



TEXAS SALTWATER[®] FISHING G A Z I N E

Nook & Cranny FISHING 101

JUNE SURF FISHING

Smorgasbord of
Opportunity



June 2023
Only \$4.95



TSFMAG.COM

The Time to Improve the
Sustainability of Our Texas
Oyster Fishery is NOW

TIDE PREDICTIONS & SOLUNAR FEED TIMES INSIDE!



BIGGER HORSEPOWER

GETTIN' SKINNY

MAXIMUM POWER - MINIMAL DEPTH

Suzuki's new DF350AMD 20 inch shaft is built for shallow water. This new model goes where other dual prop engines can't go. Integrated steering, Suzuki Dual Prop technology, all paired with a redesigned and improved lower unit, the new DF350AMD and DF300BMD will be sure to keep you moving through the skinny water.



THE
ULTIMATE
OUTBOARD MOTOR



5 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY applies to qualifying purchases of Suzuki outboard motors sold and delivered to the retail purchaser, for pleasure (non-commercial) use only, from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024. See Suzuki Limited Warranty for additional details. Suzuki, the "S" logo, and Suzuki model and product names are Suzuki Trademarks or ®. Don't drink and drive. Always wear a USCG-approved life jacket and read your owner's manual. © 2023 Suzuki Marine USA, LLC. All rights reserved.

COASTLINE TRAILERS

WWW.COASTLINETRAILERMFG.COM

TBMF

COASTLINE TRAILERS MFG. INC
306 S. Main
Seadrift, TX 77983
Phone 361-785-4073



BIG MAN FENDER STEPS
TEXAS BUILT

We pride ourselves on building each aluminum boat trailer ONE AT A TIME AND TO EACH BOAT MODEL SPECIFICATIONS.

BUILT BY FISHERMEN FOR FISHERMEN

WWW.COASTLINETRAILERMFG.COM

AVAILABLE IN SINGLE OR TANDEM AXLE



Coastline Trailers uses the HIGHEST GRADE ALUMINUM PARTS AND MATERIALS.

*BECAUSE THE ONLY THING
I LIKE FRIED IS MY FOOD*



Ash is wearing the Solstrale PRO Hoodie with UPF 50+,
Sidereal pant, and Bootlegger Rolltop Backpack 30L



GRUNDÉNS
WE ARE FISHING



Powered By



21 SPORT

(Image from Interactive Builder)

DRAFT ON PLANE 4"

DRAFT AT REST 8"

HOLE SHOT DRAFT 10"

Best all-around fishing machine

The SPORT takes on rougher water with an unbelievably comfortable and dry ride. Hands down, the SPORT is our most popular model for guides and seasoned anglers.

www.ShallowSportBoats.com

The Sportsman
QUALITY BOATS & SERVICE SINCE 1981
www.sportsmanboats.com
San Benito, TX 800.503.4044

Coastline Marine
www.coastlinemarine.net
Seabrook, TX 281.291.0101

JORGENSEN Marine
www.jorgensenmarine.com
Beaumont, TX 409.212.1005

GULF COAST MARINE
www.gcmboats.com
Corpus Christi, TX 800.622.2449

South Austin
SINCE 1978
www.southaustinmarine.com
Austin, TX 512.892.2432



ABOUT THE COVER

Snook in the Texas Lower Laguna Madre? You bet! And ones that reach trophy proportions are highly coveted by the dedicated anglers who pursue them. The specimen Capt. Wayne Davis is displaying weighed 10 pounds and measured a bit more than 31 inches. Tagged and released! Activate the accompanying QR code to learn more.



JUNE 2023
VOL 33 NO 2

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 8 Nook & Cranny Fishing 101 | Steve Hillman |
| 14 Misleading Numbers | Kevin Cochran |
| 20 Gaining Ground: Fisheries in Recovery | Chuck Uzzle |
| 26 Hunting for Surf Trout | Joe Richard |
| 64 Do You Show Your Fishing Rods the Love... | TSFMag Editorial Staff |



WHAT OUR GUIDES HAVE TO SAY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 70 The View from Matagorda | Bink Grimes |
| 72 Mid-Coast Bays with the Grays | Gary Gray |
| 74 Hooked up with Rowsey | David Rowsey |
| 76 Wayne's Port Mansfield Report | Wayne Davis |
| 78 South Padre Fishing Scene | Ernest Cisneros |



DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 31 Father's Day Gift Guide | Jay Watkins |
| 40 Let's Ask The Pro | Zachary Olsen |
| 42 TPWD Field Notes | Dave Roberts |
| 46 Shallow Water Fishing | CCA Texas |
| 48 TSFMag Conservation News | Stephanie Boyd |
| 54 Fishy Facts | Eric Ozolins |
| 58 Extreme Kayak Fishing & Sharks... | Nathan Beabout |
| 62 Mostly Sight-Fishing | UT Marine Science Institute |
| 83 Science & the Sea | Chris Mapp |
| 88 Boat Maintenance | |



REGULARS

- 6 Editorial
- 68 New Tackle & Gear
- 80 Fishing Reports and Forecasts
- 84 Catch of the Month
- 86 Gulf Coast Kitchen



EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
 Everett Johnson | Everett@tsfmag.com

VICE PRESIDENT
 PRODUCTION & ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
 Pam Johnson | Pam@tsfmag.com
 Office: 361-785-3420 Cell: 361-550-9918

NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE
 Bart Manganiello
 Bartalm@optonline.net

REGIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES
 Pam Johnson | pam@tsfmag.com
 Office 361-785-3420 Cell 361-550-9918
 Everett Johnson | everett@tsfmag.com
 Office 361-785-3420 Cell 361-550-3637

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
 Donna Boyd
 Donna@tsfmag.com

CIRCULATION
 SUBSCRIPTION - PRODUCT SALES
 Vicky Morgenroth
 Store@tsfmag.com

DESIGN & LAYOUT
 Stephanie Boyd
 Artwork@tsfmag.com

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR
 Jen Shive
 Jen@tsfmag.com

Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine is published monthly.
 Subscription Rates: One Year (Free Emag with Hard Copy)
 Subscription \$32.00
 E-MAG (electronic version) is available for \$15.00 per year.
 Order on-line: WWW.TSFMAG.COM

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine Attn: Subscriptions
 P.O. Box 429, Seadrift, Texas 77983

* Subscribers are responsible for submitting all address changes and renewals by the 10th of the prior month's issue. Email store@tsfmag.com for all address changes or please call 361-785-3420 from 8am - 4:30pm. The U.S. Postal Service does not guarantee magazines will be forwarded.

HOW TO CONTACT TSFMAG:
 PHONE: 361-785-3420 FAX: 361 792-4530
 MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 429, Seadrift, Texas 77983
 PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 58 Fisherman's Lane, Seadrift, TX 77983
 WEB: www.TSFMAG.com
 PHOTO GALLERY: photos@tsfmag.com

PRINTED IN THE USA.

Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine (ISSN 1935-9586) is published monthly by Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine, Inc., 58 Fisherman's Lane, Seadrift, Texas 77983 | P. O. Box 429, Seadrift, TX 77983 © Copyright 1990 All rights reserved. Positively nothing in this publication may be reprinted or reproduced. *Views expressed by Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine contributors do not necessarily express the views of Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine.

Periodical class permit (USPS# 024353) paid at Victoria, TX 77901 and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine, Inc., P. O. Box 429, Seadrift, TX 77983.

Get your Salt On!



When you're done,
 get your Salt Off!

SALT OFF® quickly and effectively flushes engines and removes salt deposits from metal, fiberglass, plastic, and painted surfaces. Plus, marine-grade polymers help prevent the formation of future deposits, so you can get your salt on without the worry of salt corrosion.



Star brite
 BLENDING PERFORMANCE & INNOVATION FOR 50 YEARS

ASK OUR EXPERTS



STARBRITE.COM



SEA TOW

BUILT TO RESPOND

Priority service for members

Offshore coverage

Unlimited towing with no distance or dollar limits in your home area

100% tow coverage to repair facility on all covered vessels

Are you a member?



seatow.com/txsw

© 2023 Sea Tow. All rights reserved.

EDITORIAL

EVERETT JOHNSON

JUNE FORECAST: WHOLE LOT OF FISHING...& LOTS OF CATCHING!




Summer is about to bust wide open. Judging from reports we have been receiving from Sabine to South Padre, we believe there's not only going to be a whole lot of fishing going on...there's also going to be some great catching. No matter where and how you like to fish along the coast, June is promising plenty of good times for Texas anglers. Here's the rundown...

The recreational Red Snapper season opens June 1. The closing date has yet to be announced; however, a 90-day season is likely, according to sources within TPWD. How long the season will remain open will depend on several factors; not the least of which are weather, prevailing wave heights, and angler participation. The recreational red snapper allocation received a slight boost over last year, which could also contribute to a longer season. Anglers are encouraged to use descending devices when releasing red snapper exhibiting barotrauma, rather than venting. You can learn more and receive free descending gear at returnemright.org. Bag limits and sizes are unchanged from last year. Anglers are encouraged to report their landings via **iSnapper** as soon as they receive cellular service when returning to the dock.

June's typically light southeast winds traditionally mark the beginning of serious surf and nearshore fishing along our coast. Surf options include species ranging from frisky specks and redfish to Spanish mackerel, jacks, and occasional kings. Tarpon usually begin showing any time after Memorial Day, depending tides and water temperatures. Nearshore angling can present a veritable smorgasbord of species. Trolling and dropping live baits around platforms can produce plenty of king mackerel, cobia, and dorado. Stay tuned to NOAA weather, June can also produce some rough conditions that pop out of nowhere.

Bay fishing will likely be the top choice of the majority of June anglers. Redfish are available coastwide in impressive numbers and speckled trout are definitely on the rebound along the middle and lower coast. Sabine anglers are reporting much improved trout fishing. We heartily encourage that middle and lower coast trout anglers continue practicing catch and release; these fisheries have improved significantly since the '21 freeze but the species can still use all the help we can provide.

The school year is winding down and the kiddos are anxious to get out there and join in the fun. Don't be that parent that fails to get them registered for the **CCA STAR Tournament**. The list of prizes, including valuable college scholarships will be awarded to lucky youth anglers, along with boat-motor-trailer, and even truck packages for adults.

June's gonna be awesome; and always remember to Take a Kid Fishing! 

Everett Johnson



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

June issue highlights

Boat Dockter

COACH
PONTOONS



COACH CRAFTSMANSHIP | 263 FLC

We believe our construction quality is second to none in the industry, and we think you will agree! Delivering an owner experience that is effortless and enjoyable every step of the way is our goal.

EXPERIENCE TRUE CRAFTSMANSHIP



Boat Dockter
7650 PARK ROAD 4 WEST
BURNET, TX 78611

2nd Location Opening March 2023
525 FM 1431
KINGSLAND, TX 78639

512-756-5000
boatdockter1@gmail.com
boatdockter.com



Honda Marine
Premier Dealership

HONDA
MARINE

For optimum performance and safety, read the Owner's Manual before operating your Honda Marine Product. Always wear a personal flotation device while boating. -OR- Always wear a personal flotation device while boating and read your owner's manual.

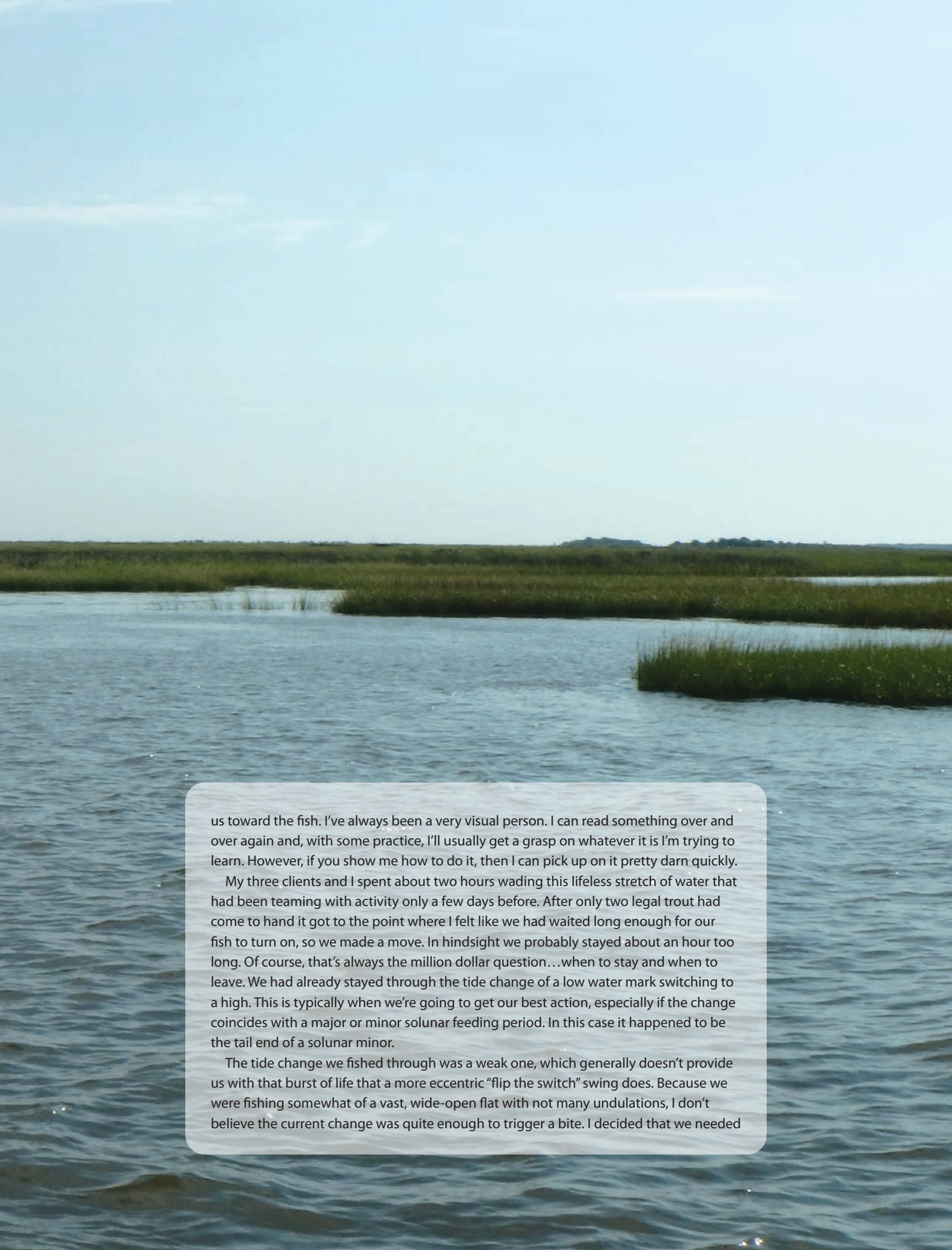
NOOK & CRANNY Fishing 1019

STORY BY STEVE HILLMAN

The phrase “Nook and Cranny” is a metaphoric idiom pairing nook, which means “an out-of-the-way corner” (dating back to the mid-1300s), with cranny which has meant “a crack or crevice” since about 1440. (Dictionary.com) Nook and Cranny fishing has saved my bacon many days when the bite was somewhat tough otherwise.

We had been on a pretty good run of fishing hitting a stretch of days when the tides were right and the winds were manageable. I was also fortunate enough to have had some of my most highly-skilled clients on board. As guides, we love it when the stars align and things go our way. Everyone gets off the boat at the end of the trip with big smiles, especially the captain. We want those kinds of trips to happen every day but we know that’s not possible because there are so many uncontrollable variables.

Sooner or later the tides become weak or the moon phase doesn’t lend itself to a good bite. Following our exceptional stretch of catching really good fish, this was exactly the scenario with which we were faced. Some of the stretches of shorelines we had been fishing were suddenly void of life. If you’ve ever fished with me then you know that I like to fish with my eyes. In other words, I like to use slicks, mud streaks, and active bait to point



us toward the fish. I've always been a very visual person. I can read something over and over again and, with some practice, I'll usually get a grasp on whatever it is I'm trying to learn. However, if you show me how to do it, then I can pick up on it pretty darn quickly.

My three clients and I spent about two hours wading this lifeless stretch of water that had been teeming with activity only a few days before. After only two legal trout had come to hand it got to the point where I felt like we had waited long enough for our fish to turn on, so we made a move. In hindsight we probably stayed about an hour too long. Of course, that's always the million dollar question...when to stay and when to leave. We had already stayed through the tide change of a low water mark switching to a high. This is typically when we're going to get our best action, especially if the change coincides with a major or minor solunar feeding period. In this case it happened to be the tail end of a solunar minor.

The tide change we fished through was a weak one, which generally doesn't provide us with that burst of life that a more eccentric "flip the switch" swing does. Because we were fishing somewhat of a vast, wide-open flat with not many undulations, I don't believe the current change was quite enough to trigger a bite. I decided that we needed



to focus more on smaller areas where current velocity would be strong enough to create bait movement and ambush points for trout, redfish, and flounder. Such areas are often referred to as choke points, pinch points, or funnels.

Our next stop found us wading toward small openings in erosion control rocks that had been strategically placed along the shoreline. The wind was at our backs as we made our way in the direction of the small breaks in the rocks. To this point we had noticed very few mullet along the shorelines but now we were watching bait flip in and around the cuts with regularity. Upon closer examination there were well-defined mud streaks on the down-current side of the openings created by the Venturi effect which is basically water flowing through a constricted area, creating a higher velocity. It's like putting a spray nozzle on a water hose. I finally had the visual signs that I needed!

With my confidence riding high I got into position to fire off an up-

current cast just past the color change. As the tide brought my 5-inch Silver Glitter/Chartreuse Bass Assassin back down current, I proceeded to give it a couple of subtle vertical twitches while letting the current do most of the work as it settled back down. Twitch-twitch-BAM. A pretty four pound trout came to hand confirming we'd made the correct decision to stop there. We caught some really solid trout and flounder throughout the day despite the weak incoming tide...thanks to those small sections of daylight in the rocks.

There are many other types of nooks and crannies we tend to focus on. Small bayous that dump into back lakes or open bays are excellent areas to target, especially when we have a high tide that's getting ready to start going out. Oysters also thrive in areas like these so we get the added bonus of the rich marine life environment provided by these reefs which create true fish magnets. Tiny crabs, shrimp and shad provide a buffet for trout, reds and flounder. I can't tell you how

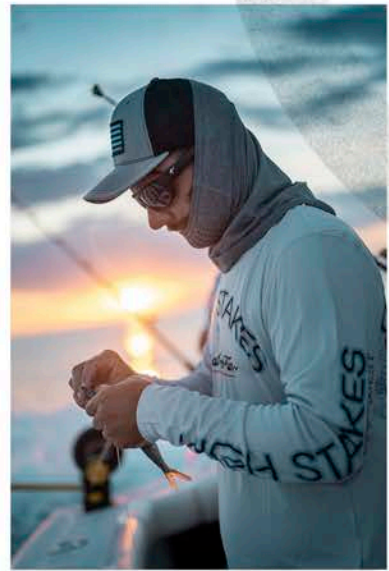
many clients I've had who caught all three species by casting MirrOlure Lil' Johns or Bass Assassin 4-inch Sea Shads at the same bayou drain.

While there are stretches of our shorelines here in Galveston Bay that have "straightened out" from shoreline erosion, there are still enough points and peninsulas to provide good ambush points for us to catch fish. I love to cook. I especially enjoy smoking a brisket or tri-tip on the pit, but every once in a while I want to go out to a nice restaurant and be served. Trout want to be served all of the time. They are the epitome of opportunistic feeders. Stretches of marsh or land protruding out into the bay provide just what the doctor ordered when it comes to pinpointing high-percentage areas for fish. Wind-driven or tidal current





IT'S YOU VS. THE FISH.



FIN-NOR®



THE SUN CAN STAY THE HELL OUT OF IT.

Introducing the all-new high-performance sunglasses from Fin-Nor that were designed specifically for anglers no matter the elements. The Lateral Line Lens Technology™ delivers unparalleled comfort, eye protection, and image separation on the water. Delivering 99%+ polarization, nearly eliminating direct glare created by light reflected off the water and allowing anglers to see beneath and beyond the surface to spot the fish they came to catch.



sweeping around the tips of these points bring a variety of forage species right into the face of willing trout without them having to exert much effort. I typically like to focus on the eddies that form along the backside of the points. This strategy can deliver some outstanding action on days when not much else seems to work.

Not all nooks and crannies are along shorelines. Through the years we've been able to drift over open bay oyster reefs and catch great numbers of trout while working slicks and rafts of mullet. Our sweet spots on these reefs were mostly deep cuts and high humps as well as where the reefs dropped off into the surrounding mud. Because of environmental and man-induced changes, we don't have as many of those mid-bay reefs with drastic elevation changes that we've been able to enjoy in the past. But, we still have some and they still produce!

Here's a little hint - Focus on areas that used to be islands which are now reefs. Google Earth historical imagery is a great tool. Also, newly planted (within the past 15 years) oyster reef restoration projects planted by commercial oyster dealers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are smart focal points. And, spend lots of time really learning how to use your bottom machine!

Speaking of islands, we still have a few in this 600 square mile

complex that remain as actual islands. Some will be reefs and sandbars within a few years and there are new ones being created from ship channel dredging (designated spoil areas). Either way, they all provide areas we can pinpoint to catch fish, even on a tough day. Look for current lines, eddies and streaks at the tips of these islands, then focus on sudden depth changes. Soft plastics on 1/8 to 1/4 ounce lead heads work the best.

If you're having a slow day and the fish aren't giving you any indication of where they are, then it may be time to find a small cut through a reef, a bayou drain, or maybe even a weir (if you're fishing somewhere like Lake Calcasieu). It may not be like shooting fish in a barrel but you should be able to hit enough on the head to make it worth your effort. And please, let 'em go if you don't need them. Good luck my friends! 🐟



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Nook & Cranny Target Areas

CONTACT

STEVE HILLMAN



Steve Hillman is a full-time fishing guide on his home waters of Galveston Bay. Steve fishes the entire Galveston Bay Complex, wading and drifting for trout, redfish, and flounder using artificial lures.

Phone 409-256-7937
 Email captsteve@hillmanguideservice.com
 Web www.hillmanguideservice.com

PERFORMANCE MATTERS

RECOIL XL[®]

ADVANCED GUIDE TECHNOLOGY



- 100% Nickel Titanium Shape Memory Alloy
- Corrosion Proof
- Uniquely Flexible - Eliminates Blank Flat Spots
- Virtually Indestructible
- Extreme Light Weight
- Extremely Wear Resistant

LAUNCHING
RECOIL XL[®] SERIES AT



REC's new RECOIL XL[®] guide series is the innovation the fishing rod industry has been asking for.

RECOIL XL[®] guides make the best fishing rods on the planet even better.

Additional information will be available soon regarding what makes RECOIL XL[®] unique.



(860) 749-3476
 Sales@REC.com
 www.REC.com

FIRST TO THE FISH



If you want to win, you have to be first. When cash is on the line — when billfish pay the bills, you better be the first one to the big blue water. Huk's full line of performance apparel will keep you cool, dry, and rewarded while the rest of the fleet returns empty-handed.

Huk Fishing



hukgear.com



MISLEADING NUMBERS

STORY BY KEVIN COCHRAN

Thoughtful anglers analyze data in the attempt to make better decisions about where, when and how to target fish. The most successful ones realize how bigger data samples lead to more useful conclusions and how percentages better illuminate trends, when compared to raw numbers. Drawing broad conclusions from small sets of data can lead to false assumptions. Basing decisions on raw numbers rather than percentages can do the same. Relating my own personal experiences in specific ways clarifies the two previous statements.

My priorities as an angler evolved to a point where I developed singular focus on catching speckled trout of magnum size on artificial lures. Over time, I've kept track of the big trout I, my friends, partners and customers have caught. I don't keep detailed records related to trout measuring between 20 and 25 inches, but I do have data recording the catching of bigger ones. I can make a fairly accurate estimate of the number of fish we've caught which measured between 25 and 27 inches, but my numbers documenting trout meeting or exceeding 27 inches are more accurate. Increasing the length number increases the accuracy of the data; my records related to fish measuring at least 29, 30 and 31 inches are basically spot on.

For an angler, simply knowing how many fish of a particular size one has caught or been part of catching isn't particularly useful in terms of making decisions about where to fish. In order to use of the numbers meaningfully, one must also know the

locations where people caught the fish, then convert the raw numbers into percentages by considering how many visits to the locations resulted in the production of the raw numbers. My data about locations falls apart somewhat in terms of specificity when we draw the line as low as 27 inches.

If we draw the line at 31 inches and/or ten pounds, the data becomes more useful in one way, because it's 100% precise and accurate in terms of both numbers and locations. In my career to this point, I and my friends and clients have caught 11 fish which measured at least 31 inches and weighed at least 10 pounds, or were less than 31 inches but weighed at least 10 pounds. Over time, we've caught a considerably larger number of other trout which measured at least 30 inches and/or which weighed more than 9 pounds; the larger number elevates the utility of the data.

Analyzing the facts related to the locations where the 11 giant trout came to hand helps clarify how considering raw numbers rather than percentages could lead an angler to draw conclusions which hamper the potential productivity of their efforts, rather than enhancing them. These are the basic facts: one of the fish came from Alazan Bay, two from the Tide Gauge Bar (one on the shoreline north of it, one from the bar itself), two from Cathead (one at its west end, one near its east end), four from the North Badlands, one from Yarbrough Flats, and one from the King Ranch Shoreline. Key word from the previous statement is *basic*. Consideration of the places in such generic terms doesn't really allow for ranking them in any legitimate order with regard to their potential for producing trout of the specified dimensions.

