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

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starting point

Oysters Bring New Life

Spring 2020 is a season we will always remember. This COVID-19 health crisis has required all of us to make radical changes in our personal and professional lives, but one thing remains constant, CCA Florida's commitment to conserving and protecting the fisheries and waterways for today and generations to come.

For the last few months, CCA Florida has focused on oysters. Oysters are an ecological keystone species in Florida found in estuaries along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Oysters are natural filters, consuming algae and other organic and inorganic particles from the water to improve water quality and clarity; in fact, a single oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day and a one-acre oyster reef can filter 24 million gallons of water per day. The clearer water filtered by oysters supports the growth of seagrasses, which also provide crucial habitat and ecosystem services.

Earlier this year, CCA Florida hosted a special event with local officials and partners to present and promote the Oyster Recycling Program. During the event, new collection equipment was unveiled and more than 58 tons of collected oyster shells were showcased to highlight the benefits of the program and discuss plans for expansion. These specific oysters will soon return to the water, across 12 designated locations, and create new oyster reefs to enhance water quality and fisheries.

In March, CCA Florida launched its pilot Oyster Restoration Program in

(continued on page 36)

starting point

Conservation in the Quarantine Era

JD Dickenson, Chairman

Strange days these have been. As we all look forward to getting back to normal, most of us have considered what life will look like going forward. It will look a bit different for certain, but the coastal conservation issues that CCA Florida and its membership are concerned about will still be there. Florida's habitat, water quality, and fisheries management issues are still front and center for CCA Florida and for all who love our state's marine resources.

Times have certainly been different and difficult. CCA Florida has not been able to run its normal series of spring banquets. Many ongoing projects, habitat, hatchery and others, have been put on hold, hopefully only briefly. But our staff is capable and dedicated to the organization's conservation efforts. We have all have circled the wagons and made due in these difficult circumstances. We will survive and come out smarter and stronger. But the interruption of the organization's fundraising activities makes your support of CCA Florida absolutely critical during this time.

If you were lucky enough to get out and go fishing during this time, you have been reminded of exactly how blessed we are to have our coastal resources. These experiences make those of us who work with CCA Florida want to redouble our conservation efforts as we come out of this quarantine time. People are more keenly aware than ever of how important and special our coastal resources are. Those who have had more time to enjoy them have been reminded. And those who have not been able to enjoy them due to local restrictions, have seen what life it like without them. We need everyone grasp hold of their commitment to coastal Florida and get involved to maintain the conservation momentum that we have built.

So renew your CCA membership online. Better yet, become a Life, Heritage, or Legacy Member of CCA Florida. Bid in one of our virtual auctions that have been held during quarantine. And when life gets somewhat back to normal, come out and support CCA Florida at our events around the state. We need you to help to continue to broadcast the message of coastal conservation across the state. Thanks for your support and tight lines.





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Together, We Got This

Now more than ever CCA Florida's success is reliant on your support. More than 95% of CCA Florida's annual fundraising is generated by banquets and events. With the postponement of our events, we have shifted our focus from in-person engagements to online participation, in an effort to give members fresh and fun opportunities to safely support our common cause.

There are three ways to continue supporting CCA Florida this spring:

**Membership
Upgrades**



Donations



Raffles



By upgrading your membership, participating in our online raffles or donating to a specific campaign, your continued involvement helps insure that CCA Florida will be there to protect our fisheries and coastal habitats for today, tomorrow and generations to come.

Your continued support has shaped our organization and we are forever thankful. As we navigate this uncertain time together, we wish you and your family good health and happiness.

<https://www.ccaflorida.org/wegotthis>

#GoFish





#GoFish



Anglers Shortchanged with Four-Day Red Snapper Season

Federal mismanagement virtually eliminates access to popular recreational fishery

Continuing a downward spiral in South Atlantic red snapper seasons, NOAA Fisheries has announced a four-day recreational season for 2020. While expectations in March were that the federal agency in charge of the nation's fisheries would disallow any recreational red snapper season, the move to a four-day season is hardly a victory for anglers who have seen their access to the fishery severely curtailed for the last decade even as the red snapper population expands.

"A four-day season is marginally better than a zero-day season, but it is profoundly disappointing that this is the best result available after 10 years of intense scrutiny and federal management. This is certainly not where anglers deserve to be with a fishery that is clearly recovering and expanding," said Bill Bird, chairman of the CCA National Government Relations Committee.

Since 2010, the recreational sector has been allowed to harvest red snapper in South Atlantic federal waters a cumulative total of 37 days despite increasing abundance of fish. In recent years, NOAA Fisheries has maintained that recreational bycatch

mortality – red snapper caught and released by anglers when the season is closed that the agency believes do not survive – is calculated to be more than what the sector would be allowed to harvest, resulting in no season or extremely limited seasons.

"Federal recreational data collection methods are not believed to be reliable by most private recreational fishermen; but the manner by which they calculate bycatch mortality for anglers is a particularly questionable component," said Bird. "As the population increases and anglers encounter – and release – more red snapper, it becomes apparent that the healthier the population is, the less access anglers will have to it. That is the definition of a fundamentally flawed system."

The introduction of a descending device requirement earlier this year may provide a path to greater access, but until the results can be quantified and determined in a stock assessment, it is unlikely NOAA Fisheries will credit the conservation ethic of recreational anglers with a longer season. Even if NOAA Fisheries supported the descending device requirement, which it did not, the process of quantifying those savings could take years and it is doubtful whether it would truly reflect the degree to which anglers are participating.

"Recreational anglers want to do everything they can to reduce dead discards in every fishery, which is why we actively supported the requirement for descending devices in the South Atlantic even though many anglers already use various tools to successfully release fish alive," said Ted Venker, conservation director for CCA. "There are questions over everything in this fishery and if the past is any indication, we expect NOAA to apply the same questionable methods to calculating the true positive impact of descending devices. If that is the only lifeline the fishery has to work with then perhaps it is time to push for state-based management of this fishery to get a workable system for recreational anglers."

The South Atlantic red snapper season is set to open July 10 - 12, and on July 17.





REDFISH RELEASE RESTOCK

CCA Florida's East Coast Redfish Restocking Initiative

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

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

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

Corporate partnerships are welcome. Learn more online.

DONATE NOW

releasethemfortomorrow.org



Historic Expansion of Hunting and Fishing Opportunities

New hunting and fishing opportunities across 2.3 million acres at 97 national wildlife refuges and 9 national fish hatcheries

Continuing the Trump Administration's significant efforts to increase recreational access on public lands, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt announced today a historic proposal for new and expanded hunting and fishing opportunities across more than 2.3 million acres at 97 national wildlife refuges and 9 national fish hatcheries. This proposed rule is the single largest expansion of hunting and fishing opportunities by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in history.

"America's hunters and anglers now have something significant to look forward to in the fall as we plan to open and expand hunting and fishing opportunities across more acreage nationwide than the entire state of Delaware," said Secretary Bernhardt. "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Hunt

Fish Chiefs have been instrumental in our effort over the past two years to streamline our regulations and identify new opportunities for sportsmen and women like no other previous administration."

This proposed rule would create nearly 900 distinct new hunting and fishing opportunities (an opportunity is defined as one species on one field station in one state). On top of last year's expansion of 1.4 million acres for new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities, this proposal would bring the Trump Administration's total expansion to 4 million acres nationwide.

