

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

SUMMER 24

SEAWATCH

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2024

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

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March 13, 2024

The Honorable Cliff Bentz
Chair
House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries
United States House of Representatives
409 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries
United States House of Representatives
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bentz and Ranking Member Huffman,

The undersigned hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations, and professional societies write to share our support for the bipartisan Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act (H.R.6841) and to encourage the committee to advance this legislation. With your efforts, Congress can conserve coastal and estuary habitats across the United States and defend outdoor recreation opportunities and economies that rely on effective conservation and research.

Along the almost 100,000 miles of American shorelines, outdoor recreation is a pillar for local coastal communities. Nationwide, the economic output of outdoor recreation is calculated at \$1.1 trillion, accounting for 2.2 percent (\$563.7 billion) of the total U.S. GDP and 3.2 percent of total U.S. employment. As of 2021, all of the top ten states for outdoor recreation spending were located along our oceans or Great Lakes. And according to NOAA, “the ocean-based tourism and recreation sector alone employs more Americans than the entire real estate industry, as well as more people than building construction and telecommunications combined.” For the 40 percent of Americans living in coastal counties and for the millions of Americans that travel to our coasts every year, the ability to hunt, fish, and recreate along our shorelines represents both a lifestyle and a lifeline.

As we recognize the reliance of coastal and Great Lakes communities on outdoor recreation, it’s also crucial to recognize outdoor recreation’s own reliance on forward-thinking conservation and research. This industry and its traditions are deeply tied to the health of our natural spaces and local ecosystems. Through the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act, the House Committee on Natural Resources has the opportunity to strengthen our coastal and Great Lakes environments in the face of growing challenges.

H.R.6841 centers on two vital conservation and research programs established under the Coastal Zone Management Act: the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) and the National Estuarine Research



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.

Reserve System (NERRS). CELCP was originally authorized to conserve ecologically important coastal lands and recreational opportunities. The program helped conserve more than 110,000 acres through assistance to state and local governments for conservation easements in coastal and estuarine areas across the country – including the Nemadji River in Wisconsin and Minnesota, Chowan Swamp in North Carolina, Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District in Hawaii, South Slough Reserve in Oregon, Cat Island in Mississippi, and beyond. However, in recent years, CELCP has lost its funding sources, after dedicated Congressional appropriations were rolled back in 2013 and other federal funding avenues were depleted in 2017.

The NERRS was created to provide for the stewardship, research, training, and education necessary to conserve and study estuarine systems. Today, the system serves as a network of 30 coastal sites covering 1.4 million acres of study area, offering vital information on nonpoint source pollution, community resilience, habitat restoration, and invasive species. Of the 32 largest cities in the world, 22 are located on estuaries, and our research reserves help ensure that we maintain and expand the biodiversity, ecosystem health, community benefits, and economic impacts that estuaries foster at home and abroad – providing social, economic, and environmental benefits, particularly toward outdoor recreation, that far exceed their cost of operation.

If enacted, the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act would take necessary and overdue steps to reinforce both the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The bill would revitalize CELCP, renaming the program to the Coastal and Estuarine Resilience and Restoration Program, reauthorizing funding to restore conservation practices, and recalibrating program language to address emerging challenges to coastal communities. It would also enable the NERRS to expand their research and data monitoring supporting local conservation and management.

The passage of the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act would help ensure the continued prosperity of our coastal and Great Lakes environments, safeguarding outdoor recreation opportunities for millions of Americans and strengthening the widespread economic benefits of one of America's most impactful and growing sectors. As hunters, anglers, conservationists, and professional societies, we support H.R.6841 and we strongly encourage the House Committee on Natural Resources to advance this legislation.

Thank you for your time and for your support for outdoor recreation. We look forward to working with you to pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

AFFTA Fisheries Fund
Guy Harvey Foundation
American Fisheries Society
International Game Fish Association
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Izaak Walton League of America
American Forest Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
American Shore & Beach Preservation Association
National Audubon Society
American Sportfishing Association
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association

Angler Action Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
Association of State Floodplain Managers
New York State Conservation Council
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
North American Falconers Association
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society
Restore America's Estuaries
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
The Nature Conservancy
Coastal Conservation Association
The Wildlife Society
Coastal States Organization

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Ducks Unlimited
Wild Salmon Center

Cc:

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Committee on Natural Resources, Chairman
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Committee on Natural Resources, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources, Majority
Committee on Natural Resources, Minority



Give Power to the States

Cooperative effort closes in on solution to federal fisheries chaos.

By Ted Venker

Recreational anglers are applauding progress by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) to improve the quality and timeliness of recreational fishery dependent data gathered by the Gulf states. With the ongoing turmoil in federal recreational data collection efforts, anglers are optimistic that the states will be in position to break from the federal data system, as other regions have done, and assume management of red snapper and other species in the Gulf of Mexico in the near future.

David Donaldson, executive director of the commission, recently reported to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council that more than \$6.6 million in Inflation Reduction Act funding is being applied to:

- Improve state and commission data management systems;
- Develop better methods of quality control;
- Establish GSMFC as centralized warehouse for state fishery dependent data;
- Evaluate ways to validate state-based recreational fishing effort estimates;
- Evaluate ways to improve recreational discard data

Progress at the commission can't come too soon as it is becoming apparent that the federal management system is struggling to function due to uncertainty in the federal recreational data. Continued cooperation by the Commission and the Gulf states is critical to provide a viable alternative to the current federal system, which is anchored in decades of questionable data, uncertain conversions and outdated management models. It has become almost impossible for fishery management councils to make timely decisions.

In just the last few months, the following developments have highlighted deep-rooted problems in the federal management system bringing trust in that system to the lowest level possible:



CONTINUED COOPERATION BY THE COMMISSION AND THE GULF STATES IS CRITICAL TO PROVIDE A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE CURRENT FEDERAL SYSTEM, WHICH IS ANCHORED IN DECADES OF QUESTIONABLE DATA, UNCERTAIN CONVERSIONS AND OUTDATED MANAGEMENT MODELS.

Fishing Effort Survey Errors

Last August, NOAA Fisheries announced that errors in its recreational data program — the Marine Recreational Information Program-Fishing Effort Survey (MRIP-FES) — is causing the overestimation of recreational harvest by up to 40 percent for some species. This error was believed to be caused by the order of questions in the survey; moving them around yielded more accurate results. Despite that rather small change that led to exceptionally spurious findings, managers will be forced to use the flawed data for management for several years as the system is analyzed. The recreational data program will once again go back to the drawing board — now looking at the third major change since the last reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This certainly does not instill in recreational anglers any trust in NOAA management.

Red Snapper Numbers Remain Unclear

In January 2024, it was announced that SEDAR 74 — the current Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Stock Assessment — was unable to produce a viable stock assessment for the most studied species in the Gulf reef fish complex. The stock assessment model contains more than a jaw-dropping 2,900 parameters, each with its own level of uncertainty and bias. Even a casual observer would not expect robust management advice to be produced by such a convoluted process. A new assessment is not expected for at least two years. Moreover, due to the model's instability, reviewers recommended not including findings from the Great Red Snapper Count (GRSC), a \$12 million independent stock assessment of the Gulf red snapper population funded by Congress and conducted by 12 leading marine science institutes and more than 100 of the top scientists around the Gulf and beyond. The GRSC was finalized in 2021 and found a red snapper population at least three times larger than NOAA's estimates. As it stands, that \$12 million effort has been largely ignored by NOAA Fisheries.

Conflicting Gag Grouper Numbers

NOAA Fisheries recently released its initial recreational harvest numbers for Gulf of Mexico gag grouper, which were seven times higher than results generated by the State of Florida Reef Fish Survey (SRFS). The findings included 106,000 pounds of gag grouper harvested from shore based on a single intercept on a bridge. Taken as presented, those findings would indicate the recreational sector is more than four times over its annual catch limit and would necessitate severe management actions, including possible bottom closures. NOAA officials have laid out a plan to go back and determine where these incredible numbers came from and how to deal with them.