When looking at the details related to the catching, one must make every effort to equalize the scale of the included sites in order to draw accurate conclusions about the relative potential productivity of each of the places. Alazan Bay is an entire body of water, while the other locations are parts of bodies of water. The King Ranch Shoreline is many miles long, so though it's a part of the ULM, thinking of it as a place the same way one would think of Cathead as a place doesn't make much sense. In order to glean anything meaningful related to the relative potential for these places, one must define them in similar

dimensions. Doing so leads to the next step in the process moving beyond the raw numbers and generating percentages.

At first glance, the fact I and my partners caught 6 of the 11 fish in the Badlands/Cathead area would seem to indicate the area offers better potential than all other similarly sized ones on the map in terms of ability to produce the desired fish. 54% of the fish came from those two areas. If I and my partners spent 54% of our fishing time *or less* in those areas, we can correctly deduce the chances of catching the desired fish in the Badlands or at Cathead is higher than elsewhere on the map. Using that basic method of analysis, I would concur with such a statement. But, reducing the scope of each of the places where the fish were caught changes my opinion.

For instance, I and my people managed to land just one of the desired fish at the west end of Cathead. So, 9% of the fish came from that place, or spot. Defining the spot in Alazan which produced one fish, or the drain behind the Tide Gauge Bar, or the short stretch of shoreline on the King Ranch using the same dimensions as the west end of Cathead leads to a different conclusion. I and my partners spent far more time fishing at the west end of Cathead than at any of these other spots, all of which produced at the same 9% rate.

This illuminates a main point. Thinking of productivity in terms of percentages and considering spots or sites of equal dimensions allows for a more meaningful analysis of facts than simply thinking about how many fish each spot has produced, as a raw number. The best way to compare the relative productivity of spots involves not only considering places of similar size and scale, also the catch-rates at the spots *with favorable prevailing conditions*. An angler with accurate data of this kind can generate a much more useful percentage outcome value than one who has tried spots without thinking about whether fishing them makes good sense, given the prevailing conditions.

Any decent coastal angler recognizes how changing conditions affect the potential productivity of spots throughout a body of water. These conditions include tidal movements, tide levels, wind speed and direction, the temperature of the air and water, the level of turbidity in the water and the presence of food for the targeted fish. Making an



Caleb McCumber released this beautiful trout, which didn't meet the ten-pound mark, but did meet the rare 32-inch mark.



This splendid trout bit a Paul Brown Fat Boy in clear water on the morning after a full moon lit up the night.

CATCH FISH!

KWigglersTM
.COM





Kenneth Havel holding a fat ten-pounder he caught on his first bite ever on a Paul Brown Fat Boy.

CALCULATING *PRODUCTION AVERAGE*

$$PA = F / V$$

F=NUMBER OF DESIRED FISH CAUGHT

V=NUMBER OF VISITS MADE TO PLACE

NOTES: 1. ONLY PLACES WITH SIMILAR DIMENSIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

2. IF THE VALUE FOR F INCLUDES FISH CAUGHT BY JUST ONE ANGLER, THE VALUE OF V IS STATIC. BUT, IF FISH CAUGHT BY ALL MEMBERS OF A GROUP ARE COUNTED, THE VALUE OF V MUST BE MULTIPLIED BY THE AVERAGE NUMBER IN THE GROUP.

effort in a place under unfavorable conditions diminishes its perceived long-term potential in a misleading way. The most useful statistic related to the potential productivity for a place involves a calculation which divides the total number of fish produced by the number of visits made to the place. (See imbedded image, titled *Calculating Production Average*).

Generating a useful Production Average number for a spot involves some key considerations, the first of which relates to the raw number of fish produced. If the angler crunching the numbers counts only the fish they personally caught, then the number of visits to the place needs no modification. If, however, the angler counts all fish caught by anyone in the group, the number of visits must be multiplied by the average number of anglers making the visits. A second consideration involves other aspects of a visit; an angler should only count visits made to the place with conditions conducive to catching in play, and those which last for at least an hour. Visits which involve stopping for a few minutes at a place and making a few casts should not count in this calculation. Similar truths apply when attempting to determine the relative potential for various types of lures to produce desired fish.

In order for an angler to justify throwing a particular lure (or even type of lure) 75% of the time, the angler would have to catch at least 75% of their desired fish on the lure. Any lower percentage would mean the angler wasted some of their time throwing the lure. More than likely, anglers who have tunnel vision for particular types of lures (mostly either soft plastics or topwaters, in my experience) don't realize they're throwing those lures for long spans of time when they aren't at the top of the list of best offerings for the moment. Some likely don't even think about how often they throw their favored lure in ways which would allow them to recognize how the choice limits their productivity.

If anglers afflicted by tunnel vision fall into the trap of thinking only about the raw number of desired fish each type of lure they've used has produced, rather than calculating the percentage of desired fish produced in comparison to the percentage of time they use each lure, they'll draw conclusions which hamper their potential for productivity. If a person who throws a topwater 85% of the time has caught 20 trout measuring 27 inches or more on a floating plug, and 10 on soft plastics, the numbers suggest the angler's fidelity to topwaters is hampering productivity, because 67% is less than 85%. Focusing on the fact 20 is twice as much as 10 leads to a misleading conclusion in this case.

In order to accurately assess the potential productivity inherent to lures and places, one should optimally consider percentages rather than raw numbers, basing those considerations on thoughtful timing, either of the visits to the spots or the choice to deploy the lures, given the prevailing conditions. More data leads to more meaningful conclusions. In the end, for me, reducing the quality mark to 30 inches and 9 pounds leads to more useful conclusions than drawing the line at 31 and 10, because of the increase in sample size. I suspect novice anglers tend to place too much value on data of too small a sample size and think too much about raw numbers, rather than calculating accurate percentages and using them to draw logical conclusions about where and how to target fish. 🐟



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Making the Most of Data 1

KEVIN COCHRAN

CONTACT



Kevin Cochran is a long-time fishing guide at Corpus Christi (Padre Island), TX. Kevin is a speckled trout fanatic and has created several books and dvds on the subject. Kevin's home waters stretch from Corpus Christi Bay to the Land Cut.

TROUT TRACKER GUIDE SERVICE

Phone 361-688-3714
 Email kevincochran404@yahoo.com
 Web www.captainkevblogs.com

why get
towing?

breakdowns
happen



Breakdowns are unpredictable, make them less stressful with an Unlimited Towing Membership from TowBoatU.S. You can relax, we've got your back.



JOIN TODAY!
BoatUS.com/Towing

Details of services provided can be found online at BoatUS.com/Agree. TowBoatU.S. is not a rescue service. In an emergency situation, you must contact the Coast Guard or a government agency immediately.

GAINING FISHERIES IN



Abundant grass in back lakes is an absolute magnet for attracting many species of bait, and redfish are quick to oblige. Check out the redfish tails in the center of the image...things are about to get interesting!

GROUND

RECOVERY

STORY BY CHUCK UZZLE

Don't look now but we have basically burned through the first half of 2023 and it feels like it happened in record time. We are now sitting squarely on the front edge of the summer months and the forecast looks increasingly promising. Sabine and Calcasieu have made major strides in their recovery from several years' worth of Mother Nature's wrath and are now showing glimpses of returning to something that could be considered as closer to normal. Typical early spring patterns began to develop in March and have continued to produce despite some unseasonably cool weather that hung around until we flipped the calendar to May. Now, as the mercury begins to climb and the winds become a little more favorable we may get an opportunity to see just how much better both Sabine and Calcasieu have become. Personally I am both hopeful as well as cautiously optimistic at this point and only time will tell the rest of the story.



Topwater plugs with higher-pitch rattles like the MirrOlure She Dog and She Pup, along with rattling corks like those from 4 Horsemen are excellent "search baits" that can help locate active fish.



Shallow running crankbaits can be dynamite for anglers plying the jetty rocks this month. They're not only deadly effective for drawing vicious strikes, if you happen to snag and break off, they will often come floating back to the surface.

In the past few weeks some tried and true late spring angling patterns for late spring anglers began paying dividends and the results did not go unnoticed. Local anglers who have been begging for a more consistent bite have seen some solid fishing, even with sometimes less than ideal conditions. Super-high water levels contributed mightily to scattering fish but in turn the high water also ushered in some beautiful water full of all sorts of bait. For a while it seemed like instead of a shallow draft boat one needed a riding lawnmower to reach the redfish in the back lakes and marshes because they were so far back in the flooded grass. In years past when

we had this much water for as long as we had it early in the year, our marshes really exploded with life. Those early season purges give a real shot in the arm to the ecosystem and seem to jump start our summer fishing. The amount of crabs and shrimp, especially brown shrimp, that show up as a result of the extended high tides, will do wonders for the overall health of both Sabine and Calcasieu, which in turn will do wonders for fishermen as well.

Speaking of the summer patterns, there will be plenty to choose from and none are a bad option. Virtually everything should be in play from the marsh to offshore and everything in between. You can bet that the jetty systems and nearshore rigs will be high on the wish list and the first target for many anglers when the wind cooperates. Getting to these structures before they get harassed is key so don't be afraid to get out there before daylight, as long as you can do it safely. The topwater bite along the jetty rocks can be absolutely insane before the sun breaks the horizon, but as quick as it

starts it can also shut off, so it's an absolute must to be there during the feeding times. The monthly tide chart provided here in TFSMag is an amazingly helpful tool for predicting exactly when the bite should kick off so be sure to consult that when planning your next trip. Whether you attack the jetties or short rigs, don't leave home without some swimbaits or shallow diving crankbaits as they can produce some fierce strikes around those structures. I would also highly recommend some extra-abrasion resistant leader such as fluorocarbon to help with getting those fish out of the rocks or away from barnacle crusted manmade structures because these fish know how to use that

cover to their advantage when hooked. Quality leader can often make the difference between success and failure.

If heading to the south end of the bay or running offshore doesn't appeal to you or is out of the question due to weather or some other limiting factor, you can always enjoy the open water pattern on the main body of either Sabine or Calcasieu. Drifting the scattered shell, fishing slicks, or even chasing birds over schooling fish will all be options to enjoy during the summer months. If you choose to drift the open lake structure or slicks, be mindful of your approach. Use long casts, and don't leave an area too soon to go search for steadier action. Once you have located an area that looks promising, I always like to use what I call a "search bait" to help me discover if there might be other willing fish present. A rattling cork is a terrific option when you're drifting as you can draw fish in with surface commotion and noise created by the cork. I have really become a fan of the 4Horsemen corks in the last year and I rarely ever leave



Lots of this ahead as marsh ponds swell on spring's high tides.

BAY

.160 HULL THICKNESS

ALL

200 MAX HP

DAY


ALL NEW
WIDE BODY



EXCEL

Bay Pro 220 Elite

Our widest front deck 22' model with a new hull design, impressive floor layout, increased speed and an improved ride. Pair with Yamaha VF175 or VF200 for optimal power.

 **YAMAHA** ExcelBoats.com

BAY PRO 220 ELITE



the dock without one tied on because they have such a great fish-attracting sound. I generally have a Z-Man MinnowZ soft plastic or Down South Super Model under my rattling cork because they have great action and are incredibly durable. Once I locate some active fish I can change my approach if needed but until that time I stick with a rattling cork or topwater bait to help me find them. Obviously these schooling fish will be much easier to deal with on a single hook like a jig and soft plastic, so don't complicate that process with a bunch of treble hooks because you are asking for trouble in the middle of the chaos. Trust me on this.

One more great option will be probing the deeper water with natural bait, either live or dead. I know there will be plenty of purists who will snub this style of fishing for various reasons but for a lot of folks, it's their favorite method. I have no problem throwing a cast net for live shad and using a Carolina rig to catch fish; it's not only relaxing but incredibly productive as well. Live shad rigged under an old school popping cork is another way to enjoy fishing natural bait and it can produce some jarring strikes. I don't care who you are or where you fall out in the angling spectrum, watching a cork go under is the most basic action that ties all anglers together because

we all started right there, and for many, that's still one of their most preferred methods. Just like using any other method, you must be mindful of the resource and be a good steward, using natural bait is not a license to disregard conservation.

As for me, I'm sure I will still be probing the back lakes chasing redfish and largemouth bass when I'm not hunting speckled trout on the main lake. I love this time of year and all the incredible options that are out there for us to enjoy. It will be hard to make a bad choice and I can only hope that we see continued progress in the quality and numbers of fish being caught, given that we have struggled for quite some time to regain anything that resembles the old norms. I applaud all the folks who have been so diligent in their conservation efforts and I hope more and more anglers will follow that lead. Please continue to take care of our resources and share them with others who may not know about them. Enjoy your time on the water and be sure every time you get the opportunity...take a kid fishing! 🎣



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Everything's In Play This Month on Sabine Lake

CONTACT

CHUCK UZZLE



Chuck fishes Sabine and Calcasieu Lakes from his home in Orange, TX. His specialties are light tackle and fly fishing for trout, reds, and flounder.

Phone 409-697-6111
 Email wakesndrakes@yahoo.com
 Website wakesndrakes.com



YOUR GRAND SLAM. YOUR WAY.

The Best Fishing Rods are Built with Mud Hole.



YOUR RODS. YOUR WAY.

MUDHOLE.COM



Impact and UV/IR Resistant Fiberglass



Unique hexagram structure for rigidity, strength, and heft



Threaded grooves ensure EcoPile locks into ground

Have You Seen EcoPiles?

Ultra-strong, long-lasting vinyl-fiberglass composite EcoPiles from American Pole & Timber are quickly becoming the top piling choice for docks, piers, and beach homes

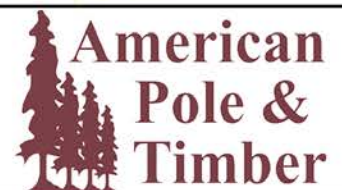


Homeowners and contractors are choosing EcoPiles over other piling options more than ever.

Why? Availability, uniformly clean lines, unmatched longevity, and engineered strength. Basically, they're just a smart choice!

Next time you see them, take a closer look! Knock on them and you'll immediately understand how heavy and rigid they are.

Exclusively available from American Pole & Timber.
For specs, more info, and fast quotes...
www.PoleAndTimber.com ::: 1 (800) 882-6691



Hunting for



Another day at the beach.
Find green water and baitfish,
and it can turn magical.

Surf Trout

STORY BY JOE RICHARD

Fishing the Texas surf on days when conditions are right, with unlimited trout and redfish grabbing on, is a day to remember. The fish out there are hungry for anything flashy or colorful, they're not too picky. A long cast into green water can make all the difference, that's why the heavier surf spoons really shine, so to speak. Anything with good ballistics helps; you don't want some puny bay lure.

Longer rods are helpful; my ideal is a medium/heavy 8-foot graphite spin rod, with a reel full of new 12-pound line. Falling short of green water, splashing the lure instead in "chocolate milk" surf wash may well leave one singing the blues later on in some coastal shuffleboard honky-tonk. You don't want that, after people on both sides of you were "bowed up" with solid trout, because their tackle had more reach.

I recently talked about surf fishing with Mike Spencer, a high school classmate from back in the day in Port Arthur, who is still slinging spoons and plugs in the surf. He's spent decades watching the surf from boat or truck with binoculars, driving slowly for miles and making lots of mental notes. The seagulls have nothing on this guy. Well, except for wings and altitude.

Spencer says on choppy days with murky water and no hope left for finding green water, they look for tide rips. They're easy enough to spot, where surf water flows back offshore. An old Cajun taught him to *drag* plastic shrimp tails right on bottom, like the shrimp is walking. Drag it on both sides of the rip tide, *not* in the middle where the current runs. It seems that murky water trout are content to park on both sides of the current, snapping up bait as it washes by.

Other days when fortune smiles and green water beckons, they hunt for signs of fish. It's all about *hunting* for trout. Not wading in front of your rental cabin, waiting for a bite. Watch the weather, you want several calm days in a row. A flexible work schedule helps; don't expect this to happen on a Saturday. They look for calm weather and schools of bait, whether menhaden, mullet or shrimp. By doing so, they've seen solid action on 2-4 pound trout. But not always.

“Two summers ago, seven of us racked up 316 trout in one day. Not big ones, a keeper every five or ten fish. I had a bunch of young guys with me who wanted to set a record. Kept count out loud and released them all. The fish were moving and we’d jump in the truck and get ahead of them again, and then it was fish-on with every cast. I clamped the barbs down on the spoons, so some fish could shake off within arm’s reach. They were so thick, if you dropped your spoon in the water for another cast, another trout would grab on, like four feet away from your rod tip. And this went on for five hours... There were lots of big shrimp in that surf and I had a three-foot shark swim past my elbow. That’s the cool thing about schooling trout at the beach, it can get wild at times.

“We also use Bomber Long A’s or suspending Rapalas. Twitch those plugs! You can see big trout follow the plug almost to the rod tip, waiting for a twitch before striking. If you see a menhaden or mullet school cruising the surf, cast in *front* of the school, not behind it. Menhaden may show a mud streak in green water, their only sign.

“You need an artificial bait with good ballistics. A shrimptail jig is often too light to reach productive water, which is quite often beyond the last sandbar. We like a spoon weighted near the treble hook, that will throw a long ways. One-ounce Tony Acetta or Kastmaster or Mr. Champ, the genetic term is a slab spoon. Silver or gold, it doesn’t matter. Out in those untamed waters, gamefish will hit almost any color. Use a more steady retrieve, when casting way out there. With the right tackle

you can reach 60 yards, which can make all the difference if that’s how far out the green water is. You need range: Twelve or 15-pound line is the right window, between breaking off on the cast or not sailing far enough. A short 30-pound mono leader will do. If you reel it too slow near bottom, you’re liable to hook a *big* gafftop (called snot-shark) that will knock you out of action for 15 minutes.

“Another advantage of the spoon, is that the classic multi-hook plugs like the MirrOlure have nine different hooks that can snag you, while you wrestle with a fish trying to unhook it in waist-deep water. Meanwhile your buddy has landed three trout to your one. I don’t carry extra lures, just pliers, then wade out there and go. The truck is right on the beach.

“There’s a lot of surf and a lot of fish, but not enough fish to cover the entire beachfront.

Those trout are moving and you have to keep up with them. Watch for diving birds, they love those big shrimp, and I’m talking about eight-inch jumbos. Green water is so important. When driving, keep going until you find either jumping bait or green water.” Spencer says.

These surf trout have their sanctuaries where truck traffic can’t go. “From Sabine to High Island, there is almost no road. Or beach, most of the time. If you drive on the vegetation, they’ll write you a ticket because it’s McFaddin Wildlife Refuge. The sand beach has eroded away from too many recent hurricanes, but the Feds have a grant to restore the beach to protect the Refuge, by dredging in sand from offshore.

“These surf trout really do move. And so do the bait they’re after. Once you find them you have to follow, often marked



← Green dye used to illustrate how a rip tide works. Fish the edges. Photo courtesy of NOAA.



Anglers using the really long rods are generally not after trout, they’re using bait aimed at redfish and pompano.



Young anglers in the surf, holding a dad’s tackle.



**RETURN 'EM
RIGHT**

**BE A
RESPONSIBLE
ANGLER.**

**HELP REEF FISH
SURVIVE RELEASE.**

**GET
FREE
GEAR.**



**Do you love offshore fishing in
the Gulf of Mexico?**

Learn to improve survival of released
reef fish through our 15-minute training
and receive \$100 worth of fish release
gear for FREE.

Join the community at
ReturnEmRight.org.



by diving seagulls. Ignore diving terns, often called liar birds. A seagull won't waste his time over little glass minnows, which the terns prefer. The average guy standing in one spot at the beach in front of his cabin is not going to catch the numbers. Maybe they never even got wet, casting from dry sand at waist-deep water. Meanwhile we're driving 20 miles of beach, always looking for sign," Spencer says.

If you're going to keep fish out there, use at least a 20-foot stringer that will keep those yummy trout away from your leg. The sharks are



Find that green water in the surf, and you know you've picked the right day.

mostly small "ankle snapper" blacktips but you don't want to run afoul of a bigger blacktip or bull shark; you're in *their* element.

One year in June we'd launched a 14-foot jonboat at Port Aransas' fish pass, south of town. The water was flat and emerald-green. Guys on the beach were chest deep, catching trout. Several released, undersized dead trout floated 50 yards offshore. We stopped to make a few casts and nearby, a tall fin rose from the water, a fin so long that it drooped; we assumed it was a manta ray's fin. It headed toward us, and moments later a huge hammerhead shark cruised just underneath, longer than our tin can boat. Its hammer was 4-5 feet wide. We kept real still. It was nice of that shark, not to bother those wade fishermen; instead it was politely cleaning up any floating trout. I've never heard of a hammerhead grabbing a person, but would not care to have one tugging on a short trout stringer tied to my belt. For surf fishing, a quick release stringer is highly recommended. 🐟

JOE RICHARD

Joe Richard has fished the Gulf since 1967, starting out of Port Arthur, but his adventures have taken him up and down the entire coast.



He was the editor of Tide magazine for eight years, and later Florida Sportsman's book and assistant magazine editor. He began guiding out of Port O'Connor in 1994. His specialty is big kingfish, and his latest book is The Kingfish Bible, New Revelations. Available at Seafavorites.com

CONTACT

Seaguar®

VALUE-PACKED & BUDGET FRIENDLY

GET ALL THE SEAGUAR PERFORMANCE YOU COUNT ON AT PRICES EVERYBODY WILL LOVE

BASIX™ STRONG, SOFT, SMOOTH CASTING FLUORO



TACTX™ PRECISION CASTING, 4-STRAND CAMO BRAID

© 2023 KUREHA AMERICA INC.

TEXAS SALTWATER
FISHING
MAGAZINE

Father's Day Gift Guide

MIRAVEL



MCL
MAGNUMLITE

SHIMANO

There's a
SHIMANO®
 dealer near you!

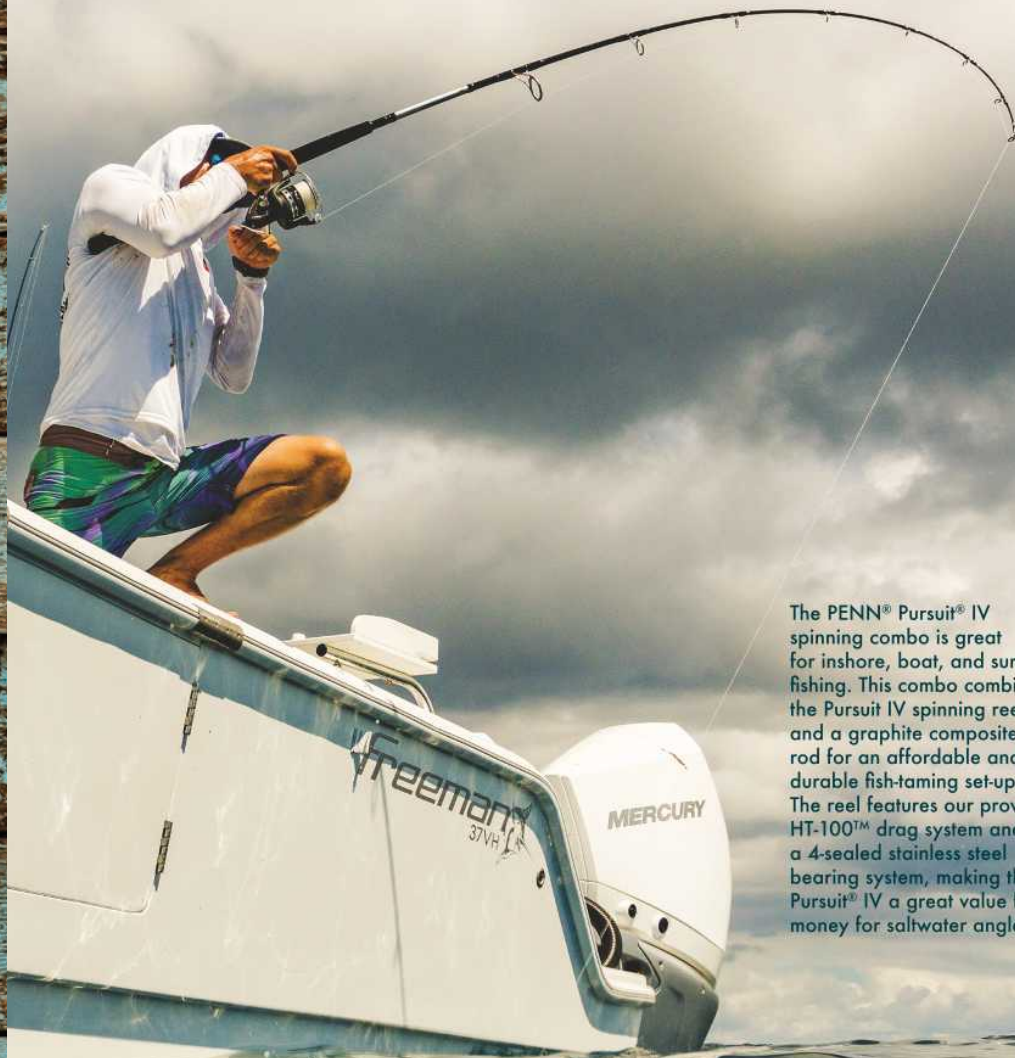
- | | |
|---|--------------|
| Anglers Anonymous
Katy | 832.437.6058 |
| Anglers Pro Tackle
North Richland | 817-503-2333 |
| Balts N Blades
Texarkana | 903-732-3422 |
| Brannans Bass Shop
Powderly | 713-827-7762 |
| Carters Fishin' World
Dallas | 214-358-4941 |
| County Home & Outdoors
Nederland | 409.722.7100 |
| Doxey Tackle
Pearland | 281.455.9444 |
| Field & Streams Sporting Goods
San Angelo | 325.944.7094 |
| Fishing Tackle Unlimited
Houston | 281-481-6838 |
| Fishing Tackle Unlimited
Katy | 713-827-7762 |
| Fun-N-Sun
Hurst | 817-280-0303 |
| Hook Line & Sinkers
Harlingen | 956.970.1349 |
| Jeco's Marine
Port O'Connor | 361-983-2000 |
| Jensen Fishing Tackle
Austin | 512-836-1788 |
| Johnny's Sport Shop
Eagle Lake | 979-234-3516 |
| Johhny's True Value Hardware
Harlingen | 800-642-7392 |
| Keith's Toledo Bend Tackle
Milam | 409.625.0181 |
| Marksman Firearms
Granbury | 682.205.3400 |
| McBride's
Austin | 512-472-3532 |
| Needmore Tackle
Zavalla | 409.698.9430 |
| Pond King
Gainsville | 940.668.2573 |
| Port O'Conner Rod and Gun
Port O'Conner | 361-746-8049 |
| Porters Sporting Goods
Flint | 903.825.3933 |
| Proline Marine
San Angelo | 325.658.1969 |
| Rambo Outdoors
Beaumont | 409.242.1060 |
| Rambo Outdoors
Orange | 409.883.4400 |
| Rockport Tackle Town
Rockport | 361-729-1841 |
| Roy's Bait & Tackle Outfitters
Corpus Christi | 361-992-2960 |
| Serious Tackle
La Marque | 409.935.1126 |
| Sportsman's Outfitters
Longview | 903.759.0638 |
| Southwestern Parts & Service
Dallas | 214-630-8161 |
| Tackle Addict
Brookeland | 409-698-9368 |
| Tackle Box
Victoria | 361-575-8700 |
| Tri Lakes Tackle
Granbury | 936.637.7119 |
| Waterloo Pro Shop
Victoria | 361.573.0300 |
| Xotic Camo
College Station | 979.704.5601 |

COOKBOOK AVAILABLE NOW!

