

TIDE Bits, May/June 2010

Derelict crab traps are a boating danger and an eyesore along the shallows of Mobile Bay, and they are perpetual killing machines. Crabs enter the abandoned trap and die. Small fish and crabs feed on the decaying crabs. More crabs are attracted, and the cycle goes on and on.

CCA Alabama volunteers took to the shallow flats in March to retrieve and destroy the abandoned traps. Partnering with Mobile County Wildlife Conservation Association and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the crew met on the Causeway for a morning of in-the-mud fun. The project is conducted every two years, and it is a favorite activity for some of our younger members.

The new Fish Alabama license plate is being warmly received around the state. Charlie Gray, CCA Alabama License Tag Committee Chairman, is encouraging members and coastal anglers in general to swap their old tag for the good looking new plate. The tag costs \$50 per year, and roughly \$42.25 of that amount goes to CCA for marine conservation in coastal Alabama.

The Eastern Shore chapter held a Fish Talk in April in Fairhope. The featured speakers were Jim Franks and Eric Hoffmayer. Both are fisheries biologists at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and are entertaining presenters. Coast Watch, a partnership program between CCA Alabama and the Marine Resources Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation, trains volunteers to recognize fisheries violations. Those who participate receive a certificate, a manual outlining saltwater fishing regulations, and a wallet card with a hotline number for reporting violations. Members are encouraged to watch for dates and locations of Coast Watch sessions in their area.

As we go to press, the spring fundraising banquets are in full swing. State Chairman Edwin Lamberth is urging members to attend a banquet in their area. Those who cannot attend an event are encouraged to renew their annual membership on line, using the newly redesigned CCA Alabama web site, or by phone.

One final reminder to all CCA Alabama members: PLEASE submit your e-mail addresses or address changes to Sybille at the State Office. We want to be sure to include you in all our correspondence, news articles, notifications of upcoming events, and last minute updates. Phone (251) 478-3474 or e-mail to: ccabama@aol.com.