"Once the Trump Administration's effort to eliminate the threat of COVID-19 has been successful, there will be no better way to celebrate than to get out and enjoy increased access for hunting and fishing on our public lands," said Service Director Aurelia Skipwith. "I deeply appreciate everything sportswomen and men do for conservation and our economy, so I am delighted when we can do something to expand opportunities for them. I hope it will help encourage the next generation of hunters and anglers to continue on this





rich American tradition.”

This proposal would bring the number of units in the Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System where the public may hunt to 399 and the number where fishing is permitted to 331. In addition, this rule proposes to formally open lands on nine units of the National Fish Hatchery System to hunting or sport fishing.

“The National Wild Turkey Federation is pleased that the Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service remain committed to removing barriers for hunting and fishing by increasing access and opportunities,” said CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation Becky Humphries. “Reducing barriers to hunting has been a key aspect of the NWTF’s hunter recruitment and retention efforts. The Service’s proposal to open 2.3 million acres ties directly to those efforts.”

“Today’s announcement by Secretary Bernhardt is welcome news for sportsmen and conservationists across the country. Expanded hunting and fishing access creates enhanced opportunities to better conserve and protect the environments we serve,” said Coastal Conservation Association Florida Chairman J.D. Dickenson. “Opening more than 2 million acres of federal lands for public access not only boosts our economy but provides a gateway to transformative outdoor exploration and conservation opportunities for today’s sportsmen and for generations to come.”

“On behalf of Safari Club International and our members, thank you President Donald Trump and Secretary David Bernhardt for continuing to prioritize American sportsmen by opening up and expanding opportunities across 2.3 million acres of public lands,” said Safari Club International (SCI) CEO W. Laird Hamberlin. “Hunting and fishing are an integral part of our nation’s culture, economy and care for the land. Increasing access and opportunities for people to take part in our sporting heritage strengthens broader conservation efforts. By delivering on their promise to improve and increase hunting and fishing access, this Administration continues to be a champion for America’s sportsmen, wildlife and wild places.”

“RMEF applauds Secretary Bernhardt for proposing to expand public hunting and fishing access at the nation’s wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries,” said President & CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation R. Kyle Weaver. “The 2020-2021 station-specific proposed rule for these facilities gives hunters and anglers new opportunities and access to 2.3 million acres of public lands and waters, building on the 1.4 million acres the Secretary opened and expanded access to last year. Opening and securing

quality public access for hunters, hikers, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy lies at the heart of the RMEF mission to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. Expanded access at refuges and hatcheries gives recreationists immediate opportunities to practice safe, social distancing while enjoying the outdoors and long-term benefits to wildlife management.”

“The initiatives by U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt in 2019 to increase hunting and fishing opportunities on more than 1.4 million acres nationwide, are unprecedented,” said Executive Director of the Houston Safari Club Foundation/Houston Safari Club Joe Betar. “We look forward to the Department of the Interior’s continued expansion of public land access for recreation in 2020.”

New proposed refuge opportunities include the opening of migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting, and sport fishing at Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge in Florida for the first time; the opening of Bamforth National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming to upland game and big game hunting for the first time; and opening sport fishing for the first time and expanding existing migratory bird, upland game and big game hunting to new acres at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia.

Proposed expansions of refuge opportunities include the expansion of existing big game hunting to new acres at Willapa National Wildlife Refuge in Washington state and Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge in Texas; the expansion of season dates for existing pheasant hunting at San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in California; and the expansion of existing migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing to new acres at Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota.

Proposed changes at hatcheries include the formal opening of lands on Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in Michigan to migratory bird, upland game and big game hunting; the formal opening of lands on Berkshire National Fish Hatchery in Massachusetts to sport fishing; and the formal opening of lands at Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery in Washington state to migratory bird, upland game and big game hunting.

The proposed rule also continues the effort from last year’s rule toward revising refuge hunting and fishing regulations so they more closely match state regulations where the refuge is located. This year’s rule also takes a further step in proposing revisions that ensure whenever refuge regulations

(continued on page 46)

Once the Trump Administration’s effort to eliminate the threat of COVID-19 has been successful, there will be no better way to celebrate than to get out and enjoy increased access for hunting and fishing on our public lands.”

*—Service Director
Aurelia Skipwith*



U.S. Senators Cassidy and Jones Introduce DESCEND Act Companion

Sportfishing community lauds bipartisan effort to conserve Gulf reef fish

The recreational fishing and boating community is praising the Senate introduction of the DESCEND Act of 2019 by U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Doug Jones (D-Ala.). Also known as the “Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2019,” the DESCEND Act would require commercial and recreational fishermen to possess a descending device rigged and ready for use or venting tool when fishing for reef fish in Gulf of Mexico federal waters.

A companion bill, H.R. 5126, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on November 15, by Congressmen Garret Graves (R-La.), Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) and Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.). For details of the DESCEND Act, refer to the recreational fishing and boating coalition’s announcement on H.R. 5126, Bipartisan Effort Drops a Life-line to Fish Reeled Up from the Deep.

“We thank Senators Jones and Cassidy for addressing the serious issue of release mortality of Gulf reef fish,” said Blakeley Ellis, executive director of Coastal Conservation Association Alabama. “Widespread use of descending devices will serve as another tool for fisheries managers and the angling community to tackle this pervasive problem and begin to eliminate needless waste to the greatest extent possible.”

“We applaud Senators Cassidy and Jones for continuing the legacy of bipartisanship in marine fisheries policy,” said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. “Despite the all-too-common political noise, real work is being done on Capitol Hill, and we appreciate Members of Congress from the Gulf Coast focusing on the economic and cultural importance of America’s reef fish and the future of recreational fishing.”



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YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Upgrade your membership today

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.

Upgrade your CCA Florida Membership and receive one of these gifts*:

Ruger LCP 380 Pistol
Traeger Ranger Pellet Grill
Engel HD 30 Soft Sided Cooler
Weatherby Vanguard .300



**gifts are determined by membership level*



CATCH FISH THIS SUMMER AND WIN!



Anglers from across the state will be in pursuit of those coveted, orange tags when 2020 CCA Florida STAR competition presented by Yamaha kicks off on Wednesday, July 1! Anglers of all ages and skill levels will not only be chasing tagged fish, but also catching and logging non-tagged species, for a chance to win their share of \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships.

Winning anglers in the signature iHeart Radio Tagged Redfish Division will have their choice of prizes including a Contender Boats 22 Sport, Pathfinder Boats 2200TRS, Hewes Redfisher 16, Carolina Skiffs 21 LS or Abaco Skiff and each comes equipped with Yamaha-powered boat packages "The last five years of competition is proof that tagged fish can be caught and prizes can be won, you just need to be a CCA Florida member and STAR registrant when you go fishing," STAR Director Leiza Fitzgerald said. "To date, there has been over \$1 million in prizes awarded with \$500,000 of that being college scholarships."

On average, four STAR iHeart Radio tagged redfish are released per Florida's coastal counties; however, eight, tagged fish are released in STAR destination counties: Brevard, Charlotte and Citrus.

Tagged or not, STAR anglers have dozens of opportunities to win other terrific prizes just by catching any non-tagged redfish, snook, trout, tarpon, grouper, kingfish, dolphin (mahimahi) or grouper. Just submit a photo of your

legal catch in the Open, Ladies, Kayak, Fly or 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 for each full five-gallon bucket he or she collects. The only requirement is to include the 2020 Official West Marine STAR Measuring Device in the photo and earn a shot at a three-day trip to Key West to visit the Hemingway Rum Distillery or \$500 cash from Thrash Can Bucket toppers, Costa sunglasses or gift certificates from AFTCO or West Marine.