PAM JOHNSON'S
Gulf Coast
KITCHEN
 BAKED, BROILED, & FRIED
 FISH, SHRIMP, OYSTERS, CRAB, AND MORE!
 TEXAS SALTWATER FISHING MAGAZINE

Order Now!

Available at
www.tsfmag.com
 on the store page!



The PENN® Pursuit® IV spinning combo is great for inshore, boat, and surf fishing. This combo combines the Pursuit IV spinning reel and a graphite composite rod for an affordable and durable fish-taming set-up. The reel features our proven HT-100™ drag system and a 4-sealed stainless steel bearing system, making the Pursuit® IV a great value for money for saltwater anglers.

IF
YOU
HOOK
THEM,
THEY
WILL
COME.

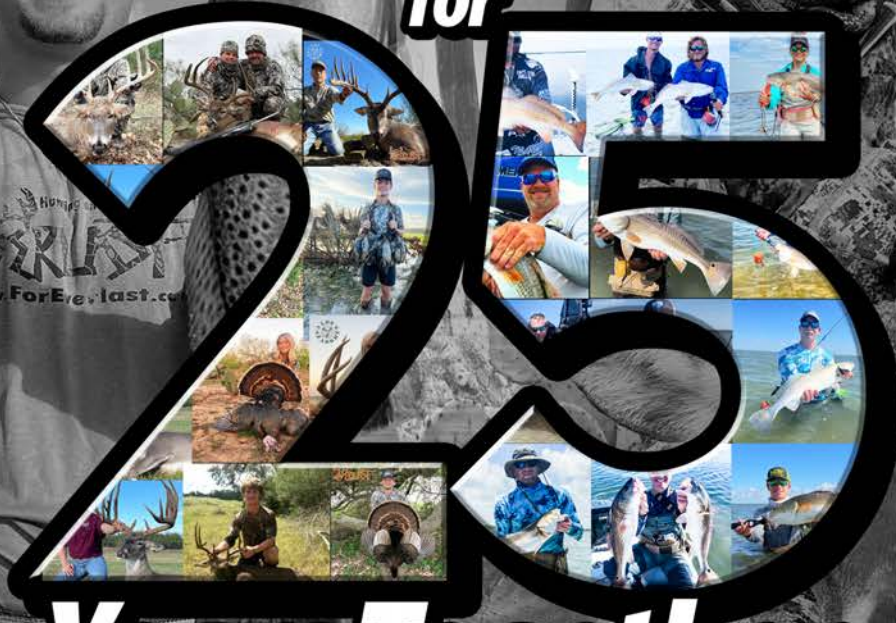


 **Academy**[®]
SPORTS+OUTDOORS

Pick one up today at Academy Sports + Outdoors

www.foreverlast.com

Thank You
for



Years Together.

We've been your Trusted brand for 25 years.

Quality, Innovative, Affordable Products
with unsurpassed professionalism.



Growth through Innovation, not Imitation.





LOW-FREQUENCY



Paul Brown's
Fat Boy Pro — FBP-05
3-1/2" Long, 7/8 Oz.

"Sinking Twitchbait"

MirrOlure expands its Skin Series with four NEW Mullet Patterns.

Available in popular **MirrOdine**, **MirrOdine XL**, **MirrOmullet** and **Catch JR** models. The new mullet skin series matches a mullet, one of nature's most sought after baitfish. With a twitching retrieve, these lures "come alive" in the water and are deadly on trophy gamefish. *Tie on a Mullet and hold on!*

The legendary lure of coastal fishing has a NEW look!

Paul Brown's Fat Boy is now available in a NEW Pro Series. **Fat Boy Pro** is perfectly balanced, creating a very natural presentation in the shallows. This lure features a large flat-sided scaled prism insert for added flash, premium black nickel hooks and low-frequency rattle.

Whether you are a recreational or tournament angler...tie on a Fat Boy Pro and make memories!



MODEL	LENGTH	OZ.	HOOKS	DEPTH
FBP	3-1/2"	7/8	2	18-24"+

FBP — Available Colors: 05, 08, 09, 10, 27, 53, 54, 55, 91, 98



WWW.TURTLEBOXAUDIO.COM

A SPEAKER AS TOUGH AS YOUR BOAT



TURTLEBOX



Celebrate Dad.

Take 15% off

use code

DAD15

at checkout

www.UWGFL.com
Tiki Owned Business

Gone Coastal Jewelry

Specializing in Fishing, Nautical, Coastal, & Custom Jewelry



www.gonecoastaljewelry.com | 713-927-1193

281-665-1300

RNickerson@lagunarods.com

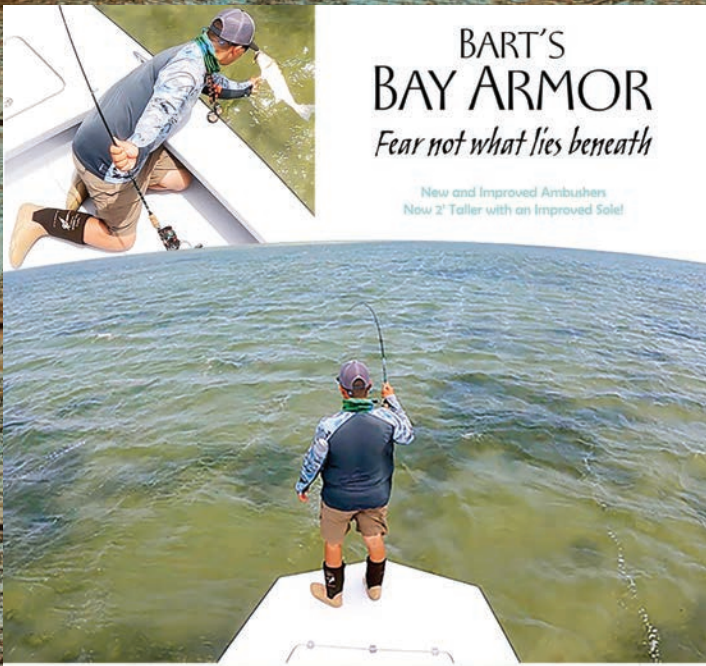
Laguna

CUSTOM RODS
KATY, TEXAS

Building
Top Quality
Fishing Rods
Since 2000



www.lagunarods.com



BART'S BAY ARMOR

Fear not what lies beneath

New and Improved Ambushers
Now 2" Taller with an Improved Sole!

MADE FROM STATE OF THE ART, PATENTED, CUT AND PUNCTURE RESISTANT MATERIAL

THERE'S A REASON ANGLERS WEARING BART'S BAY ARMOR
COME BACK WITH MORE FISH!

AVAILABLE AT
www.barts-bay-armor.com
and the best tackle shops on the coast

Pat. 11,406,158 B1



BAUMANN

Propellers, INC.

Est. 1958

www.baumannprops.com

Phone: (713) 926-6908
Fax: (713) 926-6920
2311 SSGT Macario Garcia Dr.
Houston, Texas 77011

MARINE PROPELLERS
SALES • REPAIRS • SERVICE

NEW for 2023

Dixie Jet Falcon Spoon



Silver Shiner
Shattered Glass
Prism Shad
Nickel

DIXIE JET
www.dixiejetlures.com
or order by phone at 573.774.0631



PERFORMANCE GLOVES AND SOCKS

MADE to FISH



INTRODUCING PERFORMANCE WOOL FISHING SOCKS

Made in the USA



100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
fishmonkeygloves.com



JAY WATKINS
ASK THE PRO

GRASS BEDS ARE MY FAVORITE TYPE OF STRUCTURE

Seldom do I struggle for a topic to write about. For some reason though, this month I have struggled more than I normally do to come up with a topic or experience that I feel will help you in your fishing endeavors. I have never been the type of writer that tells you a story, wanting you to dig deep within yourself to discover the meaning. I say this even though I do find myself gaining tons of inspiration from articles that require me to think about what the authors are really trying to say. My style has always been more of a meat and potatoes approach, and I find that I coach my anglers much the same way. Keeping it simple has always seemed to work best for me and this has never been truer than today.

It is true that as a young man I did not aspire to become what I see myself as today, and that is a coach. It is almost like I am more of a professional level coach versus one who coaches at a high school level. What I mean by this is that most of my clients already possess more than basic fishing skills. I seldom need to teach casting, for instance. Being able to cast a respectable distance and with some accuracy is super important and most of my clients have little issue in this department. I do however find that there are still some who need a refresher on knot tying and the proper way to rig a soft plastic lure. The instruction of proper actions for all the different types of lures is usually number two on the list that they want help on. Number one, without a doubt, is a combination of identifying structure and how fish relate to it.

All my regular clients know that I am not a “spot” guy, per se. Through conversations with my fishing club members I get to constantly coach them up on fishing areas versus specific spots on a map. This involves being able to read the water, which is probably third on the list of things that I am asked to teach.

The areas I fish are determined by seasonal patterns, weather conditions, and also the presence and growth of submerged grass. The grasses in our bay systems develop differently with each year and are totally dependent on seasonal weather patterns. Right

now, in many areas along our barrier islands of San Jose and Matagorda, there are areas with little to no grass. This is not what we want to see during springtime. Bottom grass is critical to the development and survival of countless bait species and also many small crustaceans. The bottom grasses also provide cover and ambush points for game fish of all species. Grass is by far my most favorite type of bottom structure.

Submerged grass provides a multiple of approaches when targeted properly. You have the grass bed itself, and also its edges, points, and bare spots within the submerged growth. The presence of fish near, within, and along the edges of grass will vary depending on water movement as well as wind direction.

The edges of grass beds are typically always good, no matter what. It is also a given that the entire grass bed itself is a fish-holding structure, so that in itself justifies multiple casts being placed all along and across the area. By setting up and spraying casts at different angles, an angler is provided opportunity to put the lure in contact with all the elements and features of the structure present.

It is important that we understand the way game fish will move around and through the grass bed when feeding. I know that there are also times when game fish are set up on grass but not moving, simply remaining stationary within it. When fishing areas with a lot of smaller, scattered

patches of grass, we must allow ourselves the time to hit as many targets as possible. The more targets, the more opportunity.

I think I prefer large areas of hard sand with a mix of small to medium-sized grass beds when such are available. I have confidence in my ability to read where and how the bite is developing in this situation. If we pay close attention; and the best anglers absolutely do, we can establish with great accuracy exactly where our bites are being received. Casting repeatedly to similar grass beds in the area will often result in bites as well.



Dale Combs proving that Fat Boys work year 'round.

This intel allows one to repeat the process and develop a pattern that will often play well for us at the next area we choose to fish. I have always placed a lot of stock in being able to pattern fish based on conditions and daily findings. There is no way one can do this unless paying close attention to every detail as it develops throughout the day.

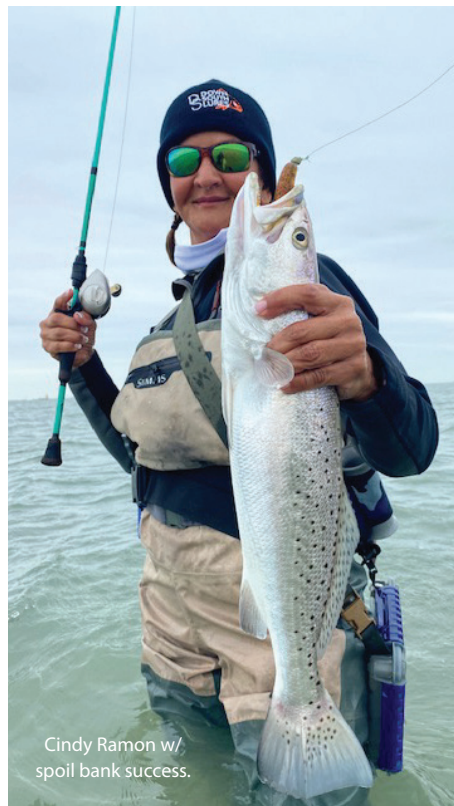
Something else that might be of interest to you is that I often notice that once a fish is hooked and surface activity is created, other game fish will be attracted to the activity. I have also noted in my fishing brain that large redfish will many times spook larger trout out of an area when they are hooked. This I believe is especially true of the much larger trout that are cruising a shallow area. Upper-slot to oversized reds are raging bulls when hooked and can really mess up a good trout bite. That said, I have also seen the opposite, when larger trout are following or mixed with reds, and the red on the end of the line actually seems to attract trout to the area. Just so you know, I would just as soon the reds stayed away from my trout bite...and my \$16 Custom Corkys and Soft Dines.

So, as it turns out, teaching is now just as big a part of my day as putting my clients on fish. To be honest though, it is hard to gain confidence in a pattern if I am not getting the client on fish they can catch. The bite and the catching are the conformation that the pattern works, and this is where confidence really begins to blossom. Building confidence in oneself is huge and a major part of the game. I have thick skin at this stage of my career and do not need clients to console me if the bite is off. If I don't put you where you need to be, that is on me. I am keenly aware that someone catches them somewhere every day. It is my job to know where that somewhere is, not the client's.

Our bait fish migration has been somewhat slow to develop this year, and I tend to believe this can be attributed to the passage of a series of significant cool fronts during recent weeks. Water temperatures at this writing are pushing 75 degrees. Tides are high and we have received much needed rain over the past several weeks. I am a fan of rain no doubt, and my records indicate that seasons with normal to higher-than-normal rainfall produce better trout fishing in the Rockport area. I



Lisa Laskowski w/
spoil bank fatty.



Cindy Ramon w/
spoil bank success.

am lately beginning to notice numbers of small menhaden, which to me is a signal to use lures that mimic them – Merrilure's Merrilure XL and the Texas Custom's Double Ds are both great for this. Dr. Greg Stunz fished with us last Thursday and we had a Royal Tern hit the water in front of us and come up with a menhaden the size of 50-cent piece. He immediately switched to his favorite Merrilure XL and stuck two nice trout. That does not happen by accident and there is more about Dr. Stunz in my final paragraph.

I will also throw the Custom Corky Floaters and the Merrilure Pro-Series Floating Fat Boy when matching the menhaden hatch since these two lures are very much shad-shaped and can be worked aggressively in the upper portion of the water column. They can also be cast quite effectively into stiff SE wind when needed. And of course, I always have my favorite Merrilure Lil John or Lil John XL in my wade box. Over shallow grass flats that border deeper drop-offs, the 3.5-inch Lil John is money and rates as a must-have for me. The lure casts well and is tough enough to survive the "tail biters" that are beginning to invade our shallow grass flats. I am throwing clear-bodied colors in clear water to match the colors of the menhaden and the few glass minnows I have been seeing.

More on Dr. Stunz of Harte Institute; it is always a pleasure to fish with him. Good friend and client, Drew Donaldson, typically invites Greg to join us a few times a year. Greg and I go way back to him being a youngster and me a young fishing guide. His stepfather, Bob Beckett, would bring him along whenever he fished with me. What a wealth of knowledge Greg is when it comes to our fisheries. A day on the water with him is like an educational saltwater field trip with fishing rod in hand. Greg is a lover and protector of the resource, but I also know that when he speaks, he speaks from his science background, not so much from personal feelings. Boy, to have such a wealth of knowledge and also the self-discipline to speak only of the science. That is the markings of a true professional and the saltwater world is lucky to have him. Oh, and by the way, he's a true gentleman and great angler as well.

May your fishing always be catching!

-Guide Jay Watkins 🐟



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Keep Mental Notes Where Bites Come From and How You Were Presenting the Lure

CONTACT

Jay Watkins has been a full-time fishing guide at Rockport, TX, for more than 20 years. Jay specializes in wading year-round for trout and redfish with artificial lures. Jay covers the Texas coast from San Antonio Bay to Corpus Christi Bay.

Telephone
Email
Website

361-729-9596
Jay@jaywatkins.com
www.jaywatkins.com

FIELD NOTES

**THE MODERN ANGLER—
UNDERSTANDING THE DEMOGRAPHICS, BEHAVIORS, & MOTIVATIONS
OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FISH THE TEXAS COAST**

Fisheries management takes more than understanding the biology and ecology of the fish and invertebrates that live in our waters. A large part depends on understanding the behaviors, trends, and needs of the anglers that paddle, pole, drift, wade, and motor along the coast! This is primarily accomplished through TPWD's routine creel surveys in which staff members wait at boat ramps and marinas to ask a series of standardized questions to anglers as they end their fishing trip (in addition to counting and measuring fish, of course). In 2022, TPWD staff members conducted 18,697 creel survey interviews with anglers from Sabine Lake to the Lower Laguna Madre. So, what have we learned about the Modern Angler that haunts the flats and deeps of the Texas coast? Below are just a couple interesting facts about some of these anglers.

Where Did You Come from and Where Did You Go?

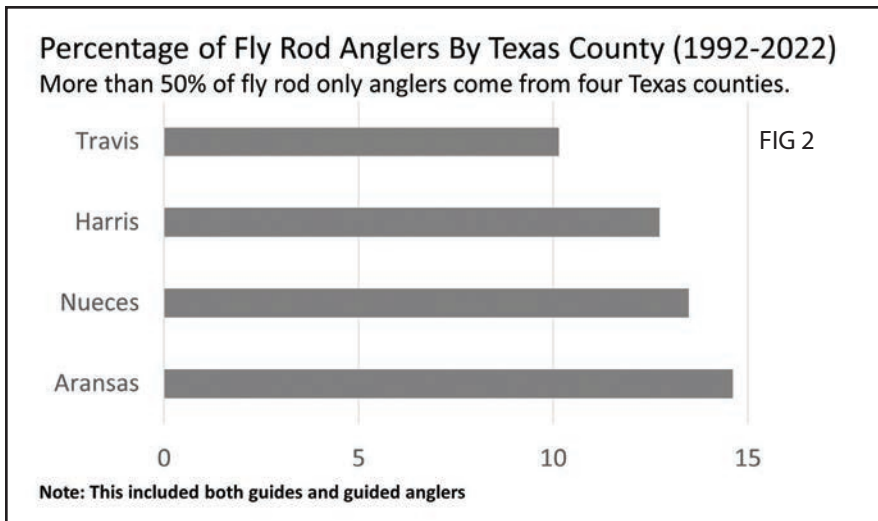
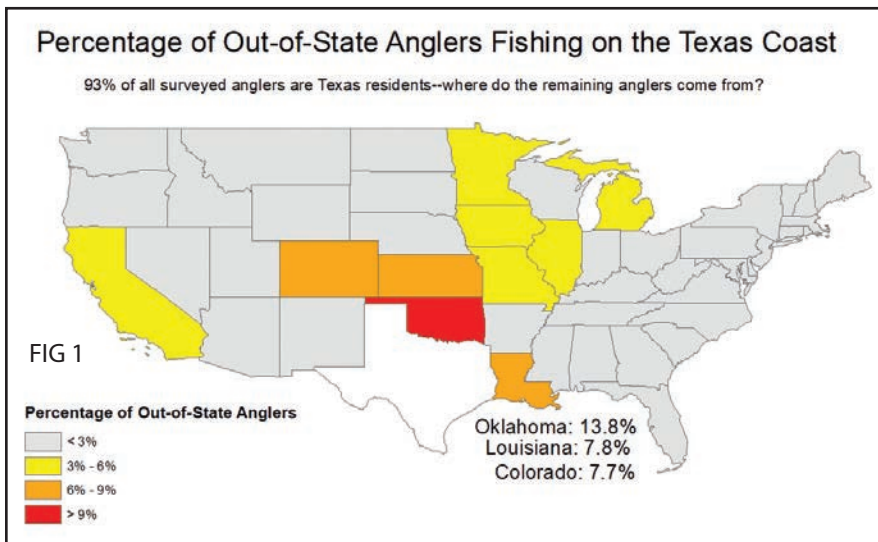
Anglers fishing on the Texas coast come from all over the state, the nation, and even the world. As you might expect, Texan anglers make up the bulk of the surveyed anglers (93.1% in 2022, to be exact). So where do the remaining anglers come from? Most out-of-state anglers come from Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Colorado with other elevated percentages coming from the mid-western US and even California (Figure 1). We also see international anglers from time to time—a recent creel survey interview on the mid-Texas coast intercepted two kayak anglers from France! This is a testament to the world-class sport fishery that Texas enjoys.

The Rise of the Fly Angler

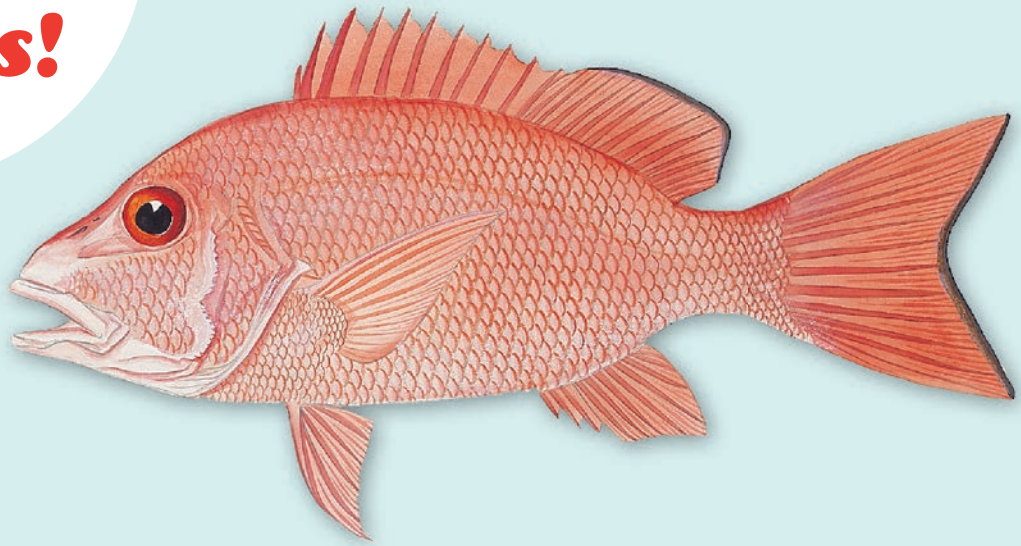
While still making up a small percentage of coastal anglers (2% of anglers interviewed coastwide in 2022), fly fishing has seen more than a nine-fold increase in our creel surveys over the past 30 years. A little over 50% of all fly rod only interviewees (i.e., anglers using only fly rod gear) are residents of four Texas counties: Aransas, Nueces, Harris, and Travis (Figure 2). Interestingly, anglers participating in only fly fishing tend to report slightly higher trip satisfaction, on average, compared to more traditional rod and reel anglers (7.8 vs. 6.5 on a scale from 0 to 10—more about the trip satisfaction portion of the survey below).

Guided or Non-Guided

Anglers fishing on the Texas coast have the option to either strike out on their own or hire a professional to put them on the fish. While a lot goes into this decision, we have seen a very consistent increase in the percentage of guided anglers on the Texas coast, with a large spike in the percentage of guided angling in 2021 and 2022 (Figure 3). Conversely, the percentage of tournament angler interviews at creel surveys has remained relatively constant since the early 2000s (about 2.5% of interviews), with a major drop-off in tournament interviews during 2020, most likely due to safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Your
Catch
Counts!**



Report your **Red Snapper** Landings



Get involved.
Help manage the red snapper fishery for future generations.

At the end of each day's trip, parties that land red snapper are strongly encouraged to report their landings via a mobile app or online.

It's fast, simple and easy!

**Download the free app at
www.iSnapper.org**

or report online at iSnapperonline.org

Each submittal is important to the management of the red snapper fishery off Texas shores and beyond.

Anglers fishing from party boats are exempt as the captain reports for you.

FOR INFO ABOUT THE REPORTING PROGRAM
Harte Research Institute
iSnapper@sportfishresearch.org
www.sportfishresearch.org

FOR INFO ON THE RED SNAPPER FISHERY
TPWD Coastal Fisheries
cfish@tpwd.texas.gov
www.tpwd.texas.gov

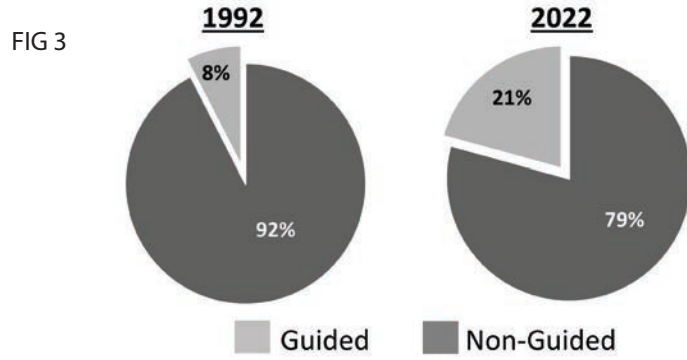
Well, I Hope You're Happy!

