIDA

Contender 28T
3 tickets \$300 value

Pathfinder 2200 TRS
4 tickets \$200 value

Hewes Redfisher 16
6 tickets \$120 value

Contender 24S
4 tickets \$200 value

August

22
Pasco County Banquet and Auction

September

4
Clermont Oyster Roast
Palm Bach County Banquet and Auction

11
Gainesville Banquet and Auction

18
Sarasota Banquet and Auction

19-20
Tampa Bay All Release

25
Space Coast Banquet and Auction

October

2
Orlando Banquet and Auction

9
Jacksonville Banquet and Auction
Pensacola Banquet and Auction

16
Polk BBQ and Auction

23
Forgotten Coast Banquet and Auction
Broward County Banquet and Auction

November

6
Peace River Banquet and Auction

13
Treasure Coast Banquet and Auction
Clermont Banquet and Auction

20
Dade County Banquet and Auction
Pinellas County Banquet and Auction

December

4
Lake Mary Banquet and Auction
South Walton Banquet and Auction

11
Anniversary Gala

SAVE THE DATE

 **CCA FLORIDA**
ccaflorida.org

**VACATION HOME
SITTING EMPTY?**

Let CCA Help Fill Your Unused Weeks

We host events throughout the year and can keep your property full.

Our members are your target audience.

Whether you need to fill one week or 50, we can help.

Contact Adam Miller at (941) 270-0895

Don't miss it

RAFFLE PACKAGES RETURN

Choose from the Grander, \$500, \$250 or \$100 raffle pack for the ultimate selection of tickets!

\$250 - One (1) Contender 28T ticket, Two (2) Pathfinder 2200 TRS tickets, Two (2) Contender 24S tickets and four (4) Hewes Redfisher 16 tickets (\$135 savings)

**INTRODUCING VARIETY
RAFFLE PACKAGES**

CCA FLORIDA
RAFFLES

THE \$250 TICKET PACK
9 TICKETS - YOU SAVE \$135

CCA FLORIDA

\$100 - One (1) Pathfinder 2200 TRS ticket, One (1) Contender 24S ticket and Two (2) Hewes Redfisher 16 tickets (\$50 savings)

**INTRODUCING VARIETY
RAFFLE PACKAGES**

CCA FLORIDA
RAFFLES

THE \$100 TICKET PACK
4 TICKETS - YOU SAVE \$50

CCA FLORIDA



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!

CONTENDER

ALWAYS IN THE GAME



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA

28_T

POWERED BY



CONTENDERBOATS.COM