What's the Next Step?

These are just a few of many findings and outcomes of what continually appears to be a flawed system of exceptional reactive vs proactive resource management. These events are part of a crisis management pattern that has undermined the effectiveness of NOAA Fisheries as a viable management entity. Constantly un-

winding errors from the past and eliminating unexplainable outliers leaves no room for forward-thinking — only reacting. The fishery management councils and staff are doing the best they can, but the federal agency has painted itself into a corner and the system is staggering under its own weight. Trust is so low that there are reports of private marinas beginning to block NMFS access to their docks. This crisis of confidence in MRIP needs to be addressed by turning the data collection over to the states.

Comparing West Coast to Southeast States

The Gulf Coast states are following a path taken by the West Coast states, which opted out of the federal data system in 2002. This follows a long-held management paradigm that fisheries management is most successfully accomplished at the most local level reasonable. For example, Oregon, Washington and California reached an agreement in which NOAA takes the funding it was using to collect recreational data and gives it to the states, and those states collect their own data and supply it to NOAA Fisheries for management purposes. No calibration, no trying to tie it back to NOAA's inexplicable MRIP numbers — a clean cut. The West Coast states broke with NOAA due to frustration with the same problems that are plaguing the Southeast. States in the South Atlantic are also currently exploring options after ongoing data debacles in the red snapper, reef fish and Spanish mackerel fisheries, among others.

Recreational data problems in the federal system aren't going away — they're getting worse. Fortunately, there is a path forward in the Gulf, and we believe it is time to embrace a cohesive state-based management program that utilizes timely, current data and produces information managers can use today. We must get down to the business of properly managing our fisheries rather than wasting time explaining the mistakes of the past.

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Snapper Cakes With Spicy Remoulade Sauce

RECIPE & PHOTOS BY HEATHER PETEREK
JOINCCA.ORG/RECIPES

Ingredients

SPICY REMOULADE SAUCE

- ½ c mayonnaise
- ½ c sour cream
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp horseradish
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp Louisiana hot sauce
- 1 tsp Cajun seasoning
- Juice of 1 lemon

SNAPPER CAKES

- Vegetable oil for frying
- ¾ c fresh corn kernels
- ¼ c red bell pepper, finely diced
- ¼ c yellow onion, finely diced
- 1 clove fresh garlic, minced
- 2 large snapper fillets, cut into small pieces
- ½ c mayonnaise
- ¼ c green onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 c panko bread crumbs

Directions

Make the remoulade sauce by whisking all ingredients thoroughly in a small bowl. Let sit in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. The longer it sits, the better, even as long as overnight.

In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add corn, bell pepper, yellow onion and garlic; cook until all vegetables are softened, about 5 minutes. Add all the snapper pieces to the skillet and cook about 5 minutes per side or until fish is cooked through. Transfer the fish and vegetable mixture into a large bowl and let cool for 10 minutes. Add mayonnaise, green onion, mustard, salt, pepper, egg and panko bread crumbs. Gently fold it all together until well combined, taking care not to break up the fish too much. Refrigerate for 10 minutes then shape mixture into ½ cup patties.

Heat about 4 tablespoons vegetable oil in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Once oil is hot enough for frying, cook cakes in batches until golden brown, about 3 minutes per side. Let drain on paper towels or a wire rack. Repeat process until all fish cakes are browned.

To serve, place one or two snapper cakes on a plate, top with remoulade sauce and garnish with extra chopped green onion and lemon wedges. **MAKES ABOUT 8 CAKES.**

**Scan the QR code on the previous page for some helpful videos.*



2024



STAR

**WHAT
A KICK
OFF**



DON'T MISS THIS STATEWIDE CONSERVATION FOCUSED FISHING COMPETITION

The 2024 STAR competition presented by Yamaha kicked off Saturday of Memorial Day weekend with an unregistered angler landing a tagged redfish in Volusia County. If you are reading this and are NOT registered, you don't want to be like that angler, get registered.

Yes, registration for the summer-long competition is open until September 2nd and invites CCA members, non-members, anglers and non-anglers alike to take a shot at winning their share of prizes valued at OVER \$500,000 including boats, motors, electronics, tackle, scholarships and more.

Can you believe that it is just a few weeks into the competition and we still have all the tagged redfish prizes available to win. You read this correctly, the boat, motor and Infinity trailer packages provided by Contender, Dek Kat, Micro Draft Skiff, Spyder and the Sea Doo FISHPRO Trophy & Can-am Defender are still up for grabs.

STAR's signature Tagged Redfish Division presented by T H Marine offers 7 winners, 5 adults and 2 youth, the choice of a Contender Boats 22 Sport, Dek Kat Trilogy with Infinity Trailer, Micro Draft Skiff 22 Extreme with Infinity Trailer and Sea Doo and Can-am offering a fun package of a Sea Doo FISHPRO Trophy and the Can-am Defender. Each boat will be powered by a Yamaha, the competitions presenting sponsor. You could be the first winning tagged redfish angler with your choice of all these packages as your prize.

"Every year we have tagged redfish recaptured by unregistered anglers who are not members, we hope that this year with The New Format, More Species and Bigger Prizes we will see more winners." said the CCA Florida STAR Director, Leiza Fitzgerald.

Each of Florida's coastal counties have on average 4 tagged redfish for a total of over 160 prize winning fish. The best opportunity to catch one of this year's tagged redfish will be in Citrus and Charlotte Counties, STAR's 2024 Destination Counties which each have 8 tagged redfish in their coastal waters, double that of any other county.

(continued on page 14)

STAR



KIDS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO SUBMIT ENTRIES
IN THE YOUTH
SCHOLARSHIP
DIVISION PRESENTED
BY REALTREE FISHING
FOR AN OPPORTUNITY
TO WIN ONE OF TWELVE
SCHOLARSHIPS
TOTALING \$100,000



For the offshore anglers, the Tigress Outriggers and Gear Tagged Dolphin Division offers one winner a \$10,000 cash prize. The first STAR registrant and CCA Florida member who catches one of the tagged dolphin will win. Twenty dolphin (Mahi Mahi) will be tagged and released for STAR in the lower keys of Florida.

The CCA Florida STAR competition presented by Yamaha has a division for everyone, from the non-angler to the experienced angler. The competition has been simplified to 8 divisions with an Inshore and Offshore Division plus the Native Watercraft Kayak Division, Power Pole Conservation Division, Realtree Fishing Youth Scholarship Division and the Kick Plastic Trash Division presented

by Papa's Pilar which encourages cleanup of trash from Florida's coastal waters.

STAR is a family-friendly competition, and CCA Florida youth members (ages 6 to 17) can participate for free. Kids are encouraged to submit entries in the Youth Scholarship Division presented by Realtree Fishing for an opportunity to win one of twelve scholarships totaling \$100,000. "The youth participation has been heartwarming and to date STAR has awarded \$900,000 in youth scholarships plus two Youth anglers who land a STAR tagged redfish could win a boat motor and trailer package that consists of a 16-foot skiff, 25hp Yamaha, Minn Kota Trolling motor and trailer.