TPWD ends each of its angler creel survey interviews with a question about trip satisfaction. On a scale from 0 to 10, anglers on the Texas coast have consistently become more satisfied with their fishing trips over the past 30 years (Figure 4)! While this doesn't always correlate with catch, it's clear that what makes a trip satisfying to anglers can be as diverse as the anglers themselves.

As you can see, TPWD is interested in more than just the fish that anglers catch. But this isn't the only way that we learn about the Modern Angler. TPWD staff routinely conduct mail-out surveys, host public scoping meetings and hearings, and give presentations to local groups on everything from proposed regulations to observed trends in fisheries data. So, the next time you encounter a TPWD staff member at a creel survey, receive a survey in the mail, or hear about an upcoming public meeting, be sure to participate and make your voice heard! That way, we have the best data available to manage Texas' fisheries resources for both the Modern Angler and the many anglers yet to come. 🐟

Check the [TPWD Outdoor Annual](#), your local TPWD Law Enforcement office, or tpwd.texas.gov for more info.

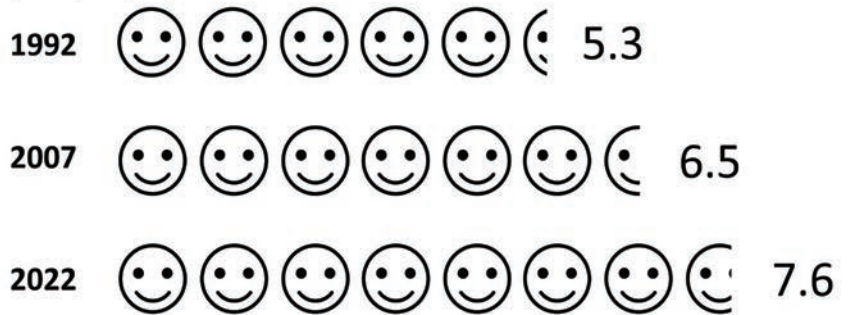
Percentage of Guided versus Non-Guided Anglers in 1992 and 2022



Average Trip Satisfaction from 1992 to 2022:

"On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 being the least and 10 being the most, how satisfied were you with your trip today?"

FIG 4



Beach House Cargo Lifts
Branded Product of Cargo Lift Distributors

CARGO LIFTS

888-684-6110

EasyLift™ SECOND GENERATION Superior Quality and Dependable Parts



1000 lbs capacity

Located in Port Bolivar

Marine Grade Aluminum – Stainless Hardware – Dual SS Cables – Remote Controls

FLATS[®] CAT

www.flatscat.com
U.S. PAT. #4,870,919

SMOOTHTEST - DRIEST - SHALLOWEST

www.flatscat.com



Free GPS
with Boat Purchase
Code: TSFM

Financing
Available!

21ft Flatcat
\$70,100.00
As Pictured +TTL



*Seasoned Angler or Beginner, a Flats Cat boat
will provide the smoothest and most enjoyable
experience on the water.*

Built for Shallow Water
All Composite construction, No Wood!



Available Models
17' Flat Cat | 19' Flat Cat | 21' Flat Cat



Corpus Christi, TX
800-622-2449

coastal bend
MARINE

Port O'Connor, Texas
361-983-4841

FLATS BOAT
Florida

Dunnellon, Florida
678-485-5485



DAVE ROBERTS

SHALLOW WATER FISHING

BEACHFRONT OPPORTUNITIES

Here on the Upper Texas Coast, the winds and weather are starting to become more predictable with each passing day. The typical springtime pattern of high oscillating winds and frequently cooler temperatures are over and being replaced with consistently warmer days and mild southeast wind. Summer is upon us and along with the temperatures, fishing is also heating up. During the first month of summer, fishing could not be any better on the Gulf coast and anglers can find fish just about anywhere. When conditions are right, no place stands out more vividly in my memory than the beachfront.

The Texas coast is 367 miles long and this provides plenty of opportunity for all anglers. No matter what tactics you prefer to catch fish, it can all be done in the surf. One can find themselves throwing topwaters at daylight in hope to catch a quick limit of trout, throwing live shrimp under a popping cork, or paddling out the big lines for a shark; you can actually do all of these in the same day!

Growing up, I spent a majority of my weekends on the Bolivar Peninsula with my family. For the most part, my brother and I kept busy with a fishing rod in hand.

Fishing in the surf gave us wonderful lessons of what it took to become an angler. It taught us the importance of being there at sunrise to catch the early morning bite; it also gave us the opportunity to learn how to throw a cast net properly and catch our own bait. It gave us a chance to break away and figure things out on our own and not rely on our parents to get us out of a bind. I'm pretty sure being waist deep in the surf is where I learned to pick out my own backlashes. You also learn to keep a good hold on a live bait and not fumble its release back into the Gulf. You think twice about these things when it's you throwing the cast net!

One of my favorite places to be in this world is waist deep in the surf at daylight with a light north wind. We don't get to see many days where the surf slicks off and I try my best not to miss them. There's something about watching a trout blowup a topwater with the backdrop of the vastness of the Gulf that keeps me coming back; there's simply nothing quite like it. On top of the picturesque scenery, the surf is an ideal place to catch not only numbers of solid trout but also a chance to top your personal best.

As the morning goes on and when the trout bite

dies; it's time to switch gears. Within my circle of friends somebody will have packed along a few bigger rods that we like to bait up with cut mullet and see if we can entice something a little bigger. We are not as serious as some surf anglers are about shark and bull red fishing but this is a fun way to pass the time with good odds that you will catch something that can really stretch a line. We have landed numerous bull reds, blacktip sharks, bull sharks, and even a few bonnetheads.

One of the most fun aspects of fishing the Gulf surf is the opportunity to hook into such an amazing number of species. Even though you may be trying to target a certain species, you never really know what you have on the other end of the line until you get it in. When I was sixteen, my buddies and I headed down to the surf to try and catch a few trout. Not long into the morning, my buddy hung into a solid fish that was putting up a good fight. I figured he had a decent redfish and when I went to grab it, I got spooked. I had never seen a fish that looked the way this one did and I wasn't about to grab it. So we dragged it to the shore, and while examining his unusual catch, an old timer happened by and informed us it was a tripletail; one of the finest eating fish you can catch. We kept it and that old man wasn't lying.

During my surf fishing adventures I have caught Spanish mackerel, stingrays, eels, whiting, skipjacks, and many more. I have also heard plenty of stories of anglers jumping tarpon. But, of course, light trout tackle is no match for these. If you are lucky enough to be in the right area, you may also get a chance to witness huge schools of jack crevalle and bull reds pushing bait right up onto the sand. This frenzy happens quick but it is truly incredible to get to witness it. It is a scene that even National Geographic photographers dream of being able to capture.

Another thing that is quite often overlooked when it comes to the surf is crabbing. Now this isn't ideal when the surf is rough, but when you can find a calm day it can be very productive. My mom would always stake out several crab lines baited with chicken necks just beyond the first gut. While we were further out fishing the second bar and beyond, she would take a break from her book and go scoop up a few crabs. Also, when the time is right, and if you are willing to put in some work, cast netting shrimp can make for bountiful day. By the time we were all done we were ready for a seafood buffet fit for a king!

The beach is a prime place to head for the day if you are looking for a lot of fun and hoping to land a few fish. Especially if you have kids, this is an ideal learning ground for them. Don't forget to take along



a cast net and five gallon bucket; they will be entertained for hours. There is plenty to learn and, believe me when I say, they will come home with memories to last a lifetime. Even if you don't catch any fish, you are still at the beach with friends and family! 🐟



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Review of AFTCO Urban Angler Pack

CONTACT

Dave Roberts is an avid kayak-fishing enthusiast fishing primarily the inshore Upper Coast region with occasional adventures to surf and nearshore Gulf of Mexico.

Email: TexasKayakChronicles@yahoo.com

Website: www.TexasKayakChronicles.com



Oyster Boats consolidated near Cedar Reef during the 2021/2022 Season.



SHANE BONNOT & KEVIN HICKSON

TSFMAG CONSERVATION NEWS

THE TIME TO IMPROVE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR TEXAS OYSTER FISHERY IS NOW

The Oyster – A Valuable Resource

Oysters are resilient organisms and the reef systems they create through generational recruitment are the backbone of our bay systems. They serve as essential fish habitat, refuge, and food for over 300 aquatic species while also providing valuable ecosystem services such as water filtration, wave attenuation, erosion control, and shoreline protection.

The estimated value of oysters in the water is \$2,000-\$40,000 per acre, which includes benefits of increased biodiversity and fish production, protected shorelines, and improved water quality⁴. Additional benefits of oyster reefs for recreational angling are estimated to be \$23,000 per acre³. In total, the value of oysters in the water is much greater than that generated from commercial harvest from degraded reefs, estimated at \$880 per acre⁴.

Simply put, Texas oyster reefs are a critical component of the natural landscape, providing vital services for our bay systems and coastline. The importance of oysters as the backbone of our bay systems and as a valuable commercial fishery means management of this resource is paramount. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) must manage oysters as a fishery and as a habitat, therein lies the user conflicts that we often see in this fishery and the differences in values placed upon the fishery.

A Growing Problem

Public oyster reefs (wild reefs) in Texas and across the Gulf of Mexico are not what they used to be^{1,2,5,6}. As resilient as they are, they are not immune to the compounding effects of storms, droughts, floods, and mechanical dredging.

Expanding on the latter, we have seen an increased strain on the Texas oyster fishery due to...

- A larger demand for oysters
- Wild-sourced oysters from other Gulf states decreasing

To curb the strain on the resource the Texas Legislature passed a law in 2005 which established an oyster license moratorium, meaning they will not issue any new licenses but can renew existing ones on an annual basis. The idea was to reduce the number of boats fishing on public oyster reefs. Unfortunately, that bill had a yearlong forward-looking implementation date and the oyster industry rushed to purchase additional licenses, increasing the number from 350 to 760. Through some attrition the number of licenses has decreased to today's current number of 533.

Still, the demand for Texas oysters has continued to rise which has led to increased participation for available licenses. Even previously latent licenses that were renewed yearly began to be utilized to meet this demand, undermining TPWD's efforts to manage the fishery through traditional measures such as bag limit reductions

WINNER SPOTTED



CCA TEXAS STAR

MAY 27-SEPT 4

TWO TAGGED REDFISH DIVISIONS,
INSHORE DIVISION, OFFSHORE DIVISION,
GUIDES DIVISION AND
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DIVISIONS

CCA MEMBERS
AGES 6-17
FISH STAR FREE!

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAC ELLIOTT

\$1,000,000

IN PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN UP TO 18 BOATS · 5 TRUCKS · 5 UTVs AND \$325,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



BEST IN TEXAS

TILSON
CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS

Academy
SPORTS+OUTDOORS



PHOTOS ARE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY



**Shiner
BOCK**



MUSTANG CAT



COASTLINE



startournament.org ★ ccatexas.org

By entering the CCA TEXAS STAR you have a chance to win a 2023 FORD F-150 XLT SuperCab, Boats, Prizes, Scholarships and more!

and fishing days. So, as you might imagine, we've seen a rise in the monetary value of these licenses.

Currently, more boats are active in the fishery than the resource can support, causing the available harvest to be quickly exploited. As areas are heavily fished and the number of marketable oysters reaches threshold levels, TPWD has been required to close certain harvest areas. This sometimes has the unintended effect of concentrating large numbers of boats into smaller areas leading to quicker harvest, concern over adverse impacts to vertical relief and reef integrity, and increases in user conflicts.

To put this growing problem in perspective, during the 2021-2022 season, 448 of the 533 available licenses (83%) reported landings. Historically, licensed vessels that landed oysters used to be in the 350-vessel range. That's a significant increase that weighs heavily on the sustainability of our Texas oyster fishery.

The Key - Achieving a Sustainable Level of Oyster Licenses

The oyster fishery is overcapitalized and TPWD needs help in getting the number of active licenses down to a sustainable level. The ultimate goal, as agreed upon by TPWD and the commercial industry, is to get

the number of licenses down to the 250-300 range. One way to do this is through the Oyster License Buyback program. This was established by House Bill 51 of the 85th Legislature in 2017.

The buyback program is structured as a reverse bid process, meaning that license holders inform TPWD of the price for which they would surrender their license.

- From 2018 - 2022, TPWD held five rounds of oyster license buybacks. A total of 15 bids were received over those rounds, with bids ranging from \$4,450 to \$50,000.
- Only 3 licenses have been purchased to date, at an average price of \$7,150.
- During the most recent round of buybacks (early 2023), TPWD received 54 bids with an average bid price of \$99,519, the lowest bid price was \$35,000 while the highest bid price was \$500,000. 13 bids came in at \$50,000, while the street value of these licenses is somewhere in the \$20 - \$30K range.

What does this all mean? The oyster industry is attempting to fleece the buyback fund and artificially inflate oyster license values. However, by TPWD's own admission, it has become clear that to attract more bidders, the price for licenses paid to active license holders needs to be increased. While buybacks are in this price-discovery phase, there are other management actions under development, but first, let's set the stage for the discussion.

The Public's Reefs Versus Sustainable Leases

There is a stark contrast in how public oyster reefs are treated in comparison to areas under location (leases). Unfortunately, history teaches us that commercial dredging of public reefs will always befall the tragedy of the commons. As detailed throughout the article, this has most recently played out here in the Lone Star State. Texas historical landings data shows that approximately 80% of the oysters come from public reefs and the remaining 20% from the 2,300 acres in Galveston Bay that are under certificates of location. Those percentages should be further balanced through an expanded lease program, as leases are vastly more sustainable than the pillage that occurs on public reefs. In short, leases are a better way.

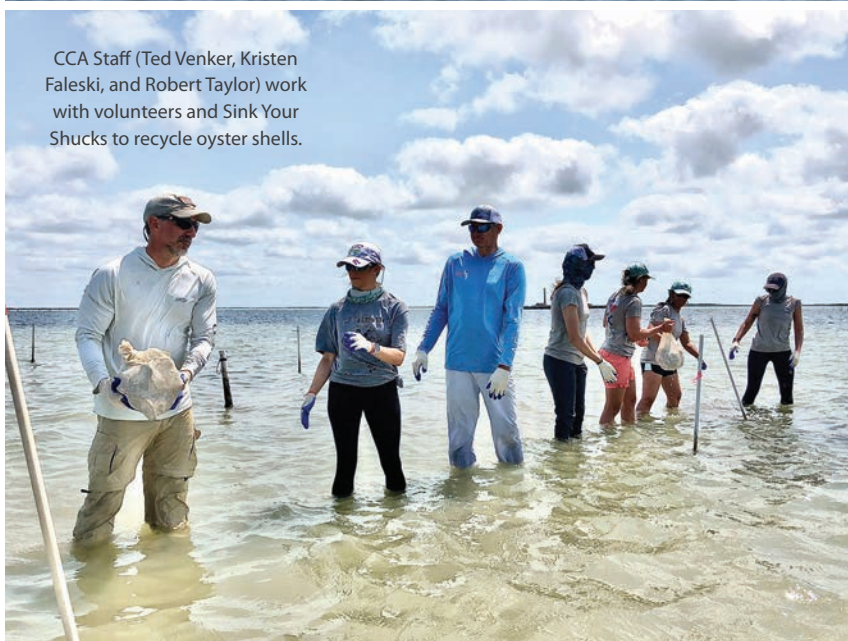
A Conservation Victory for CCA Texas and Our Partners

In November 2021, CCA Texas, FlatsWorthy, and numerous conservation organizations took much-needed action and submitted a letter to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC), addressing critical concerns with the continued decline of public oyster reefs. In the letter, we provided actionable solutions, clearly spelling out suggested management approaches, such as oyster sanctuaries, to prioritize the structural and ecological value of oyster reefs and requested that TPWC provide opportunities to create more reef systems through a structured conservation/restoration lease program (restoration leases) and an expanded commercial lease program. The restoration leases would be off-limits for harvest and the commercial leases harvestable exclusively by the leaseholder.

The following November, in a major win for the conservation of our oyster fishery, the Texas Parks and



Oyster Restoration
in St. Charles Bay.



CCA Staff (Ted Venker, Kristen Faleski, and Robert Taylor) work with volunteers and Sink Your Shucks to recycle oyster shells.

www.freedomboatsusa.com

FREEDOM BOATS USA



EXPERIENCE FREEDOM

Quality, Durability, Freedom

Where to Find Freedom Boats

RON HOOVER
RV & MARINE CENTERS

Ron Hoover RV & Marine of Donna
101 E Expressway 83
Donna, TX 78537

Ron Hoover RV & Marine of Rockport
1510 W Market St
Rockport, TX 78382

Ron Hoover RV & Marine of Corpus Christi
5029 Columbia St
Corpus Christi, TX 78416

**Master
Marine**

SERVING LAKE AND BAY ENTHUSIASTS

10472 W Loop 1604 N
San Antonio, TX 78254

The **BOAT YARD**

1145 FM Rd 518 East
Kemah, TX 77565

SUZUKI
MARINE



361.552.4975
3534A US-87
PORT LAVACA, TX. 77979

Wildlife Commission (TPWC) adopted a proposal to permanently prohibit oyster harvest in Ayres, Mesquite, and Carlos Bays. These three bays are characterized by a diverse network of intertidal and deep oyster reefs, expansive seagrass beds, and fringing salt marsh, all of which provide critical nursery habitat for numerous aquatic species. In addition to the ecosystem services provided by these reefs, the positive role oyster reefs play in this habitat mosaic cannot be overstated and the proximity of Cedar Bayou to this area, serving as a migration and recruitment corridor, further justified the reason for this closure.

Moving Forward and Continuing Critical Conservation Work

Now, the work to expand commercial leases and establish restoration leases is underway. At the direction of TPWC Chairman Beaver Aplin, an oyster regulations workgroup consisting of 5 commercial seats, 4 conservation and environmental seats, and 1 academic seat, is working with TPWD on the framework for these programs. Additionally, a bill moving through the legislative process aims to further facilitate the leasing process. Sponsored by Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R-SD 18) and Representative Todd Hunter (R-HD 32), Senate Bill 1032 and House Bill 2475 clarify the definition of a “natural oyster bed” and clearly give TPWD authority to expand oyster leasing opportunities for both harvestable commercial operations and non-harvestable restoration activities. The passage of this bill would be an immense win for our bay systems, guaranteeing more oysters in the water and more opportunities to invest in the health of our bays.

Oyster license buyback and leases aren’t the only steps that need to be taken to improve the sustainability of this fishery. There certainly are

additional options available such as promoting the increased transition to cultivated oyster mariculture, improvement of oyster restoration strategies, establishing additional spawning sanctuaries, bay-specific harvest quotas, and even traditional measures such as gear restrictions, sack limits, and fishing days/season.

One thing is certain, while we put in a great deal of work to get to this point, we will continue to take steps towards improving the health and sustainability of our Texas oyster fishery here and now.

Works Cited

1. Beck, M. W. (2011). Oyster Reefs at Risk and Recommendations for Conservation, Restoration and Management. *BioScience*, Vol. 61(2): 107.
2. Camp, E. e. (2015). Collapse of a historic oyster fishery: diagnosing causes and identifying paths toward increased resilience. *Ecology and Society*, Vol. 20, No. 3.
3. Carlton, S. e. (2016). Half Moon Reef - Measuring the Recreational Fishing Benefits of a Restored Oyster Habitat. *Texas Sea Grant Publication-TAMU-SG-16-303*.
4. Grabowski, J. H. (2012). Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services Provided by Oyster Reefs. *BioScience*, Vol. 62, Issue 10, 900-909.
5. Kirby, M. 2. (2004). Fishing down the coast: Historical expansion and collapse of oyster fisheries along continental margins. *Environmental Sciences*, 101 (35) 13096-13099.
6. Rothschild, B. e. (1994). Decline of the Chesapeake Bay oyster population: a century of habitat destruction and overfishing. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, Vol. 11 29-39. 🇺🇸

CHECKMATE

**WITH THE TK9
INSHORE KAHLE HOOK**
For Redfish, Speckled Trout
and other Saltwater Species

**AMERICAN
MADE
HOOKS**

**— EAGLE CLAW —
TROKAR®**

**COMPETITORS'
HOOKS**
PENETRATES
2X BETTER

TIDEWATER Does it Again!



Tidewater Boats, the sales leader in the highly-competitive 25-foot-and-up Texas saltwater center console market, has introduced another winner!

The TPC (Tidewater Performance Cat) Raptor 25 is a low-profile high-performance cat that offers high quality with exceptional value. One of the largest boat builders in the U.S., Tidewater's massive purchasing power allows them to offer a superior product at a more competitive price than smaller, Texas cat builders. The result? Boat-motor-trailer packages as low as \$99,000.00!

The Deck – A one piece fiberglass inner-liner, almost never seen in this type of boat, creates a more functional, durable interior with a truly polished look. It also allows for more storage and more "true dry storage" than all the competition. Best of all it provides a more solid ride while eliminating vibration and noise apparent in competitive brands.

Fishing – The TPC Raptor, already in use by many serious recreational and tournament anglers, has three large fully insulated and aerated live wells that can double as drink coolers or release wells. There's plenty of vertical rod holders along with under-gunnel rod storage, and enough dash space to mount two 12" screens. The transom has a standard boarding ladder with plenty space for dual Power Poles. Port or starboard trolling motor mounting capability is available. They have an optional folding or removable Burn Bar with a removable Sun Top. Raw water washdown is standard with fresh water available.

Comfort – Custom wrap-around bucket seats with flip-up bolsters mounted on Shock Wave S-5 Suspension bases, and due to the wide beam, the console is wide enough to tuck behind when running in inclement weather conditions. There is forward seating and an optional two-person removable rear seat is available. The extended bow covers a large area forward of the hulls providing a much dryer ride.

Performance – Yamaha 250 SHO pushes the boat above 50 mph and the TPC Raptor can take up to 400 hp. Engines are mounted on 10" hydraulic jack plate. The hull is a Dual Step Design that increases economy and speed while creating an almost instant holeshot. Custom trim tabs are standard, and while the boat drafts less than a foot, it can also tackle rough conditions of larger bays and open water much more comfortably than most.

Conclusion – If you are looking for a low-profile shallow water performance cat, the Tidewater TPC Raptor should fit all your needs and then some. Most of all, as of now, they are available! Texas Sportfishing Yacht Sales in League City, Texas is Tidewater's exclusive dealer for all Tidewaters 25ft and up and we have a few TPC Raptors in stock. Tidewater has committed to at least one boat a week to Texas through this spring and summer. That is not many, but no two-year wait to get one. Better Hurry!

Texas Sportfishing Yacht Sales
281-535-BOAT (2628) | www.tsfyachts.com



Photo by Kelly Colgan
Azar. Licensed under
CC BY-ND 2.0.



STEPHANIE BOYD
FISHY FACTS

KILLDEER

Killdeer are small shorebirds who do not, in fact, kill deer. Their name is a reference to the sound of their call, and is really a bit of a stretch. Eighteenth-century naturalists, in recognition of how noisy killdeer are, gave them names such as the chattering plover and the noisy plover. Naming something for its sound uses a convention called onomatopoeia, literally “imitation of a sound.” Several members of the nightjar family, including the whip-poor-will, Chuck-will’s-widow, and common poorwill, are named for the sound of their loud, repetitious nocturnal songs. Some others with onomatopoeic names include the bobwhite, the chickadee, and the great kiskadee. Aretas Saunders, self-proclaimed naturalist and bird song enthusiast, as well as Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union, gave the following excellent description of killdeer vocalizations in the early 1900s:

“The calls are mainly of three sorts. The first is the common call heard when one approaches one or more birds, or the vicinity of a nest; ‘dee dee dee dee-ee kildee dee-ee,’ etc. the notes usually slurred slightly upward at the end, at least the longer ones. A second call is the long trilled ‘t-rrrrrrrrrrrr,’ often heard when the nest or young are threatened, and when the birds are fighting or displaying. The third call is one from which the bird evidently has derived its name. It is usually indulged by

birds flying about in the air in loose flocks, particularly early in the morning or toward evening. A number of observers or writers on the notes of this species seem not to have separated this call from the first one. It differs always by the fact that the notes slur downward, instead of upward, on the end. I should write it ‘kildeeah kildeeah kildeeah,’ at least in those forms where the first note is lower in pitch than the second. It is often rendered, however, when the first note is highest in pitch, when it sounds more like ‘keedeeah keedeeah.’”

Across most of North America, the killdeer is a familiar species, thanks to the open habitats it prefers and its loud calls, which give it not only its common names, but its scientific species name too, *vociferus*: from the Latin, *vox*, meaning ‘shouting’ or ‘crying.’ The genus name *Charadrius*, derives from the Ancient Greek *kharadrios*, a bird found in ravines and river valleys (*kharadra* meaning ‘ravine’).

The killdeer is the largest of the ringed plovers, a group that includes the piping and Wilson’s plovers. Although classified as a shorebird, this conspicuous species is often found in areas far from water – similar to other shorebirds such as the mountain plover or long-billed curlew. One of the easiest ways to identify a killdeer is by the two horizontal black stripes that accent its white breast like a necklace. The birds range

between 8 and 11 inches in length with a wingspan of about 18 inches, and most weigh no more than a few ounces – and are especially slender and lanky, with a long, pointed tail and long wings. Like most shorebird species, killdeer have cryptic coloration to better camouflage with their surroundings. They are brownish-tan with rufous fringes on top. The breast and belly are white, with the exception of those two black bands. Killdeer have the characteristic large, round head, large eye, and short bill of all plovers. They have a black cap, a white forehead, a white stripe behind the eye, and a red eye ring. The rest of the face is mostly brown. The bright orange-buff rump is conspicuous in flight. The tail is also mostly brown. The female's mask and breast bands tend to be browner than those of the male. In flight, a white wing stripe at the base of the flight feathers is visible.

