

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

# SEAWATCH

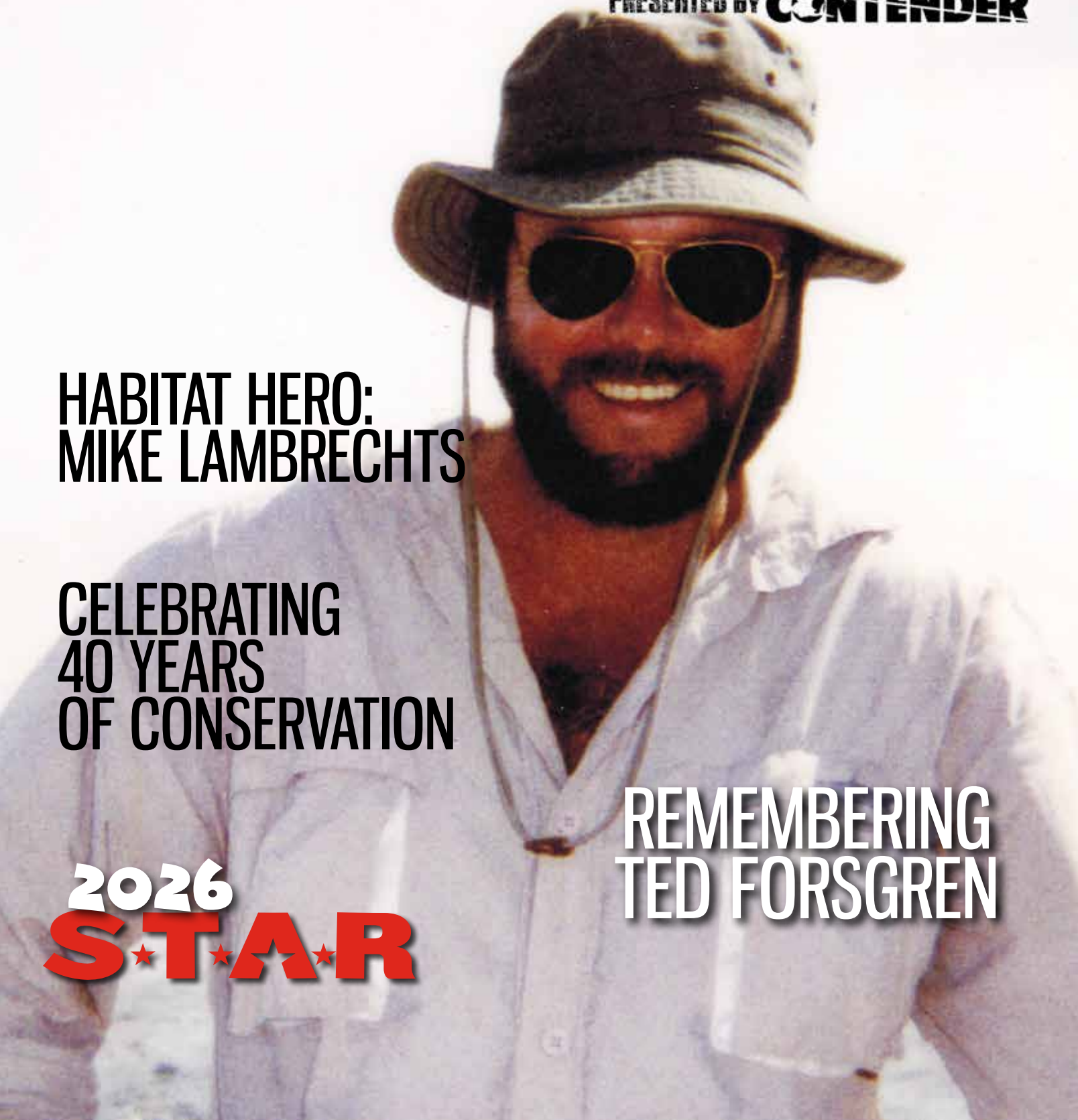
SPRING 26  
PRESENTED BY **CONTENDER**

**HABITAT HERO:  
MIKE LAMBRECHTS**

**CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS  
OF CONSERVATION**

**2026  
STAR**

**REMEMBERING  
TED FORSGREN**



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

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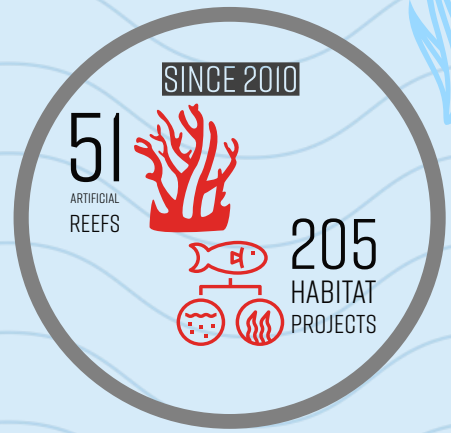


SINCE 2010, CCA FLORIDA, CCA'S BUILDING CONSERVATION TRUST AND ITS PARTNERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$26 MILLION TO REBUILD FLORIDA'S MARINE HABITAT

**200 TONS  
OF OYSTERS**



WERE SAVED FROM WASTE BY CCA FLORIDA IN THE LAST THREE YEARS. THUS FAR, 156 OF THE 200 TONS HAVE BEEN RECYCLED AND REDEPLOYED TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL REEFS



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



**96 TONS  
OF TRASH REMOVED**



**125,000  
MANGROVES & SPARTINA  
GRASS PLANTED**

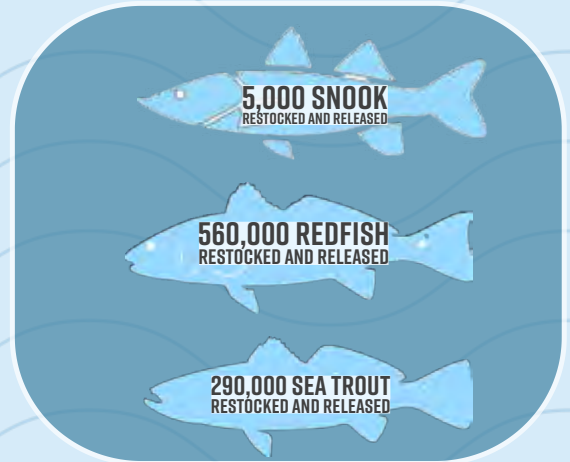


**58 MILLION  
CLAMS DEPLOYED**

**ADVOCATED  
GAMEFISH  
STATUS FOR  
REDFISH**

**PROTECTING  
FLORIDA'S MARINE  
RESOURCES AND ANGLERS'  
ACCESS FOR NEARLY  
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**



**\$1,100,000 IN CCA FLORIDA YOUTH  
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SINCE 2015**



**WORKED  
WITH FWC TO  
ENSURE MAXIMUM  
ANGLER ACCESS  
FOR RED SNAPPER**

**HELPED BAN LONGLINES  
FOR BILLFISH  
AND PELAGIC SPECIES**



**\$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**



**Congress of the United States**  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
 Secretary of Commerce  
 1401 Constitution Ave NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We, the undersigned Members of Congress representing the South Atlantic region, write to express our strong support for Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina's Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) applications that request approval to improve state data collection efforts and implement state-led management of the recreational red snapper fishery in federal waters in the South Atlantic region.

For too long, recreational anglers in the South Atlantic have been largely shut out of red snapper harvest opportunities despite unprecedented growth and record abundance in this fishery. This is a sign that the current management system is out of step with the on-the-water reality. Despite fishery managers' success rebuilding the stock for more than a decade, anglers continue to face one-or two-day seasons, a frustrating cycle that leaves them unable to access a healthy and abundant resource even after years of conservation and compliance.

On June 11, 2025, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) finalized Amendment 59, establishing new measures to end and prevent overfishing. We thank you for rejecting the bottom closures that were proposed by the Biden Administration. Closing bottom fishing from December to February for 55 species off the east coast of Florida would have been devastating to our region's economy. The drastic nature of that proposal underscores the need for significant changes to South Atlantic red snapper management to ensure reasonable harvest opportunities.

The South Atlantic states' EFP requests align with President Trump's April 2025 Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, which directs the Department of Commerce and NOAA to expand the use of EFPs and modernize data collection so that fishery management decisions can respond to real-time conditions. Under these requested EFPs, states will develop and test reliable data collection programs that improve our understanding of the red snapper stock and expand fishing opportunities for anglers through more accurate, responsive management.

We have a proven model. During President Trump's first term, his administration approved state management EFPs for red snapper in the Gulf, moving management decisions closer to the resource. That decision improved stock health, strengthened data collection, and led to longer, more predictable fishing seasons. In 2025, Florida had its longest season since state management began in the Gulf, at 126 days, which is a dramatic improvement over the 3 federal season days in 2017. That experience shows what happens when States are in the lead: with better data and more responsive management, anglers gain access, conservation is maintained, and coastal communities benefit. These are outcomes that Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina should be able to realize in the South Atlantic.

Now, during President Trump's second term, there is an opportunity to extend the Gulf's successful state-led red snapper management in the South Atlantic. The region's states are ready to lead by applying proven methods to collect high-quality data, expand sustainable harvests, and support the coastal economies that depend on this fishery.

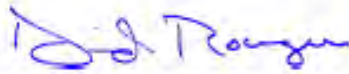
Mr. Secretary, we urge your department to work swiftly with Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to approve these EFPs and authorize state-led management of red snapper in the South Atlantic beginning in 2026. We look forward to working with you to advance state management for the benefit of fishermen, conservation, and our coastal economy.

Sincerely,

**John H. Rutherford**  
 Member of Congress

**Earl L. "Buddy" Carter**  
 Member of Congress

**Russell Fry**  
 Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



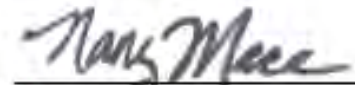
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United States Senator



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



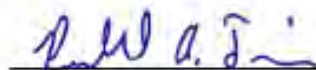
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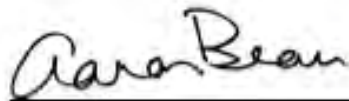
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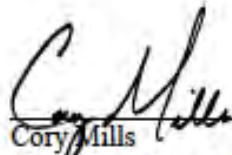
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Member of Congress



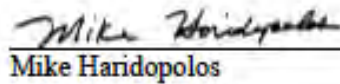
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# THE CONSERVE FLORIDA'S FISHERIES LICENSE PLATE



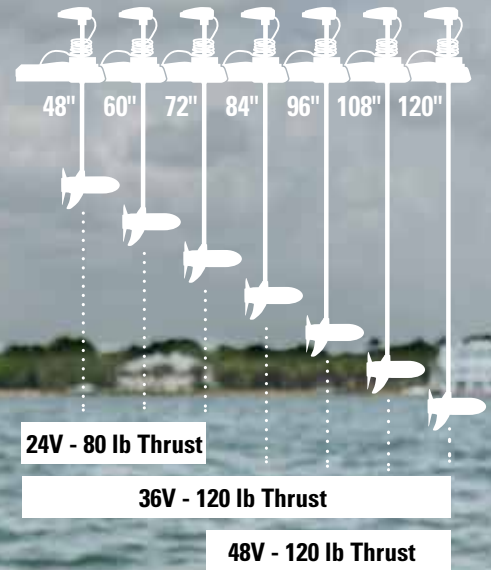
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- > Personalized (vanity) plates orders can also be purchased online or in person
- > Funds from the sale of this license plate support protecting and enhancing saltwater marine resources, expanding habitat restoration efforts and promoting coastal environmental education

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# Gulf Senators Call For Action On Illegal Fishing

Ten Senators from Gulf Coast states released a letter today expressing concern over continued illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing for red snapper by Mexican vessels operating in U.S. waters of the Gulf of America. They called on NOAA to use its import-restriction authority – and other applicable authorities – to address the problem in a targeted manner.

Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Katie Britt (R-Ala.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.) and Ashley Moody (R-Fla.) joined Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) in authoring the letter.

“We are truly grateful to these Senators for their call to action to address this pervasive problem,” said Bill Bird, chairman of CCA’s National Government Relations Com-

mittee. “The U.S. Coast Guard and Texas state agencies are doing incredible work to curtail these illegal activities, but there is only so much that can be done on the enforcement side. Combining those enforcement efforts with import restrictions and enhanced reporting requirement could finally have a significant impact on these illegal operations. CCA has been calling for more assertiveness from NOAA on this issue for years and it is gratifying to see it getting the attention it deserves.”

Globally, IUU fishing accounts for the removal of one out of every five fish from the oceans, often conducted and supported by illicit organizations. In the United States, much of this activity is carried out by illegal fishing vessels from Mexico, known as lanchas, trespassing into U.S. waters off the coast of Texas. While the landings are immense, the full extent is unknown. At one time it was estimated that the illegal take of red snapper out of U.S. waters was at least equal to the entire recreational quota of red snapper which equates to several million pounds annually.

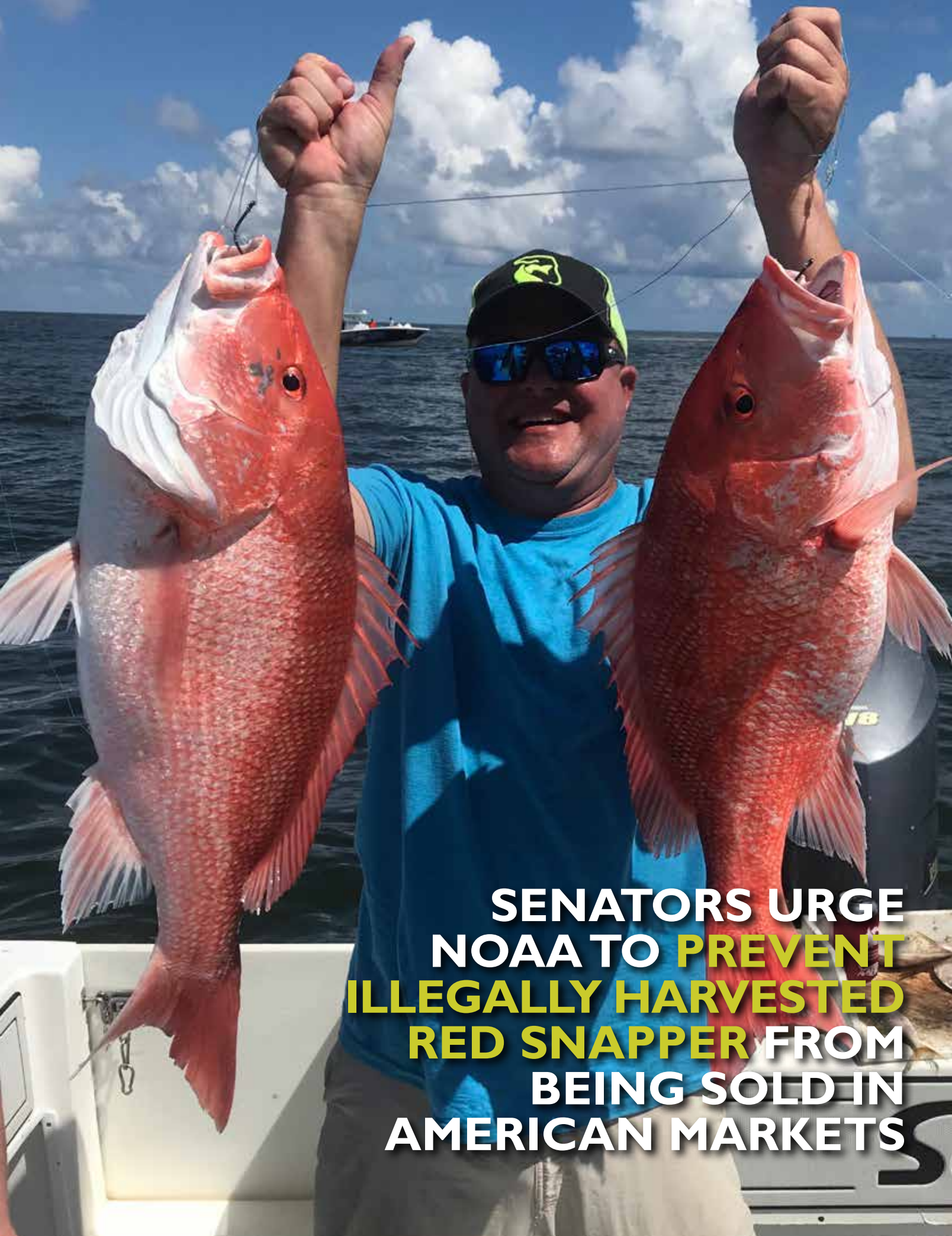
“Despite fewer vessel interdictions in 2025 than the previous year, the volume of illegally harvested red snapper seized by the Coast Guard rose 28 percent, reaching 15,859 pounds ... Furthermore, a recent DHS Office of Inspector General report found that the Coast Guard interdicts only one in every five detected foreign fishing vessels, leaving nearly 80 percent of illegal incursions unchallenged and free to enter domestic commerce through opaque supply chains,” the lawmakers explained in the letter.

Lanchas typically participate in illegal fishing during the day, and drug and migrant smuggling operations at night. These are fast-moving boats, typically 25- to 35-foot wooden or fiberglass vessels with a single engine and two to four crew members. A large portion of the illegal catch – usually high-value red snapper, but also sharks, red drum and anything else that can be caught on a longline – is transported north of the border to be sold on the U.S. market.

NOAA can enact an import prohibition when foreign fishing activities undermine conservation and enforcement authority but to date, that authority has never been exercised.

“We respectfully urge NOAA Fisheries to evaluate—without further delay—the use of its existing statutory authority in coordination with relevant agency partners to eliminate illegal fishing in U.S. waters and prevent IUU-caught fish from entering U.S. markets,” the Senators’ letter concludes.

**IN THE UNITED STATES, MUCH OF THIS ACTIVITY IS CARRIED OUT BY ILLEGAL FISHING VESSELS FROM MEXICO, KNOWN AS LANCHAS, TRESPASSING INTO U.S. WATERS OFF THE COAST OF TEXAS.**



**SENATORS URGE  
NOAA TO PREVENT  
ILLEGALLY HARVESTED  
RED SNAPPER FROM  
BEING SOLD IN  
AMERICAN MARKETS**

*Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night*



at a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night



# *Celebrating 40 Years of Conservation: CCA Florida's Unforgettable Gala*

On the evening of December 11, 2025, the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida marked a monumental milestone, four decades of steadfast commitment to preserving Florida's marine resources with an elegant "Boots and Ballgowns" celebration at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando.

The 40th Anniversary Gala brought together members, partners, advocates and friends from across the state for an unforgettable night that honored the past and looked boldly toward the future of coastal conservation.

## A Night to Remember

The evening began with a lively cocktail hour, giving guests the opportunity to paint an original Guy Harvey, enjoy the photobooth, bid on exclusive silent auction items and more, all while supporting CCA Florida's mission. Following the welcoming festivities, guests were seated for a chef-curated dinner that paired fine cuisine with heartfelt reflections on CCA Florida's accomplishments and future aspirations.

Speakers included longtime conservation champions and influential voices in the angling community, CCA President Pat Murray, Contender Boats Inc. President Joe Neber, Captain Rick Murphy, George Poveromo and Dr. Guy Harvey shared stories of CCA Florida's journey from a grassroots movement into one of the state's most impactful environmental organizations. Their remarks reminded attendees of the collective effort behind every reef created, every shoreline protected and every voice raised for sustainable fisheries.



*at a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night*



*Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night*



*at a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night*



Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night



*at a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night*



*Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh Wh*

## *Legendary Music and Celebration*

One of the night's most thrilling moments was a private live performance by GRAMMY-winning country music legend Clint Black, whose timeless hits added magic to the milestone celebration. Black's performance brought guests to their feet dancing, singing and celebrating the legacy of CCA Florida under the glittering lights of the ballroom.



## *Honoring the Legacy, Investing in the Future*

More than a gala, the evening served as a celebration of community and commitment. Fundraising efforts directly support the ongoing work of CCA Florida, including habitat restoration, artificial reef deployments, fishrestocking programs and advocacy initiatives ensuring sustainable fisheries for generations to come.



CCA FLORIDA  
ccaflorida.org

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*at a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night Oh What a Night*



# HONORING A CONSERVATION LEGEND

**Theodore A. “Ted” Forsgren  
July 6, 1949 – January 2, 2026**

Theodore A. Forsgren Jr. (Ted), age 76, died peacefully in the early morning hours of January 2, 2026 at home with his Tallahassee family. He had valiantly coped with the debilitating effects of a brain tumor for many years. He was born July 6, 1949 in Chicago, IL but had been a resident of Florida since 1951.

Ted grew up in Tampa and attended Plant High School, the University of South Florida and graduated from the University of Florida in 1971, a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

After college, he worked for the Department of Transportation providing environmental impact statements, the Department of State Planning and was later hired as a State Lands Bureau Chief in the Department of Natural Resources when he was 29. He accepted a po-

sition in 1985 as the first executive director and employee of the newly created Florida Conservation Association (FCA), now Coastal

Conservation Association (CCA) Florida. In the early days, Ted was a one-man band and responsible for the organization’s fundraising and





Theodor



HONORING A  
CONSERVATION  
LEGEND

# re A. “Ted” Forsgren

advocacy efforts. He continued in this role for 23 years followed by his advisory role until retirement.

Ted dedicated his life to protecting Florida’s coastal resources and fisheries and was a fearless conservation advocate and leader. He was instrumental in advancing landmark fisheries policy in Florida. His accomplishments include advocating for gamefish status for redfish before the Marine Fisheries Commission, supporting the creation of Florida’s first recreational saltwater fishing license and helping to pass the state constitutional amendment banning gill nets in state waters.