Make each fishing trip a fun family day of fishing 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 first two youth anglers in the STAR tagged redfish division include a Salt Marsh Skiff, sporting Humminbird electronics, Minn Kota trolling motor and powered with a Yamaha motor sitting on a trailer and the registered youth angler who catches the first STAR tagged dolphin (mahimahi) is eligible to win a



2015

23 tagged redfish
recaptured
*One winner who took
home a new truck*

2016

20 were recaptured
No winner

TAGGED REDFISH RECAP



\$10,000 scholarship. The Youth Scholarship Division presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors offers \$100,000 in scholarships, two \$25,000 scholarships from Realtree Fishing and Academy Sports + Outdoors and ten \$5,000 scholarships from Bealls Department Stores, Southeast Environmental Solutions, Talk of the Town Restaurant Group, Florida's Sports Coast, Flagler Sportfishing Club, Plantation Inn Crystal River, Tailin Toads and Carolina Skiff. Other scholarship donors are Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, Jacksonville Offshore Sportfishing Club and Ryals Offshore Productions.

Unlike traditional fishing tournaments, STAR is a competition that focuses on con-

servation. Recognized as a "catch, photo and release" competition, STAR's smart-phone app promotes the proper handling of all species and eliminates the requirement 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," CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. "We understand that smart fishing will preserve these resources for the future."

There are 17 divisions and 12 species included in the event, and most winners are determined by a random drawing of catch entries made.

Registration is \$40 for CCA Florida members and \$75 for nonmembers, which includes STAR entry fee and CCA Florida membership.

Register now to start winning today, with special prizes for early registrants can win special prizes from Engel Coolers and more. To sign up, visit to ccaflstar.com or call 844-387-7827.



SEA WATCH INSIDER HINT

In 2019, two of the winning fish were from Charlotte County and 2017 had a Citrus County winner, each year has had tagged fish caught in Brevard but the anglers were not registered.

Consider planning your next fishing trip in one of our destination counties and you could win big, just be sure to be registered for STAR or it could be a VERY SAD fish tale!



2017

23 recaptured tagged redfish
Three winners

2018

24 were recaptured
Two winners

2019

12 recaptured
Three winners, one took home a GMC truck, the other two took home boat, motor and trailer packages from Pathfinder and Contender each powered by Yamaha



Thank you iHeart Radio and local partners for your support of
CCA FLORIDA | STAR
 and the iHeart Radio Tagged Redfish Division.

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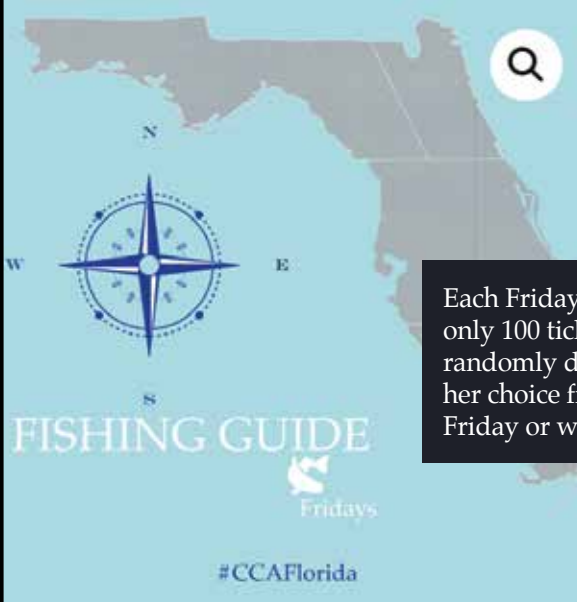
FISHING GUIDE FRIDAYS

For just \$20, you could be one of two
WINNERS to receive a half-day guided trip.

CCA Florida's newest promotion offers the opportunity to help our favorite guides during these uncertain times all while giving you the chance to fish with some of Florida's finest!

Each Friday, CCA Florida will announce a new group of guides and allot only 100 tickets for purchase for just \$20 per ticket. Two (2) winners will be randomly drawn and each will win a half-day charter with the guide of his or her choice from that week's selection. Winners will be drawn by the following Friday or when all 100 tickets have been sold (whichever comes first).

Enter at <https://ccaflorida.org/product/fgf>





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July 1 through October 4

CCA Florida STAR is the largest family-friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida, and it's unlike traditional fishing tournaments.

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- Tagged Redfish Prizes Include Boat, Motor & Trailer Packages
- 1st Tagged Dolphin / Mahi Mahi Wins \$10,000 Cash
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All others add \$35 for one year membership.
- **Prizes for Additional Non-Tagged Species**
Snook, Trout, Redfish, Grouper, Kingfish, Dolphin, Tarpon & Lionfish



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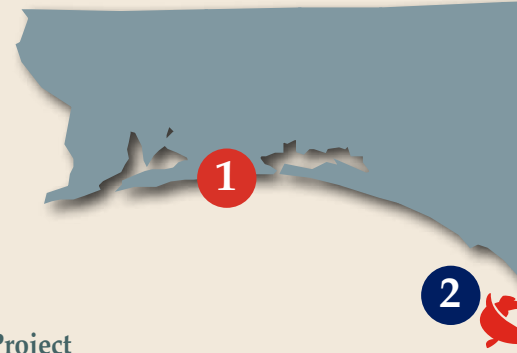
Your Coast Vodka purchase supports efforts to help restore Florida's fragile marine resources, including reef development, shoreline stabilizations, and the planting of hundreds of acres of saltmarsh, seagrass beds and mangroves.

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HABITAT PROJECTS

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



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





Maverick
Fish the Legend.

PATHFINDER
ANGLER DRIVEN

MBG MAVERICK
BOAT GROUP

Maverick
Fish the Legend.

PATHFINDER
ANGLER DRIVEN

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PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE CCA FOR OVER THREE DECADES!



SUPPORT CONSERVATION

GET INVOLVED IN STAR AND THE DOLPHINFISH RESEARCH PROGRAM

Register for Your Shot at Winning. Catch a STAR tagged dolphin and you could win \$10,000 cash

In 2020, CCA Florida STAR is collaborating with the Dolphinfish Research Program (DRP), the world's largest international dolphin capture-mark-recapture program, managed by the Beyond Our Shores Foundation, to have DRP participants tag dolphin and then anglers will be rewarded for returning the tag information.

The STAR Tagged Dolphin Division (Mahi Mahi) – offers any angler who catches a STAR tagged dolphin and submits their catch information a STAR long sleeve performance shirt.

\$10,000 cash will be awarded to the first STAR registered CCA member who catches one of the eligible 20 tagged dolphin released in the coastal waters of Florida by the DRP.

STAR is a great way to make your fishing more rewarding while supporting the conservation of our fisheries. In addition, STAR encourages anglers to sign up for free dolphinfish tagging kits provided by the Dolphinfish Research Program to participate in the tag and release of small dolphin at any time during the year to help conserve one of Florida's most important offshore fish species. Request a free tagging kit at dolphintagging.com/tags.

For more information on STAR, or to register, visit ccafstar.com. For more information on the Dolphinfish Research Program follow them on Instagram @tagdolphinfish.