Once you can identify the killdeer, you'll find that they're a fairly common sight. As a shorebird you can see without going to the beach, killdeer are found frequently on open ground with low vegetation (or no vegetation at all), such as lawns, pastures, plowed fields, golf courses, athletic fields, gravel-covered roofs, driveways, and parking lots – as well as the usual sandbars, mudflats, lake shores, tide pools, and shorelines. They inhabit North, Central, and parts of South America. Depending upon the population, killdeer can be year-round residents or "leapfrog" migrants. Populations in the northern United States and Canada migrate south each year to escape harsh winter weather, passing right over nonmigratory populations, such as those in the southern U.S. Killdeer occur year-round along much of the Pacific Coast, lower elevations of the Rockies, and across the southern United States, then well into Mexico, as well as the Caribbean, Ecuador, and Peru.

Killdeer find their food using visual cues. Typically, they dash a short distance, stop to seize prey, then run onward in search of the next tidbit. In shallow water, they'll also pat the ground with one foot to stir up prey, pecking at anything stirred up – a practice called 'foot-trembling.' They feed primarily on invertebrates, such as earthworms, snails, crayfish, spiders, centipedes, grasshoppers, beetles, and aquatic insect larvae. An opportunistic forager, the killdeer has been observed eating seeds left in agricultural lands, hunting frogs, and scavenging dead minnows. They'll also follow tractors, in search of prey turned up by the plow. They primarily feed during the day but, when the moon is full (or close to full), they'll occasionally forage at night. – likely because of the increased insect

abundance and reduced predation during the night.

A well-known denizen of dry habitats, the killdeer is actually a very proficient swimmer – even in swift-flowing water. Although common around human habitation, killdeer are often shy at first, typically running away rather than flying. When they stop to look at an intruder, they have a habit of bobbing up and down, looking a bit like a case of the hiccups. When startled, they break into flight and circle overhead, calling repeatedly. Their flight is rapid, with stiff, intermittent wingbeats. Outside of the breeding season, these birds are often solitary. Though they live alone, they're not territorial or aggressive towards others of their kind. Sometimes they congregate in areas with lots of food, but they usually disperse after a short period. They also sometimes take advantage of a small flock to sleep,



Mother killdeer startled on nest. Photo by Audrey. Licensed under CC BY 2.0.



Killdeer chick. Photo by Krista Lundgren/USFWS. Licensed under CC BY 2.0.

which they do standing, usually on one foot. Someone is always awake in these flocks to keep watch.

The breeding season occurs from mid-March to August, with egg-laying in the northern portion of the range occurring a bit on the later side. In Puerto Rico, and possibly other Caribbean islands, breeding occurs year-round. To start off the season, killdeer couples reunite and perform both aerial and ground displays as a duo. During flight displays, both birds hover high in the air or make short, butterfly-like flights on stiff wings with slow wingbeats, calling frequently. On the ground, the pair displays to each other by bowing with fanned tails. They choose their territory based on the best feeding opportunities nearby, and they choose a nest site through a behavior called the 'scrape ceremony.' The male scrapes away a shallow spot in several locations, until the female accepts one, which she shows by switching spots with the male. The male may make several scrapes not too far away from each other before the female chooses one to lay in. This duplication may help to confuse predators. They lay their eggs right out in the open on gravelly or sandy ground. The nest itself is really just the scrape, though some pairs may line it with small rocks, shells, or sticks, particularly after egg laying begins. Some typical sites are driveways, construction sites, farm fields, parking lots, and even gravel roofs. Killdeer nests are always well-camouflaged, and the four heavily speckled eggs blend in perfectly with their surroundings. Often, it can be difficult to pick them out from their pebbly background, even from only a few feet away. Approached by a person, dog, or other predator, a killdeer will startle up from its eggs, letting one wing hang down as though broken, and limp away in the most pitiful manner. In addition to their broken-wing tactics, both parents will pretend to brood in other nearby areas, another type of distraction display. While the impressive acting of the broken-wing display is useful for predators, it's less effective for hoofed animals that might accidentally trample the nest. For this, the killdeer attempts to intimidate by fluffing itself up, fanning its tail over its head, and running headlong at the intruder.

Both parents take turns incubating the eggs for 22 to 28 days. In very hot climates, adults shade the eggs in mid-day, and may even soak their belly feathers to help cool the eggs. Killdeer chicks hatch with eyes open, with a full coat of buffy down feathers. They can walk out of the nest as soon as their feathers dry. As soon as this happens, both parents lead them out of the nest, generally to a feeding territory with dense vegetation where the chicks can hide when a predator is near. Chicks are guarded by both parents, but feed themselves. About 53% of eggs are lost, mainly to predators. Up to five replacement clutches might be laid, and occasionally two broods occur, generally in warmer climates. The young fledge around a month old, and will remain under their parents' care for a week or two after fledging. Young killdeer only have one breast band, and can easily be mistaken for smaller plover species. Breeding starts after one year of age. Killdeer pairs are monogamous and will sometimes stay together for several years. The oldest recorded killdeer was at least 10 years, 11 months old when it was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in Kansas.

Since killdeer adapt well to human habitats, they remain a common and widespread species in many areas. Because these birds are none too picky about their habitats and have a vast range, habitat destruction causes minimal damage for them. The IUCN lists

these birds as Least Concern. They're great for the farms and pastures that they live in because they eat a variety of harmful crop pests, including several species of weevils (alfalfa, cotton boll, clover, rice, white pine), locusts, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and various kinds of beetles. Also lots of mosquito larvae.

This proximity to human populations carries some risks, though. Pesticide poisoning poses a major threat, since killdeer forage on lawns and other open spaces that are often sprayed with toxins. Although DDT has been banned in the United States, other toxic chemicals are still in use, such as neonicotinoids, chlorpyrifos, and glyphosate. They are also vulnerable to collisions with buildings and cars, since nesting birds are attracted to the gravel of parking lots, driveways, etc. In addition, mowing equipment can damage nests and kill or injure young, as well as disturbing breeding birds.

If you startle a nesting killdeer near your home this summer, take a few minutes to unobtrusively determine the exact location. Later, you can mark the spot with a small flag so as to avoid disturbing it. The eggs take less than a month to hatch, and as soon as they do, the parents lead the chicks to a more protected area, so they won't be in the way for long.

Where I learned about killdeer, and you can too!

The Cornell Lab: All About Birds
www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Killdeer/id#

Audubon
www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/killdeer

American Bird Conservancy
abcbirds.org/bird/killdeer/

Animals Network
animals.net/killdeer/

IUCN Red List
www.iucnredlist.org/species/22693777/93422319

Birds by Bent
birdsbybent.netfirms.com/ch1-10/killdeer.html

Everyday Wanderer
everydaywanderer.com/birds-in-alabama-birding-trail

Almanac
www.almanac.com/killdeer-bird

Animalia
animalia.bio/killdeer

Wikipedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killdeer



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

The March of the Adorable Baby Killdeer

SHIMANO



DOMINATE THE INSHORE REALM



ROY'S
BAIT & TACKLE
 CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
roysbaitandtackle.com



Desperado
BOATS
 BACK IN PRODUCTION.

Xpress
BOATS
 18' - 22' in stock

We custom rig our boats to your specifications and do on the water testing with each customer at time of delivery. Our staff is factory trained and offers personal service earning us Yamaha's Flagship Customer Satisfaction Award.



Since 1952 - Over 69 years of Boating Experience

Bernie's
BOATS & MOTORS



Mon - Fri: 8 am - 6 pm
 Sat: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Closed Mondays from Oct - Feb

www.berniesboats.com

5001 N Navarro - Hwy 77 N
 Victoria, TX
 361-573-7809

While some shark anglers will deploy as many as five or more baits for big sharks, Oz finds three to four to be more manageable with less risk of tangling and losing a prized fish.



ERIC OZOLINS

EXTREME KAYAK FISHING & SHARKS FROM THE SAND

SUMMER SHARK SPREAD

As the summer sun heats the sands of our coastal beaches and predictable weather patterns settle in, big shark action simultaneously awakens. The weather patterns so far this year have certainly dealt coastal anglers some bad hands with the good. Interrupting the benign conditions, heavy rains, high winds, wildly fluctuating temperatures and an influx of sargassum weed have all confounded anglers' efforts at times. Perhaps the most predictable thing about Texas weather is its variability. Conditions change rapidly, often in unpredictable ways. Among the most

reliable aspects of Texas weather are the relatively stable conditions which typically prevail during the year's hottest season. Barring the presence of tropical storm systems, summer weather in the Lone Star State means light winds, calm surf, green water and plenty of fun for people who want to catch some fish.

Many old-school sharkers saw June as the first full month in their fishing season; they thought of their sport strictly as a summertime activity, beginning about Memorial Day and lasting through Labor Day.



Greg Ray brought this beautiful tiger to the beach on an overnight charter.

These days, the use of modern techniques and technologies like drones, highly maneuverable kayaks, and jet-skis have helped sharking evolve into a year-round activity. By comparison, the decades of the 1960s and 70s, what I consider the "golden era" of Texas shark fishing, methods were somewhat primitive by today's standards. The old-timers had good reason for thinking of summer as sharking season; the hot months provide the best chances of encountering four of the most revered species: lemons, bulls, tigers and great

hammerheads. Like the sharkers who came before me, I look forward with eager anticipation to summer, hoping to do battle with truly big sharks.

Among the "Big Four" the lemons usually hit South Texas beaches first, though they're typically present for only a fairly short period of time. Along Texas' southernmost beaches we see them first in April and they linger until around the first week of June. On the Upper Coast, giants up to about ten feet in length call areas like Matagorda home for the entire summer. Lemons are highly prized, partly because they're known to attain the greatest length of sharks likely to be hooked and landed on baits cast from the beach.

Lemons sometimes venture quite close to shore when foraging, like the night I hooked one while fighting a big bull. I had to reel in the line on a second rod I had out, to untangle it from the one on which I was fighting the bull. When the two lines separated, I left the second one out while I continued to battle the bull. After releasing the bull shark, I realized



Oz's surf truck on Boca Chica Beach prior to the recent Space-X launch.

something had taken off with the bait I'd left out in the shallows atop the first bar. I picked it up, won a thirty-minute fight, and landed a large lemon which had snatched my bait in water barely deep enough to cover its back. Early in the prime sharking season, lemons can provide these kinds of thrills.

As the calendar strides into July in the Coastal Bend and places south of there, the Big Four devolves into the Big Three. Many of us wait for the arrival of the summer doldrums with bated breath; putting out giant shark baits becomes our singular obsession. We call the array of big baits we deploy from the beach our "spread." The most common plan is to stagger three to five big baits out over a fairly long distance, leaving ample space between them. Some folks like to deploy more, but I feel like trying to manage more than four or maybe five baits from a single camp becomes counter-productive. More baits means more risk, specifically of tangling multiple lines while fighting a big shark, which increases the potential for losing the fish. While four big baits

SPRO Bucktail Jigs

When it comes to versatility and reliability, SPRO Bucktail Jigs are the gold standard. No matter what gamefish species you're targeting, there is a color and size for you!

- Tied with lifelike **bucktail hair**
- Super sharp, heavy wire **Gamakatsu hook**
- Available in **1/4oz through 8oz**
- Great for jigging or casting for **fluke, flounder, striper, cobia, sea bass, redfish**, and more



+ many more colors available

SPRO

spro.com

perhaps optimize opportunity, one is enough to get the game started.

Two baits stand alone at the top of the list for attracting big sharks—jack crevalle and stingray. Big sharks typically cannot resist a thick, bloody hunk of the meat of a crevalle jack, but they're typically not feeding on the fleet and powerful fish during summer. The biggest predators prowl the shallows in summer to hunt mature stingrays. Both southern and rougtail stingrays move into the warm shallows to give birth to their pups. The large sharks come in at night to cruise the sandbars and guts close to shore and feed on these massive rays, which sometimes meet or exceed the 200-pound mark. Monster sharks consume the rays' wings bite by bite, until they're full. Consequently, my preferred bait for the summer doldrums are whole stingrays rigged on single, giant circle-hooks.

Those of us who love to battle big sharks respect both bulls and tigers; these brutes use their mass to their advantage during a fight. Though not the fastest swimmers, they often cruise at medium speed relentlessly after they're hooked, sometimes riding the side-shore current. When this happens, anglers become helpless until they force the beasts to turn and swim the other way. Whether a fight lasts for thirty minutes or three hours, an adrenaline surge occurs once the shark comes onto the first bar and hands reach for the leader. The first glimpse at the opponent makes all the effort worthwhile; looking into the moonlit eye of a twelve-foot tiger leaves a durable impact on the soul. Bulls are admirable creatures, truly impressive, but tigers are the kings of the beach, the very definition of apex predators. Both species are fairly hardy and when managed responsibly and in a timely matter, with the greater majority surviving after being released.

The shark of sharks, the one that has the most prestigious reputation as a fighter, though, is the great hammerhead. These are potentially the longest sharks we target in our land-based careers. My personal best, ranking among the top five in the U.S., measured 14 feet 8 inches. All hammerheads are speed demons. The giant great hammerheads take speed to an almost unearthly level; evolution designed them for speed and power. A monster great hammer, perhaps the pinnacle land-based sportfish, has the ability to strip all the line off almost any fishing reel.

Certainly, catching and releasing such a regal creature can rank as the achievement of a lifetime. On a charter last summer, we successfully released the largest great hammer ever caught and released alive in the Texas surf, measuring thirteen feet. Anyone attempting to repeat this feat should keep the shark in the water the entire time it's handled, and the hook should be removed as immediately as possible. Best bet is to save time by skipping tagging and making only a single measurement to get the total length. Every second counts for the shark, and if it swims off with ample strength, the euphoria of the moment is truly monumental. Moments like these make Texas summer sharking the stuff of legends and dreams. 🦈

CONTACT

For the past decade Eric 'Oz' Ozolins has been promoting shark catch and release and assisting various shark research programs. Eric offers guided shark fishing on Padre Island National Seashore. Also renowned for extreme kayak big game fishing, Eric is the owner of Catch Sharks Tackle Company.

Email
Websites

oz@oceanpics.com
oceanpics.com | catchsharks.com



TRANSPORT

- Outboard Repair & Maintenance
- Fiberglass & Gelcoat
- New Upholstery
- Upholstery Repair

Suzuki Repower Center
Please call for quotes

www.TransportBoats.com • 361-972-6629
1729 1st Street • Palacios, TX 77465

DEALER | **MANUFACTURER**
Trans Marine Services | Tran Sport Boats
Owned and operated by TV, Frank and Donny Tran

POWERED BY
SUZUKI
MARINE



PORT MANSFIELD EAST CUT & BEACH CLEANUP

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Join us in Port Mansfield, June 10, 2023, for the 14th running of the great Port Mansfield East Cut and PINS Beach Cleanup.

We need you, boat captains and also workers without boats. We will arrange boat transportation to the work area for volunteers without boats. This is a great opportunity for all who love the ecosystem of the Lower Laguna Madre and PINS beach near the Port Mansfield East Cut to join in restoring these beautiful waters and shorelines to pristine condition. Please contact Kathie or Miller Bassler to learn more about this wonderful event.

Kathie Bassler: 979-204-5185 or email: kathieb@basslerenergyservioces.com) relative to volunteering for this event and to secure lodging.

The event kicks off with a full breakfast at 7:00 AM, launching from the Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce Event Center. Lunch and drinking water will be provided for all volunteers while on the beach.

Free lodging for two nights is also provided for all volunteers and boat captains.

All volunteers are also invited to join us for more fun at a post-event celebration to be held at Poco Loco Marina's Blues Bar on the Harbor for great food, karaoke, and cold drinks. Three meals and free lodging for all volunteers is a deal that's hard to beat!

Come join us for a full day of hands-on conservation effort and a fantastic feel-good event to help keep the PINS beaches and Mansfield Channel cleaner than it was the day before. Anyone wishing to sponsor via financial contributions are encouraged to email Miller Bassler: (miller@basslerenergyservices.com)

For a detailed look at the work we will be doing, check out the drone video from last year's event at: <https://youtu.be/HagMRe0Y1h8>



NATHAN BEABOUT

MOSTLY SIGHT-FISHING

CONSIDER SIGHT-FISHING

Allow me a moment to introduce myself. I am Captain Nathan Beabout, a Seadrift and Port O'Connor fishing guide on the San Antonio Bay/Espiritu Santo Bay systems since 2007. I grew up on the waters of Rockport chasing reds with my family. My primary style of fishing is wading with artificials and sight-casting redfish from a 6-foot tower on the bow of my boat. After retiring from duck hunting in 2015, I have spent my winters in Port Mansfield, Texas; chasing big trout with clients in the Lower Laguna Madre.

While I have many stories from over the years of wade fishing, from fish we have caught to things we have seen, I would like to start sharing in this article and future writings, my sight-casting experiences. For me, sight-casting from a tower started over 12 years ago when I began fishing redfish tournaments in the various Texas and Louisiana tournament series. It didn't take me long to discover this was something I needed to offer clients who didn't care much for wading. The number one question I get for sight-casting reds is, what is the best time of year? In the fishing world, that is a somewhat loaded question. I believe you can sight-cast successfully almost year-round; all it takes is partly sunny/sunny skies and a





wind from basically any direction, so long as it's less than 12mph. The most predictable months for this style of fishing are May-September here on the Middle Texas Coast. The best times to be sight-casting during the fall through spring months are the days shortly after cold/cool fronts as skies clear and before strong ESE winds return.

Redfish can be found in our backwater marshes, tidal creeks, and shallow ponds year-round, which makes sight-casting here in the Seadrift area so unique. This area of the Middle Texas Coast is home to nearly 40 miles of wind-protected Matagorda Island marsh. In the month of June, two primary patterns can develop. If we are experiencing a normal- to high-rainfall year, our water will stay cool and mostly at normal tide levels. Under such conditions, redfish are more likely to stay in the shallow water ponds and skinny grass flats longer during the day, before retreating to deeper creeks and channels as the water warms. One of my rules of thumb is, (and it's no secret), the skinnier you chase reds, the smaller the bait you throw. My tackle boxes are loaded down with Down South Lures of every size and color, from Super Models to Burner Shads. I like to throw a 1/4 ounce Owner Cutting Point screw-lock jig head typically every day while sight-casting. This allows the bait to cut through the wind and not be blown too far off course before hitting the water. It also gets the bait down in front of the fish faster, especially if they are cruising quickly. One big key in fishing skinny is to creep slowly or sit for long periods of time, allowing these fish to resume their normal activities and pretty much come to you.

On the other hand, during a drought year, or one of less than normal rainfall, we will typically be stuck under a high atmospheric pressure bubble. These conditions will generally include westerly winds, which tend to drain water out of our bay system. Air and water temperatures



will be warmer than normal, and this can quickly change a redfish's activity and feeding patterns. Given tides typically averaging 1- to 3-feet below normal, the shallow backwater ponds will be reduced to mostly sheet water, and become hot in a hurry. One key for us under conditions like this is to attack areas in or directly adjacent to deeper water, meaning 3- to 12- feet. Timing is essential under these conditions, and even sight-casting, we can be on the water before the sun comes up. Clients often look at me sideways when I tell them we will leave in the pre-dawn hours, and it isn't until we get set up that they understand why. Usually in that period before the sun peaks out over the morning clouds, you can find reds with their backs out of water or in small pods tailing down the banks. Not long after the sun rises under these low tide conditions, we find ourselves sitting in deep creeks and channels in areas we can see down 3- to 5-feet,

waiting for a fish to appear, crawling along the bottom.

So, if wade fishing or leaving a boat to fish isn't for you, let's give sight-casting a try together. Scheduling a trip with the right conditions can require a little planning, but being able to pick the exact day will be an experience you won't soon forget. 🐟

CONTACT

Captain Nathan Beabout
 USCG/TPWD Licensed
 Full time guide since 2007
 Seadrift, Port O'Connor, & Port Mansfield, TX
 Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn

Phone 210.452.9680
 Email www.nmsportsmansadventures.com

Do You Show Your Fishing Rods **THE LOVE** They Deserve?

STORY BY TSFMag EDITORIAL STAFF

Have you ever noticed how few rod failures are the fisherman's fault?

Ask any number of anglers the question posed in the title of this article and they'll likely all reply, "Why of course I do...why wouldn't I?" Then drop by your local tackle dealer or custom rod shop and see what they might have to say about the way their customers care for their rods. You'll likely get a very different answer.

The fact of the matter is that through advances in material science and endless quest for sensitivity, today's high-modulus fishing rods are actually very delicate instruments and deserve special care.



Tiny bruises and nicks, perhaps too tiny to see with the naked eye, can create stress risers that result in rods snapping in what could otherwise be considered normal use. Let's take a look at some of the ways these can occur.

Transporting – Just lay 'em in the bed of the truck? Lots of fishermen do. We see it all the time. Sure, it's handy, but also an invitation to thieves if left unattended, even for a few minutes.

Besides theft, there's the possibility of creating nicks and scuffs in rod blanks near critically stressed tip areas while banging against the tailgate as you roll down the road.

Something else to consider is the possibility of dust and grit getting into your reels. A much better plan would be carrying your rods inside the cab of the truck. If you must carry them in the bed, remove the reels and place them in a tube-style case. An alternative to bare rods banging on the tailgate is placing them in protective jackets. Cheap insurance against damage and it only takes a second to slip one on.

Rod Tip Damage – You should cringe every time you see this, and if by chance you are guilty yourself...you need to stop!

OK, so you're out on the bay and headed to another spot. Just wind the lures to the rod tips and slip them in the rod holders...right? Uh...no! That lure wagging in the breeze will be putting way too much stress on the tip section of the rod. It could also damage the tip guide, maybe even create a nick in the insert or knock the insert loose.

There is a much better way – simply secure the lure in the hook-keeper guide and wrap it with a piece of re-usable Gear Tie. The best part of this method is that it also keeps lures from getting loose while underway and flapping about in the breeze. Ever been snagged by a lure while driving the boat? It ain't much fun.





"We contracted the construction of the TSMag office building with Farrell Jackson. Jackson also built my son's bay house here in Seadrift. We were completely satisfied with both projects...a professional and trustworthy contractor."
 ~ Everett Johnson | Editor/Publisher, TSMag



Barndominiums • Metal Buildings • Boat and Mini Storage • Metal Frame Homes • Commercial Buildings

Call us for custom buildings and homes on your own property!

361-576-3825 Office | 361-576-3828 Fax
 36 Hunters Circle, Victoria, TX 77905
www.RafterJConstruction.com



Tropic Star Lodge
 Piñas Bay, Panama

EXPERIENCE UNFORGETTABLE ACTION AT TROPIC STAR LODGE

Enjoy the action-packed inshore and offshore angling experience that has made Tropic Star Lodge one of the most celebrated fisheries in the world over the last 60 years, without needing to travel too far from home. Insane fishing opportunities, fully-fitted fleet options, an expert crew, luxurious lodging and first-class dining - you'll want for nothing during your time spent at this remote paradise. With Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Sailfish, Yellowfin Tuna, MASSIVE Mahi Mahi, Roosterfish, Cubera Snapper and over 15 other inshore species, Tropic Star is a true angling bucket list destination. Visit us and experience our all-new accommodation and fleet options, including a 47' Viking, 45' Hatteras, and the luxe 3-bedroom Presidential Villa overlooking the famous Tropic Star "Bay of Dreams". **Get ready to experience what makes Tropic Star the fishing destination of choice for anglers all over the world!**

Ready for action? Share the code "TEXAS2023" with us when booking for our Blue Marlin or Inshore Seasons (March - Sept 2023) and you'll get your overnight stay in Panama City on us.

tropicstar.com • 800-682-3424 • reservations@tropicstar.com



Reaching Beyond the Handle

to Gain Leverage – Oh my, is this ever a no-no! Never grab a fishing rod that is under load at any point above the rod handle. Fishing rods are designed to bend in a smooth arc from butt to tip, and can resist amazing loads when handled properly. We've seen them snap when lifting fish, even small fish, like the angler in the photo. Grabbing the rod above the handle while attempting to free a snagged lure is another bad idea.

"Normal Use" That Qualifies

As Abuse – Manufacturer's recommended lure weights are printed on your rod's butt section. Typical for a light or medium-light, fast-action 7-foot rod, would be 1/8- to 3/8-ounce. Tying on a popping cork that weighs an ounce or more, plus the weight of a lure or bait, can greatly increase the risk of the rod failing when making a cast.



the gunwale of the boat while fighting a fish can result in the rod snapping. If not right then and there, you have likely created a weak spot that could fail soon.

How many times have you witnessed something as innocent as a bunch of rods leaning against a wall and a gust of wind sends them clattering to the concrete. You're lucky if none are broken...but don't be surprised if a tip snaps next time you rear back to set the hook.

Ever watched as a wade fisherman checks the water depth with his rod before exiting the boat? Okay, we've all done it. But please, if you're using your rod tip as a depth-finder...do it very gingerly.

Bottomline here...show your rods the love they deserve and they'll love you back. And, if by chance you abuse a rod and it fails, fess up. Your tackle dealer or rod builder deserve some love too. 🐟

okuma
INSPIRED FISHING
www.okumafishingusa.com

DTR Custom
INSHORE RODS

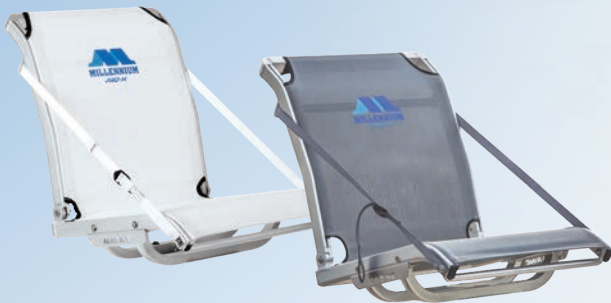
Ceymar HD
SPINNING REELS

INSPIRED BY THE CHALLENGE

Dominate the Gulf Coast waters with the Ceymar HD Spinning Reels and DTR Custom Inshore Rods. Designed to give you the upper hand when it comes to catching trophy-sized speckled trout, our promise is to deliver unbeatable strength, durability, and power to help you conquer any body of water.