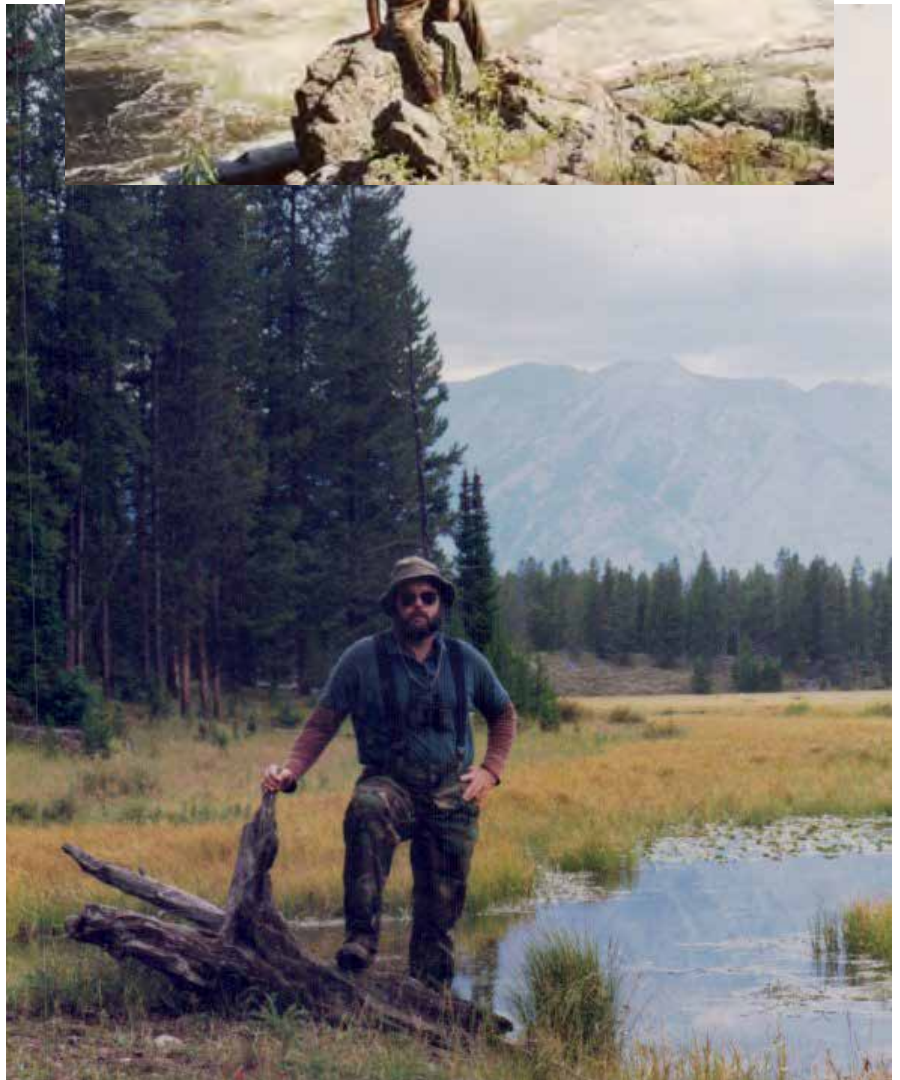
In 2025, CCA Florida honored Ted by creating the “Ted Forsgren Nekton Reef” and deploying two former dive vessels near Destin. The reef site is located approximately 22 nautical miles south of Destin East Pass, at a depth of approximately 130 to 140 feet.

Ted led a rich and full life with many interests including being a member of the American Mountain Men’s Association, playing for the Tallahassee Rugby Club in earlier years, enjoying and training his dogs along with photography, physical fitness, reading and, above all else, fishing. Unknown to many, he could sketch

well and would sometimes display around family an endearing sense of humor, which was an interesting contrast to his intense seriousness and dedication for his work.

Ted Forsgren’s leadership shaped the foundation of recreational fish-

eries conservation in Florida. His passion to protect and conserve our fisheries is unrivaled. Ted’s legacy and tireless commitment to protecting the state’s marine resources will live on through the waters and communities he fought





for through the “Ted Forsgren Conservation Award,” which is CCA Florida’s highest honor.

“Ted Forsgren was more than the founding executive director of CCA Florida, he was the architect for fisheries management in our state,” CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. “Ted’s leadership and commitment to protecting Florida’s coastal resources shaped our marine fisheries, and we are forever grateful for his service, mentorship and legacy.”

“The thing that always resonated with Ted was his demeanor and approach during his public presentations. He was thoroughly prepared and made well-documented and compelling cases for FCA’s position and the resources’ protection. He was calm and never lost his cool, even when challenged by other speakers or the audience. In short, he was the consummate profession-

al and a credit to the organization at all times. I learned a lot by studying his approach,” Capt. Dave Lear said.

“Ted Forsgren was the fearless, no nonsense Executive Director of the Florida Conservation Association, now Coastal Conservation Association Florida. Ted worked tirelessly against horrible legislation, and illegal fishing, that threatened our recreational sportfisheries, and he battled the commercial gillnetters like no one else. Whether you knew Ted or just knew of him, say a thank you to him today for defending what we love most.” Michael Conner



# Theodore A. “Ted”



HONORING A  
CONSERVATION  
LEGEND

**Forsgren**

Theodore A. "Ted" Forsgren



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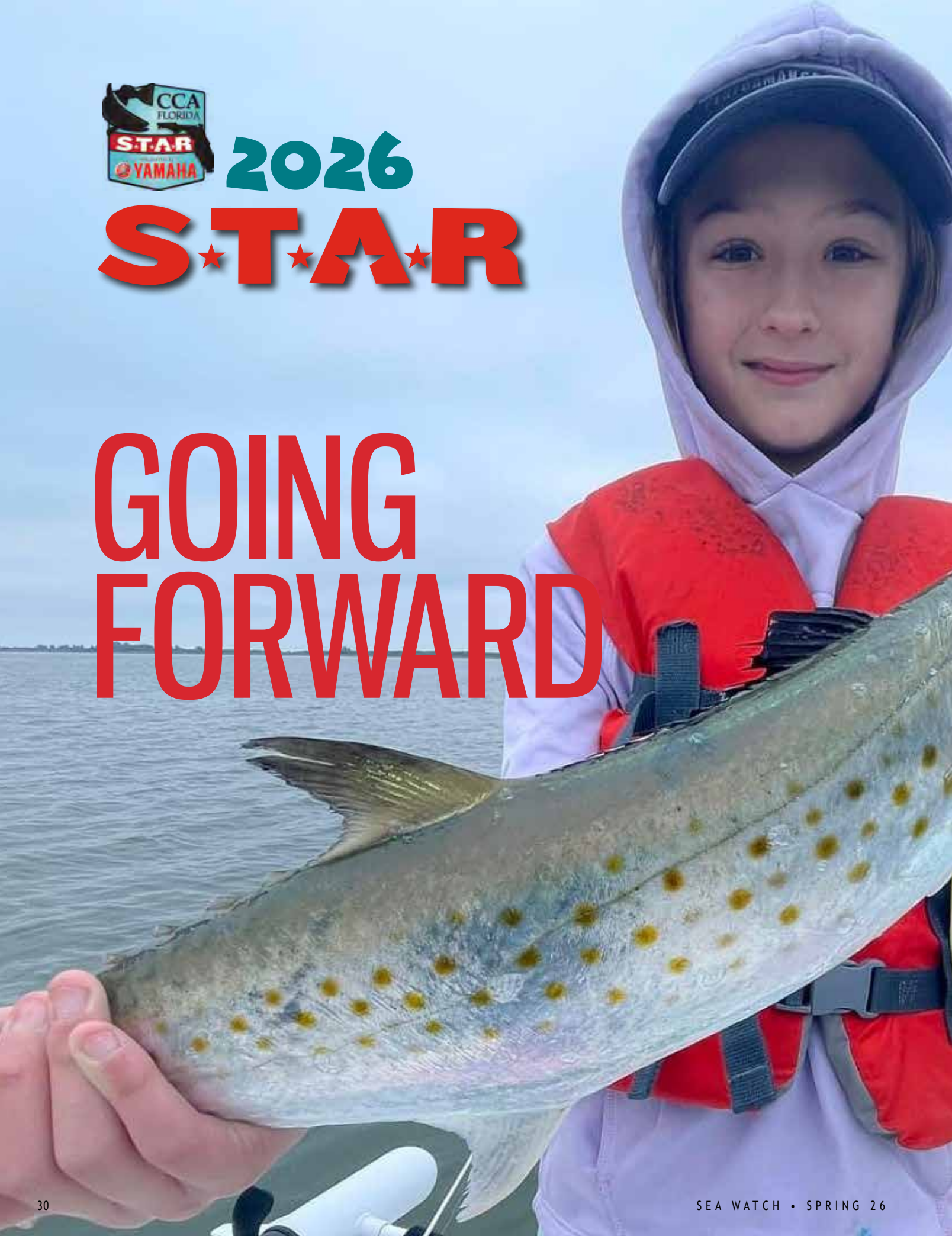




2026

**STAR**

**GOING  
FORWARD**





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**CCA Florida, Yamaha, Guy Harvey Foundation and Realtree Fishing along with other great partners will be awarding \$100,000 in scholarships to kids who are youth members of CCA and signed up to fish in the CCA Florida STAR Youth Tournament presented by Yamaha.**



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# STAR



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STAR

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AND ENDS LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

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**\$100,000 in scholarships and prizes will be awarded to kids who are CCA Florida members and STAR registrants. STAR is proud to be the largest saltwater tournament in the state dedicated Florida's youth anglers. STAR runs Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, and your young angler could be one cast away from a college scholarship, amazing prizes and a whole new future!**



**For competition details, please visit  
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habitat

# HOME TOWN



# HABITAT HERO

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 Mike Lambrechts, of the CCA Broward Chapter, as the next Habitat Hero. Born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Mike has spent nearly his entire life on the water. From boating and fishing as a child to chasing pelagic species across the Bahamas today, the ocean has always been central to who he is.

# MEET MIKE



**LAMBRECHTS**



After earning a degree in Economics from Florida State University, Mike built a career in finance, becoming a Certified Plan Fiduciary Advisor (CPFA) and founding Lauderdale Advisors, a wealth management firm serving families and business owners at every stage of their financial lives. But no matter how demanding his professional career became, his passion for the outdoors, particularly fishing, never faded.

### **Fighting for the Future**

That lifelong connection to the water is what led him to join CCA Florida in 2017. Recognizing the increasing threats to South Florida's marine resources, especially at the local level, he saw an opportunity to make a meaningful difference for both his community and future generations. Since then, his leadership within the organization has grown rapidly. He has served as Broward Chapter President since 2018, joined the State Board of Directors and Management Committee in 2019, and has held roles including Vice President, President, Vice Chairman, and soon-to-be Chairman.

One of his most impactful contributions has been his

leadership in oyster and mangrove restoration throughout Broward County. Following a series of catastrophic sewer breaks in Fort Lauderdale in 2020, Mike began exploring how oysters could help improve local water quality. He spearheaded a grassroots effort, installing approximately 100 Oyster Catchers™ behind volunteer homes to track oyster recruitment and identify viable restoration areas. The project not only produced valuable data, but also helped educate city officials and the public on the critical role oysters play in healthy waterways. Mike has also been instrumental in the expansion of CCA Florida's Vertical Oyster Garden Program throughout Broward County. That momentum led to a formal partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale to study oyster growth along city docks and seawalls in the New River, with plans now underway to permit and implement full-scale oyster restoration projects.

Mike's involvement with mangrove restoration has followed a similar path. Decades of development have transformed what was once a naturally mangrove-lined shoreline, into more than 165 miles of hardened seawalls. Seeing both

# HOMETOWN

the ecological loss and the opportunity for restoration, he worked closely with CCA and city leadership to change that trajectory. He helped empower the City of Fort Lauderdale to allow mangrove plantings in key public areas, partnering with the city's Chief Waterways Officer, a first-of-its-kind position that he personally advocated for and lobbied to have funded and established. The results have been tangible. Through partnerships with local organizations, including the Urban Farming Institute, the CCA Broward Chapter now operates a local mangrove nursery, eliminating the need to rely solely on the CCA - Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River and allowing restoration projects to move faster and more efficiently. Over the past two years, the chapter has also hosted several mangrove propagule collection events, creating a sustainable pipeline that allows mangroves to be grown and planted at scale year after year.

In addition to inshore restoration, Mike has been heavily involved in offshore habitat work, including the John Michael Baker Memorial Reef. To date, the project has seen four deployments of concrete reef structures off Fort Lauderdale, totaling more than 1.2 million pounds of material designed to enhance marine habitat and fisheries productivity. The CCA Broward Chapter is currently working on the 5<sup>th</sup> deployment at the JMB Memorial Reef, which will consist of 1,000 tons of limestone boulders in partnership with the City of Deerfield Beach.

### Turning the Tide

When asked about the future of CCA Broward, his vision is clear: action at the local level. "There is no better way to tell CCA's story than to actually do the work in your own community," he says. His goals include continued membership growth, expanded inshore and offshore restoration projects, and increased public education around water quality and marine conservation.

Despite his extensive conservation work, Mike remains, at heart, a fisherman. His favorite pursuit is springtime tuna fishing at home in the evenings, a season and species he describes as the perfect combination of challenge and reward. He also enjoys targeting wahoo and chasing blue marlin in the Bahamas whenever time allows.