STATEWIDE FISHING COMPETITION LAUNCHES JULY 1

ENGAGES YOUTH ANGLERS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS IN CONSERVATION

CCA Florida STAR, presented by Yamaha, offers a share of \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships to Florida Youth

CCA Florida, the state's leading organization dedicated to marine fisheries conservation, education and advocacy, launches the 6th annual CCA Florida STAR competition July 1. The nearly 100-day event, offers over \$500,000 in prizes, with \$100,000 of this being in Youth Scholarships, and invites anglers of all ages and skill levels to walk away with prizes from a brand-new truck or boat, motor and trailer packages to scholarships and more.

The STAR competition launched in Florida in 2015 with a focus on conservation through the use of technology and a catch, photo and release format. CCA Florida uses the social media-based event to educate the public on the importance of protecting Florida's marine resources and STAR's smart phone app eliminates the require-

ment for anglers to harvest or capture and transport fish, while promoting the proper handling of all species. In addition, non-anglers can participate and win by collecting trash and debris.

"Since we launched STAR in Florida, we've seen anglers catch more, release more, support the recovery of our state's marine resources and walk away with new boats, scholarships and amazing new gear at the same time," stated STAR Director Leiza Fitzgerald. "Since the start of the competition, we've awarded anglers with over One million dollars in prizes, including \$500,000 in scholarships to youth anglers across the state."

The 2020 STAR competition includes 17 divisions targeting 12 species. The signature division of STAR is the Tagged Redfish division which the Flagler Sportfishing Club has been instrumental in helping with over the past three years by providing wild caught redfish

from their Club's Spring Fishing Classic held in April. Anglers from the Club tournament provided their live redfish from the weigh-in to CCA Florida STAR for tagging and release back into the nearby counties for STAR anglers to recapture. This year the Spring Classic had to be rescheduled and did not provide the opportunity to utilize their tournament fish for tagging and release. Prizes in the signature division of STAR include a new boat, motor and trailer packages including a Contender Boats 22 Sport, a Pathfinder Boats 2200 TRS, a Hewes Redfisher 16, a 21' Carolina Skiff all powered by Yamaha Outboards.

STAR and the Flagler Sportfishing Club are very interested in engaging youth anglers in fishing and conservation and together continue to provide tremendous incentives to get our youth engaged.

For only \$10, youth ages 6 – 17, will receive New Tide Membership and free registration in STAR and participate to win boats, scholarships and other great prizes.

The STAR Youth Scholarship Division presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors, offers \$100,000 in scholarships: two \$25,000 scholarships presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors and Real-tree Fishing and ten \$5,000 scholarships. This year Flagler Sportfishing Club will join CCA Florida, Beall's Stores Inc., Talk of The Town Restaurants, Southeast Environmental Solutions, Florida Sports Coast, Tailin Toads Apparel and the Plantation Inn Crystal River as a \$5,000 presenter. At the conclusion of the competition winners will be determined by a random drawing of all eligible entries. The Flagler Sportfishing Club Scholarship winner will be drawn from only Flagler County participating youth entries. In this division youth anglers may submit a photo of their fish on the 2020 West Marine Official STAR measuring device (one photo a day) of any of the following species; ladyfish, jack cravalle, sheepshead, snapper, snook,

spotted seatrout, redfish, grouper, dolphin (Mahi Mahi) or kingfish. The fish must be of legal minimum size according to FVC regulations.

The Tagged Redfish Division Prizes include two Salt Marsh Skiff 1656 tiler boats, powered with Yamaha Outboards, trailers, Minn Kota trolling motors and Humminbird electronics for the first two winning youth anglers in this division.

The Tagged Dolphin Division offers a \$10,000 scholarship if the first dolphin is caught by a New Tide member.

Youth anglers also have another wonderful opportunity, the Costa Kick Plastic Trash Division. Youth participants can pick up garbage during the competition while they are out on the water or from the shoreline. They must submit a photo of the five-gallon bucket full of collected trash (which they dispose of properly) with the 2020 West Marine Official STAR Measuring Device via the STAR smart phone app for their shot at a \$1,500 prize package, Kahuna Beach Wagon, Costa sunglasses and other great items from Costa. For every five-gallon bucket of garbage a STAR Youth participant submits they will also be provided with 30 minutes of community service hours. Youth participants will submit their community service log with a parent's signature of hours to STAR Director Leiza Fitzgerald, who will verify submissions and return to the Youth participant. The Costa Kick Plastic Trash Division presented by Papa's Pilar provides a great opportunity for youth to garner their community service hours while practicing conservation and on their schedule. It is a great way to engage youth and keep waterways clean.

STAR encourages participants of all ages to protect and conserve Florida's fisheries for future generations. For a full list of divisions and additional details, visit ccaflstar.com.



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Contact Adam Miller at (941) 270-0895



Tomoka State Park Shoreline Stabilization

MOVING THE MISSION FORWARD

As an organization CCA Florida remains very busy into 2020, leading a record number of habitat restoration and artificial reef projects around the state. Our Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration continues to stay engaged with our membership, state, local and federal governments, universities, and other organizations to move our mission forward. Below is a snapshot of some the committees and teams CCA is serving on, and some of the important meetings and events attended.

Member

East Coast Estuarine Restoration Team (ECERT), 2017-2020

Southwest Estuarine Restoration Team (SWERT), 2020

Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Community Advisory Board, 2019-2020

University of Florida/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station Advancement Advisory Board, 2018-2020

Attendee:

Florida Artificial Reef Summit 2020, Gold Sponsor

Florida Department of Health Indian River County, Water Quality Sampling Training, 2020

Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Symposium attendee, 2016-2020, and Student Presentations Judge, 2020

Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference, 2017, 2019

Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County – Inaugural meeting, 2019

Brevard IRL Coalition Meeting, Lagoon Straight Talk, Cocoa Beach, 2019

Blue Green Algae Task Force Meetings, 2019-2020

SHaring Our Research with Everyone (SHORE) on the Indian River Lagoon, Daytona Beach State College, 2017-2019

Southeast Florida Artificial Reef Coordinators Workshops, 2016-2020

Everglades Restoration Sportfishing Planning Retreat (CCA Florida, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Captain's for Clean Water, American Sportfishing Association, Angler Action Foundation, Bonefish Tarpon Trust, Yamaha, Everglades Foundation), 2019

Everglades Conference, Stuart Florida, 2018

Special Preview of the First Indian River Lagoon Report Card, 2018

North Central Florida Artificial Reef Workshop, Cedar Key, 2018

Indian River County – Debut of IRL Report Card by Marine Resources Council, 2018

IRL Coalition Meeting at Brevard Zoo, 2018

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Meeting, 2018

University of Central Florida Coastal Meeting, September 2018

Florida Outdoor Writers Association, Presentation by CCA, 2018, 2019

Ocean Research & Conservation Association Meetings, 2018

IRL Acoustic Assessment of the Spotted Seatrout field study, 2018-2019

Cedar Key Science Symposium, 2017

Everglades Coalition Conference 2017

Tampa Bay Watch Oyster Volunteer, 2017-2018

Our Florida Reefs/Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Public Comment Meetings, 2016-2017

CCA Oyster Summit, Baltimore, Maryland, 2016

Brevard County Commission Meetings for Save Our Lagoon Project Plan approval, 2016

Volusia County Seine Net Meeting, 2015

Numerous statewide county commission meetings, 2015-2020

And together with our members, the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA National's habitat program, and our many partners, we are making a positive impact on habitat restoration and water quality. We remain focused on ensuring that all donated habitat funds are spent wisely on projects where the impact of poor water quality is at a minimum, and where expected positive outcomes are the highest. Read below and find a summary of habitat-related projects recently completed within the last year and/or ongoing.