(continued on page 16)

**EACH OF FLORIDA'S
COASTAL COUNTIES
HAVE ON AVERAGE
4 TAGGED REDFISH
FOR A TOTAL OF
OVER 160 PRIZE
WINNING FISH**



Yamaha
Contender
Dek Kat Boats
Spyder Boats
Micro Draft Skiff
Sea Doo
Can-am
Duke Energy
Realtree Fishing
Carolina Skiff
Tigress Outriggers
West Marine
Humminbird
Minn Kota
T H Marine
Power Pole
Gheenoe
Discover Crystal
River
Engel Coolers
Punta Gorda Englerwood
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Beyond the Surface

Ocean Tamer Bean Bags

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Talon

Fish Bites



The 2024 Carolina Skiff Inshore Division presented by Minn Kota will offer anglers the opportunity to enter 3 different species each day of competition from the non-tagged inshore species list in the STAR Tournament App. Redfish, Snook, Trout, Tarpon, Sheepshead, Black drum and Flounder are just a few included in that list. This division will pay out 12 places with over \$60,000 in prizes available. First place prize being Carolina Skiff's new E-Series E18 JVX with a 75HP Yamaha and trailer valued at over \$35,000.

The Engel Cooler Offshore Division presented by AFTCO offers Bluewater anglers the opportunity to enter 3 different species each day of competition from the non-tagged offshore species list found in the STAR tournament app. Mahi Mahi, Mackerel, Sailfish, Grouper, Snapper and Amberjack are just a few included in the list. The Offshore Division will pay out 12 places with over \$60,000 in prizes available. First place prize being a 250HP Yamaha with AFTCO sponsor prizes in the package for a total value of \$35,000.

The Power Pole Conservation Division presented by Humminbird allows anglers to enter an unlimited number of entries of any saltwater fish caught anywhere in the state of Florida. This Includes the fish that do not meet the minimum size requirements for the Inshore and Offshore entries or du-

plicate catches of species already made in a division for the day.

The Native Watercraft Kayak Division presented by Bull Bay Rods offers Kayak anglers the opportunity to enter either inshore or offshore species to compete for amazing prizes against other kayak anglers throughout the state.

Since most division winners are determined by a random drawing, it is not about catching the biggest fish, and any size saltwater fish can win. Remember, it is very simple really, every fish you catch between now and Labor Day offers the CCA member who is registered in STAR before they land their catch the opportunity to win their share of \$500,000 in prizes and scholarships. But you can't win if you are not registered.

Not only is the STAR competition a wonderful way for participants to win amazing prizes, the fisheries win too! STAR is a tool to gather catch data, it creates awareness for conservation, our sponsors and CCA Florida. Launched in 2015, the competition has set the bar for other fishing tournaments to follow by implementing conservation friendly alternatives such as a catch-photo-release format and a trash division. Florida STAR focuses on conservation with its technology-based, CPR format

(continued on page 18)



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ALL DAY



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and dedicated smartphone app which promotes the proper handling of species and allows participants who are members of CCA and registered in the competition to upload photos of their catch or trash buckets in the STAR competition and be rewarded for their efforts. In order to win participants must take their entry photo on the 2024 CCA FL STAR Official Measuring device which can be picked up for free in any West Marine store or one of the many other STAR distribution locations throughout Florida. Find them listed on the STAR website.

This eliminates the requirement that some traditional tournaments have to harvest or capture and transport fish to win. CCA Florida also provides access to the data collected from the app to other conservation organizations and universities to help educate the public on the importance of protecting Florida's marine resources and for use in their studies on conservation, habitat and stock assessments.

You can still register for STAR 2024. You have all summer and all the boats and packages are still available. To receive additional information on divisions, prizes and more, visit ccaflstar.com or Facebook.

NOT ONLY IS THE STAR COMPETITION A WONDERFUL WAY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO WIN AMAZING PRIZES, THE FISHERIES WIN TOO! STAR IS A TOOL TO GATHER CATCH DATA, IT CREATES AWARENESS FOR CONSERVATION, OUR SPONSORS AND CCA FLORIDA.



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2024 STAR



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Register Now: \$40 for current CCA Florida Members | \$80 for 18+
(includes one-year CCA Florida membership)

FREE for current, youth CCA Florida Members | \$10 for youth, ages 6 to 17
(includes New Tide Membership)

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

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

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

IN LAST 10 YEARS

48

ARTIFICIAL
REEFS



100

HABITAT
PROJECTS



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STATUS FOR
REDFISH**

ADVOCATES AND CREATES
AWARENESS
FOR IMPROVING
STATEWIDE
WATER QUALITY

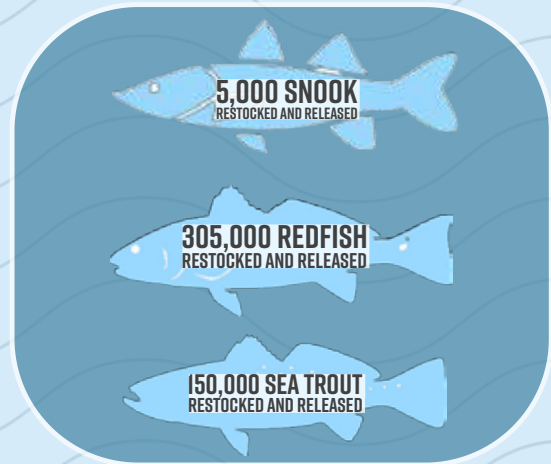
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WITH FWC TO
ENSURE MAXIMUM
ANGLER ACCESS
FOR RED SNAPPER**

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FLORIDA'S MARINE
RESOURCES AND ANGLERS'
ACCESS FOR MORE
THAN 35 YEARS**

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CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT**

HELPED CONGRESS
INTRODUCE DESCENDING
DEVICE BILL AND
FORAGE FISH
CONSERVATION ACT

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



**\$900,000 IN CCA FLORIDA YOUTH COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
HAVE BEEN AWARDED SINCE 2015**



\$25 FROM EACH TAG GOES
DIRECTLY TO CCA
FLORIDA'S STATEWIDE
WATER QUALITY, HABITAT AND
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ADOPT-A-REDFISH
RELEASE**

**"WE ARE
EXCITED TO
CONTINUE
STOCKING
ONE OF
FLORIDA'S
MOST ICONIC
GAMEFISH AND
GIVE ANGLERS
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO TRACK HIS
OR HER FISH."**

**BRIAN GORSKI
CCA FLORIDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

In April, CCA Florida released 100 hatchery-reared, adult redfish (averaging 18 to 27 inches in length) off the waters of Hillsborough County to kick off its West Coast Adopt-A-Redfish program.