Looking back, he is quick to credit the organization and people around him. "None of this would have been possible without CCA," he says. "The staff, members, and supporters work tirelessly to help us accomplish whatever we set our minds to. It's truly a team effort from top to bottom." While he acknowledges there is still a long road ahead before Broward County's waterways are fully restored, he is confident meaningful progress is underway. "We've turned the ship in the right direction," Mike adds, and for the waters he's spent a lifetime on, that direction makes all the difference.





Scan to watch how to prepare.  
@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 fillers.

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 smokey, charred fish.



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# HABITAT



# UPDATES





## THE CCA FLORIDA \$1,000,000 HABITAT PLEDGE

Launched in January 2024, this groundbreaking effort marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to sustainable coastal habitat restoration. Eighteen projects have been approved to date totaling \$866,800 including: 1) The Bill Mickler Memorial Reef (Big Bend Chapter) \$50,000, 2) St. Johns River Seagrass Bed Research Initiative (Northeast Florida Chapter) \$50,000, 3) Underwater Cleanups

and Reef & Beach cleanup (Manatee Chapter) \$14,800, 4) The Florida Keys Coral Reef Restoration Project (Keys Chapter) \$50,000, 5) Mosquito Lagoon Foundation Species Habitat Restoration (Orlando Chapter) \$50,000, 6) Oyster for Your Neighborhood: Vertical Oyster Garden Project (Mid Coast Chapter) \$50,000, 7) Boy Scout Island Stabilization Project (Martin Chapter) \$50,000, 8) CCA Scal-



lopalooza Title Sponsorship (Manatee Chapter) \$20,000, 9) Artificial Reef Curriculum for Marine Science (Pensacola Chapter) \$50,000, 10) CCA Oyster Recycling Facility & Mangrove Operation (Clermont Chapter) \$30,000, 11) Sponge Community Restoration/Enhancement (Hernando Chapter) \$50,000, 12) Seagrass Thermo-Priming Study (Space Coast Chapter) \$20,000, 13) Sebastian Inlet Bridge Reef (Trea-

sure Coast Chapter) \$50,000, 14) Billion Clam Initiative – 4 million IRL Clams (North Lake County Chapter) \$32,000, 15) Seahorse Key Pavilion Rebuild (Gainesville Chapter) \$50,000, 16) Kings Bay Springs Rock and Debris Removal Project (Citrus Chapter) \$50,000, 17) CCA Collier County Artificial Reef Project (Naples Chapter) \$50,000, and 18) Banana River Artificial Reefs (Space Coast Chapter) \$50,000.



## HABITAT UPDATES

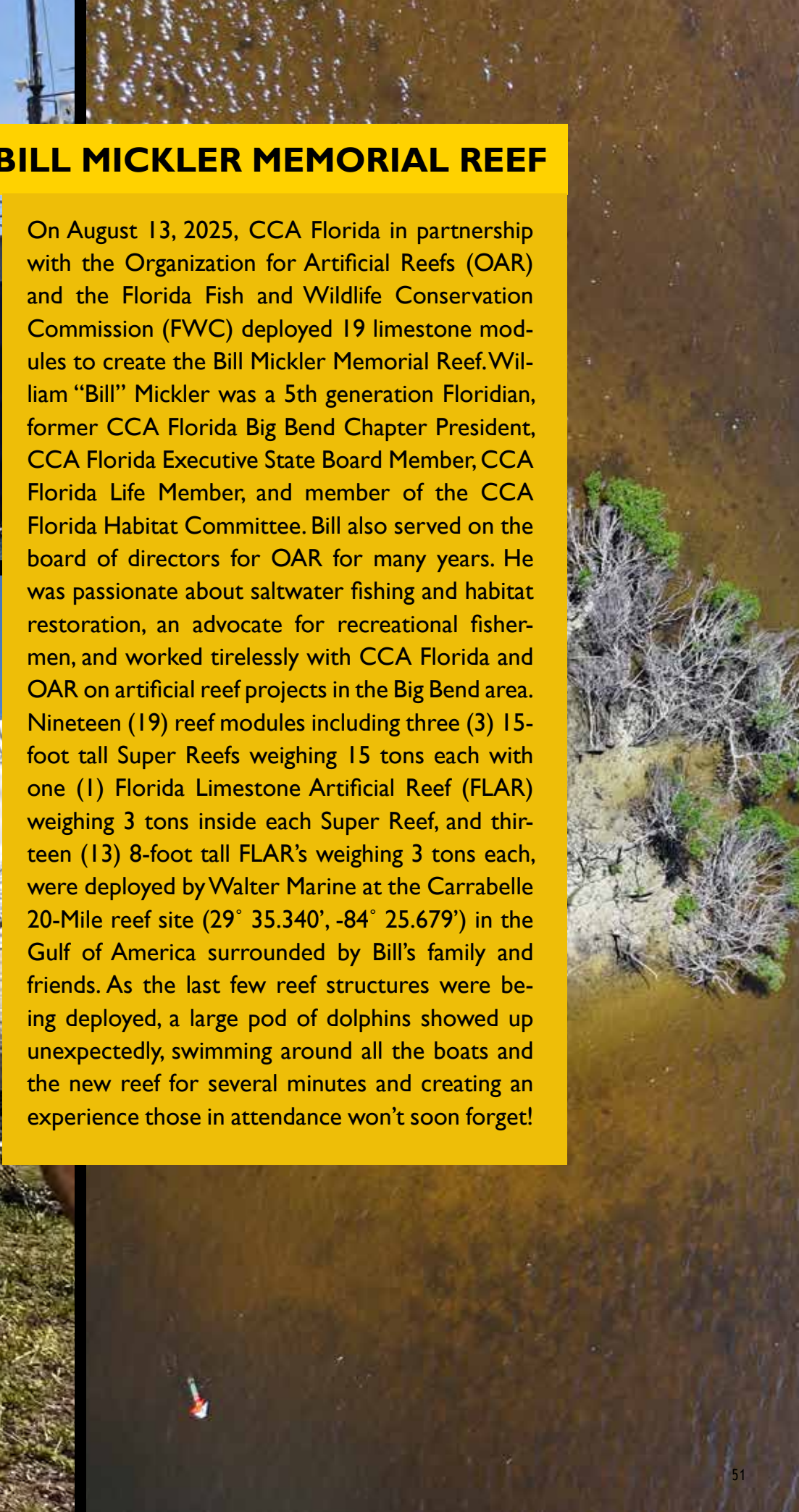


### CCA FLORIDA VERO BEACH VOG EVENT

On March 29, 2025, CCA Florida hosted a Vertical Oyster Garden (VOG) workshop in Vero Beach. Over 25 volunteers attended the event and teamed up to assemble approximately 150 VOGs that will be deployed throughout the coastal waterways of Vero Beach. A special thanks to the Indian River Land Trust for providing a great location for the event and to the volunteers from Lines in the Lagoon and Vero Shores.

## THE BILL MICKLER MEMORIAL REEF

On August 13, 2025, CCA Florida in partnership with the Organization for Artificial Reefs (OAR) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) deployed 19 limestone modules to create the Bill Mickler Memorial Reef. William "Bill" Mickler was a 5th generation Floridian, former CCA Florida Big Bend Chapter President, CCA Florida Executive State Board Member, CCA Florida Life Member, and member of the CCA Florida Habitat Committee. Bill also served on the board of directors for OAR for many years. He was passionate about saltwater fishing and habitat restoration, an advocate for recreational fishermen, and worked tirelessly with CCA Florida and OAR on artificial reef projects in the Big Bend area. Nineteen (19) reef modules including three (3) 15-foot tall Super Reefs weighing 15 tons each with one (1) Florida Limestone Artificial Reef (FLAR) weighing 3 tons inside each Super Reef, and thirteen (13) 8-foot tall FLAR's weighing 3 tons each, were deployed by Walter Marine at the Carrabelle 20-Mile reef site (29° 35.340', -84° 25.679') in the Gulf of America surrounded by Bill's family and friends. As the last few reef structures were being deployed, a large pod of dolphins showed up unexpectedly, swimming around all the boats and the new reef for several minutes and creating an experience those in attendance won't soon forget!

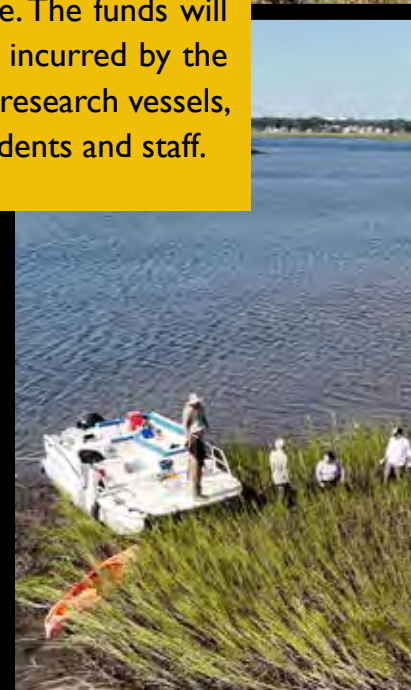


# HABITAT UPDATES



## MARINE SCIENCE STATION DONATION

On August 7, 2025, CCA Florida joined Duke Energy Florida to present a \$100,000 donation to the Marine Science Station, ensuring the continuation of student-field experiences while the facility undergoes restoration from Hurricane Helene. The funds will be used across a consecutive, two-year period to help offset the costs incurred by the Citrus County School District, including student transportation aboard research vessels, boat maintenance, field-sampling equipment and safety gear used by students and staff.



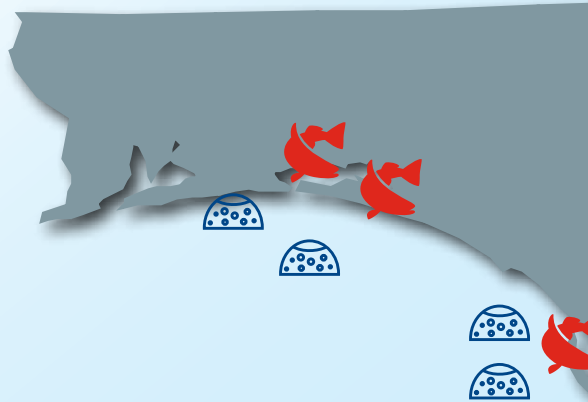
# CCA FLORIDA NORTH PALM VOG EVENT

On February 15, 2025, CCA Florida hosted a vertical oyster garden (VOG) workshop with the Village of North Palm Beach. Approximately 30 volunteers attended the event and assembled 110 VOGs that will be deployed throughout Anchorage Park this spring.





# COMPLETED HABITAT PROJECTS



Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over \$26 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")

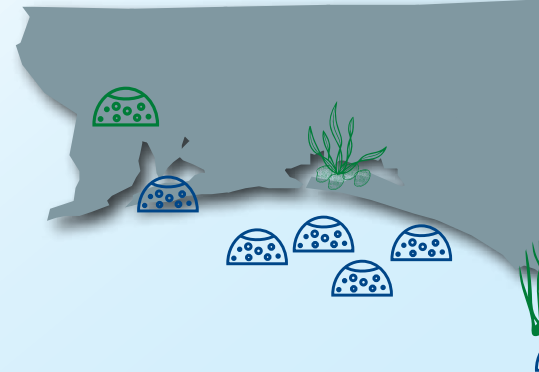


Snook Stock Enhancement Locations - 5,150 (4"- 6")



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





# UPCOMING & ONGOING HABITAT PROJECTS

Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over \$26 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!