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

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

CCA and Addictive Fishing also organized a fundraising event at the Cocoa Civic Center in Brevard County on October 5, 2019. In typical Mogan Man style, Capt. Wiggins invited fishing guides and celebrities like Roland Martin, Shaw Grigsby, CA Rich-

ardson, Carter Andrews, Jim Ross, George Clark Jr., Bobby Lane, Josh Jorgensen, Lionel James, Mark Nichols, Dave Ferrell, and Matt Kechele, to name a few. The event began in the morning with a kids fishing derby with the help of the guides and celebrities. In the evening, the fundraiser included a banquet complete with a celebrity dinner followed by a raffle, a silent auction, and a live auction. \$28,552 was raised in one evening for the clam restoration project.

In March 2020, CCA, FWC and UF teamed up again and was awarded another IRLNEP grant in the amount of \$122,020. Including a \$156,404 match, the total project award is \$278,424. To date, over \$500,000 has been raised to fund this important habitat and water quality restoration project! As if that weren't enough, the Marine Resource Council (MRC) voted the clam project as Project of the Year at the 19th Annual MRC Conservation Achievement Awards Dinner. The IRL clam team is currently planning the deployment of the first generation of over 4,000,000 clams back into the IRL this year. Please visit irl-clamproject.com for more information.

CCA Curtis Bostick Reef

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

Tomoka State Park Shoreline Stabilization

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

(continued on page 30)

**Hernando County
Ghost Ship Reef**

HABITAT HORIZON

continued from page 29

**Hernando County
Ghost Ship Reef**

In April 2019, the Hernando County Port Authority and Aquatic Services Division deployed a decommissioned concrete sailboat referred to as the 'Ghost Ship' within Bendickson Reef, located 20 nautical miles west of Hernando Beach. The second phase of this project, funded entirely by CCA Florida, included deploying 30 concrete reef balls around and inside the vessel to stabilize the wreck site. A total of 16,500 pounds of reef balls were deployed and almost 400 miles of travel were logged on the Gulf of Mexico as of May to complete this project.

**Ghost Trap Rodeo - NOAA
Marine Debris Grant Award**

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

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

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

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

CCA Florida donated \$5,000 toward this fish monitoring project near Cedar Key. The Lone Cabbage Reef, located in Suwannee Sound off Florida's Big Bend coast, has



**Ghost Trap Rodeo
- NOAA Marine
Debris Grant
Award**



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





Brevard County Reefs

been restored through a large-scale restoration project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Project construction occurred July through October 2018 and restored nearly 3 linear miles of oyster reef using limestone and shell. Enhanced abundances of juvenile fish species have been recorded for restored oyster reefs, and these areas can provide prey items and refuge for juvenile fish and invertebrates. FWRI's Independent Monitoring (FIM) program has collected long-term stratified random sampling data in the Cedar Key and Suwannee Sound areas for over 20 years.

In October 2017, NCBS began directed sampling along the reef tract to increase spatial coverage of the projected restoration site, as a collaboration with the Uni-

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

Brevard County Reefs

CCA Florida has an ongoing partnership with Brevard County to support their artificial reef program. This year, CCA donated \$2,000 to contribute toward their upcoming summer deployments. As in years past, CCA also wrote a grant support letter on behalf of Brevard County for an FWC artificial reef grant in which they were awarded funding. CCA Life Member Greg Harrison has been working on the Brevard artificial reef program for many years and has observed excellent invertebrate species growth on them as well as black sea bass, juvenile red snapper, crabs and large schools of baitfish.

(continued on page 32)



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

HABITAT HORIZON

continued from page 31

Living Shoreline and Oyster Reef Restoration in Mosquito Lagoon

CCA Florida once again partnered with the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the Marine Discovery Center on a grant titled: Living Shoreline and Oyster Reef Restoration in Mosquito Lagoon: Continuation of Successful Models and Successful Partnerships. The grant was awarded in May 2019 in the amount of \$88,585, along with an in-kind match of \$88,106. The funds are being used in 2019 to continue their highly successful oyster reef restoration and living shoreline stabilization in Mosquito Lagoon. CCA also continues to provide volunteers and boat support for their program, with several events already completed in 2019.

John Michael Baker Memorial Reef

Two new artificial reef deployments were conducted during the 2018 summer off the coast of Broward County in memorial of John Michael Baker, a member, avid diver and angler who passed away in a tragic boating accident in 2015. The projects were led by members of the Broward CCA Chapter, who secured a five-year permit from Broward County for an area just offshore of Fort Lauderdale between Oakland Park Blvd. and Birch State Park. The Broward Chapter has been working on another deployment on the shallow dive reef for 2020. The plan is to deploy 30 donated concrete structures for a total of 200,000 lbs. to the shallow dive reef in 70 feet of water. The Broward CCA Chapter has a goal to conduct one deployment per year on the John Michael Baker Memorial Reef.

Phoenix Reef

CCA Florida is once again working with Ingman Marine and the Charlotte Chapter to plan the second deployment on the Phoenix Reef. The last deployment was successfully completed on November 30, 2018, in approximately 50-feet of water (26° 45.582', -82° 28.443'). Ingman Marine has generously stepped up again and donated \$10,000 towards the second deployment with a goal of adding to the reef annually to make it one of the largest reefs in southwest Florida. An additional \$8,500 has been raised for the reef, for a total of \$18,500.



**John Michael Baker
Memorial Reef**

Concrete has been donated and CCA is currently working on a new staging site near Gasparilla Pass. The next deployment is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2020.

Indian River Lagoon Spotted Seatrout Acoustic Study

Year 3 of the seatrout acoustic study is set to kick off in 2020. In 2018, CCA Florida donated \$25,000 and a \$57,000 in-kind match to the three-year study. The study's broad objective is to determine spotted seatrout population spawning status and vulnerability to human and natural disturbance in the IRL. Acoustic transects are conducted by CCA volunteer anglers using underwater microphones (hydrophones) as trout choral displays only occur when they are spawning. Anglers recorded under-

water sounds at pre-determined channel marker transects over a six-month period in Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties. Capt. Dave Lear joined CCA Florida on the water on May 20, 2019 to conduct a series of acoustic transects for an upcoming article in TIDE Magazine.

CCA Oyster Recycling Program

CCA Florida is working hard to restore oyster reefs across Florida through its oyster recycling program. It is estimated that 85% of oyster reefs worldwide have been lost due to over-harvesting and degraded water quality. Through our oyster recycling program, oyster shells are collected from restaurants and stored and dried for at least six months at the Lake County Landfill, placed in oyster bags, and returned

to the water to create new oyster reefs and/or provide stability for living shoreline projects. Together with volunteers, CCA



Florida already collected over 70 tons of oyster shells and returned 25 tons of these shells back to the water to create new oyster reefs.

(continued on page 34)

HABITAT HORIZON

continued from page 31

Lemon Bay High School (LBHS) Prop Scar Restoration Project

The LBHS Marine Conservation Club is working on a sea grass restoration project near Catfish Creek in Charlotte County. The purpose of this project is to protect and restore portions of a local seagrass bed that have been damaged by vessel groundings utilizing science-based technologies; to study different methodologies for doing so; and to continue to monitor the site for educational and informational purposes. This project is specifically designed for hands-on student experience, education, and for determining the efficacy of actively restoring areas affected by prop scars in Charlotte Harbor on the part of the Marine Conservation Club and supervised by the school's science teachers. They have applied for an FDEP permit to do prop scar restoration and it is close to approval. They will

be purchasing the sedimentation tubes and shoal grass from Sea and Shoreline this year. Their high school marine lab includes over 80 aquariums including a large touch tank and 2 aquariums over 3,000 gallons each.