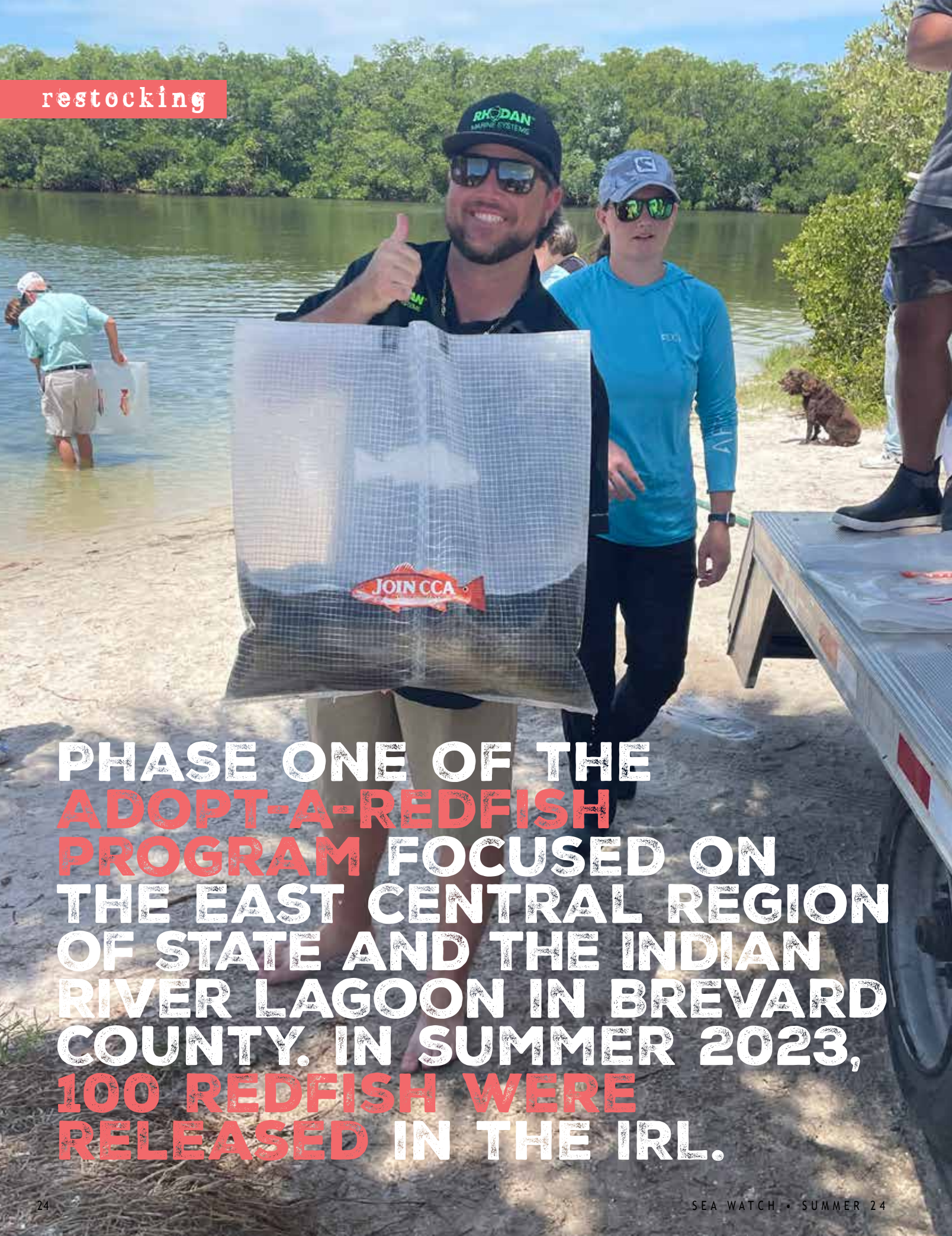
"The Adopt-A-Redfish program was designed to allow anglers from near and far to be a part of the solution and give back to the resource they love," CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said.

All 100 fish were tagged with external anchor tags that will include a designated tag number for each individual fish as well as a phone number on each side of the tag to call when the fish is caught by an angler. The tags will also include "CCA FL Adopt-A-Redfish" And "Measure/Photo/Release Me" to encourage anglers to report the catch and to release the fish back into the wild.

(continued on page 26)



restocking



PHASE ONE OF THE
ADOPT-A-REDFISH
PROGRAM FOCUSED ON
THE EAST CENTRAL REGION
OF STATE AND THE INDIAN
RIVER LAGOON IN BREVARD
COUNTY. IN SUMMER 2023,
100 REDFISH WERE
RELEASED IN THE IRL.

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

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**CONTINUE
REDFISH
RESTOCKING
EFFORTS ALONG
WEST COAST**



REBUILD AND MAINTAIN

MARICULTURE CENTER **THE FWC**



IN GAME FISH STOCKS

(continued on page 28)



THE PARTNERS RELEASED 50 SLOT-SIZED REDFISH IN BAY COUNTY TO SUPPORT STOCK ENHANCEMENT AND KICK OFF THE 2024 REDFISH FILM FEST



In April, CCA Florida joined the Duke Energy Mariculture Center and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to kick off the 2024 Redfish Film Fest and released 50 hatchery-reared, adult redfish (averaging 18 to 27 inches in length) off the waters of Bay County in effort to combat the decreasing population along Florida's West Coast.

In recent years, the redfish population has drastically declined as a result of water quality issues and loss of habitat. To counteract these effects, CCA Florida and its partners have taken a proactive approach to habitat restoration, water quality initiatives, fisheries management and restocking efforts for one of Florida's most sought-after inshore fish, the redfish.

"Every redfish released brings us another step closer to repopulating one of Florida's most iconic fisheries," CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. "Together with our dedicated partners, we are proud to continue conserving and protecting Florida's marine resources along the West Coast and help launch this year's Redfish Film Fest."

The latest restocking efforts for the nonprofit-corporate partnership are part of a multifunctional and multi-

year strategy to rebuild and maintain game fish stocks, and releasing adult, slot-sized redfish makes a quicker impact to the fishery as it significantly increases the chances for spawning.

"Duke Energy Florida has a long-standing relationship with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and CCA Florida. Together we're making a powerful impact protecting the state's natural resources," said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. "We understand that environmental stewardship is vital to the success of local economies and critical to the communities we serve."

In the past five years with support from FWC, CCA Florida and Duke Energy have released nearly 450,000 redfish and spotted seatrout (4 to 30 inches) along Florida's East and West Coasts to help provide abundant recreational fishing opportunities.

"We are proud to support the collaborative restocking efforts of our valued partners, CCA Florida and Duke Energy," said FWC Executive Director Roger Young. "Ensuring the sustainability of our redfish population is crucial for conserving this important species and allowing us to continue to enjoy Florida's resources."

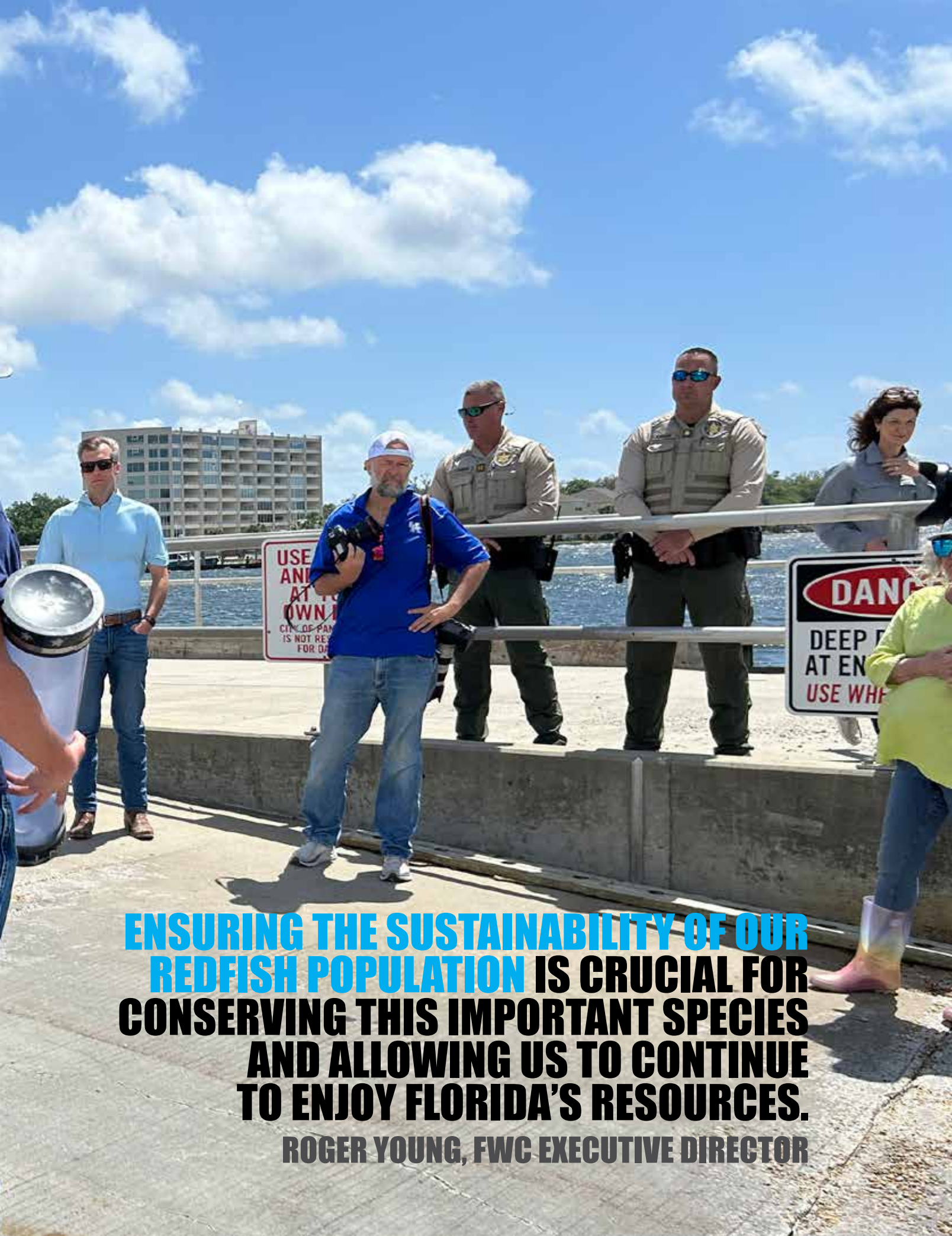
(continued on page 30)

**DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA HAS A LONG-STANDING
RELATIONSHIP WITH FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND CCA FLORIDA.
TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A POWERFUL IMPACT
PROTECTING THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES.
MELISSA SEIXAS, DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA STATE PRESIDENT**

THE RELEASE WAS HELD AT DESTINATION PANAMA CITY AND FWC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROGER YOUNG, FWC CHIEF CONSERVATION OFFICER GEORGE WARTHEN ALONG WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTENDED.



restocking

A group of people are standing on a concrete waterfront promenade. In the center, a man in a blue polo shirt and jeans holds a camera. To his right, two men in tan law enforcement uniforms stand with their hands on the railing. Further right, a woman in a grey jacket and a person in a bright yellow shirt and pink boots are partially visible. On the left, a man in a light blue polo shirt stands near a large white object. In the background, a multi-story city building is visible across the water under a blue sky with scattered clouds. Two signs are posted on the railing: one on the left that reads "USE AND AT OWN" and "CITY OF PAN IS NOT RES FOR OR", and one on the right that reads "DANGER DEEP AT EN USE WH".

**ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR
REDFISH POPULATION IS CRUCIAL FOR
CONSERVING THIS IMPORTANT SPECIES
AND ALLOWING US TO CONTINUE
TO ENJOY FLORIDA'S RESOURCES.
ROGER YOUNG, FWC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Where would you like to fish today?

AT MAVERICK, WE THINK THERE ARE NO BETTER WORDS TO START A MORNING. THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN A PROUD SUPPORTER OF CCA FLORIDA FROM THE BEGINNING. BECAUSE WE WANT ALL FUTURE FISHING PARTNERS TO BE ABLE TO ASK EACH OTHER THIS VERY QUESTION.



Maverick

Fish the Legend.

restocking

CCA FLORIDA AND THE DUKE ENERGY MARICULTURE CENTER RELEASE 15,000 REDFISH IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY

In April, CCA Florida joined the Duke Energy Mariculture Center to continue its redfish restocking initiative, "Release the East," and released 15,000 hatchery-reared, juvenile redfish (averaging 4 inches in length) in the waters of St. Johns County on Tuesday in effort to combat the decreasing population along Florida's East Coast.



THE PARTNERS
RELEASED
REDFISH
ALONG
FLORIDA'S
EAST COAST
TO COMPLETE
PHASE ONE
OF ITS
**RELEASE
THE EAST**
INITIATIVE





restocking

In recent years, the redfish population has drastically declined as a result of water quality issues and loss of habitat. To counteract these effects, CCA Florida and its partners have taken a proactive approach to habitat restoration, water quality initiatives, fisheries management and restocking efforts for one of Florida's most sought-after inshore fish, the redfish.



THE **RELEASE THE
EAST INITIATIVE**
WAS MORE THAN
THREE YEARS IN
THE MAKING, AND
WE ARE EXCITED TO
COMPLETE PHASE
ONE AND FULFILL
OUR **100,000
REDFISH**
COMMITMENT.



EAST COAST
ANGLERS HAVE
SEEN THE DRASTIC
DECLINE OF THE
LOCAL REDFISH
POPULATION, IT IS
OUR RESPONSIBILITY
TO HELP REVITALIZE
THIS ICONIC
FISHERY.

BRIAN GORSKI
CCA FLORIDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The latest restocking efforts for the nonprofit-corporate partnership are part of a multifunctional and multiyear strategy to rebuild and maintain game fish stocks. Since 2018, CCA Florida and Duke Energy have released more than 400,000 redfish and spotted seatrout (4 to 30 inches) along Florida's coasts to help provide abundant recreational fishing opportunities.

CCA FLORIDA AND PARTNERS LAUNCHED HISTORIC INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BILLION CLAM INITIATIVE

First deployment of 4 million clams in the IRL using state-of-the-art drone for precise distribution

(continued on page 40)





In April, CCA Florida joined Capt. Blair Wiggins of Blair Wiggins Outdoors, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and University of Florida (UF) Whitney Lab to launch the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Billion Clam Initiative and deploy 4 million clams using a patent-pending drone and innovative methodologies.

The Billion Clam Initiative focuses on revitalizing and preserving the

**Clam restoration
has never been
conducted on
such a broad
scale**



delicate ecosystem in the IRL by using state-of-the-art technology to systematically distribute clams on a largescale basis. The advantage of spreading clams with a drone will help overcome predation pressures and enable larger numbers of clams to be restored to the IRL. Drone distribution will also help plant clams in specific locations and densities, vastly accelerating the maturation process when compared to manual spreading.

“The IRL Billion Clam Initiative is a

science-backed, collaborative effort with the goal of improving water quality in the IRL,” CCA Florida Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration Frank Gidus said. “The upcoming clam planting is an historic event for the IRL, as clam restoration has never been conducted on such a broad scale, and we are proud to work with such amazing partners who helped make this day happen.”

Clams are filter feeders, removing excess nutrients from inshore coastal

(continued on page 43)





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waters, as a result, creating clearer water. Improved water clarity allows more sunlight to penetrate the ecosystem and supports the growth of essential seagrasses, a vital need for the IRL. The restorative work from the clam planting will form the foundation for rebuilding shellfish populations, benefitting the needs for today and tomorrow.

Since 2017, the partners have planted more 40 million clams in the IRL. To help kick start the Billion Clam Initiative, CCA Florida and the Duke Energy Mariculture Center donated \$100,000 in October 2023.





CCA FLORIDA, THE CAMERON SMITH FOUNDATION PARTNERS CREATE ‘RIPPER REEF’

The partners deployed a 175-foot barge, largest

In May, CCA Florida, the Cameron Smith Foundation and Kistel Media deployed a 175-foot by 60-foot, former crane barge off Duval County to create the “Ripper Reef.”

The barge was deployed and provided by Mobro Marine at the pre-permitted reef site known as Harm’s Ledge located 28 miles east of Jacksonville inlet in 90 to 100-foot water at approximately 30° 21.969’N 80° 54.365’W. The area is known to attract flounder, snapper, gag grouper, black sea bass and other species.



SMITH FOUNDATION AND REEF' OFF JACKSONVILLE INLET

vessel deployment in Duval County since 2000

“We are not only excited to sink the largest vessel in Northeast Florida in almost 25 years but to do it with legendary golfer Cameron Smith makes this deployment iconic,” CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. “CCA Florida aims to improve and create sustainable fisheries, coastal habitats and waterways, and the Ripper Reef is an extension of that commitment.”