Artificial Reefs



Coastal Cleanups



Research/Monitoring



Clam Restoration

 Upcoming



Oyster Restoration

 Ongoing



Mangrove Restoration



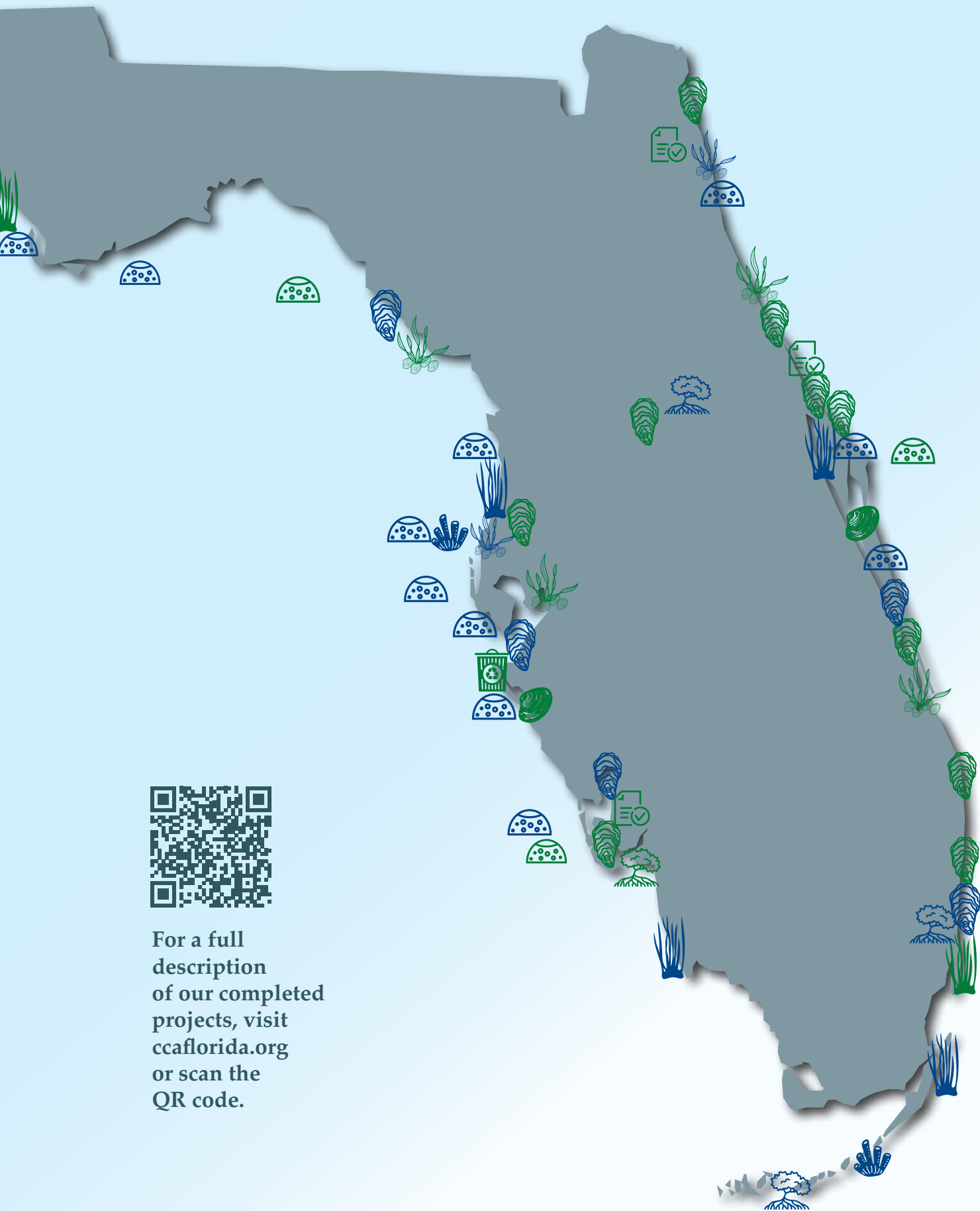
Seagrass Restoration



Living  
Shorelines



Coral/Sponge  
Restoration



For a full description of our completed projects, visit [ccaflorida.org](http://ccaflorida.org) or scan the QR code.

# HABITAT UPDATES



## 2025 CLEAN WATER COLLECTIVE

On April 26, 2025, The CCA Florida habitat team joined Starbrite at their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean Water Collective at the Old Fish House in Valkaria, FL. Throughout the weekend, CCA FL and Duke Energy deployed 4 million clams via drone into the Indian River Lagoon as part of The Billion Clam Initiative. CCA also hosted a VOG workshop on Saturday which allowed volunteers to get hands on and assemble their very own vertical oyster garden to take home and deploy. In addition, approximately 25 of the VOGs assembled were deployed from the dock at the Old Fish House Bar and Grill.



## **CHARLOTTE HARBOR MANGROVE RESTORATION**

On March 19, 2025, CCA Florida, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and 25 volunteers, planted 250 red mangroves on an island near Pirate Harbor in Charlotte County. The mangrove propagules were first collected by volunteers and grown at the CCA Florida and Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River. Special thanks to Charlotte County CCA Chapter President Mike Brimer, Ingman Marine for supplying the barge for the mangroves and to the volunteers from the Pirate Harbor neighborhood and Florida Gulf Coast University.

## **CCA FLORIDA MID- COAST VOG EVENT**

On February 21, 2025, CCA Florida and the Mid-Coast Chapter hosted a vertical oyster garden (VOG) workshop for the Grand Haven community in Palm Coast, FL. Despite the cold weather, the event had a great turnout of over 50 volunteers that teamed up to assemble over 250 VOGs. These VOGs will be deployed from residential docks within the Grand Haven community to help monitor spat recruitment and improve the local waterways!

## CCA FLORIDA VOG EVENT

On April 12, 2025, CCA Florida teamed up with the Village of North Palm and Fish Florida to host a vertical oyster garden workshop and deployment day alongside an interactive kid's fishing clinic. The event had a great turnout and over 75 kids and volunteers joined for a day full of fun and conservation. Volunteers had a hands-on opportunity to help assemble and deploy VOGs throughout Anchorage Park in North Palm Beach.

A group of five people are on a boat on a body of water. One man in a light green shirt and sunglasses stands on a platform of white buckets. Four other people (three men and one woman) are in the water. The boat has a Yamaha outboard motor and a canopy. The sky is blue with white clouds.

## CCA FLORIDA MID-COAST VOG EVENT

On April 5, 2025, the CCA Florida Mid Coast Chapter hosted another vertical oyster garden (VOG) workshop at the River Lily Inn in Daytona Beach. This workshop was part of an ongoing project the Mid Coast Chapter is working on through the CCA Florida Million Dollar Habitat Pledge. More than 25 volunteers attended the event and helped assemble approximately 200 VOGs that will be deployed from residential docks throughout the Halifax River.

## CCA FLORIDA CLAM AND REDFISH DEPLOYMENT

On March 14, 2025, CCA Florida, Duke Energy and Maverick Boat Group released 1.2 million clams and 10,000 redfish in the Indian River Lagoon near Melbourne Beach. This project was designed to boost both the local hard clam and red drum population, in an effort to improve water quality and enhance the local fishery. To date, more than 58 million clams have been deployed as part of the Billion Clam Initiative and 560,000 redfish have been released across the state!





## TERRAPIN KEY MANGROVE RESTORATION

On May 28, 2025, CCA Florida in collaboration with the FDEP and 26 volunteers planted 200 red mangroves and 160 black mangroves on Terrapin Key in Charlotte Harbor. The project was funded by TRS-SESCO through a \$10,000 habitat donation. TRS-SESCO also provided 10 volunteers to help with the project. The mangrove propagules were first collected by CCA volunteers and grown at the CCA Florida and Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River. Special thanks to the CCA Charlotte County Chapter, Ingman Marine, and the many volunteers from the Pirate Harbor neighborhood!



HABITAT UPDATES



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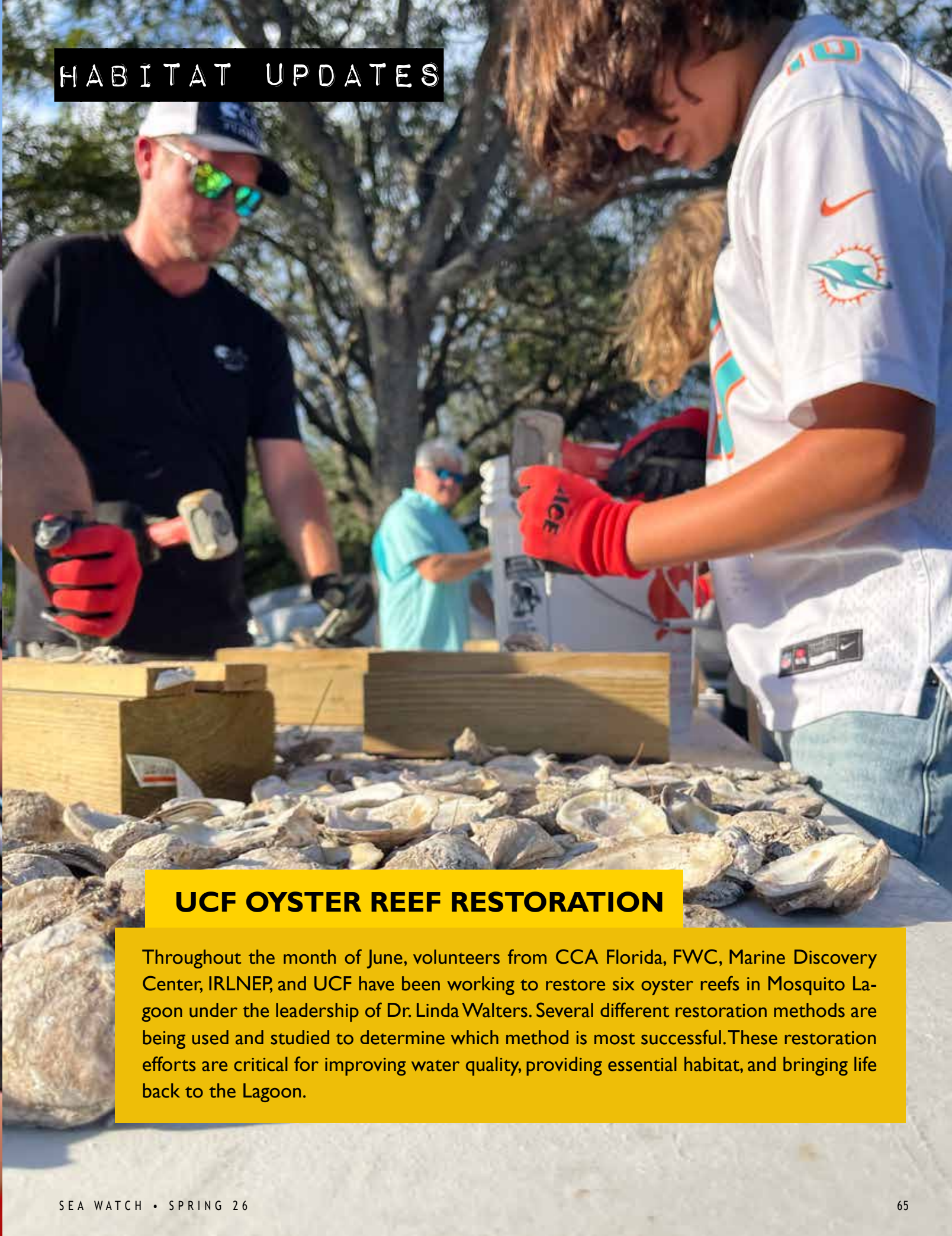
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## VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH VOG WORKSHOP

On November 22, 2025, CCA Florida teamed up with the Village of North Palm Beach to host another Vertical Oyster Garden (VOG) workshop. The event was held at Anchorage Park and over 20 volunteers attended to help assemble 100 new VOGs. These VOGs will be distributed and deployed from residential docks throughout the Village of North Palm Beach. This ongoing program started deploying VOGs back in April and they've seen tremendous growth in just a few months.