CCA Florida donated \$2,500 to assist with this project and will look to assist with finding equipment in the future as they expand to grow seagrasses. LBHS has agreed to match CCA's donation of \$2,500.



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CCA FLORIDA

STAR
Search



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to win FREE prizes!**

**Episodes air at 8 p.m. on Facebook every
Wednesday through October 4. Each week
will feature a new competition topic to
help you succeed in this year's STAR!**

**Tune in Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on Facebook
for STAR Search!**

Starting Point

continued from page 4

Broward county. This science-backed study is designed to provide important insight about the condition of our waterways in effort to gather important data including salinity, temperature and oyster species to identify areas that may sustain healthy oyster growth. The vision is to locate suitable areas to seed oyster growth and kick-start reproduction again, ultimately, adding natural filtration to help restore water quality.

From increasing conservation efforts to growing membership, CCA Florida continues to expand because of your support. But, now more than ever CCA Florida's success is reliant on your support. With the postponement of our events, we have shifted our focus from in-person engagements to online participation, in an effort to give you, our members, fresh and fun opportunities to safely support our common cause.

We have always rallied together to emerge even stronger and I know that will remain true in this uncertain time. Like the crucial role of an oyster, CCA Florida is a keystone organization dedicated to protecting Florida's beloved marine resources.

Together, we got this. Stay calm. Go fish.

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FWC arrests individual for multiple misdemeanor felony counts related to commercial fishing violations

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is responsible for many things in order to achieve their stated mission: "Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people."

Law enforcement is a primary focus in that mission. We all understand that without strong enforcement, the rules and regulations we work so hard to pass do nothing. CCA Florida is proud to continue our regular feature in Sea Watch; The FWC Law Enforcement Update. Please remember you can do your part by reporting all fish and wildlife violations to the FWC at 888-404-FWCC (3922) Cellular phone users, call *FWC or #FWC.

A month-long investigation by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) into illegal activities by a Monroe County man resulted in multiple misdemeanor and felony counts as well as supported law-abiding commercial and recreational anglers.

"The suspect in this case was flagrantly violating trap and tag marking requirements, had committed numerous other commercial fishing violations and had established a one-sided financial arrangement with the victim in this case," said Public Information Officer Bobby Dube. "Our job in these instances is to remove subjects from the water who are intent on violating Florida law, so law-abiding commercial fishermen don't have to deal with this kind of unfair competition."

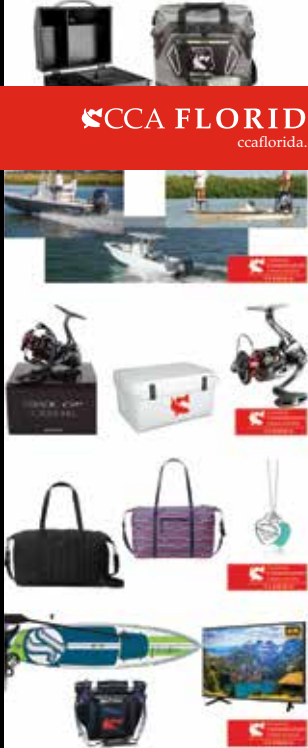
In early October 2018, FWC Lt. Andy Cox and FWC Officer Justin Powell conducted a routine inspection at the trap yard of Luis Falcon (DOB 9/12/1950), of Little Torch Key. At the Summerland Key trap yard, officers discovered numerous traps and tags associated with a crawfish endorsement (spiny lobster) for Vicente Arencibia, another Monroe County commercial fisherman. Falcon indicated that he had Arencibia's permission to use his crawfish endorsement, traps and tags.

Subsequent interactions over the course of a month, along with an in-depth investigation, revealed that Falcon had committed several violations of commercial fisheries regulations, including trap and tag violations, and commercial fishing without an applicable saltwater products license (Florida's commercial license). In addition to numerous misdemeanor resource violations, Falcon was also charged with scheming to defraud and exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult.

Interviews of Arencibia by FWC officers indicated that Falcon had not provided Arencibia with any compensation for the use of his crawfish endorsement, traps and tags. Arencibia was also unaware that his individual saltwater products license with crew endorsement had been assigned to a vessel, enabling Falcon to fish from the vessel without Arencibia being present.

Falcon was arrested and booked into Monroe County jail, where conditions of pre-trial bond include that he is not allowed on state waters of Monroe County.

To report illegal fish, wildlife, environmental or boating crimes, people are encouraged to contact the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922 or Tip@MyFWC.com.



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For just \$20, you could WIN during Winner's Choice Wednesday!

Winner's Choice Wednesday is here and 100 tickets are available for purchase for just \$20 per ticket. One winner will be randomly selected to have his or her choice of dozens of great prizes! NEW prizes added almost weekly! Set your alarms for Wednesdays because you don't want to miss #WCW!

<https://www.ccaflorida.org/product/winnerschoice/>

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Maverick

Fish the Legend.

CCA Florida is proud to partner with Free Sunshields and offer an exclusive CCA design, available online for \$20 at <https://ccaflorida.org/product/cca-sunshield/>

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

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COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
presents

SEARED SCALLOPS WITH BACON, CORN AND TOMATO

INGREDIENTS:

5 slices bacon
1 c diced tomatoes
1/2 c diced onions
4 cloves garlic, minced
3 ears fresh corn, scraped

1/4 tsp Cajun seasoning
1/2 c milk or half-and-half
1 tbsp flour
1/2 c grated Parmesan

1 tbsp canola oil
Salt, pepper, paprika
8 large sea scallops
Chopped chives

PREPARATION:

Cook bacon, remove from pan, drain on paper towel and reserve all bacon fat.

Add 2 tablespoons of the bacon fat to your sauté pan. Stir in tomatoes, onions, garlic, corn, Cajun seasoning and 3 bacon slices crumbled. Cook about 5 minutes or until onions are soft. To same pan, stir in half-and-half, flour and Parmesan. Stirring constantly, cook on medium-low about 3-4 more minutes, or until thickened. Remove from heat, cover to keep warm.

Dry your scallops very well with paper towels. Season on both sides with salt, pepper, and a dusting of paprika. Heat canola oil in a large sauté pan until oil is very hot. Add scallops; cook 1-2 minutes on each side or until golden-brown and firm. Don't overcook.