Avid angler, Jacksonville resident and LIV golfer Cameron Smith donated to the artificial reef project and secured the naming rights for the “Ripper

(continued on page 46)



21.969°N 80° 54.365°W

Located 28 miles east of Jacksonville inlet in 90 to 100-foot water

Reef,” named after Smith’s LIV golf team, “Ripper GC.” The “Ripper Reef” will provide a much-needed habitat in a transitional area while increasing recreational fishing and diving opportunities and relieving pressure on natural reef sites.

Since 2008, CCA Florida has deployed 48 artificial reefs across the state. Artificial reefs initiate the development of natural, thriving habitats for various species of fish, invertebrates and other marine life, such as smaller organisms that are vital food sources for other marine species, with the overall goal to create an evolving ecosystem while enhancing fisheries and improving water quality.

ANGLER DRIVEN. CONSERVATION MINDED.

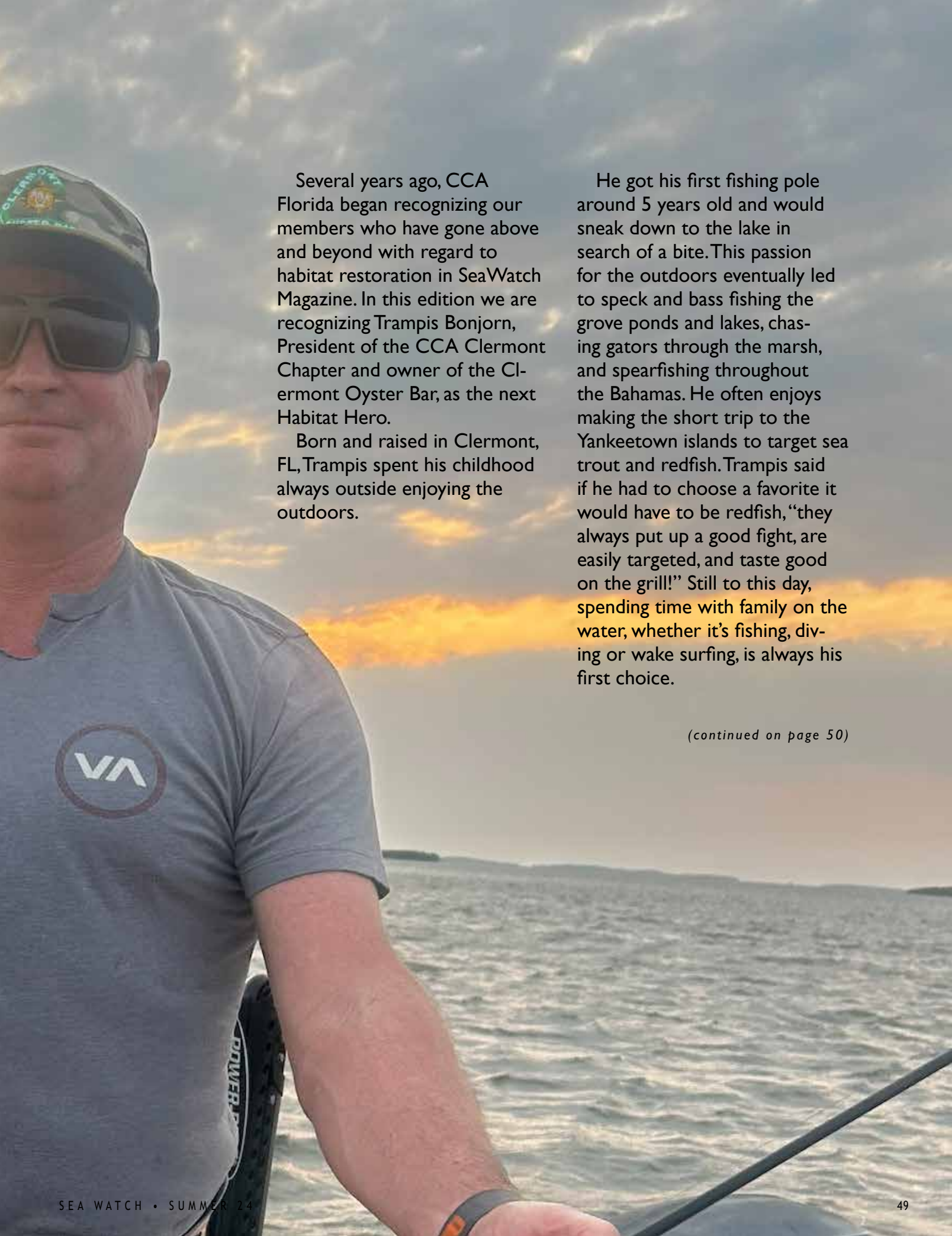
PATHFINDER AND CCA FLORIDA
EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & HABITAT CONSERVATION



PATHFINDER
ANGLER DRIVEN

HABITAT HERO TRAMPIS BONJORN





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 Trampis Bonjorn, President of the CCA Clermont Chapter and owner of the Clermont Oyster Bar, as the next Habitat Hero.

Born and raised in Clermont, FL, Trampis spent his childhood always outside enjoying the outdoors.

He got his first fishing pole around 5 years old and would sneak down to the lake in search of a bite. This passion for the outdoors eventually led to speck and bass fishing the grove ponds and lakes, chasing gators through the marsh, and spearfishing throughout the Bahamas. He often enjoys making the short trip to the Yankeetown islands to target sea trout and redfish. Trampis said if he had to choose a favorite it would have to be redfish, "they always put up a good fight, are easily targeted, and taste good on the grill!" Still to this day, spending time with family on the water, whether it's fishing, diving or wake surfing, is always his first choice.

(continued on page 50)

HABITAT HERO





Trampis owns both Advance Electric and The Clermont Oyster Bar which have both sponsored numerous events for the CCA Clermont Chapter. He is an integral member of the CCA Clermont Chapter and is currently a board member and trustee for the Lake County Water Authority. He first got involved in marine conservation around 2018, when he learned that 85% of our oyster reefs were dead or gone. He began doing research to figure out a way to get involved and make a difference. Around that time, he was contacted by Frank Gidus, the Director of Habitat Restoration at CCA Florida. Frank heard about Trampis' mission to start deploying recycled oyster shell for restoration purposes and reached out to partner with CCA. Since then, Trampis has gotten involved with CCA on multiple levels, from helping out with local events and fishing clinics to being a key part in large scale habitat restoration projects. Trampis recently joined the CCA FL Habitat Committee and is excited to get even more involved with projects throughout the state.

The partnership between CCA FL and the Clermont Oyster Bar has been essential to the expansion of CCA's habitat restoration efforts. This partnership has led to creation of the CCA Oyster Recycling Program, which has received over 150 tons of recycled oyster shell from the Clermont Oyster Bar. Using this donated shell, CCA FL has been able to deploy over 80 tons of recycled for shell for habitat restoration projects across the state of Florida. Over the years, the CCA Oyster Recycling Program has gone through several major improvements and recently upgraded to a new paved facility in Lake County Landfill. Trampis states, "We have come a long way from filling drums and dumping the shell on dirt". This is only the beginning, as the Oyster Recycling Program recently added the Seafood Seller & Café in Crystal River and the Brooksville Oyster Bar to the program and has two other large shell producers in the works. The goal is to have multiple shell suppliers throughout the state with adjacent recycling facilities.

Since 2018, the CCA Oyster Recycling Program has deployed over 80 tons of recycled oyster shell for habitat restoration projects in Florida. A large majority of this is thanks to Trampis and the Clermont

(continued on page 52)

HABITAT HERO

Oyster Bar. An extensive and ongoing project that Trampis has been essential to is the CCA Turtle Bay Oyster Reef Restoration Project in Lee County. This project started in 2021, when CCA Florida deployed approximately 20 tons of recycled oyster shell to create the foundation of a new oyster reef in Charlotte Harbor's Turtle Bay. Since then, over 60 tons of recycled shell has been deployed and a fourth deployment is scheduled for June 2024. Trampis is also excited about CCA's new Vertical Oyster Garden

(VOG) program, which uses recycled oyster shell for VOG projects throughout the state. VOG's consist of 40-50 recycled oyster shells that are strung together with stainless steel wire or natural twine. The VOG's are then deployed from docks or piers where they suspend in the water column where a natural oyster would live. After a year or so, these VOG's will be home to a bunch of new oysters and other sessile species.