## CCA FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF CURRICULUM FOR MARINE SCIENCE

On May 15, 2025, CCA Florida presented a \$50,000 check to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the CCA Pensacola Chapter's recent habitat pledge award. The Pensacola Chapter applied for the funding through CCA Florida's grass-roots initiative – The \$1,000,000 Habitat Pledge. The \$50,000 donation will be used to fund an "Artificial Reefs" educational pilot program that the county conducted this year at Booker T. Washington High School and West Florida High School. The students learned concepts of Oceanography, Marine Biology, Physics, Socio-Economics as they relate to Escambia County's Artificial Reefs Program. The students at each school also designed an artificial reef that was deployed with the CCA funding on Thursday, May 22 off the coast of Escambia County. The county plans to continue this program and expand to other Escambia County schools next year and beyond.



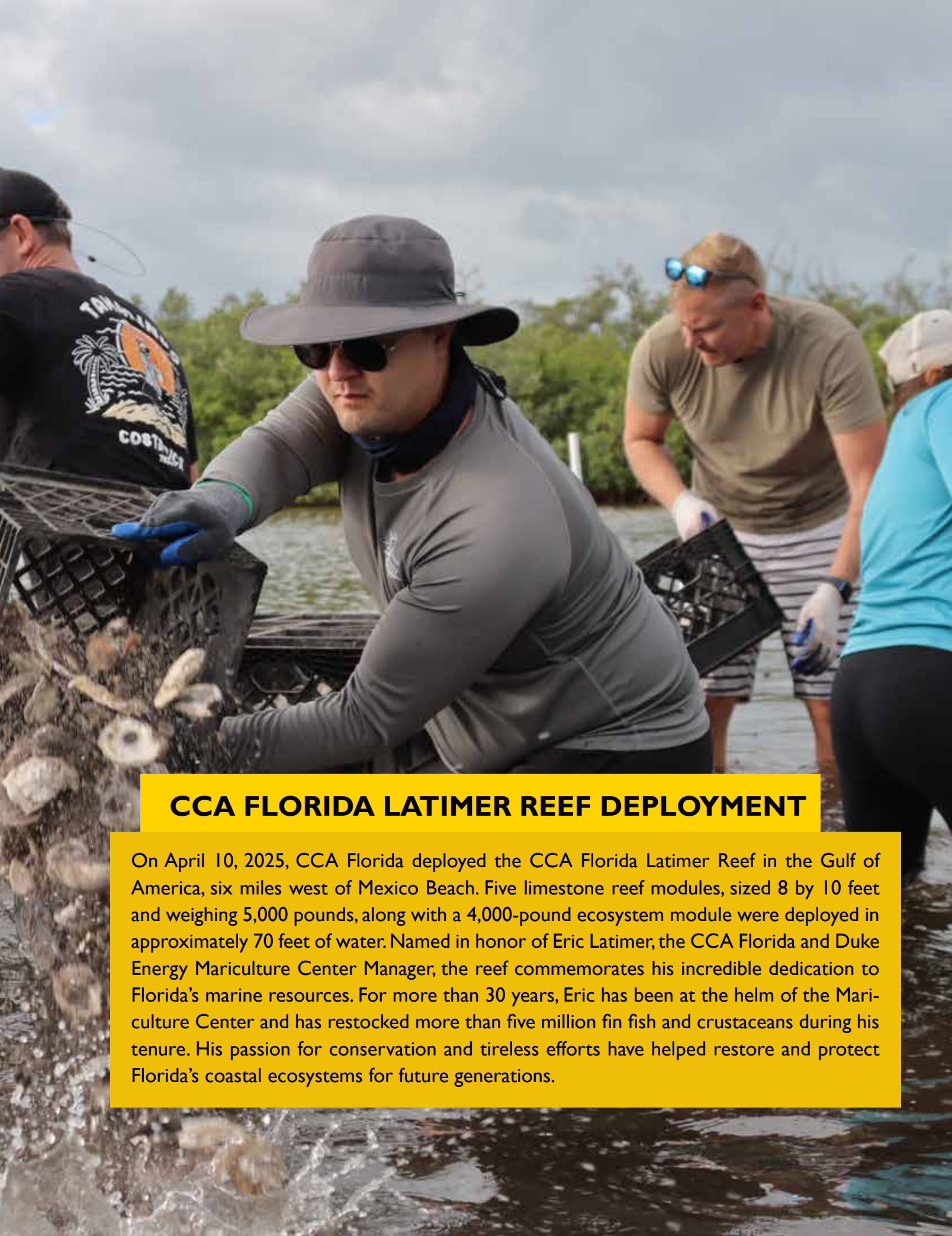
## UCF OYSTER REEF RESTORATION

Throughout the month of June, volunteers from CCA Florida, FWC, Marine Discovery Center, IRLNEP, and UCF have been working to restore six oyster reefs in Mosquito Lagoon under the leadership of Dr. Linda Walters. Several different restoration methods are being used and studied to determine which method is most successful. These restoration efforts are critical for improving water quality, providing essential habitat, and bringing life back to the Lagoon.

## CCA FLORIDA JACKSONVILLE VOG EVENT

On October 18, 2025, CCA Florida teamed up with the St. John's RIVERKEEPER and Jacksonville University's Marine Science and Research Institute to host another vertical oyster workshop. Over 30 volunteers attended the event and teamed up to assemble over 150 new VOG's. These VOGs will be deployed from residential docks throughout the inter-coastal waterways of Jacksonville. Over the next year or so, students from Dr. Dan McCarthy's marine ecology course will be collecting data to determine what species seek refuge within the VOGs and the amount of spat recruitment within the area.





## **CCA FLORIDA LATIMER REEF DEPLOYMENT**

On April 10, 2025, CCA Florida deployed the CCA Florida Latimer Reef in the Gulf of America, six miles west of Mexico Beach. 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 the Mariculture Center and has restocked more than five million fin fish and crustaceans during his tenure. His passion for conservation and tireless efforts have helped restore and protect Florida's coastal ecosystems for future generations.

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# HABITAT UPDATES

## CCA FLORIDA CLAM DEPLOYMENT

On February 1, 2025, CCA Florida participated in a significant environmental effort by helping to deploy clams as part of a broader initiative to restore and protect our waterways. This effort was made possible through the generous support and collaboration of IRL Clam Restoration Project, UF Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, Starbrite Solutions, Project SeaSafe and the Brevard County Save Our Lagoon program. With the assistance of innovative drone technology and the dedication of a strong volunteer turnout, we successfully deployed 100,000 clams to help enhance water quality and marine habitats.

## CCA FLORIDA MID-COAST VOG EVENT

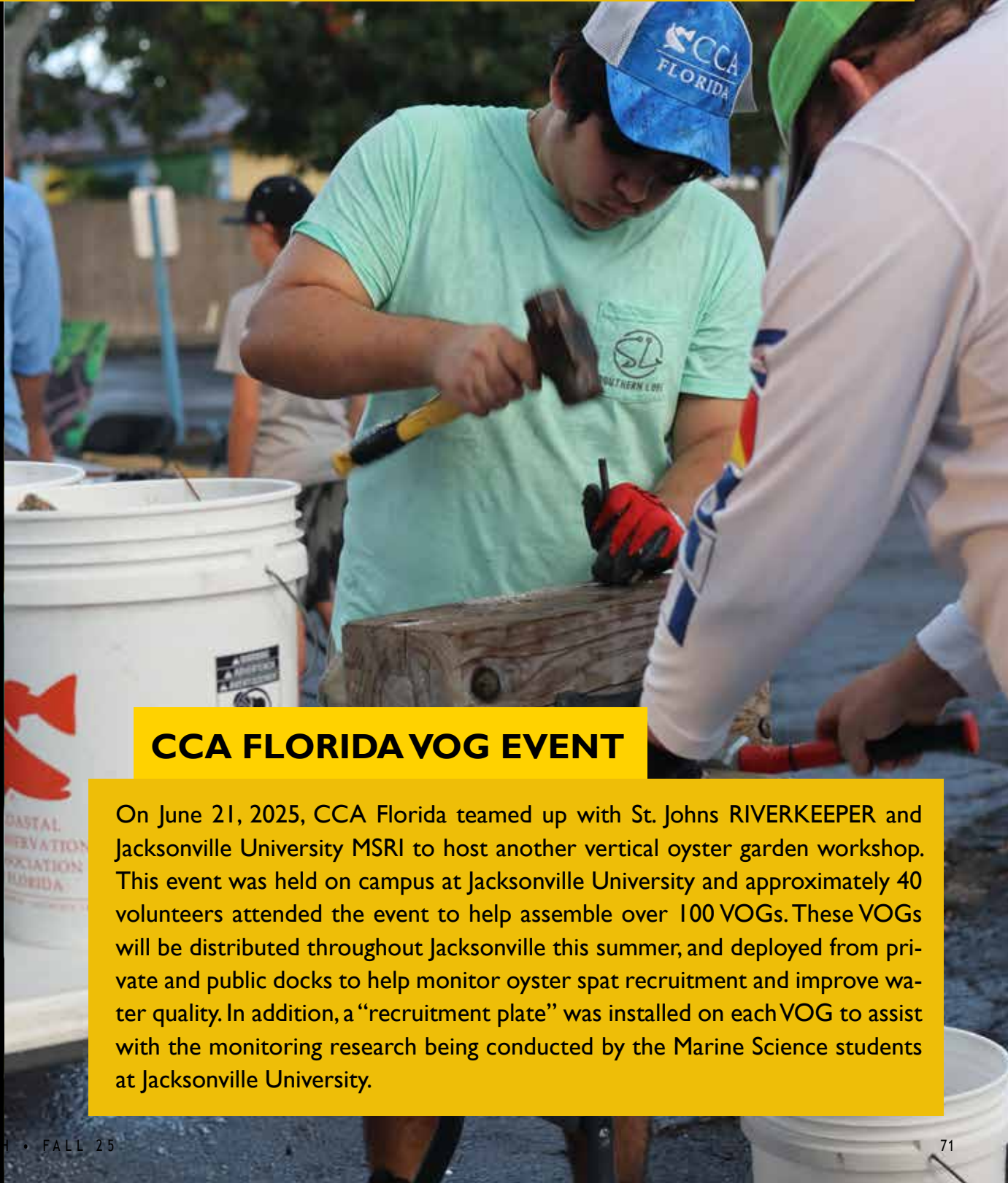
On June 28, 2025, CCA Florida hosted another vertical oyster garden (VOG) workshop as part of the Mid-Coast Chapters ongoing “Oyster for my Neighborhood” Habitat Pledge project. The workshop was held at the River Lily Inn in Daytona Beach, and over 100 volunteers attended the event including two local cub scout troops. These hard-working volunteers were able to assemble approximately 500 VOGs that will be deployed from residential docks throughout the Halifax River. Each VOG will provide an ideal location for future oyster spat recruitment which will help improve water quality and create habitat for other marine species.



HABITAT UPDATES

## MANGROVE PLANTING IN FORT LAUDERDALE

On September 13, 2025, the CCA Florida Broward Chapter and the Urban Farming Institute (UFI) teamed up and with several volunteers to plant 40 mangroves on the shorelines of Coontie Hatchee Park in Fort Lauderdale. These mangroves will help stabilize the shoreline, provide habitat for marine life and filter water. Thanks to all of the volunteers that came out to help.