To serve, add some of your corn mixture to the plate, top with scallops, garnish with chives and remaining crumbled bacon. **SERVES 2 LARGE PORTIONS.**

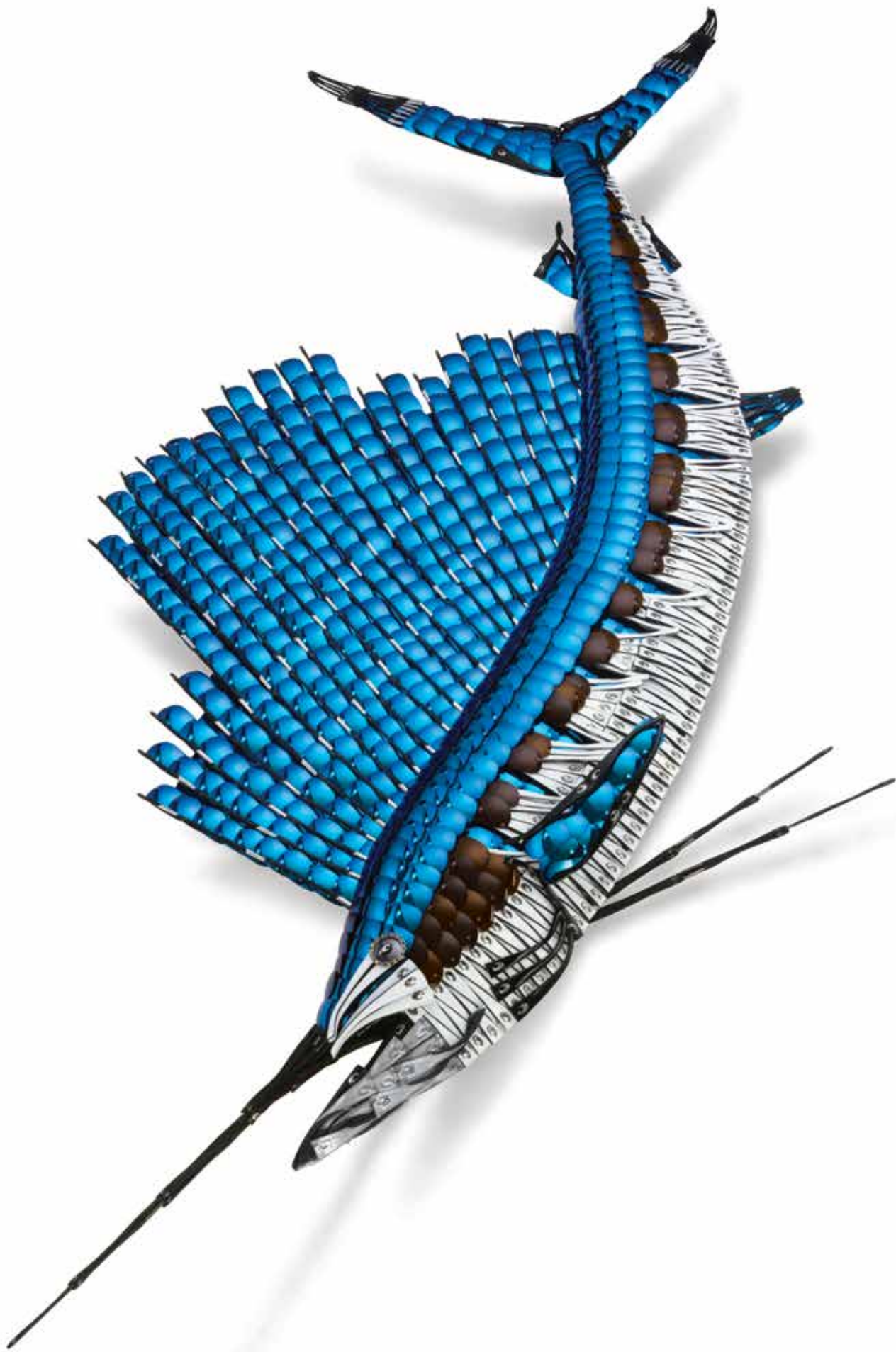


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for perfect wine
pairings with this
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- Recipe and photos by Heather Peterek, *Staff Seafood Enthusiast*



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A Spotlight on Cleaning Practices

The year 2020 has put a spotlight on cleaning practices more than anyone ever dreamed possible. At Star brite, the Official Boat Cleaning Products supplier for CCA Florida, we take this very seriously. Our cleaning expertise became vital information for so many of the fishermen and charter captains that are loyal customers. And while we can't spray away all the messes left by a pandemic, we can arm you with the best knowledge to keep you and boat clean and protected.

With this heightened awareness, we want to share our tips on how to deep clean your boat using products that you may already have in your dock box. Detailing the boat can seem like a daunting task, however, the trick is to start with the dirtiest tasks and then progress to the easier ones. The best part is that by doing it yourself, you know the job is done right.

Step 1: Remove Tough Dirt and Stains on Topsides

Dirty water flows down, so you want to begin cleaning the topsides before you tackle the hull. There are a wide variety of cleaners on the market, but to make the job as effortless as possible, choose wisely. Dish detergent

is handy and cheap, but it creates a lot of suds, requires a lot of water to rinse clean, strips away wax or polish and could etch fiberglass. Choose a product formulated to clean fiberglass and painted surfaces. Star brite's Non-Skid Deck Cleaner uses chelating agents that break the bond between dirt, grime, and the surface. Use a deck brush to spread it evenly over the area to be cleaned, let it work in for about 5 minutes, then use a soft or medium brush to lightly agitate the area before rinsing clean. The low-suds, biodegradable formula is perfect for cleaning textured deck surfaces that trap dirt, but it is also a very effective choice for cleaning all other fiberglass surfaces, as well as vinyl, polished metal, plastic and painted surfaces that may have accumulated a lot of grime over the last boating season or from disuse. Use a mild boat wash and rinse well to clean Lexan, Plexiglass or other plastic windscreens or windows. Please don't use regular, chlorine bleach on or near your boat! Bleach can cause serious injuries to skin or eyes if splashed or spilled, and it will kill sea life if it gets into the water. Bleach can also damage vinyl and stitching, will strip wax or polish, and can cause fiberglass to become dulled over time.

Step 2: The Hull/Transom

To deal with tough waterline stains on the hull, you'll need more than boat soap, so we suggest Star brite Hull Cleaner, which is now available in a "gel" formula that has a longer dwell time, especially on vertical surfaces such as transoms or hulls. The oxalic acid formula is great at dissolving tough waterline, leaf and rust stains, but it is much safer to use than hydrochloric or phosphoric acids. Walking around the hull, spray it liberally and let it work into the stains, then rinse well and re-apply to any stubborn spots. If you plan to apply a fresh coat of polish as the final step in this over all process – and you should – Hull Cleaner is the ideal preparation as it will remove any vestiges of old wax or polish, leaving a fresh, clean surface that will readily accept the new polish. Pool Acid or toilet bowl cleaners are not a great choice as they are formulated for surfaces that bear no resemblance to fiberglass and can damage the finish of the boat as well as the trailer in the event if spills or splashes.

Here's an important tip for those whose boats stay in the water and have bottom paint: do not attempt to clean bottom-painted sur-

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Family Time Reinvented

Enter the CCA Florida Pathfinder Raffle

Sponsor Spotlight

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faces! Bottom paint, sometimes referred to as ablative paint, is designed to slough off as the boat moves through the water, taking any deposits with it. It is not supposed to be pretty or shiny; any attempts to clean it may remove it, so simply leave it alone.

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

a cleaner wax to restore shine as needed, replace any cracked fittings or deck hardware.

Step 3: Special Situations and Surfaces

As you clean the boat, chances are you will come across rust stains “weeping” from stainless steel hardware. Just spray them with Star brite Rust Stain Remover to eliminate these quickly. Seal the now-cleaned area (and stainless steel surface) with Star brite Premium Marine Polish. GPS units, chart plotters, and depth finders have housings that can withstand

a lot of use and weathering, but the screens are probably in need of a good cleaning. Star brite's Screen Cleaner & Protectant was formulated specifically for use on all plastic surfaces. It lifts and removes water spots, deposits and fingerprints, leaving the screen streak-free and easy to read. The protective coating will help resist UV exposure. If you find any black heel marks on the deck from guests who wore street shoes, Star brite's Magic Sponge makes them disappear.