CATCH IN COMFORT



PRO-M B100 BOAT SEATS

Millennium Marine's Pro-M 100 features a unique, patented design that provides unmatched comfort, functionality and durability. Enjoy all-day comfort on the water rain or shine with Millennium Marine.



**MILLENNIUM
MARINE**

MILLENNIUMMARINE.COM

NEW

Grundens



Solstrale, meaning -ray of sun light- in Swedish, stems back to Grundéns' roots and commitment to protecting anglers from the various harsh conditions they experience on the water. The sun is no exception. The Solstrale Hoodie is UPF50 rated to prevent sunburn and long-term skin damage caused from harmful UVA and UVB rays that are often unavoidable. But sun protection only works if you're comfortable enough to wear it, and this shirt offers a suite of HeiQ™ technologies including anti-odor, stain release, and thermo-regulating properties to keep you cool, comfortable, and ultimately focused on the task at hand: catching fish.

Available in multiple color options at: Grundens.com

KWigglers Ball Tail Shad Junior

The all-new Ball Tail Junior from KWigglers is a scaled-down version of our original and very popular Ball Tail Shad soft plastic bait. At 4-inches long, with an added hook slot and an action hinge, this is a versatile bait with an enticing, erratic action that fish just can't resist. There are times when fish are feeding on smaller forage and this is exactly the situation this bait was designed to cover. Pairs very well with KWigglers and Knotty Hooker jigheads.

KWigglers.com



Falcon Rods – The Falcon Marsh

The Falcon Marsh came to life with Redfish Tournament anglers in mind. These fishermen demand a "no compromises" approach. So, we took our proven saltwater actions, material that hits the sweet spot in terms of lightness and strength, plus super-strong Recoil guides for the ultimate series of inshore rods. Add all those elements together and you have the perfect combination for whipping tough marsh reds!

www.FalconRods.com



Fishing Tackle Unlimited

Visit Fishing Tackle Unlimited's two Houston locations – Your headquarters for Ugly Stik.

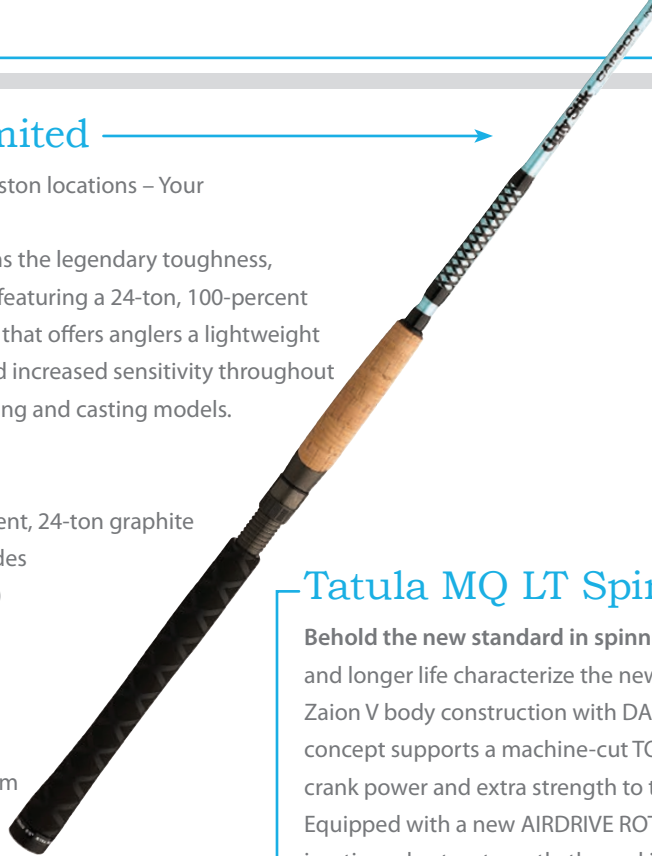
Ugly Stik's Carbon Inshore Rod maintains the legendary toughness, evolving its Ugly Tech rod construction featuring a 24-ton, 100-percent graphite blank, with a solid graphite tip that offers anglers a lightweight well-balanced rod with crisp actions and increased sensitivity throughout all nine models. Available in both spinning and casting models.

Key Features

- Ugly Stik solid graphite tip
- Ugly Tech rod construction – 100-percent, 24-ton graphite
- Ugly Tuff one-piece stainless-steel guides
- Premium cork fore grip (select models)
- Shrink tube rear handles
- 7-year rod warranty
- 9 Models: 3 Casting & 6 Spinning

MSRP: \$99.95

www.FishingTackleUnlimited.com



Tatula MQ LT Spin Reels

Behold the new standard in spinning reels! More power, more torque, and longer life characterize the new TATULA MQ LT. Zaion V body construction with DAIWA's original MONOCOQUE (MQ) body concept supports a machine-cut TOUGH DIGIGEAR to provide unmatched crank power and extra strength to the drive gear. Equipped with a new AIRDRIVE ROTOR to provide rotation with low inertia and extra strength, the reel is equipped with the latest advanced technology and specifications.



Rigid one-piece body! By introducing MONOCOQUE (MQ) construction, the internal body space has been increased to allow larger drive gear to be installed. MQ construction also allows the engine plate to replace the need for screws to stabilize the drive gear. MQ concept improves support of the internal parts and adds durability and resistance to intrusion.

Daiwa.us

Interstate® Marine/RV Batteries

Premium marine/RV batteries from Interstate® will offer some of the highest ratings on the market — all in a case designed to withstand rugged conditions. Choose either high marine cranking amps to start the strongest motors or high reserve capacity ratings in the deep-cycle batteries to run your trolling motor, fish finder, and every other tool onboard. Or do both with dual-purpose marine/RV batteries, available as standard, enhanced flooded batteries (EFB) or absorbed glass-mat (AGM) batteries. They crank engines, troll all day and start fresh the next morning so your big fish story ends with you actually catching the big fish. Spend more time on the water and less worrying about your battery. Go with Interstate Batteries® available at Academy today. Visit InterstateBatteries.com





Matagorda



Bink Grimes is a full-time fishing and hunting guide, freelance writer and photographer, and owner of Sunrise Lodge on Matagorda Bay.

Telephone

979-241-1705

Email

binkgrimes@yahoo.com

Website

matagordasunriselodge.com

I say it every year, but June is my favorite month of the year in Matagorda. Sure, October and November can be stellar around here; however, the possibilities in June are endless.

Some of the friendliest winds and tides will occur in June. Morning incoming tides in East and West Matagorda bays usher in fresh Gulf recruits of fish and we love to fool them with topwaters. Southeast winds and a low barometer is fish-catching conditions and are the norm during a normal June.

Really, all options are on the table this month. If winds are 10 knots or less, we will be wading or drifting East Matagorda Bay. East Bay has rewarded us with solid catches of trout for the start of 2023. Our big

trout are beginning to appear again after two years of recovery from the 2021 freeze.

Our conservation efforts have not waived with better catches; we continue to encourage catch and release of speckled trout, especially those females with bellies full of eggs that will distribute their offspring throughout the summer tide.

Indeed, now is not the time to abandon the efforts and attitudes that have brought our fishery back from that dreadful February 2021 fish kill. I want to thank the majority of Matagorda anglers who have denied self and delicious speckled trout fillets for the good of our fishery.

I too love fried trout, but the benefits of catch and release for specks far outweighs a fried fish dinner.

June promises lots of upper-slot specks for Matagorda area wade and drift anglers.



Professional charter captains need to take the lead in promoting better catch and release practices. If nothing else, it is a great business decision for the fishing business that sustains so many families here in Matagorda Bay.

As professionals, we control the narrative on our boats and most promote better conservation practices on our vessels. If you must keep trout, try to pick out the males. They are easily identified by the croaking noise they make when coming aboard. It is a lot like duck hunters trying to let the hens fly so they have a chance to lay eggs in the spring and make more baby ducks.

I have said it many times before, our editor of Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine, Everett Johnson, was many years ahead of the fishing industry by not allowing photos of “dead fish on a table” or “dead fishing hanging from nails” for the sake of promotion or social media posts.

This magazine continues to lead the way in better fishing practices, and I am honored to be a part of it.

June normally gives us our first glimpse of the surf. All we need is light winds and an incoming green tide and I am wielding a MirrOlure She Pup in the first gut. Few things in this world rival the blowup from a surf speck on a dog-walking plug. It was cool 30 years ago when I roamed the High Island surf in my college days, and it is even cooler now as strands of gray show through under my hat.

Boat anglers can drift the surf with soft plastics or live shrimp under a Mid Coast popping cork. We do the same at the jetty by using the spot-lock feature on our trolling motors to keep up with casting distance of the granite. Summer is here. Enjoy Matagorda!

Sunrise Lodge and Properties specializes in fishing, hunting, vacation rentals and coastal real estate. We would be happy to offer any advice that might help you enjoy Matagorda.

Healthy Matagorda speck tagged prior to release.



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

June Is My Favorite Month To Fish Matagorda

IT'S
TROPHY TIME.

**RECORD
SETTING LURES.**

TEXAS BORN.



PAUL BROWN FATBOY



SHOPMIRROLURE.COM

@MIRROLURE_OFFICIAL



GRADY-WHITE BOATS

Exceptional attention to detail.

MARINEMAX

HOUSTON

Superstore and Marina

281-326-4224



281 Coastal Explorer



Port O'Connor Seadrift

Captain Gary Gray is a full time guide, born and raised in Seadrift. He has been guiding the Seadrift/Port O'Connor region since 1986. Gary specializes in year 'round wade fishing for speckled trout and redfish with artificial lures.

Telephone

361-785-6708

Email

bayrats@tisd.net

Website

www.bayrat.com

Facebook

@captsgaryandshelliegray

to encounter Spanish mackerel, pompano, tarpon, and occasionally tripletail in addition to specks and reds.

West Matagorda's Ranch House shoreline and spoil banks along the Ship Channel should never be overlooked during the summer months. Mostly off-limits during periods with strong wind, but now that our summer pattern is in full swing the wind won't often be an issue. When fishing the Ranch House shoreline it is imperative to work structure such as grassbeds, sandbars, and guts. One of my recent go-to lures for fishing shoreline structures like these is the Texas Customs Double D. The unique action it provides will awaken and draw strikes from even the most sluggish trout and redfish.

Speaking of shorelines, if you are the type that enjoys the challenge of fishing for reds that hang in shallow water over lush bottom grasses, then listen up. Redfish are currently very plentiful and seagrass is



My niece Morgan Gray enjoying a family wade fishing trip.

April and May was pretty much a rollercoaster; one day we'd have north wind and the next could be southwest and raining. Probably not a newsflash to any who has fished the mid-coast regularly in recent weeks. Redfish were our saviors many days, due to the highly changeable weather and inability to fish our favorite springtime trout areas. However, the trout fishing was very good when we could work unprotected portions of San Antonio and West Matagorda bays. Now that the summer weather pattern is becoming established, I look for trout opportunity to improve significantly, especially if we keep getting this much needed rain.

San Antonio Bay, West Matagorda Bay, and the surf, are areas I like to focus on this time of year. When the wind is calm it is really hard to beat the surf. For whatever reason the trout we catch out there are much more aggressive than in the bays. The variety of species is also pretty cool. It is not uncommon

flourishing, but getting a lure to the coppery brutes isn't always easy. A weedless setup is required and my two favorites are a Texas-rigged Bass Assassin and a 1/2-ounce weedless gold spoon. I highly recommend you carry a couple of each in your wade box.

Flocks of birds working in the open bays will be more common now that shrimp are on the move. I have many customers who get really excited when they notice a flock of birds wheeling and diving repeatedly. I wish I could share their excitement but I know what lurks under our birds is almost always smaller trout, skipjacks, and many, many gafftop. I am aware that anglers have great success working the birds when fishing in East Matagorda and other bays but, unfortunately, it just isn't often the case in our area. With that being said, there is one notable exception.

If you ever happen to notice birds working close to the crown of a reef; you could be in luck! For whatever reason, the trout under the birds close to a reef are quite often better quality, with fewer of the less-desirable species. You may still catch some small ones in the mix but solid keeper-size trout will likely be more abundant.

Now that we are getting into summer, I cannot stress enough the importance of getting an early start to your fishing day. I am a stickler in making sure my crew and I are at our first fishing area before the sun begins to peek over the horizon. I'm not saying you will not catch fish in midday and afternoon hours. But I can tell you I have much greater confidence and success when fishing the early morning hours than I do in the hottest part of the day.

Wrapping up – Please remember that it is never okay to pull in close to anglers when you see they are hooking up on a good bite. Not only will you likely not get in on the action they're enjoying; it is equally likely you could ruin it for the anglers that worked hard to find it. Take pride in finding your own fish on your own time. It will make things a lot more fun for everyone. I apologize if I appear to be preaching to the choir on this issue. And by this, I trust that anyone who has taken the time to read this article has greater interest in improving their own angling skills than simply horning in on their fellow angler's good fortune.

Fish hard, fish smart! 🐟

Texas Customs Double D is a dead-ringer for the menhaden protruding from this trout's mouth.



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Presentation Tips – Texas Custom Lures MirrOdine Floater

GALVESTON

FISHING

Extravaganza

GALVESTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

10 Jack Brooks Park Road
Hitchcock Texas 77563

FRIDAY
JUNE 30TH
2PM - 8PM

SATURDAY
JULY 1ST
10AM - 7PM

SUNDAY
JULY 2ND
10AM - 5PM

BOATS
VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS
KID ZONE
FREE PARKING!

\$10 Wristbands
GOOD ALL WEEKEND





Upper
Laguna/
Baffin



David Rowsey has 30 years in Baffin and Upper Laguna Madre; trophy trout with artificial lures is his specialty. David has a great passion for conservation and encourages catch and release of trophy fish.

Telephone

361-960-0340

Website

www.DavidRowsey.com

Email

david.rowsey@yahoo.com

@capt davidrowsey

HOOKED UP WITH *Rowsey*

I get a little down-time in the middle of a charter when everything is going right. At this moment I have very accomplished anglers in the water. They know what to do and how to approach the sand holes. Their time on the water is paying off today as they are just steadily knocking out trout between three and six pounds. Fun to watch and forever grateful to be so blessed by the Big Man to get to enjoy moments like this, sure to become proud stories to their buddies who were not able to make it today.

April and May showed us a hint of how things use to be, and could be again. Numerous days we've had trout in the six- to eight-plus pound range. Other days we would catch a hundred or so ranging from one- to four-pounds, just knowing that we are walking amongst a couple huge trout that will not eat, for whatever reason. My take on that is they can be as moody as a pregnant woman. Don't even try to figure them out. Just fish and hope God smiles on you and gives you a shot.

June fishing will remain very productive for numbers of all game

species. The trout have been spawning steadily, which means they're not as heavy as they were, but they are not getting any shorter. We are always pursuing the largest females in the bay, and it's just as cool to trick them into biting during June as in March.

Every piece of structure in the bay will hold the potential to produce good trout. Fish have tails and move daily, so something that produced a week ago may not seven days down the road. Always, always, always find the active bait before you get out of the boat. If you don't see it, move on till you find the right bait on the right structure. If they are not eating your favorite MirrOlure plugs, scale down to a five-inch Bass Assassin and drag it slowly in front of their face.

I have more conversations about the health of the trout fishery than

you can imagine. Random phone calls, text messages, emails, at the dock, and on the boat. One out of a hundred is someone making an argument to raise the limit back up so there can be more harvest. Stupid, on so many levels.

It gives me great hope though, that the other ninety-nine are of a mindset to, "leave it at the post-freeze size and bag limit... everyone is onboard with it now," Honestly, I wish it were even tighter, but I could certainly live with the post-freeze regs continuing into the future.

In a short time period since the freeze of February '21, we are finally seeing a slight improvement towards normalcy in trout fishing. All the gains we have made in it are going to be for naught though, when "croaker kill" starts again next spring. Back to five trout per day between 15- and 25-inches, with one longer than 25... Holy Shit! That makes 99% of spawning age trout eligible for harvest.

My opinion here, but a fishery full of dink trout in the future is like winning a plastic duck at the circus. The rush of setting the hook will be gone before the cotton candy is finished.

That might have been fine in the mid-80s when there were about 200,000 saltwater stamps being sold, but we're now pushing toward 2,000,000. Almost 10x the number of anglers, and it's still Ok to just keep on throwing them in the ice chest? I'm no mathematician, but the numbers do not even remotely work for me. Coastal Fisheries own trout population surveys show a steadily declining trend for many years. That, along with the huge rise in license sales should, mathematically speaking, have put us at a less than two fish bag limit years ago.

I'm merely pointing out some facts and numbers, but in my opinion, three trout a day ought to be enough for anybody. You just can't have a bay system that produces quality and quantity while allowing that many spawners to be harvested when you have 10x number of anglers taking home that much more of the fruit in the basket.

TPWD needs to hear y'all's voices, your concerns, and what y'all want out of your fishery. I promise you this, right now the "kill crowd" is being heard more than the sportsmen. 🐟

Remember the buffalo! -Capt David Rowsey 🐃



Finally seeing some of these big girls! Not many exist after the freeze, but our tighter slot and bag limit has helped grow a few back. This is what sound management would result in.



Purchase caps through the QR code above.

Let's not let what happened to the buffalo happen to our trout.



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

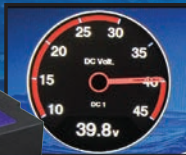
Another Great Upper Laguna Trout

SEE WHAT
**YOU'VE
BEEN
MISSING**



Lithium Pros

THE ONE BATTERY YOU NEED



THERE'S ONLY ONE BATTERY YOU CAN TRUST

for reliable, long-lasting power. Each battery undergoes rigorous validation and testing to ensure you don't get caught dead in the water. Lithium Pros N Series incorporates the BM-21 built-in computer battery management system that continually monitors and protects the battery for peak performance.

- NMea 2000 micro port on the battery itself
- Display battery data on all NMEA 2000 MFDs*

LITHIUMPROS.COM

**MFD must support the battery related PGNs. See website for more information.*

**HUFF
MARINE**

Family owned since 1955



REPOWER WITH
SUZUKI – CHECK
OUT THE
WARRANTY!



CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFO

DARGEL USED RIGS

www.HuffMarine1955.com

5918 So. Staples * Corpus Christi, TX * 361.991.0369

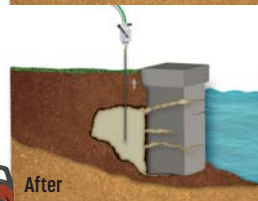
Bulkhead & Seawall Repair

The Deep Foamjection™ process will create a solid barrier preventing future erosion and degradation of sea wall/ bulkhead sub structure.



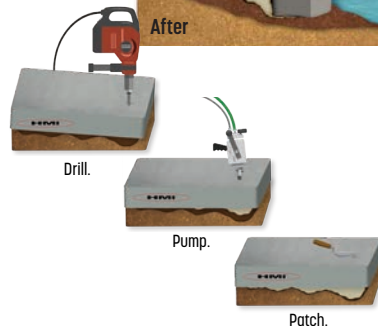
Benefits:

- ◆ Fast/Affordable
- ◆ Risk Mitigation
- ◆ Environmentally Friendly
- ◆ Convenient
- ◆ No Heavy Equipment



Concrete Lifting:

- ◆ Sidewalks
- ◆ Driveways
- ◆ Porches & Stoops
- ◆ Pool Decks & Patios



1-800-595-1880 catfoam.com



Port Mansfield



Captain Wayne Davis has been fishing the Lower Laguna-Port Mansfield for over 20 years. He specializes in wade fishing with lures.

Telephone

210-287-3877

Email

captwayne@kwigglers.com

Greetings from Port Mansfield! Early summer is shaping up nicely and, exactly as expected, the big tides of late spring are rolling in. The Laguna Madre is full of beautiful water flowing through the recently re-dredged East Cut. Based on what I've seen, I believe this has helped the fishery in great measure, even with increased fishing pressure.

I have been spending lots of time in the recently flooded backwater flats and finding impressive concentrations of bait. Some of these flats have what I call a multi-tiered bottom and the subtle depth changes create "hot zones" where fish tend to be more concentrated. This can range from a thirty yard stretch to one hundred, depending on the flat.

I've been setting up in depths of about two to three feet and gradually wading shallower. I pay close attention to the bait and where strikes and hookups are happening for my anglers. By the time we reach the shoreline, which might take a few hours, I've made many mental notes. This was just the case recently, which evolved into me finding and dialing into "micro-areas" of big trout by tweaking my approach to the area.

So, we started somewhere near mid-thigh depth catching a few dink trout, but as we approached the knee-deep things got a lot more interesting. The bait became increasingly nervous with nice reds and trout smacking our lures. As we continued shallower into shin-deep we phased into a few rat reds and the bait faded. Continuing shallower everything went dead.

The takeaway from that wade? Fish were most concentrated in water about a foot-and-a-half to two feet deep, a span of about 60-80 yards. I often see anglers make one wade, pick up and move on, and frankly they work the area too fast. Selfishly, this doesn't bother me because it leaves more room and less pressure in a particular area. There is nothing like fishing without another boat in sight, it's like going back in time twenty years. Boy, what a feeling.

If you fish with me you already know that I like to work areas slowly, sometimes to a fault. Please don't misunderstand, there is a time and place to fish quickly and move on, but going through **My Fishing Equation** prior to leaving the dock aids me in making the best choice possible on where to fish and when to be there.

June typically means redfish and what's not to like about that? They are aggressive, fight hard, slam topwaters, and thump plastics like they really mean it. We also get a few nice trout along the way, which keeps things interesting.

Another species worth mentioning here is flounder. So far this year

I'd say we're doing fairly well in this category, averaging at least one or so per trip. Flounder are easy to target and they've been loving the KWigglers Ball Tail Junior and, of course, the trusty old 4-inch paddletail.

Another popular summertime activity is fishing tournaments and there is certainly no shortage of them. I saw a post recently on social media about tournaments and their impact on the fishery, which they definitely have. I couldn't help but chime in.

If anglers are concerned about the impact of tournaments, why not take it upon themselves to weigh their fish alive? I am not aware of a single tournament that would penalize a contestant for weighing live fish. Puzzling that those who complain about tournaments also participate and bring dead fish to the scales. Any effort in this department would be a big step in the right direction. Sure, some might eventually die, but I guarantee some will survive. Think about that and give it try. You might be part of starting something positive.

On that note, I recently helped with implementing a Catch-Weigh-Live Release format for the Shallow Sport Owners Tournament, with incentives for doing so. We acquired some cool Simms swag and for each fish weighed alive contestants received a raffle ticket. A drawing was held at the awards ceremony and winners selected the Simms swag item to of their choice.

Additionally, we were able to document how many fish were released alive. Keep in mind this is no little tournament – 250-plus boats and 1200-plus anglers. I call this change in the format a tremendous success. Pretty cool, and I thank Shallow Sport for collaborating with me on this new incentive. Hopefully, next year we can grow this by having even more prizes.

Until next time; Remember, fresh is better than frozen. 🎣



Nick Garza; nice redfish tricked with the new KWigglers Ball Tail Shad Jr.



Mike Frazier with an honest 28-incher taken recently on topwater.



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Introducing KWigglers NEW 1/0 Jigheads...More Action from Smaller Baits!

When you want the very best,
Get a Mowdy!

MOWDY C-25 CAT



RUN SHALLOW
 RUN DRY
 RUN OFFSHORE

MOWDY
 BOATS OF TEXAS

www.mowdyboats.com

735 St. Hwy 35N
 Port Lavaca, Tx 77979
 361-553-6939
 sales@mowdy.com



MOWDY T-16 CAT



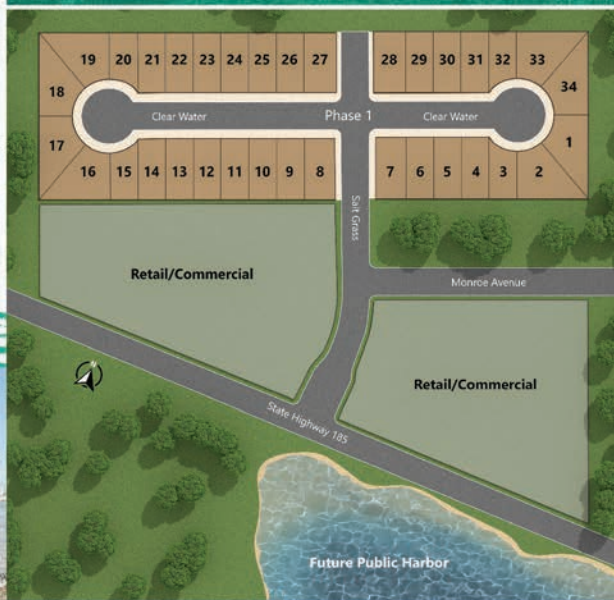
Harbor Vista

PORT O'CONNOR

Live & Play Your Way



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL LOTS AVAILABLE

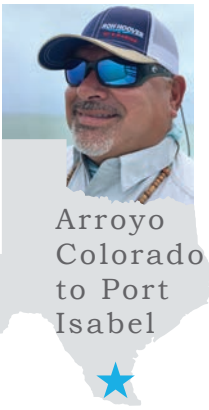


361/205-9105

Sales@HarborVistaPOC.com

HarborVistaPOC.com





Arroyo Colorado to Port Isabel



A Brownsville-area native, Capt. Ernest Cisneros fishes the Lower Laguna Madre from Port Mansfield to Port Isabel. Ernest specializes in wading and poled skiff adventures for snook, trout, and redfish.