## CCA FLORIDA VOG EVENT

On June 21, 2025, CCA Florida teamed up with St. Johns RIVERKEEPER and Jacksonville University MSRI to host another vertical oyster garden workshop. This event was held on campus at Jacksonville University and approximately 40 volunteers attended the event to help assemble over 100 VOGs. These VOGs will be distributed throughout Jacksonville this summer, and deployed from private and public docks to help monitor oyster spat recruitment and improve water quality. In addition, a “recruitment plate” was installed on each VOG to assist with the monitoring research being conducted by the Marine Science students at Jacksonville University.



## TURTLE BAY OYSTER RESTORATION

On May 29, 2025, CCA Florida deployed 40 tons of recycled oyster shell in Turtle Bay to complete the fifth deployment in the area. In total, 130 tons of recycled oyster shell has been deployed in Turtle Bay in effort to boost water quality, marine fisheries, and recreational angling. A huge shout out to Ingman Marine, Clermont Oyster Bar, Abbotts Construction, Lee Reefs, Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association (GICIA), Capt. Jay Withers and Lake County for being an essential part of this project.

## CORMORANT KEY OYSTER RESTORATION

On July 31, 2025, CCA Florida donated and helped deploy approximately 10 tons of recycled oyster shell on Cormorant Key in Charlotte Harbor on July 31. The CCA Florida and Duke Energy Mariculture Center, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Seafood Seller & Café, Ajax Paving, Southern Site & Power Construction, Ingman Marine, Bob DiMuzio and the Pirate Harbor Community, and Crossfit Punta Gorda all played a key role in the success of this oyster restoration project. Thank you all for going above and beyond to restore, protect and preserve our coastal resources.

## CCA FLORIDA/GUY HARVEY FOUNDATION EVENT

On July 28 & 29, 2025, CCA Florida partnered with the Guy Harvey Foundation (GHF) for a two-day professional educator's development workshop in Ponte Vedra Beach. The GHF Training workshop focused on "Ecosystem Restoration with CCA" and was an opportunity for K-12 educators to experience hands-on curriculum content that included Spartina Grass Planting and Monitoring, Mangrove Restoration, Clam Restoration, and Vertical Oyster Gardens. The GHF Conservation Education Program honors Educators, Schools and Districts dedicated to environmental STEAM education.

## THE ALEX AND ANNA JERNIGAN FANTASEA REEF

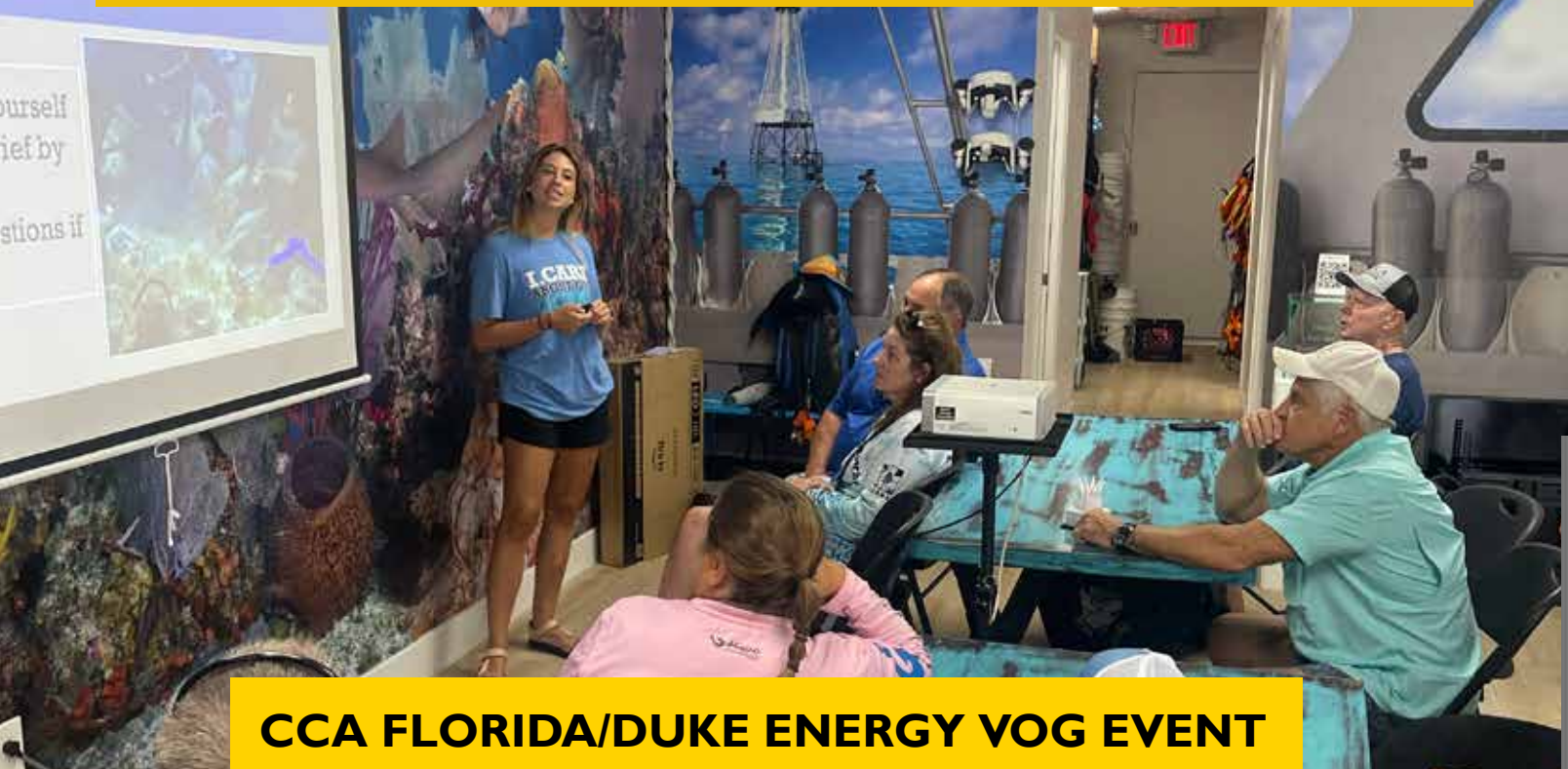
On July 15, 2025, CCA Florida and Okaloosa County deployed the 144-foot long by 37-foot-tall FANTASEA vessel to create the Alex and Anna Jernigan Reef. The reef honors the lifelong work Alex and Anna Jernigan put into fisheries and conservation through CCA Florida. Alex Jernigan is the founding father of CCA Florida, and he and his wife, Anna, hosted the first fundraising event in their home 40 years ago (Anna even cooked for everyone!). Alex served as Chairman of the Board for the first two years and sat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. At 93 years old, Alex continues to sit in our Government Relations Committee. The reef was deployed approximately 8 nautical miles south of Destin, 30° 14.388' N, 86° 30.294' W, in 88 feet of water. CCA Florida contributed \$65,000 to Okaloosa County for the reef project.

HABITAT UPDATES

# HABITAT UPDATES

## CCA FLORIDA HOMESTEAD CHAPTER VOG EVENT

On October 15, 2025, the CCA Florida Homestead Chapter, the RM Media team and local volunteers completed a Vertical Oyster Garden (VOG) Workshop, making 100 VOGs. These will be deployed at a later date in conjunction with the ongoing North Palm Beach oyster restoration project. Thanks to everyone that came out and made this a successful event!



## CCA FLORIDA/DUKE ENERGY VOG EVENT

On August 21, 2025, the CCA Florida Habitat Team traveled to Crystal River to host a vertical oyster garden (VOG) workshop with staff from Duke Energy. This event was in honor of Patty West, the Director of Environmental Field Support for Duke Energy Florida. Patty is set to retire in September, concluding a respected, long-tenured career as an environmental leader for countless individuals within Duke Energy. In addition, Patty has always been a staunch supporter and advocate of the CCA/Duke Energy Mariculture Center, which has played a key role in CCA Florida's restoration efforts. During the event, more than 30 Duke Energy staff members joined to assemble vertical oyster gardens and celebrate Patty's impactful career. The Duke Energy team assembled over 100 VOGs that will be deployed throughout Crystal River to monitor oyster spat recruitment and help improve water quality. All of the oyster shells used to create these VOGs were recycled locally by Seafood Seller and Café and cured at the CCA Florida Duke Energy Oyster Recycling Facility.

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## TED FORSGREN NEKTON RORQUAL REEF DEPLOYMENT

On August 15, 2025, CCA Florida joined Okaloosa County in deploying the first of two former dive vessels to create the “Ted Forsgren Nekton Reef” near Destin. The reef will honor Ted Forsgren, who served as CCA Florida’s first employee and Executive Director in 1985 and held that position for 27 years. A lifelong conservation advocate, Forsgren was instrumental in advancing landmark fisheries policy in Florida. The Ted Forsgren Nekton Reef will be constructed using two decommissioned dive vessels, the Nekton Rorqual (80 feet in length) and the Nekton Pilot (75 feet in length). The reef site is located approximately 22 nautical miles south of Destin East Pass, at a depth of approximately 130 to 140 feet. The second vessel, the Nekton Pilot, will be deployed in October 2025.

## ST. ANDREWS BAY SEAGRASS RESTORATION PROJECT

On September 9, 2025, CCA Florida and Sea & Shoreline once again joined forces on a seagrass restoration initiative, this time in Florida’s Panhandle. Phase I of the project began in early September within the St. Andrews Bay Aquatic Preserve near St. Andrews Pass. This phase included the installation of 24,600 sediment tubes to support topographic restoration of seagrass injuries, along with the planting of 49,000 nursery-grown seagrass units to accelerate habitat recovery. Phase 2, completed in December 2025, included the installation of 25,729 sediment tubes and 49,200 seagrass units. Both projects were funded by the Florida Legislature including Phase I for \$999,496 and Phase 2 for \$996,000. This work directly supports key conservation priorities outlined in the Northwest Florida Water Management District’s SWIM Plan, the FDEP’s Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, and the Deepwater Horizon Seagrass Recovery Project.



## CCA/UNF LIVING SHORELINE OYSTER REEF PROJECT

On September 15, 2025, CCA Florida partnered with the University of North Florida (UNF) Coastal and Marine Biology program and the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors to develop an experimental “Living Shoreline - Oyster Reef” project in northeast Florida. This project is intended to rebuild historical populations of Eastern oysters by providing suitable habitat for oyster spat to settle and grow. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, twenty-five cement-based substrates known as Pervious Oyster Shell Habitat (POSH) units were deployed by a dozen CCA Florida and NEFAR volunteers at a site where historic oyster beds once occurred within the UNF’s 1,050-acre property in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the William C. Webb Coastal Research Station. CCA Florida contributed \$10,000 to the project for supplies, labor, construction, and monthly monitoring of the POSH units.



## HILLSBOROUGH MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT

On September 27, 2025, CCA Florida teamed up with Hillsborough County and Duke Energy on a new mangrove restoration project within the Apollo Beach Nature Preserve. Local volunteers joined forces to plant approximately 75 red mangroves and 125 black mangroves along a shoreline that was severely damaged during past hurricanes. These mangroves will help stabilize the shoreline and reduce erosion while providing vital marine habitat.

## STUART WOMEN'S CLUB HABITAT DAY

On November 12, 2025, CCA Florida once again hosted a habitat restoration workshop for the Women's Club of Stuart. Around 20 women from the club joined to help repot red mangroves and assemble vertical oyster gardens (VOGs). These mangroves will be transported to the CCA Florida - Duke Energy Mariculture Center to grow at the nursery until they are ready for a future shoreline restoration project.



## FRED CRABILL FANTASY ISLAND LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT

On October 9, 2025, CCA Florida teamed up with Tampa Bay Watch to continue work on the Fred Crabill Fantasy Island Living Shoreline Project in Tampa Bay. More than 20 volunteers joined the effort and deployed 72 oyster reef balls each day. Each oyster reef ball weighs approximately 200 pounds and are designed to reduce shoreline erosion while supporting oyster growth, improve water quality and create habitat for marine life. The work will continue on in December and will be completed in the Spring of 2026.

