

TIDE Bits January/February 2010

CCA Alabama's round of fall fundraising events were successful, but overall state membership is down for the year 2009. One of our primary goals for 2010 is to rebuild the membership base to and the beyond historic high, reached in December 2008. Expired or expiring memberships may be renewed on line at cca-alabama.org or by calling the State office at 251-478-3474. We will also have a presence at the Mobile Boat Show, held at the Outlaw Convention Center, February 25-28. Membership renewal at the Boat Show is quick and convenient.

Over the past five years, CCA Alabama has made remarkable progress in conserving Alabama's marine resources. A few of the achievements that have directly and significantly affected Alabama's coastal marine fishery include the building of a 3,000-ton concrete inshore reef just north of Ono Island, stopping shallow water shrimp trawling in the grass beds in Mobile Bay, convincing the governor to prevent two open loop LNG terminals from being built off our coast, stopped Duncan Oil from drilling a shallow gas well in the pristine grass beds of Grand Bay, put a 10-fish limit on flounders—with a 12-inch minimum length, reduced the number of active commercial gill net fishermen to less than fifty, trained nearly 100 Cost Watch volunteers and instituted a rewards program for whistleblowers, increased the limits of fines for fisheries violations, and brought the Fish Alabama license plate to reality.

During 2010 we'll be looking for projects that have an impact on fisheries habitat, and we'll be continuing our efforts to improve Alabama's recreational fishery.

"Expanding our membership is a critical part of our efforts to stay on the leading edge of marine conservation," said Edwin Lamberth, State Chairman for 2010. "Members are encouraged to not allow their membership to lapse."

Undercurrents, CCA Alabama's newsletter, is now being sent exclusively by email.

Members should contact the state office with their most current email address, in order to stay current with CCA Alabama's activities.