Cell

956-266-6454

Website

www.tightlinescharters.com

SOUTH PADRE *Fishing Scene*

June looks as though it will be a bit of transitional month for us, at least in terms of water temperature. I say this because of the several cool fronts in recent weeks that have kept our waters mostly in the low- to mid-70s range. I expect this will change soon as the daily high temperatures rise well into the 80s and 90s heading into June.

June is usually a much calmer month, wind wise, and the majority of our bay waters will become clear to trout green. One of the main reasons anglers from other parts of the Texas coast frequent the Lower Laguna Madre is our vast crystal-clear flats. The abundance of seagrass contributes to water clarity as it helps hold bottom sediments in place, unlike other parts of the coast.

I want to offer a few pointers that can contribute to more consistent fishing

success in the coming summer season. Of course, nothing beats time on the water. But if your fishing time might only be a few days, there are some things you should consider when planning your trips.

First is weather, especially wind direction and velocity. Certain areas fish better with specific wind directions. Some are protected from wind and naturally hold better water clarity than others.

Next would be tides and knowing how long it takes a tidal current to reach your favorite fishing spots. On average, I have discovered that it takes one hour for the tide to travel six to seven miles. So, using that calculation, you can estimate when it will reach your area. Learn to gauge the tide at the boat ramps you use. The water level will show you which areas you can and cannot fish.

Then comes the major and minor solunar feeding periods. These do not always occur exactly on cue, but I have found them about 80- to 85-per cent accurate, on average. The more you use and study the solunar table, the more you begin to understand it and gain confidence.

Be observant of everything going on around you, especially bait activity. Study the birds and their feeding activity. They can pinpoint the fish you are after as well as provide clues for lure selection. Seeing lots of bait activity on the surface; I may be inclined to throw a topwater. But if the fish are short-striking or slapping at it, I will switch to a Z-Man plastic. Mud boils tell me fish may not be actively feeding, just lying on the bottom. In this case I will likely throw either the Z-Man Kicker CrabZ or PaddlerZ, trying to keep it low in the water column.

Boat traffic has increased noticeably in recent weeks. This, along with higher tides has had redfish scattered and less concentrated than earlier

this spring. Shifting strategies, we have successfully targeted redfish in tucked-away places; right up against spoil areas, tight to shorelines, and back bays on the west side of the ICW.

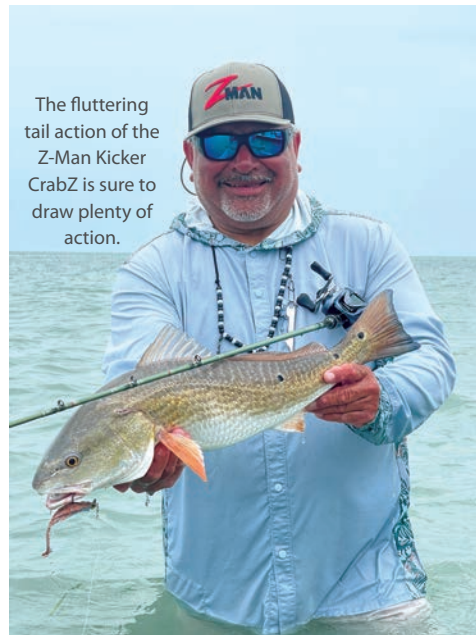
These back bays have soft, muddy bottoms where shrimp are known to burrow during daylight hours, which helps explain why the reds are there. If our water level remains high, the east-side flats will also hold scattered redfish and occasional schools. If the wind doesn't lay down this month, look for birds to work over pods of redfish holding on murky flats in late afternoon.

The recovery of our trout fishery is more evident with the passing of each month, and the numbers of smaller trout gives solid hope for the future. As the water warms in June, look for the best bite to occur during early morning and late evening. Not saying they can't be caught during the hottest part of the day, but you would do well to target deeper and cooler water.

June is an excellent month to find trout along the edges of the ICW and other channels. A moving tide greatly improves your chances of finding and catching them. Try to keep your lure low near bottom with a slow retrieve. The Z-Man PaddlerZ, with its segmented body, has an excellent vibrating action even when worked slowly. The ElazTech material they are made from is incredibly tough, which means you won't be wasting time changing lures after a few fish.

Snook numbers remain excellent but much harder to target, the best days being those with strongest tides that coincide with new moon and full moon phases. Some flounder have been showing during recent weeks, and I expect to see them becoming more abundant in cuts and drains as we make our way further into summer.

Best fishing! 🐟



The fluttering tail action of the Z-Man Kicker CrabZ is sure to draw plenty of action.



Z-Man's PaddlerZ in sexy penny fooled this back bay redfish.



VIEW THE VIDEO

Open Camera and hover over QR Code. When link appears at top of screen tap to open in YouTube.

Shift Your Prop Into Gear When Trailering and Drifting

FISHING TACKLE UNLIMITED

THE SOURCE FOR THE ULTIMATE CUSTOM ROD!



1,000'S of Blanks
Components, & Tools
To Choose From!

FEATURING

BATSON
The Best Fishing Rods Start Here.



OFFSHORE TO INSHORE,
BASS TO REDSFISH,
EVERYTHING YOU NEED
FOR THE ULTIMATE
CUSTOM ROD!

12800 Gulf Fwy
Houston, Texas 77034
281-481-6838

10303 Katy Fwy
Houston, Texas 77024
713-827-7762

WWW.FISHINGTACKLEUNLIMITED.COM

GET FREE E-MAG WITH HARDCOPY PURCHASE!

Order today and receive a 12-month subscription for \$32.00. Hurry and sign up family members and/or friends at the same rate!

ORDER NOW!



SUBSCRIPTION FORM SUB0623

To order subscriptions simply fill this form out below & mail it to the address below, fax, email or go online.

Mail to: Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine
P.O. Box 429, Seadrift, TX 77983

Phone: 361-785-3420
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fax: 361-792-4530

E-mail: store@tsfmag.com

Please make all checks payable to

Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card No: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____

(Need VCode on all cc's _____)



We accept most Major Credit Cards.

Please Check All That Apply

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 12 months print - \$32.00
- 12 months digital only - \$15.00
- 24 months print - \$56.00

Auto Renewal available with all subscriptions!

Subscribing for more than yourself? Please write additional information on a separate sheet of paper.

FISHING TACKLE UNLIMITED

CLEAN, SERVICE, & REPAIR

your Rods & Reels!

Brands We Service!



12800 Gulf Fwy
Houston, Texas 77034
281-481-6838

10303 Katy Fwy
Houston, Texas 77024
713-827-7762

WWW.FISHINGTACKLEUNLIMITED.COM

FISHING REPORTS & FORECASTS

from Big Lake to Boca Chica

Trinity Bay - East Bay - Galveston Bay | James Plaag

Silver King Adventures - silverkingadventures.com - 409.935.7242

James sees June as a month when patterns become more reliable on a daily basis, after the fluctuating ones created by the changing weather of spring. "When it gets hot and stays hot, we do still catch some fish by wading, usually in places close to the jetties or a pass, when the tide is moving with some pretty good strength. Early in the mornings, if the tide is coming in strong and bringing cool water in from the gulf, the fishing can be great for trout. During the hotter parts of the day, we'll start to see the patterns out in the middle become more productive. When fishing in places where the water is too deep to wade, it's important to use slicks, mud-boils and rafts of bait to find the fish. Keeping the boat in the right location to allow for casting at the schools of fish and bringing lures in front of them in the right direction is another key. Much of the time when the water's hot, the fish will bite lures better when they're moving steadily along, rather than when they're hopping around, so I don't twitch the rod tip too much this time of year."

Jimmy West | Bolivar Guide Service - 409.996.3054

Jim had been experiencing mixed results on recent charters, with some banner days on which the big trout were biting. "I had one a little over 28 the other day, weighed seven pounds. And, we've had some other sixes. Key has been the tides. When the tides dump out and get really low, the fishing isn't nearly as good. We've been wading mostly, and I expect to be wading a lot in June, too. Usually, we have some good fishing on both shorelines in East Bay at the start of summer, and the fishing on the beach in the Bolivar Pocket can be really good. Out there, the fishing is best if the tide's fairly high and we have south winds. I also expect the fishing out in the middle to pick up in June. We're starting to catch some fish out there lately, which is somewhat late. But in any year, fishing around mud stirs, slicks and rafts of bait in June is good. The problem with the fishing out in the middle lately has been the size of the fish. Some days, it feels like the bay is just full of dinks. You'll catch ten undersized trout for every keeper."

West Galveston - Bastrop - Christmas - Chocolate Bays

Randall Groves | Groves Guide Service

979.849.7019 - 979.864.9323

June brings in the beginning of the peak season for fishing multiple patterns in the bays and nearshore waters around San Luis Pass, Randall says. "We should have all kinds of bait in the bays by the time June arrives, including everything from shrimp, glass minnows, ballyhoo and ribbonfish. Of course, we still find fish by locating rafts of jumping mullet too. Fishing for reds in the back-lakes and coves can be steady this month, when tides are high and winds are fairly strong. Fishing for trout around the sand bars and guts behind the pass is also a great option when it's calmer. Tides of medium strength make that pattern best. And, of course, the action should kick off in the surf when winds lay for a couple days in a row. If it stays calm even longer, and the water runs clear to the beach, the action for king mackerel and other pelagics can be good almost within sight of land. We throw topwaters a lot this time of year, especially in the mornings. Pearl Skitter Walks are a favorite, as are shiny, chrome She Dogs and Spook Juniors. Full-sized Norton Sand Eels work better later in the day."

Matagorda Bays | Capt. Glenn Ging

Glenn's Guide Service - 979.479.1460

www.glennsguideservice.com

Warm, steady weather patterns open up just about every fishing option in Matagorda in June. Wading will be good in both bays, mostly on reefs in East Bay and on grass flats in West Bay. Topwaters and soft plastics on light jigheads will be great options. The marshes and back-lakes continue to hold good numbers of redfish. Natural-colored soft plastics, small topwaters and weedless spoons are great options to target them. Drift fishing should stay strong, if we get persistent light southeast winds. June usually gives us our first shots at getting in the surf. When the waves lay down, the first couple of guts off of the beach usually fill up with bait. Big shrimp usually show up in the surf in large numbers, and the fish can't resist them. Soft plastics, topwaters and live shrimp under popping corks all work great along the beachfront. The jetties also hold plenty of reds and trout this month; the reds take cut baits best, and live shrimp under corks takes the trout and most everything else. June is a great month to chase tripletail around visible structures. On the calmest days, cobia can be chased and caught in the open gulf.

Palacios | Capt. Aaron Wollam

www.palaciosguideservice.com - 979.240.8204

These temperature swings have spread our fish out. We're staying on a pretty consistent bite, but have had some tough days with these late-season cold fronts. Our redfish and black drum fishing has been really good this spring, with lots of good eating-sized fish coming to hand. We have been having best results fishing over shell reefs in about two feet of water. Live and fresh peeled shrimp rigged on popping corks have accounted for most of our bites. We have had lots of runoff from spring rains and have been catching lots of trout on the north shoreline of Tres Palacios Bay. Topwaters like the green/chrome She Dogs and the pearl Skitter Walks have taken some nice trout along the seawall. The trout are still holding around some deep shell reefs and eating live shrimp rigged about four or five feet under popping corks. Flounder gigging has started to take off on area shorelines; when we get some good east/northeast winds that clean up the shorelines, there have been plenty of legal fish to stick. June should be a great month. With all the rains we had this spring, plenty of bait should be in the bays all summer.

Port O'Connor | Lynn Smith

Back Bay Guide Service - 361.935.6833

Lynn expects to continue fishing much the same ways in June as he has been in May, with a few notable deviations. "I have been catching quite a few trout on grassy flats lately. That pattern is usually good into June, especially on the flats around the pass. We do best over there when we have some strong incoming tides during the morning hours, which encourage the trout to move up onto the sandbars where the grass is growing. I also expect the reefs lying alongside the channel between Port O'Connor and Port Lavaca to start producing some good catches of trout. This pattern usually perks up once the water temperatures rise into the 80s and stay there consistently. Of course, we'll be looking to get into the surf as often as we can in June. Some of the best beachfront fishing of the year usually happens the first few times during the summer when calm



Science and the Sea™

The Deepest Fish in the Sea

As you go further and further into the ocean's depths, you pass through different zones named for the increasing darkness, from the sunlight zone to the twilight zone, to the midnight zone, to the abyssal zone, to the absolute deepest points in the oceans—the hadal zone. The hadal zone is named for Hades, the Greek god of the underworld, and it stretches from 20,000 feet to as deep as 36,000 feet—nearly 7 miles—below the surface, at the bottom of the deepest trenches.



The snailfish is the deepest recorded fish species, recently found in the Izu-Ogasawara Trench at a depth of 27,349 feet. Image courtesy of Caladan Oceanic.

In complete darkness, with temperatures barely above freezing, the pressure is more than 800 times greater than at the surface. It would seem impossible that any creature could survive. But life finds a way, and scientists have recently filmed a fish swimming at the greatest depth ever recorded: 27,349 feet, or 5.2 miles deep. A juvenile snailfish that was investigating a baited camera in the Izu-Ogasawara Trench off the coast of Japan has now earned itself a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. For a sense of scale, imagine flipping Mount Everest upside down in the ocean. This small, colorless fish would have been swimming just 1,680 feet shallower than Everest's inverted summit.

How do deep-sea snailfish survive such hostile conditions? They have jelly-like skin instead of scales, fewer bones, and pressure-resistant chemicals that keep their proteins from being crushed. Though they resemble oversized tadpoles that grow to just over 11 inches long, don't let their innocent looks deceive you. Snailfish are top predators in the hadal zone, subsisting on tiny crustaceans. And although this record discovery has thrilled scientists, data from approximately 500 deep-sea cameras across the world suggests this is probably around the deepest we can ever expect to find a fish.



www.ScienceAndTheSea.org

© The University of Texas Marine Science Institute

SafeFloor™

DON'T NEGLECT THE DECK

SAFE FLOOR LLC
12008 HWY 146
Dickinson, TX 77539

Phone: (832) 837-4818
Email: safefloor2@gmail.com

www.safe-floor.com

@safefloor

LOCATED IN TEXAS, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA

August 11-13, 2023

Download Registration Form and Rules at:
www.spichamber.com

Follow Us On Facebook and Instagram
@LadiesKingfishTournament
#LKT2023

For info: info@spichamber.com

winds allow the water to run green to the beach. We'll keep fishing the back-lakes when it's windier. We've been catching some trout around grassbeds in some of the lakes lately, and action for them and reds usually remains steady in June."

Rockport | Blake Muirhead

Gator Trout Guide Service - 361.790.5203 or 361.441.3894

Blake says the fishing in the Coastal Bend Bays has been excellent this spring, and he expects the catching to continue in June. "We've had a good trout bite lately. We've been catching our fish mostly on sandy, grassy flats in water from about knee to waist-deep. We're fishing shorelines loaded with jumping mullet most of the time, in the lee of the land when it's windy, on windblown shorelines when winds are lighter. We've also caught some trout on some of the reefs at times. We've had a good bite on small topwaters some mornings, and the bite on dark Norton Sand Eels with bright tails has been steady most days too. We will be throwing live croakers more of the time when June arrives. The coves and lakes are still holding plenty of reds for people who like to tangle with them. We've been able to catch plenty of slot-fish on some days. I do expect to spend some time along the beachfront of Saint Joe Island this month too. When I'm fishing out in the surf, I like to start off early throwing topwaters close to the beach, then move out to the deeper bars and guts later."

Upper Laguna Madre - Baffin Bay - Land Cut

Robert Zapata | rz1528@grandecom.net - 361.563.1160

People who like to fish like the month of June because it is such a consistently good month for catching. My confidence in catching fish during this month is consistently higher, and it shows in my better catches when all is said and done. The water temperatures will be ideal for trout and redfish to be in three feet of water or less. The trout will be spawning, so look for the big ones in less than two feet of water along grass lines and around sandy potholes early in the mornings, and just before and after sunset. This is a great month to fish with MirrOlure Catch 5s in natural colors, if there is not too much suspended or floating grass. If there is too much grass, Bass Assassin Die Dappers in colors like trickster, salt & pepper/chartreuse, and plum/chartreuse rigged on sixteenth-ounce Spring-Lock jigheads work better. Wading is a great way to approach the target areas, but because stingrays will also be in these areas, all those wading should wear ForEverLast Ray Guards. Sight-casting for red and black drum will also provide lots of fun with shrimp-flavored Fish-Bites on light jigheads thrown into about a foot of water.

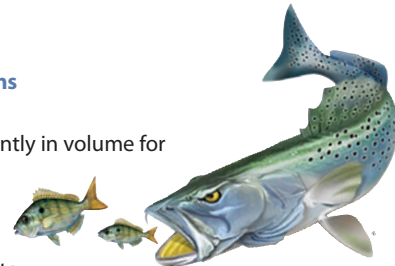
Corpus Christi | Joe Mendez - www.sightcast1.com - 361.877.1230

In June, the normal calm winds and predictable weather patterns create excellent opportunities for people fishing the ULM, Baffin Bay and Corpus Christi Bay. "Fishing is usually excellent in the mornings during June. Winds calm down at the end of the night and provide several hours of great fishing conditions early in the days. On calm June mornings, small topwater lures work great for folks who like to throw them. Both the trout and reds take them readily on many days. People who prefer soft plastics often find fast catching throwing them under tightly packed schools of mullet. The lack of wind in the mornings does create a glare on the water's surface, which makes sight-casting difficult or impossible. Once the winds begin to blow late in the morning, though, that changes. Sight-casting for both black and red drum and the occasional bigger than average trout in the clear water left in the wake of the calm lull is usually good during the mid-day hours this month. One of the best aspects of calm weather is that it allows for fishing anywhere, which spreads the people out. This is necessary during June, one of most popular months for fishing here."

P.I.N.S. Fishing Forecast | Eric Ozolins

361.877.3583 - Oceanpics.com

The sargassum weed showed up recently in volume for the first time in a few years along the Texas Coast. While still present, it should thin out as we start to get into summer. It's quite an annoyance to fishermen, but it's great for the ecosystem and all parts of the food chain. It's not uncommon to hook cobia or tripletail from the beach during times when the weeds are thick. Remember, these floating rafts of weeds harbor exponential amounts of plankton and small fish, attracting larger predators. June should be a phenomenal month to catch trout for those willing to work around the sargassum. Topwaters should be regularly effective. This has also been the first year in many with active jack crevalle, which can become a nuisance, attacking topwaters thrown at trout. Those targeting jacks should look for them crashing bait under birds. Large spoons get their attention about as well as topwaters. Slot reds should be plentiful in the surf. Large schools of skipjacks should materialize under a variety of baits. With the large amount of skipjacks, sharks will follow. Sharking at night will yield some large fish, primarily tigers and hammers, with some massive bulls mixed in.



Port Mansfield | Ruben Garza

Snookdudecharters.com - 832.385.1431

Getaway Adventures Lodge - 956.944.4000

Although June is hot, it's still not the hottest month of the year; the fishing can be outstanding. Traditional June days feature light winds in the mornings and heavier winds in the afternoons. West bay is always a good choice south of town, when boat traffic isn't too heavy. The slightly deeper water east of Bennie's Island to just north of The Pipeline also offers excellent potential, especially the deeper potholes. Early morning topwater action can be great with Mansfield Knockers in colors like Zombie, Ruby Tuesday and Golden Croaker. Heading north is often a better option when boat traffic is heavy. With light winds, Community Bar and Century Point are great options, as is the area by the Weather Station right by the deep water break. Drifting that section to Butcher's Island can be productive. The fish like KWigglers in colors like Lagunaflauge, plum/chartreuse and Mansfield Margarita rigged on eighth-ounce jigheads. In the deeper water outside the break, a quarter-ounce head usually works better. On the east side, it's often good to stay shallow, throwing Mansfield Knockers or quarter-ounce gold spoons at the reds cruising around over the bright sandy bottom.

Lower Laguna Madre - South Padre - Port Isabel

Aaron Cisneros | tightlinescharters.com - 956.639.1941

Warm weather is the norm now as we are entering the summer months. Our trout fishing has been steady. We are finding most of our trout on deeper grass flats, averaging three to four feet. As trout have been spawning we have found all sorts of sizes schooling up together, and ZMan redbone StreakZ on a fast retrieve over potholes has been our go-to technique. Redfish numbers have also held up and should only get better in coming weeks. A good redfish bite has been occurring regularly along windblown shorelines. The afternoon redfish bite has been mixed with trout in deeper potholes lying in 3-4 feet of water. Spook Jr topwaters in bone color rigged with single hooks have been a great early morning choice. Later in the day, as winds pick up, we are throwing ZMan redbone Kicker CrabZ rigged on Eye Strike Texas-Eye weedless hooks. Our lure presentation with these is generally slow over sandy pockets. Tides and winds should begin to diminish somewhat as June rolls along. Watch for fish to be on the move for deeper areas. 🐟

MATAGORDA BAY
Speckled Trout / Redfish



Fin Tastic
COASTAL CHARTERS

USCG Licensed
Captain Stan Sloan

832.693.4292
www.fishcc.com



T3 **Reel Magic**
GUIDE SERVICE
Galveston & East Matagorda Bay
Capt James Cortinas
281-727-6220
jhcreelemagic@hotmail.com

Wiggies Pro-Staff



Getaway Lodge
Fort Mansfield, TX

Where you can relax
and let us take care
of the details!

www.getawaypm.com
956-944-4000

Follow us on Instagram
Follow us on Facebook

Fishing Charters Galveston
Offshore & Bay

Trips: 5,8,10,12 hours. Captain & Mate.

Full electronics & Bathroom. Included: bait, ice, ice water. Bring your own food and drink. Kingfish, Tuna, Mahi Mahi, Grouper, Snapper, Redfish, Flounder, Trout & more...

409-919-0833 | topgalvestoncharter.com



Conner's
Guide Service

Captain Rick Conner
U.S.C.G Licensed Captain
rconner2@peoplepc.com
Matagorda Bays

Phone: (281) 685-2122
Wade and Drift Fishing
Trout, Redfish and Flounder
Connersguideservice.com



Home of the
WADSWORTH & MADRID SLING

USE COUPON CODE TSFM15 FOR 15% OFF OF CFG ONLINE ORDERS

www.CoastalFishingGear.com | 281-736-6670



First Light
FISHING CHARTERS

Jared McCulloch
USCG Licensed Captain
210-478-6519
www.firstlighttexas.com
Rockport, Port Aransas TX



Galveston Bay/Jetties and the Upper Coast

TROUT REDFISH FLOUNDER SHARK

USCG & TPWD Licensed Fishing Guide

409-749-9071
steelsaltycharters.com

Check out our YouTube Channel!




For Sale \$2.5m on 3+ acres

HARBORWALK LODGE
Fishing & Hunting on the Bay

Bed & Breakfast on Galveston Bay coastal marshes with easy access to West Bay fishing. Seven rooms sleeps 14 in year around climate controlled comfort, with a shower in each room. Next to Harborwalk Marina, a luxury coastal community on West Galveston Bay, Hitchcock, TX. Contact agent to schedule showings, or to receive the property survey. Follow the QR code to access the HarborWalk website

726 Realty
Sylvia Reyes • 832.330.0514 • reyes.sylvia@yahoo.com

FISHING TACKLE UNLIMITED PRESENTS



GULF COAST
TROLLING MOTORS

TEXAS' LARGEST SELECTION OF TROLLING MOTORS & CHARGERS

WARRANTY SUPER CENTER

SALES • EXPERT INSTALLATION • PARTS • EXCELLENT SERVICE

MotorGuide **POWER-POLE** **MINN-KOTA**

BATTERIES OPTIMA & CONTINENTAL CHARGERS MINNKOTA

12800 GULF FWY @ FUQUA (INSIDE FISHING TACKLE UNLIMITED)
281-481-6832
SHOP WITH US ONLINE AT

www.FISHINGTACKLEUNLIMITED.COM

LAY-A-WAY AND GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



Brought To You By

www.kingsailfishmounts.com



Mike Gartner
Galveston Beach - 37" 23 lb - personal best red!



Ryan Garcia
LLM Bay System - 28" trout CPR



John Kraak
POC - first fish!



Gabriel Rocha
Matagorda - 44" bull red CPR



Jacob Golczynski
ICW by Matagorda - 25" redfish



Daniel Orosco
Matagorda - 40" first bull red! CPR



Adolph Vega
Laguna Madre - 26" 5.75 lb trout CPR



Carlos Talamantes
Rockport Fulton - 24" trout



Beverly Maricle
Port O'Connor - redfish



Benjamin Lyon
Lower Laguna Madre - first trout! CPR



Juan Perez
West Galveston Bay - 26" trout



Devon Jones
West Bay - 35" bull red



Cole Maixner
Port Aransas - 43" 29 lb bull red



Elijah Ruelas
Pirate's Landing Pier - personal best trout!

Photo Gallery Guidelines

First come – first published!
Photos are judged on artistic merit and sporting ethic displayed.
No stringer, cleaning table, or hanging board images allowed.
Digital images only. Adjust camera to high or best quality. All images become property of TFSMag.
Email to: Photos@TFSMag.com
Include short description of your catch with name, date, bay system, etc.



GULF COAST KITCHEN

Got ideas, hints or recipes you'd like to share? Email them to pam@tsfmag.com or send by fax: 361 792-4530



Greek Baked Fish

I found these wonderful products from Lakonia Imports at the Houston Fishing Show this year. If you are an olive lover, you will love these. They are soaked in Lakonia's fine olive oil, herbs and spices. This recipe is quick and delicious!