Trampis was asked what his future looks like with



CCA and he answered, "Oysters, oysters, and more oysters!" He would like to see the CCA Oyster Recycling Program continue to expand in order to sustain larger deployments every quarter. He mentioned that the CCA Clermont Chapter has a lot to look forward to as well. "We are working hard to get shell deployments in the west central region and would like to see this as one of our next oyster reef deployment sites," he said. As an

experienced diver, Trampis would also like to entertain the opportunity for an artificial reef deployment in this region. He mentioned that there is a cost and extra work associated with separating the shell, and would like to give a special thanks to the entire staff at the Clermont Oyster Bar. Trampis also wants to thank everyone who supports the Clermont Oyster Bar and CCA Florida for all of their conservation efforts.



COMPLETED HABITAT PROJECTS

Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over \$10 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!

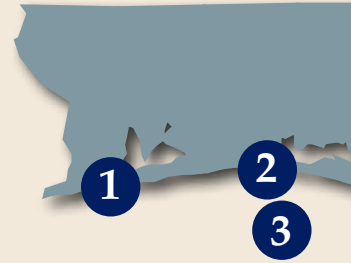


1. CCA/South Walton Artificial Reef Association, Inc. Reefs
2. CCA/Tri County Deep Stim III Reef
3. CCA Reef/MBARA
4. CCA/Duke Energy Reef – Mexico Beach
5. CCA/Ocean Aid 360 Apalachicola Ghost Trap Rodeo
6. CCA/FDEP Sea Urchin Round-Up
7. CCA/FDEP/Duke Spartina Grass Replanting
8. CCA/BCT Billy's Barge Artificial Reef
9. CCA Dr. Bart Carey Memorial Reef
10. CCA R.Z. "Sandy" Safley Reef
11. CCA NCBS Lone Cabbage Reef Fish Monitoring
12. CCA/UF/IFAS Centipede Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
13. CCA/Hernando Co. Ghost Ship Reef
14. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch Fantasy Island Oyster Restoration
15. CCA/BCT/Tampa Bay Watch 2D Island Oyster Restoration
16. CCA Duke Energy Red Tide Research
17. CCA/FWC Suncoast Youth Conservation Center Saltwater Pond
18. CCA/Ocean Aid 360 Tampa Bay Ghost Trap Rodeo
19. CCA Rhodan Reef
20. CCA/UCF De Soto National Memorial Living Shoreline Stabilization
21. CCA/BCT Sean Gucken Memorial Reef
22. CCA/Manatee County Larry Borden Artificial Reef
23. CCA/Lee County USS Mohawk CGC Reef – Veterans Memorial Reef
24. CCA/BCT/Lee County Punta Rassa Oyster Restoration
25. CCA/BCT/Lee County San Carlos Bay Oyster Restoration
26. CCA/Duke Energy Hemp Key Mangrove
27. CCA/LBHS Seagrass Restoration
28. CCA Turtle Bay Oyster Reef
29. CCA/Duke Energy/FDEP Lover's Key Mangrove Restoration
30. CCA/Duke Energy Delnor-Wiggins Mangrove Planting
31. CCA/Naples Bay Oyster Restoration
32. CCA Florida Bay Seagrass Restoration
33. CCA/UNF Florida Bay Turtle Grass Research
34. CCA/Eagle Scout Andrew Hall Dragon Reef
35. CCA Broward Chapter Pilot Oyster
36. CCA/No Shoes Reef 4
37. CCA Bob Burton Memorial Reef
38. CCA/BCT Goggle Eye Reef
39. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation Reef
40. CCA/BCT Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation "No Shoes" Reef
41. CCA/Florida Oceanographic Society Seagrass and Oyster Restoration
42. CCA/MCAC Brause Girls Reef
43. CCA/Wildlife FL/FWC Eelgrass Restoration
44. CCA/Loxahatchee Eelgrass Restoration
45. CCA 10-Mile Creek Eelgrass Restoration
46. CCA Curtis Bostick Reef
47. CCA/Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Seagrass Restoration
48. CCA/Indian River Land Trust Solar Aeration
49. CCA Indian River Lagoon RISSA Seagrass Buoys and Oyster Restoration
50. CCA Treasure Coast Chapter Revegetation
51. CCA/BTT/IRL Land Trust Tarpon and Snook Impoundment Tagging
52. CCA Spotted Seatrout Acoustic Study
53. CCA/City of Satellite Beach Samsons Island Restoration
54. CCA/BCT Lady Philomena Cargo Ship - Volusia County Reef Site No. 12
55. CCA/Northeast Florida Realtors Clam
56. CCA/UCF/NPS Canaveral Nat'l Seashore Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
57. CCA/BCT Starship II Reef
58. CCA/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
59. CCA/Heineken/UCF Tomoka State Park Indian Midden Living Shoreline Restoration
60. CCA/City of Fernandina Living Shoreline Oyster Restoration
61. CCA/BCT Starship Reef
62. CCA Ripper Reef
63. CCA/BCT Jacksonville River Reef



ONGOING & UPCOMING HABITAT PROJECTS

Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over \$10 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!



1. Pensacola Artificial Reefs
2. CCA Choctawhatchee Bay Shoreline Restoration
3. Okaloosa County Artificial Reefs
4. CCA St Andrew's Bay Seagrass Restoration
5. CCA Steinhatchee Reef
6. Coorigan's Oyster Reef Restoration
7. CCA/Duke/UF Living Shoreline
8. CCA/Duke Energy/Reef Innovations/Citrus County Inshore Reef
9. CCA Homosassa River Restoration
10. CCA/Hernando County Bendickson Reef
11. CCA/Hernando County Jenkins Creek Living Shoreline
12. CCA/Pinellas County Reef
13. CCA/Duke/TBW Fantasy Island Living Shoreline Project in honor of Fred Crabill
14. CCA/Larry Borden Reef
15. CCA/Manatee County Oyster Habitat Restoration
16. CCA Sarasota Bay Artificial Reef
17. CCA/Sarasota Bay Watch Clam Restoration
18. CCA/Charlotte County Artificial Reef
19. CCA/Lee County Phoenix Reef
20. CCA Turtle Bay Oyster Reef Restoration
21. CCA/St. James City Oyster Gardening
22. CCA/I. Care Coral Reef Restoration
23. CCA/John Pennekamp Park Seagrass Restoration
24. CCA/Biscayne Bay Seagrass Restoration
25. CCA John Michael Baker Memorial Reef - Broward County
26. CCA Fort Lauderdale Oyster Ring
27. CCA/City of Stuart Vertical Oyster Garden
28. CCA/BWO/FWC/UF Indian River Lagoon Clam Restoration
29. CCA Alex and Anna Jernigan Reef
30. CCA/Brevard County Artificial Reefs
31. CCA/UCF Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Restoration
32. CCA Halifax River Vertical Oyster Garden Project
33. CCA/University of North Florida Living Shoreline Restoration
34. CCA Oyster Shell Recycling Program
35. CCA/Duke Oyster Shell Recycling Program



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 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.

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION FLORIDA AND RHODAN MARINE TO DEPLOY ARTIFICIAL REEF OFF ANNA MARIA ISLAND



MORE THAN 90 TONS OF HIGH-QUALITY CONCRETE

In May, Coastal Conservation Association Florida (CCA Florida), the state's leading organization dedicated to marine fisheries conservation, education and advocacy, joined Rhodan Marine to deploy 125 structures weighing 181,600 pounds and created "The Rhodan Reef" near Anna Maria Island.