## TED FORSGREN NEKTON PILOT REEF DEPLOYMENT

On October 15, 2025, the Nekton Pilot, a 75-foot former dive vessel, was successfully deployed off the coast of Destin–Fort Walton Beach, completing the CCA Ted Forsgren Nekton Reef. The Nekton Pilot was deployed in 130 feet of water at coordinates 30°04.442'N, 86°18.486'W, marking the second and final vessel to complete the reef. The 80-foot Nekton Rorqual was the first vessel previously deployed on August 15, 2025. Ted Forsgren, for whom the reef is named, was a longtime Executive Director of CCA Florida and played a pivotal role in leading the 1994 constitutional amendment campaign that secured a statewide ban on entangling nets—an effort overwhelmingly supported by 72% of voters. CCA Florida contributed \$69,000 toward this project as part of its continued commitment to marine habitat restoration and enhancement.



HABITAT UPDATES

# HABITAT UPDATES

## STUMP PASS BEACH STATE PARK SHORELINE RESTORATION

On December 9, 2025, CCA Florida is teaming up with FDEP on a shoreline restoration project at Stump Pass Beach State Park. The goal of this project was to restore native shoreline vegetation that was previously lost due to past hurricanes. The project consisted of planting 500 1.5-year-old red mangroves along with 200 *Spartina patens* plants, both of which were grown and harvested at the CCA – Duke Energy Mariculture Center. This new vegetation will help stabilize the shoreline while providing critical habitat for marine life.





## DESTIN HIGH SCHOOL REEF DEPLOYMENT

On September 12, 2025, CCA Florida partnered with Destin-Fort Walton Beach Natural Resources to support the deployment of the “DHS Reef 2025,” a new artificial reef organized by the Destin High School fishing class. This marks the third consecutive year that the class has successfully raised funds and assisted with the deployment of artificial reefs off the coast of Okaloosa County. The project involved the placement of twenty-five (25) Florida Limestone Artificial Reefs (FLARS), manufactured by Walter Marine, in state waters at coordinates  $30^{\circ} 21.729'N$ ,  $86^{\circ} 37.753'W$ , at a depth of 66 feet. The reef site is located approximately 6.2 nautical miles from Destin’s East Pass and roughly 2 nautical miles offshore. CCA Florida contributed \$10,000 toward the initiative, joining a strong coalition of community members and partners who came together in support of this important reef project.

## CCA FLORIDA/MANATEE COUNTY OYSTER PROJECT

On October 30, 2025, CCA Florida's habitat team joined the Manatee County Natural Resources Department at Robinson Preserve to support their ongoing oyster habitat restoration efforts. The project utilizes recycled oyster shell to restore critical habitat for the American oystercatcher and numerous wading bird species. CCA Florida contributed 7.5 tons of recycled oyster shell to this initiative, as well as to an upcoming restoration project in the Manatee River. This effort was made possible through a grant from the Florida State Wildlife Grants Program and is a collaborative partnership among CCA Florida, Manatee County, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Manatee Fish and Game Association. CCA Florida contributed an in-kind grant match of \$25,000 which included \$5,000 cash and donations of recycled oyster shell.

A photograph of four men standing on the deck of a boat. They are all wearing sunglasses and casual attire. The man on the far left is wearing a white camouflage shirt and a white cap. The man next to him is wearing a white button-down shirt. The man in the center is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The man on the far right is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a dark cap with 'CCA FLORIDA' on it. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the blue water of the ocean and a clear blue sky.

## CCA FLORIDA/I.CARE CORAL WORKSHOP

On October 16, 2025, CCA Florida teamed up with the I.CARE team to host another coral out-plant workshop for local CCA members! Throughout the morning, participants were educated on the importance of coral reefs, the threats our reefs are facing, and ways we can help protect the reefs. Following the training course, the group ventured out to Rocky Top Reef off the coast of Islamorada to participate in two hands-on coral outplant dives. Working alongside the I.CARE team, our CCA group successfully out-planted 66 fragments of grooved brain coral, *Diploria labyrinthiformis*.



## CCA GREEN REEF

On November 20, 2025, CCA Florida, in partnership with the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department, successfully deployed the “CCA Green Reef” 17 miles east of Port Canaveral (28°24.401' N, -80°18.335' W). This new artificial reef is named in honor of Scott Green, a CCA Florida Life Member and one of the organization’s founding leaders. Scott’s long-standing service includes his tenure as Florida State Chairman, membership on CCA’s National Executive Board, and contributions to numerous state and national committees. The reef creation utilized 800 tons of concrete culverts generously donated by Teen Missions International, \$4,000 of funding from FSFA and CFSA, with CCA Florida investing \$56,000 to bring the project to fruition. This deployment represents a significant advancement in ongoing efforts to enhance marine habitat and support Florida’s coastal ecosystems.

# HABITAT UPDATES



## **CCA FLORIDA FRED CRABILL LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT**

On March 27 and 28, 2025, CCA Florida, Duke Energy and Tampa Bay Watch continued working on the Fred Crabill Fantasy Island Living Shoreline Project in Tampa Bay. Together, with help from dozens of volunteers, 153 reef balls were deployed on the island.

## **CCA FLORIDA/IRLT CLEANUP**

On January 25, 2025, volunteers from CCA Florida, the Indian River Land Trust (IRLT) and the adjacent Vero Shores community cleaned up the Coastal Oaks Preserve along the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) in Vero Beach. The IRLT owns, manages and protects over 1,300 acres of land in Indian River County including 12 miles of IRL shoreline. These critical properties are protected with conservation easements in perpetuity and managed by removing invasive plants and restoring native species and habitats.



# HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS

Habitat Projects Completed.....	<b>205</b>
Vessels Deployed on Artificial Reefs.....	<b>9</b>
Concrete/Rock Deployed on Artificial Reefs .....	<b>8,115 tons</b>
Artificial Reefs Deployed.....	<b>51</b>
Recycled Oyster Shells Deployed .....	<b>156 tons</b>
Shoreline Restoration .....	<b>4.5 miles+</b>
Oyster Reefs Restored .....	<b>38</b>
Clams Deployed .....	<b>70,000,000</b>
Spartina Grass and Mangroves Planted .....	<b>125,000</b>
Trash Removed.....	<b>181 tons</b>
Trout Restocked.....	<b>292,000</b>
Snook Restocked .....	<b>5,150</b>
Redfish Restocked .....	<b>560,115</b>

*Since 2010 and in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust, CCA Florida has contributed **\$5.8 million** and leveraged those funds with our partners to over **\$26 million** in habitat projects statewide.*

# 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.

# 100,000 PEOPLE 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.





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Hewes Redfisher 16  
9 tickets \$180 value

Contender 24S  
7 tickets \$350 value

**THE \$1000 TICKET PACK**  
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**\$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**

Contender 28T  
3 tickets \$300 value

Pathfinder 2200 TRS  
4 tickets \$200 value

CCA FLORIDA  
**RAFFLES**  
\*\*\*

Hewes Redfisher 16  
6 tickets \$120 value

Contender 24S  
4 tickets \$200 value

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

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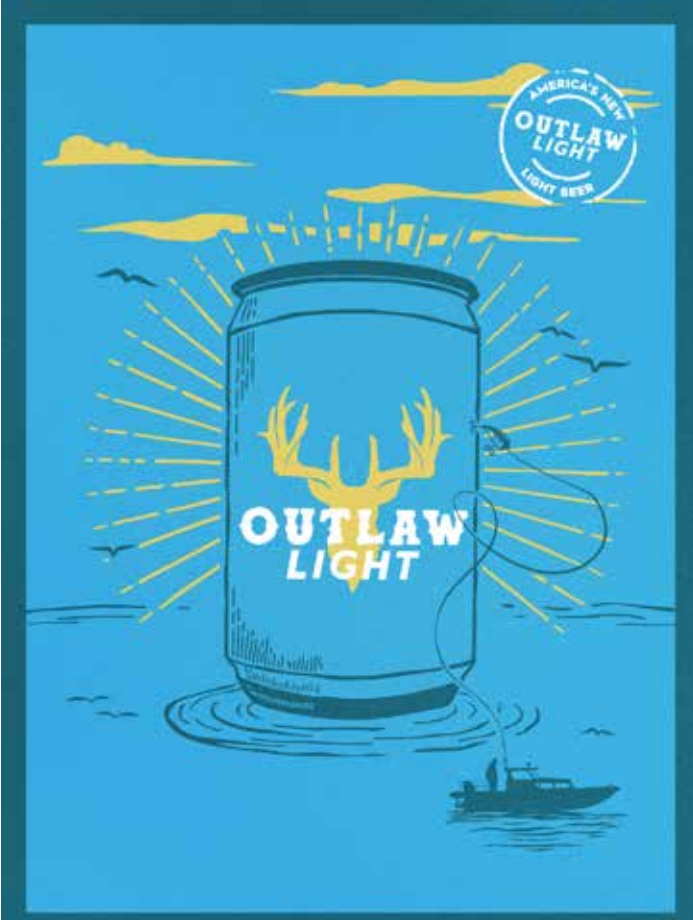




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- 9** Big Bend Banquet and Auction
- 10-12** Tortuga Music Festival
- 11** Naples Banquet and Auction
- 16** Lake County Banquet and Auction
- 17** Teco Fishing Tournament
- 18-19** Sarasota All Release / BBQ
- 23** Hernando County Banquet and Auction

**MAY**

- 6** Sarasota Tarpon Tournament
- 7** Emerald Coast Banquet and Auction
- 8** Orlando BBQ
- 13-16** Life Member Outing

**JUNE**

- 3-7** Inter-Chapter Challenge
- 15-19** The CCA Florida Fred Crabill Youth Scholarship Program Presented by Mud Hole Custom Tackle Education Program

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**\$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**

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## Crunchy Dijon-Maple Salmon

Cozy up with this wintertime dish that only takes about 30 minutes to prepare. A toasted nut and crunchy panko crust perfectly pairs with a sweet-tangy glaze that looks and tastes impressive.

### Ingredients

#### SALMON

- 4 salmon fillets, skin removed
- ½ c finely-chopped pecans
- ½ c panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tsp fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp butter, melted
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh parsley, chopped

#### GLAZE

- ½ c pure maple syrup
- ¼ c Dijon mustard
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ½ tsp black pepper

### Directions

Preheat oven to 425° F. Grease and line a baking sheet with foil.

In a bowl, stir together pecans, panko, thyme, butter, brown sugar and a pinch or two each of salt and pepper. Set aside.

In a small pot or sauce pan, whisk together maple syrup, Dijon mustard, garlic, and black pepper.

Place salmon fillets on the prepared baking sheet, skin side down. Season with salt and pepper, and spoon over some of the glaze mixture, just enough to lightly coat each fillet. Then top each with equally divided amounts of the crust mixture, gently pressing to adhere.

Place salmon fillets in the oven and roast for about 12 minutes, until the fish flakes easily with a fork, or to your desired doneness. Once cooked through, move your pan to the lowest rack and broil for 1-2 minutes to further toast the crust. Be sure to watch during this step, it will burn easily if left too long.

While the salmon is roasting, bring the remaining glaze mixture to a boil over medium heat, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring often, until the glaze thickens to syrupy consistency, about 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste if desired.

Once salmon is finished in the oven, serve immediately. Plate by placing each fillet onto your plate and drizzle with as much or as little glaze as you'd like. Serve with your favorite side dish and garnish with chopped fresh parsley. SERVES 4.

RECIPE & PHOTOS BY HEATHER PETEREK | [JOINCCA.ORG/RECIPES](http://JOINCCA.ORG/RECIPES)

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