INGREDIENTS

- 4 fresh fish fillets
- Olive oil
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 to 2 cups cherry tomatoes cut in half lengthwise (your preference on quantity)
- ½ cup Greek Pitted County Olive Mix cut in halves or quarters
- Greek Herbs & Spices
- ½ tsp of fresh thyme (optional)

PREPARATION

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Using a 9 x 13 baking dish, add enough olive oil to lightly coat the bottom. Salt and pepper on both sides of the fish fillets. Add fillets to baking dish and top with cherry tomatoes and olives. Sprinkle with Greek Herbs and Spices and fresh thyme. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until fish flakes easy with a fork. I served it with rice and fresh asparagus...enjoy!





Truly Greek, with Texas Roots

In 2018, **Peter Marules**, in partnership with his cousin, **Kiriakos Maroulakos**, created **Lakonia Imports**. Their design is to introduce the rich Mediterranean diet, taste, and feeling to food and wine enthusiasts, all over the world. Culinary traditions, recipes, and products and wine we grew up with, come from Greece to your table.

Peter started importing and selling his family's Internataional Award-Winning Malva Extra Virgin Olive Oils at local farmers markets and events. **"We have a lot of pride in our family's products and the products we carry."**

We quickly found a following from those who truly understood and appreciated the high quality of our products. Working side by side with his wife Janell, son Theo, and Kiriakos when he comes from Greece, the business has continued to grow and

expand their product line of premium products from Greece to include **Olives, Balsamic Vinegars, Greek Herbs & Spices, Honey, Sea Salts, Wine**, and more. **"We continue to focus on bringing in the highest quality products Greece has to offer."** says Peter. You will find us in specialty food stores and restaurants throughout the Houston area and beyond as well as shipping products throughout the Unites States.



Our **Greek Country Olives** (A family recipe) are made with pitted Kalamata and Green Halkidiki olives from Greece, our **Greek Herbs & Spices**, and 100% extra virgin olive oil. Once the olives are gone the seasoned oil can be used in many wonderful dishes.

Our special blend of **Greek Herbs & Spices** adds a depth of flavor to any dish.



Lakonia Imports Products Endorsed and Used by Pam Johnson

Our International Award-Winning **Malva 0.2 and Malva Extra Virgin Olive Oils** are 100% Pure Greek Olive Oil made with olives from Lakonia Greece. Olives are pressed within 1 to 4 hours of being picked from the tree, guaranteeing the best flavor, lowest acidity, and highest quality!



USE CODE

TSFM20



20% OFF
ON YOUR FIRST ORDER
FREE SHIPPING OVER \$100

LAKONIA-IMPORTS.COM



Peter & Janell invite you to visit the **"Tasting Room"**
7500 Old North Belt Dr.
Humble, TX 77396
JMPWINES.COM





CHRIS MAPP
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

THE OUTBOARD MOTOR WORLD IS CHANGING

Chris Mapp, owner of Coastal Bend Marine and Flats Cat Boat Company. Great Service, Parts & Sales. "What can we do for you?"

Over the last few years we have seen a shift in parts availability for all outboards, and even though that shortage situation has improved lately, some brands continue to experience severe delays or stoppages altogether. Our shop services Suzuki, Yamaha, Mercury, Evinrude, and Honda. The brands that are continuing to leave customers waiting the longest for parts or which have greatest obsolescence are the Mercury and Evinrude products.

Mercury Optimax and Evinrude fuel system components are currently in critically short supply. As a dealer, we do not use aftermarket parts, only OEM, unless there is simply no other alternative available.

Based upon our experience dealing with the outboard manufacturers, and being involved daily with OEM replacement part shipments and shortages, we heartily encourage customers to upgrade to the Suzuki brand when it comes time for repowering. The Suzuki warranty is now a five-year non-declining and there is up to three years additional extended warranty packages available.

Come see us and trade in your old outboard for a great value on a new Suzuki outboard motor. Financing is available. Summer is here; why continue waiting for parts that have been months on backorder?

Have a great and safe summer fishing and boating season! – Chris Mapp
Coastal Bend Marine – Port O'Connor, TX
chrismapp@coastalbendmarine.com – 361-983-4841



BIG IDEAS BIGGER RESULTS

created
 websites • social media • marketing

bob@createdbybo.com 361-258-1931
 110 N Texana St, Hallettsville Texas 77964
www.createdbybo.com

digital marketing video production on-site services art murals ads

Logos: FishingTackle Unlimited, Brush to Bay, Frío Coolers, Texas Saltwater Fishing, Patriot, Resendiz Services, LCEM, Rugged.

PLASH
 MARINE LIGHTING

DON'T BE BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

SRK2-SERIES MARINE LED LIGHT BAR

- Crisp cut off line to minimize bow reflection
- New design to improve aerodynamics
- Illuminates the horizon in front and the shore line left/right
- No fasteners used to assemble faceplate: therefore reducing potential corrosion
- Chrome coated fasteners & hardware to isolate dissimilar metals
- Polyester powder coat

281-414-7177
PlashLights.com

MINIMUM BOW REFLECTION!

VINSON
 RV Park & Boat Storage
 Port O'Connor, Texas

713-419-6703
 2761 Monroe St. - Port O'Connor, TX 77982

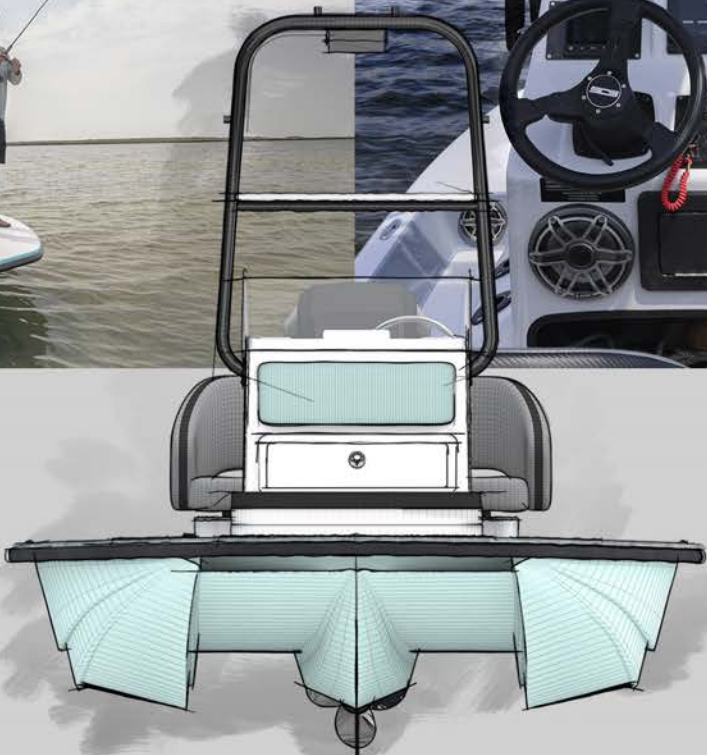
Boat Storage Units Available Sizes

12 x 12 x 30	12 x 12 x 40	RV Park	
12 x 12 x 60	14 x 14 x 40	Full Hookups	30/50 Amp
		Direct TV	WiFi

Professionally Managed • Close to Ramp • Wash Down Station
 Privacy Walls • Electricity • Concrete Floors • Security Lighting

www.vinsonrvparkandboatstorage.com

SCB 22



BACKED WITH OUR
10 YEAR
HULL WARRANTY



DESIGN YOUR SCB ONLINE

SCB[®]
A DIVISION OF
Shallow Sport

956-233-9489

www.scbboats.com

www.fishingtackleunlimited.com



Revo

FISHING TACKLE UNLIMITED

12800 Gulf Fwy
Houston, TX 77034
281-481-6838

10303 Katy Fwy
Houston, TX 77024
713-827-7762

FREE KNIFE SET
with Purchase of a Carbon Inshore Rod



**OVER \$200K
IN CASH & PRIZES
INCLUDING NEW
MAJEK 18M2
STARCRRAFT PONTOON**

3rd Annual



RON HOOVER

RV & MARINE CENTERS FISHING TOURNAMENT

CONCERT
FEATURING



"HEAVEN"

BENEFITING
Make-A-Wish

South Padre
ISLAND

Corona
PREMIER

SPI CONVENTION CENTER

COME REGISTER AT

RON HOOVER

JULY 14-15

RV & MARINE CENTERS OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.HOOVERFISHING.COM

CONTACT INFORMATION

OMAR
956-393-8051

JOHNNY
956-821-4731

JERRY
956-314-4459





TEXAS SALTWATER[®]
FISHING
M A G A Z I N E

SOLUNAR TABLE
JUNE 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:18PM Moon S:06:29AM R:09:24PM Majors 12:31AM-02:31AM 12:57PM-02:57PM Minors 05:59AM-06:59AM 08:54PM-09:54PM	5 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:19PM Moon S:07:29AM R:10:29PM Majors 01:33AM-03:33AM 01:59PM-03:59PM Minors 06:59AM-07:59AM 09:59PM-10:59PM	6 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:19PM Moon S:08:36AM R:11:27PM Majors 02:35AM-04:35AM 03:01PM-05:01PM Minors 08:06AM-09:06AM 10:57PM-11:57PM	7 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:20PM Moon S:09:47AM Majors 03:37AM-05:37AM 04:03PM-06:03PM Minors 09:17AM-10:17AM	8 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:20PM Moon R:12:16AM S:10:58AM Majors 04:37AM-06:37AM 05:03PM-07:03PM Minors 11:46PM-12:46AM 10:28AM-11:28AM	9 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:21PM Moon R:12:57AM S:12:07PM Majors 05:32AM-07:32AM 05:58PM-07:58PM Minors 12:27AM-01:27AM 11:37AM-12:37PM	10 Last Qtr Sun R:06:20AM S:08:21PM Moon R:01:33AM S:01:12PM Majors 06:23AM-08:23AM 06:49PM-08:49PM Minors 01:03AM-02:03AM 12:42PM-01:42PM
11 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:22PM Moon R:02:06AM S:02:15PM Majors 07:10AM-09:10AM 07:36PM-09:36PM Minors 01:36AM-02:36AM 01:45PM-02:45PM	12 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:22PM Moon R:02:36AM S:03:17PM Majors 07:57AM-09:57AM 08:23PM-10:23PM Minors 02:06AM-03:06AM 02:47PM-03:47PM	13 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:22PM Moon R:03:07AM S:04:18PM Majors 08:43AM-10:43AM 09:09PM-11:09PM Minors 02:37AM-03:37AM 03:48PM-04:48PM	14 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:23PM Moon R:03:39AM S:05:20PM Majors 09:29AM-11:29AM 09:55PM-11:55PM Minors 03:09AM-04:09AM 04:50PM-05:50PM	15 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:23PM Moon R:04:14AM S:06:22PM Majors 10:18AM-12:18PM 10:44PM-12:44PM Minors 03:44AM-04:44AM 05:52PM-06:52PM	16 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:23PM Moon R:04:53AM S:07:24PM Majors 11:08AM-01:08PM Minors 04:23AM-05:23AM 06:54PM-07:54PM	17 Sun R:06:20AM S:08:24PM Moon R:05:37AM S:08:23PM Majors 12:00PM-02:00PM Minors 05:07AM-06:07AM 07:53PM-08:53PM
18 New Sun R:06:20AM S:08:24PM Moon R:06:27AM S:09:18PM Majors 12:26AM-02:26AM 12:52PM-02:52PM Minors 05:57AM-06:57AM 08:48PM-09:48PM	19 Sun R:06:21AM S:08:24PM Moon R:07:21AM S:10:07PM Majors 01:18AM-03:18AM 01:44PM-03:44PM Minors 06:51AM-07:51AM 09:37PM-10:37PM	20 Sun R:06:21AM S:08:24PM Moon R:08:17AM S:10:50PM Majors 02:08AM-04:08AM 02:34PM-04:34PM Minors 07:47AM-08:47AM 10:20PM-11:20PM	21 Sun R:06:21AM S:08:25PM Moon R:09:14AM S:11:27PM Majors 02:55AM-04:55AM 03:21PM-05:21PM Minors 08:44AM-09:44AM 10:57PM-11:57PM	22 Sun R:06:21AM S:08:25PM Moon R:10:11AM Majors 03:40AM-05:40AM 04:06PM-06:06PM Minors 09:41AM-10:41AM	23 Sun R:06:21AM S:08:25PM Moon S:12:00AM R:11:06AM Majors 04:33AM-06:33AM 04:59PM-06:59PM Minors 11:30PM-12:30AM 10:36AM-11:36AM	24 Sun R:06:22AM S:08:25PM Moon S:12:29AM R:12:00PM Majors 05:15AM-07:15AM 05:41PM-07:41PM Minors 11:59PM-12:59AM 11:30AM-12:30PM
25 First Qtr Sun R:06:22AM S:08:25PM Moon S:12:57AM R:12:54PM Majors 05:55AM-07:55AM 06:21PM-08:21PM Minors 12:27AM-01:27AM 12:24PM-01:24PM	26 Sun R:06:22AM S:08:25PM Moon S:01:23AM R:01:48PM Majors 06:36AM-08:36AM 07:02PM-09:02PM Minors 12:53AM-01:53AM 01:18PM-02:18PM	27 Sun R:06:23AM S:08:26PM Moon S:01:50AM R:02:44PM Majors 07:17AM-09:17AM 07:43PM-09:43PM Minors 01:20AM-02:20AM 02:14PM-03:14PM	28 Sun R:06:23AM S:08:26PM Moon S:02:19AM R:03:43PM Majors 08:01AM-10:01AM 08:27PM-10:27PM Minors 01:49AM-02:49AM 03:13PM-04:13PM	29 Sun R:06:23AM S:08:26PM Moon S:02:52AM R:04:46PM Majors 08:49AM-10:49AM 09:15PM-11:15PM Minors 02:22AM-03:22AM 04:16PM-05:16PM	30 Sun R:06:24AM S:08:26PM Moon S:03:30AM R:05:53PM Majors 09:42AM-11:42AM 10:08PM-12:08PM Minors 03:00AM-04:00AM 05:23PM-06:23PM	



Brought
to you by

Galveston Bay Entrance N. Jetty
29.3573°N, -94.7248°W
June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 06:24 AM 2.218 H 10:28 PM -0.613 L	5 07:15 AM 2.234 H 11:16 PM -0.638 L	6 08:16 AM 2.191 H 12:06 PM -0.638 L	7 12:06 AM -0.558 09:13 AM 2.105 H	8 04:10 AM 1.783 H 09:58 AM 1.420 L 12:34 PM 1.467 H 08:28 PM -0.087 L	9 01:59 AM -0.098 04:57 AM 1.977 H 09:02 PM -0.322 L 09:42 PM -0.504 L	10 03:08 AM 0.231 L 05:40 AM 2.130 H 09:31 AM 1.624 H 05:55 PM 1.022 L 10:12 PM 1.287 H
11 04:27 AM 0.583 L 11:32 AM 1.542 H 06:23 PM 0.686 L	12 12:19 AM 1.385 H 06:14 AM 0.907 L 11:49 AM 1.450 H 06:34 PM 0.343 L	13 02:02 AM 1.583 H 07:43 AM 1.166 L 11:55 AM 1.409 H 07:26 PM 0.038 L	14 03:21 AM 1.785 H 09:07 AM 1.367 L 11:45 AM 1.417 H 07:39 PM -0.197 L	15 04:27 AM 1.946 H 08:33 PM -0.348 L	16 05:17 AM 2.040 H 09:10 PM -0.420 L	17 05:59 AM 2.063 H 09:49 PM -0.428 L
18 06:39 AM 2.029 H 10:30 PM -0.389 L	19 07:22 AM 1.957 H 11:11 PM -0.315 L	20 08:10 AM 1.871 H 11:50 PM -0.207 L	21 08:57 AM 1.785 H 09:35 AM 1.700 H	22 12:29 AM -0.066 09:35 AM 1.700 H	23 01:09 AM 0.110 L 10:04 AM 1.615 H	24 01:51 AM 0.315 L 10:24 AM 1.530 H 05:39 PM 1.004 L 07:53 PM 1.026 H
25 02:37 AM 0.543 L 09:44 AM 1.955 H 06:49 PM 0.755 L 10:26 PM 1.024 H	26 03:24 AM 0.786 L 10:40 AM 1.809 H 06:04 PM 0.551 L	27 12:48 AM 1.143 H 08:52 AM 0.848 L 05:24 AM 1.258 L 06:23 PM 0.283 L	28 02:18 AM 1.356 H 06:36 AM 1.258 L 06:47 PM 0.002 L	29 03:22 AM 1.586 H 07:17 PM -0.272 L	30 04:14 AM 1.801 H 07:53 PM -0.516 L	

Port O'Connor - Matagorda Bay
28.4459°N, -96.3956°W
June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 11:31 AM 1.000 H	5 12:49 AM -0.272 01:07 PM 1.005 H	6 01:42 AM -0.286 02:48 PM 1.002 H	7 02:36 AM -0.266 03:48 PM 0.972 H	8 03:32 AM -0.208 04:28 PM 0.894 H	9 04:27 AM -0.108 04:33 PM 0.768 H	10 05:20 AM 0.036 L 03:42 PM 0.622 H
11 06:10 AM 0.211 L 02:31 PM 0.508 H 09:15 PM 0.342 L	12 11:56 AM 0.503 H 08:53 PM 0.144 L	13 10:47 AM 0.595 H 09:22 PM -0.034 L	14 06:30 AM 0.723 H 09:59 PM -0.169 L	15 09:07 AM 0.819 H 10:41 PM -0.253 L	16 09:49 AM 0.865 H 11:26 PM -0.293 L	17 10:35 AM 0.869 H
18 12:11 AM -0.300 11:27 AM 0.847 H	19 12:56 AM -0.288 12:32 PM 0.815 H	20 01:38 AM -0.265 01:49 PM 0.783 H	21 02:16 AM -0.232 02:44 PM 0.747 H	22 02:49 AM -0.184 03:10 PM 0.694 H	23 03:16 AM -0.115 03:11 PM 0.619 H	24 03:32 AM -0.024 02:29 PM 0.528 H
25 03:31 AM 0.068 L 12:52 PM 0.450 H	26 02:22 AM 0.200 L 08:32 PM 0.143 L	27 10:14 AM 0.485 H 06:23 PM 0.001 L	28 09:28 AM 0.574 H 08:44 PM -0.136 L	29 09:09 AM 0.674 H 09:20 PM -0.253 L	30 09:26 AM 0.760 H 10:07 PM -0.347 L	

LEGEND
MOON RISE/SET
MINOR FEEDING PERIODS (+/- 1 HR)
MOON OVER/MOON UNDER
MAJOR FEEDING PERIODS, +/- 2 HRS
★ STARS INDICATE BETTER THAN AVERAGE POTENTIAL

Minor Feeding Periods coincide with the moon on the horizon, and last from 1.0 to 1.5 hrs after the moon rise or before moon set.

Major Feeding Periods are about 1.0 to 1.5 hrs either side of the moon directly overhead or underfoot.

Many variables encourage active feeding current flow (whether wind or tidal driven), changes in water temp & weather, moon phases, etc. Combine as many as possible for a better chance at an exceptional day. Find concentrations of bait set up during a good time frame, and enjoy the results.

Port Aransas
27.8397°N, -97.0725°W
June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 08:52 AM 1.261 H 10:07 PM -0.414 L	5 10:11 AM 1.294 H 10:59 PM -0.428 L	6 11:06 AM 1.289 H 11:55 PM -0.387 L	7 11:51 AM 1.234 H	8 12:52 AM -0.291 12:23 PM 1.130 H	9 01:48 AM -0.141 12:15 PM 0.988 H	10 02:43 AM 0.065 L 11:03 AM 0.868 H
11 03:43 AM 0.294 L 10:44 AM 0.815 H 06:36 PM 0.475 H 11:14 PM 0.677 H	12 05:20 AM 0.528 L 10:40 AM 0.809 H 06:55 PM 0.202 L	13 03:11 AM 0.779 H 07:21 AM 0.714 L 07:08 PM -0.029 L	14 04:56 AM 0.951 H 08:52 AM 0.848 L 11:04 PM -0.213 L	15 05:52 AM 1.069 H 08:14 PM -0.336 L	16 06:49 AM 1.127 H 08:49 PM -0.397 L	17 07:54 AM 1.137 H 09:24 PM -0.406 L
18 09:04 AM 1.118 H 10:03 PM -0.377 L	19 10:06 AM 1.083 H 10:45 PM -0.324 L	20 10:55 AM 1.036 H 11:29 PM -0.257 L	21 11:33 AM 0.977 H	22 12:13 AM -0.179 11:56 AM 0.904 H	23 12:55 AM -0.086 11:50 AM 0.821 H	24 01:34 AM 0.028 L 11:09 AM 0.742 H
25 02:08 AM 0.165 L 10:30 AM 0.690 H 06:24 PM 0.462 L 09:13 PM 0.474 H	26 03:38 AM 0.323 L 10:06 AM 0.678 H 05:50 PM 0.292 L 11:50 PM 0.529 H	27 02:54 AM 0.401 L 09:50 AM 0.678 H 05:58 PM 0.097 L	28 09:33 AM 0.723 H 06:27 PM -0.104 L	29 05:42 AM 0.824 H 07:01 PM -0.294 L	30 06:05 AM 0.849 H 07:38 PM -0.459 L	

South Padre - Brazos Santiago Pass
26.0674°N, -97.1548°W
June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 07:22 AM 1.697 H 09:43 PM -0.797 L	5 08:34 AM 1.720 H 10:35 PM -0.838 L	6 09:41 AM 1.709 H 11:30 PM -0.777 L	7 10:34 AM 1.651 H	8 12:29 AM -0.614 11:11 AM 1.536 H	9 01:28 AM -0.355 11:25 AM 1.374 H	10 02:28 AM -0.020 11:10 AM 1.205 H
11 03:34 AM 0.354 L 10:46 AM 0.936 H 11:52 PM 0.897 H	12 04:56 AM 0.717 L 10:36 AM 1.048 H 06:02 PM 0.210 L	13 02:36 AM 1.128 H 10:26 AM 1.001 L 06:33 PM -0.091 L	14 04:08 AM 1.352 H 07:08 PM -0.341 L	15 05:11 AM 1.494 H 07:45 PM -0.522 L	16 06:04 AM 1.549 H 08:22 PM -0.630 L	17 06:55 AM 1.536 H 09:00 PM -0.674 L
18 07:47 AM 1.485 H 09:40 PM -0.663 L	19 08:38 AM 1.423 H 10:21 PM -0.609 L	20 09:26 AM 1.365 H 11:04 PM -0.517 L	21 10:06 AM 1.311 H 11:47 PM -0.386 L	22 10:34 AM 1.251 H	23 12:31 AM -0.217 10:46 AM 1.176 H	24 01:15 AM -0.012 10:32 AM 1.091 H
25 01:58 AM 0.222 L 10:10 AM 0.115 H 05:35 PM 0.597 L 09:34 PM 0.645 H	26 02:45 AM 0.471 L 09:55 AM 0.956 H 05:03 PM 0.386 L	27 12:06 AM 0.772 H 03:45 AM 0.719 L 09:31 AM 0.925 H 05:20 PM 0.125 L	28 02:35 AM 0.868 H 05:44 AM 0.937 L 08:15 AM 0.956 H 05:50 PM -0.161 L	29 03:57 AM 1.169 H 06:26 PM -0.446 L	30 04:53 AM 1.336 H 07:08 PM -0.706 L	

Please note that the tides listed in this table are for the Galveston Channel. The Tidal Corrections can be applied to the areas affected by the Galveston tide.

For other locations, i.e. Port O'Connor, Port Aransas, Corpus Christi and Port Isabel please refer to the charts displayed below.

Tidal Corrections

Location	High	Low
Galveston Pass, La	-2.14	-1.24
Sabine Bank Lighthouse	-1.46	-1.31
Sabine Pass (jetty)	-1.26	-1.31
Sabine Pass	-1.00	-1.15
Galveston Bay (S. jetty)	-0.04	-0.25
Port Bolivar	-0.39	-1.05
Texas City, Turning Basin	+0.14	-0.06
Eagle Point	+0.33	+0.41
Clear Lake	+6.05	+6.40
Morgans Point	+10.21	+5.19
Round Point, Trinity Bay	+10.39	+5.15
Point Barrow, Trinity Bay	+5.48	+4.43
Gilchrist East Bay	+3.16	+4.18
Jamaica Beach, Trinity Bay	+2.38	+3.31
Christmas Point	+2.39	+2.38
Galveston Pleasure Pier	+2.32	+2.33
San Luis Pass	-0.09	+2.31
Freeport Harbor	-0.44	-0.09

WELCOME TO PIRATE'S LANDING FISHING PIER

AT THE BASE OF THE CAUSEWAY, PORT ISABEL

PIRATES.
FISHING.PIER



THE LONGEST FISHING PIER IN TEXAS!

**OPEN 24
HOURS**
All Year Long
(weather permitting)



**CHARTER CAPTAIN'S
AVAILABLE HERE**



TACKLE SHOP

SNACKS • SANDWICHES
COLD DRINKS • BEER • ICE
BAIT, LIVE & FROZEN • TACKLE



SHIMANO

Huk
PERFORMANCE FISHING

Bimini Bay
OUTFITTERS LTD.

LOCATED AT THE PIER:

**KRISPY
KRUNCHY
CHICKEN**
FRESHLY MADE - PERFECTLY CAJUN
956-943-3883
Patio Dining
and Take-Out.
Full Service Bar
at the
CANNON BAR
Featuring
Summer Entertainment
on the Weekends

**PIRATE CRUISES
DOLPHIN WATCH AND
BAY FISHING AVAILABLE**

LOCATED AT THE
HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE
SQUARE WHERE GREAT
SHOPPING AND
RESTAURANTS ARE
ONLY STEPS AWAY!



Waterfront at the Historic Lighthouse • 501 E Maxan St., Port Isabel
956-943-PIER (7437) • Facebook: Pirate's Landing Fishing Pier