Step 4: Inspect for Oxidation/ Seal the Surface

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

With the fiberglass and paint uniformly shiny, apply a protective coating of a good quality polymer polish. Star brite's Premium Marine Polish with PTFE is one of the best, yet easiest to use polishes available for fiberglass, painted and polished metal surfaces. It is also a great way to keep your car or truck looking great. To keep non-skid decks looking good, use Star brite Non-Skid Deck Cleaner, followed by Star brite Non-Skid Deck Wax.

Step 5. Keep it Clean

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

Here is a Star brite Insider tip: Stash a bottle of Star brite Xtreme Clean on the boat to deal with any spills or stains when they happen, from fish blood to red wine.

Stay safe and healthy out there, and remember to always Clean + Protect your boat. If you have any questions, you can always Ask Our Experts online or by phone. Tight lines!



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MAHI MAHI AND BLACK BEAN CAKES WITH AVO-CILANTRO SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

AVO-CILANTRO SAUCE

1 c sour cream
1 c fresh cilantro leaves
1 tbsp garlic powder
¼ tsp salt
½ tsp black pepper
1 large avocado, peeled and seeded
Juice of 1 lime

BLACK BEAN CAKES

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, plus more for frying
1 small onion, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
¾ tsp ground cumin
1 small jalapeño, seeded, diced
2 15-ounce cans black beans, drained
1½ c plain dry bread crumbs
Salt and pepper
1 c all-purpose flour
2 large eggs, beaten

MAHI MAHI

4 (6-ounce) mahi mahi fillets
Cajun seasoning
Oil for frying

GARNISH

Fresh cilantro, chopped
Fresh corn kernels

PREPARATION:

AVO-CILANTRO SAUCE

Combine all ingredients in a food processor and process till smooth. Season with salt and pepper if needed.

BLACK BEAN CAKES

In a medium skillet, heat the 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Add the onion, garlic, jalapeño and cook over medium heat until softened. Scrape the onion mixture into the bowl of a food processor. Add 1 can of beans and pulse until the mixture is finely chopped but not a paste. Scrape the mixture into a medium bowl. Mix in the other can of beans, cumin and ½ cup of the bread crumbs and season with salt and pepper to taste. Form the mixture into ¼ cup patties, about ½ inch thick.

Put the flour, beaten eggs and the remaining ¾ cup of bread crumbs into 3 separate shallow bowls. First, dust each black bean cake with the flour, then dip in the egg and then in the bread crumbs, pressing so that the bread crumbs stick.

In a large skillet, heat ½ inch of oil until very hot. Add the cakes and fry over high heat until golden brown, about 2 minutes per side. Drain on paper towels.

MAHI MAHI

Season both sides of the fillets with Cajun seasoning, patting it on with your hands. Heat enough oil to cover the bottom of a large skillet over high heat until very hot. Cook the fish until browned and crisp, about 3 minutes per side. Remove from the heat.

TO SERVE

Plate one black bean cake and top with desired amount of avo-cilantro sauce. Top that with your mahi mahi fillet, then more sauce, then another black bean cake, then a little more sauce. Garnish entire plate with fresh chopped cilantro and fresh corn kernels.

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- Recipe and photos by Heather Peterek, Staff Seafood Enthusiast

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Hosted by Captain Leiza Fitzgerald and STAR's Skipper Amanda Krpan, STAR Search will include special guests, live interviews, tips and tricks and chances to win FREE prizes!

Episodes air at 8 p.m. on Facebook every Wednesday through October 4. Each week will feature a new competition topic to help you succeed in this year's STAR!

Tune in Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on Facebook for STAR Search!





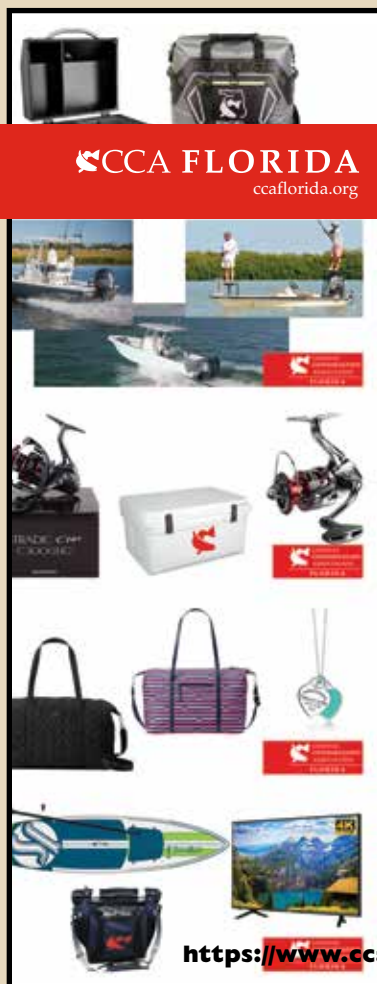
FISHING GUIDE FRIDAYS

For just \$20, you could be one of two WINNERS to receive a half-day guided trip.

CCA Florida's newest promotion offers the opportunity to help our favorite guides during these uncertain times all while giving you the chance to fish with some of Florida's finest!

Each Friday, CCA Florida will announce a new group of guides and allot only 100 tickets for purchase for just \$20 per ticket. Two (2) winners will be randomly drawn and each will win a half-day charter with the guide of his or her choice from that week's selection. Winners will be drawn by the following Friday or when all 100 tickets have been sold (whichever comes first).

Enter at <https://ccaflorida.org/product/fgf>



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For just \$20, you could WIN during Winner's Choice Wednesday!

Winner's Choice Wednesday is here and 100 tickets are available for purchase for just \$20 per ticket. One winner will be randomly selected to have his or her choice of dozens of great prizes! NEW prizes added almost weekly! Set your alarms for Wednesdays because you don't want to miss #WCW!

<https://www.ccaflorida.org/product/winnerschoice/>

Historic Expansion

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depart from state regulations, for safety or conservation compatibility reasons, these extra regulations are consistent across all refuges in a given state. The Department worked closely with the states in preparing the proposed rule.

The Service will seek comments from the public on the proposed rule for 60

days, beginning with publication in the Federal Register on April 9, 2020. The notice will be available at regulation.gov Docket Number: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-0013, and will include details on how to submit comments.

The Department intends to finalize the proposed changes in time for the upcoming

2020-2021 hunting seasons. A complete list of all refuges and hatcheries in the proposal is available in the proposed rule. View an online list and map.

Background

America's sportsmen and women generated nearly \$1 billion in excise taxes last year, supporting critical state conservation programs. These funds are generated by excise tax collections on hunting, shooting and fishing equipment and boat fuel that is distributed to all 50 states and U.S. territories by the Service.

To date, the Service has distributed more than \$22.9 billion in apportionments for state conservation and recreation projects. The recipient state wildlife agencies have matched these funds with approximately \$7.6 billion throughout the years, primarily through hunting and fishing license revenues.

In addition to excise taxes collected from these activities, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$156 billion in economic activity in communities across the United States in 2016, according to the Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published every five years. More than 101 million Americans — 40 percent of the U.S. population age 16 and older — pursue wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and fishing.

There are 70 national fish hatcheries visited by more than one million people each year. Hatcheries offer opportunities for viewing the operations and learning about fish, as well as activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, sightseeing, nature study, birdwatching and photography.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is an unparalleled network of 568 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. There is a national wildlife refuge within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas. The Refuge System receives more than 59 million annual visits. National wildlife refuges provide vital habitat for thousands of species and access to world-class recreation, from fishing, hunting and paddling to nature watching, photography and environmental education.

*Published by U.S. Department of Interior
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov*



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