The 60 bay balls, 13 supra reef balls and 50 pallet balls and two deep covers were deployed by Reef Innovations within the "Bridge Reef" permitted area in the Gulf of Mexico. It is positioned on top of Jim's Gift Barge, a 120-foot by 45-foot steel barge that was deployed in 2020. The Rhodan Reef is also adjacent to CCA Florida's Sean Gucken Memorial Reef, a 270-ton patch reef that was created in his memory.

These specific reef structures for the "Rhodan Reef" range in height from 2 to 5 feet and provide greater habit diversity while attracting vast species of fish and appealing more to recreational anglers. The reef site is located offshore 5 miles west of Anna Maria Island at approximately 27.515400, -82.817100.

"Improving and creating sustainable fisheries, coastal habitats and waterways is central to CCA Florida's purpose," CCA Flor-

ida Director of Habitat and Environmental Restoration Frank Gidus said. "The reef deployment is an extension of that commitment and also of our partnership with Rhodan Marine."

Artificial reefs initiate the development of natural, thriving habitats for various species of fish, invertebrates, and other marine life, such as smaller organisms that are vital food sources for other marine species, with the overall goal to create an ever-evolving ecosystem while enhancing fisheries and improving water quality.

"Partnering with CCA Florida on this reef project represents an exciting new step in our goal to have a positive impact on the marine environment," Rhodan Marine Systems President Lindsay Ambler, P.E. said. "As a Sarasota-based manufacturer of GPS guided trolling motors, Rhodan is grateful for this opportunity to give back to our local angling community."

CCA Florida is committed to expanding Florida's marine habitat and has deployed 48 artificial reefs across the state.



WILL BE DEPLOYED TO CREATE THE RHODAN REEF



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PICTURE F





PICTURE

F



RAFFLE PACKAGES

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GRANDER - 7 Contender 28T Tickets \$700 value, 9 Pathfinder 2200 TRS Tickets \$450 value, 10 Sea-Doo/Can-Am Tickets \$180 value, 9 Hewes Redfisher 16 Tickets \$180 value

**INTRODUCING VARIETY
RAFFLE PACKAGES**



Contender 28T
7 tickets \$700 value

Pathfinder 2200 TRS
9 tickets \$450 value

Sea-Doo/Can-Am
10 tickets \$180 value

Hewes Redfisher 16
9 tickets \$180 value

THE \$1000 TICKET PACK
35 TICKETS - YOU SAVE \$510

CCA FLORIDA

\$500 - 4 Contender 28T Tickets \$400 value, 6 Pathfinder 2200 TRS Tickets \$300 value, 8 Sea-Doo/Can-Am Tickets \$140 value, 6 Hewes Redfisher 16 Tickets \$120 value

**INTRODUCING VARIETY
RAFFLE PACKAGES**



Contender 28T
4 tickets \$400 value

Pathfinder 2200 TRS
6 tickets \$300 value

Sea-Doo/Can-Am
8 tickets \$140 value

Hewes Redfisher 16
6 tickets \$120 value

THE \$500 TICKET PACK
24 TICKETS - YOU SAVE \$460

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FALL EVENTS SAVE THE DATE

August

16
Pasco County
Banquet and Auction

September

5
Clermont Oyster Roast
Palm Beach Banquet and Auction

12
Gainesville Banquet and Auction

20
Sarasota Banquet and Auction

26
Space Coast Banquet and Auction

27-28
Tampa All-Release Tournament

29
Fort Myers Fun-a-Ment

October

3
Northeast Banquet and Auction

10
Broward County Banquet and Auction

10
Pensacola Banquet and Auction

12
STAR Awards Ceremony and Auction

17
Peace River Banquet and Auction

Polk County BBQ and Auction

24
Forgotten Coast Banquet and Auction

Pinellas County Banquet and Auction

November

2
Eagles Banquet and Auction

7
Broward County Banquet and Auction

8
Knights Banquet and Auction

14
Clermont Banquet and Auction

Treasure Coast Banquet and Auction

21
Dade County Banquet and Auction

South Walton Banquet and Auction

December

2
Black Diamond

5
Lake Mary Banquet and Auction

\$250 - 1 Contender 28T Ticket \$100 value, 2 Pathfinder 2200 TRS Tickets \$100 value, 6 Sea-Doo/Can-Am Tickets \$100 value, 4 Hewes Redfisher 16 Tickets \$85 value

\$100 - 1 Pathfinder 2200 TRS Ticket \$50 value, 4 Sea-Doo/Can-Am Tickets \$80 value, 2 Hewes Redfisher 16 Tickets \$50 value

INTRODUCING VARIETY RAFFLE PACKAGES

CCA FLORIDA RAFFLES



Contender 28T
1 ticket \$100 value

Pathfinder 2200 TRS
2 tickets \$100 value

Hewes Redfisher 16
4 tickets \$200 value

Sea-Doo/Can-Am
6 tickets \$100 value

CCA FLORIDA

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

BUY NOW

INTRODUCING VARIETY RAFFLE PACKAGES

CCA FLORIDA RAFFLES



Pathfinder 2200 TRS
1 ticket \$50 value

Sea-Doo/Can-Am
4 tickets \$80 value

Hewes Redfisher 16
2 tickets \$50 value

CCA FLORIDA

THE \$100 TICKET PACK
6 TICKETS - YOU SAVE \$80

BUY NOW



Pecan-Crusted Redfish With Honey Mustard Sauce

Fresh redfish fillets are coated with a nutty, spicy coating of chopped pecans, pan-fried to crunchy perfection and topped with a tangy sweet sauce.

Ingredients

SAUCE:

- ½ c mayonnaise
- ½ c honey mustard
- 1 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- 3 green onions, finely chopped
- Juice of 1-2 lemons
- Salt and pepper to taste

PECAN CRUST:

- 1 c pecans, finely chopped
- 2 c finely crushed potato chips
- ½ tsp Cajun seasoning

BATTER:

- 1 c milk
- 1 egg
- ½ c all-purpose flour
- ¼ tsp Cajun seasoning

REDFISH:

- 4-6 medium redfish fillets
- Canola oil
- 1 stick unsalted butter

Directions

SAUCE:

Whisk together all ingredients and set aside.

REDFISH:

In a large bowl thoroughly combine the pecans, potato chips and Cajun seasoning.

In a separate bowl make the batter by whisking together the milk, egg, flour and Cajun seasoning.

Dip each fillet in the batter, then press into the pecan-chip mixture, getting a heavy, even coating on both sides. Repeat with all fillets, set aside and let sit about 10 minutes before cooking.

Heat 3 tablespoons butter and 3 tablespoons oil in a large frying pan over medium-high. Once oil is hot, add fillets and pan fry until crust is browned and fish is cooked through, about 4 to 5 minutes per side.

TO SERVE:

Place fillet on a plate and spoon sauce over the top. Garnish with extra green onions and parsley. Serve immediately with your favorite sides.



Maverick
Fish the Legend.

PATHFINDER
ANGLER DRIVEN

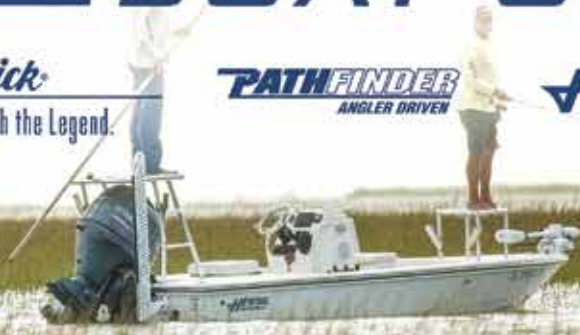
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