



Undercurrents

the official news source of COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION ALABAMA

A Word from the Executive Director

Fellow CCA Members,

Most of the Gulf waters we frequent are open, and the fishing has been excellent. Inshore and offshore reports are documenting the fact that our fishery is recovering quickly from the oil spill. Adam Simmons, president of our North Alabama chapter said in a recent e-mail that, on one trip, he caught his first blue marlin as well as yellowfin and blackfin tuna, mahi dolphin, and other species. Inshore, the trout bite has been great, with reports coming in regularly of anglers catching limits that include several specks over four pounds. the snapper season has been extended on weekends from October 1 through November 22, and reefs are loaded with quality fish.

So, are we out of the woods? Maybe, maybe not. The web of life that sustains the fish we chase begins with the smallest microscopic organisms in the gulf and our estuaries. If the oil and the dispersants used to deal with it have damaged those living organisms that are the base of the food chain, we may see a future deterioration in the number of fish higher up the food chain.

According to Dr. Bob Shipp, our marine science consultant, species are resilient; habitat is not. None of our gamefish populations have been threatened to the danger level by the spill, but if the species at the bottom of the web have been harmed, we may see populations decline in future years.

Offshore habitat usually means sargassum grass and reefs, and whereas some damage was done to the mats that most offshore fish call home at some time in their life, most of the grass has survived. Early reports indicate that the offshore reefs have survived well. Inshore habitat, which includes oyster reefs, grass beds, structure, and shallow margins, also dodged a bullet in coastal Alabama.

Fall fishing should be about as good as it has ever been in Alabama, but we still have questions about the future of recreational angling here on the Gulf coast. Since the early 1980s, CCA Alabama has been at the forefront of every fishery issue we have faced, and we'll be here in the future, working to make our fishery all it can be.

Thanks very much for being a part of CCA Alabama.

Ed Williamson

September 2010



Trout caught by Bob Sossaman

Note: If your picture gets published in one of our newsletters, you've earned yourself a CCA T-shirt of your choice!

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The Little Boat that Could

Submitted by Matt Seymore

Across the United States of America, a new sport has exploded and evolved over the last few years. that sport is kayak fishing.

Whether it's chasing stripers in the bays of the Northeast, stalking tarpon and bonefish in the backcountry flats of the Florida Keys, tangling with redfish and speckled trout along the gulf coast, or even lobstering off the coast of California, the kayak has quickly become a popular,

Sportsman Channel and DISH Network Collaborate to Support Gulf Region Recovery Efforts

Sportsman SD and HD Now Available as A la Carte Option; New Subscriber Proceeds to Support Gulf Coast Fund & Coastal Conservation Association

New Berlin, Wis. (August 31, 2010) - Sportsman Channel, the leader in outdoor TV for the American Sportsman, today announced the network is available in

preferred vessel in these piscatorial pursuits. And, we would certainly be remiss if we left out those who use the kayak on the freshwater lakes and rivers across the United States for bass, bream, and other freshwater species.

The kayak possesses several positive attributes that make it an effective fishing vessel. Perhaps its foremost attribute is its affordability. Even the most expensive kayaks designed for fishing cost several thousand dollars less than a meagerly equipped fiberglass boat.

Additionally, the kayak cannot be beat for a stealthy approach to a skinny-water fishing hole. Kayaks will float in water so shallow that they can't even be paddled. In these environs, the fisherman can either pole the kayak or wade-fish.

Perhaps the most attractive aspect of the sport, however, is the camaraderie. Fishing from a kayak is certainly more challenging in several ways than fishing from large fiberglass boats capable of running to fishing grounds at 60+ miles per hour. There is no doubt that, to a large extent, that challenge and the pride that goes along with pursuing fish from a kayak binds kayak fishermen together and creates the bonds of fellowship that go along with the sport.

This fellowship has led to the creation of several associations around the United States dedicated to the sport, and most of them have a website and online forums. One of the largest associations is found in Jacksonville, Florida. Jacksonville Kayak Fishing hosts an annual tournament that, in 2009, boasted 430 entrants. For 2010, sponsorship of the Jacksonville Kayak fishing Classic put up over \$80,000 in gifts and prizes to be awarded at the tournament.

Kayak fishermen are a generous lot, as well. The 2010 Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic also donated approximately \$40,000 to charity from the tournament entry fees and other donors. This is a

both SD and HD as an a la carte option on DISH Network Ch. 395. In an effort to raise awareness and funds for Gulf regions working to recover from the recent oil spill disaster, Sportsman Channel will funnel this year's proceeds from the a la carte pricing to a special "Sportsman's Fund" created with the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) to benefit Gulf coast habitat restoration and research. CCA is one of the largest non-profit marine conservation groups in America.

To help support and bring awareness to these efforts, DISH Network is offering a free preview of Sportsman Channel Sept. 3 - 28. Additionally, Sportsman Channel and its parent company, InterMedia Outdoors, are utilizing all print, on-air and digital assets to further promote the cause.

Outdoor enthusiasts can subscribe to Sportsman Channel a la carte by visiting www.dish.com or calling (800) 894-9131. Sportsman Channel and Sportsman HD launched in DISH Network's America's Top 250 package in February 2010.

"Because we're donating our monthly fee to CCA, every new Sportsman Channel SD and HD a la carte subscriber on DISH Network is helping Gulf region sportsmen, families and wildlife," said Sportsman CEO Gaven Harvey. "We are proud to join DISH Network and CCA in this drive to raise money and also to raise awareness that Gulf communities still need our support."

CCA has worked closely with government and regulatory agencies since the beginning of the Gulf oil disaster to ensure the Gulf's habitats, fishing industries, marine life and resources are adequately represented and supported. CCA's history and experience in marine habitat restoration and coastal conservation will continue to be a vital component in the recovery and restoration of Gulf marine resources.

common theme among the kayak fishing associations, as many of them at the very least hold a local club tournament every year, donating the proceeds from entry fees to charity.

Kayak Fishing and the Gulf Coast

Ask a Gulf coast kayak fisherman to define irony and he certainly couldn't be faulted if he pointed out that, lately, the very material primarily used in the manufacture of his preferred fishing vessel is the very material that has seriously hampered his piscatorial pursuits during the summer of 2010.

From the bayous and marshes of Louisiana to the white sand beaches of Florida's Gulf beaches, millions of gallons of the very oil used in the manufacture of the polyethylene that goes into our diminutive fishing vessels now threatens our fisheries.

Certainly, for kayak fishermen, the biggest impact has been on those who regularly chase Spanish mackerel, tarpon, and king mackerel off the beaches. With those fisheries closed for a large portion of the summer, several kayak fishermen were forced to go to the back-bay estuaries in pursuit of redfish, trout, and flounder.

However, even then it was often only for catch and release purposes. There are certainly many chest freezers which are devoid of the many pounds of fish fillets of which they would normally be full at this time of year.

With the reopening of Alabama's fisheries, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

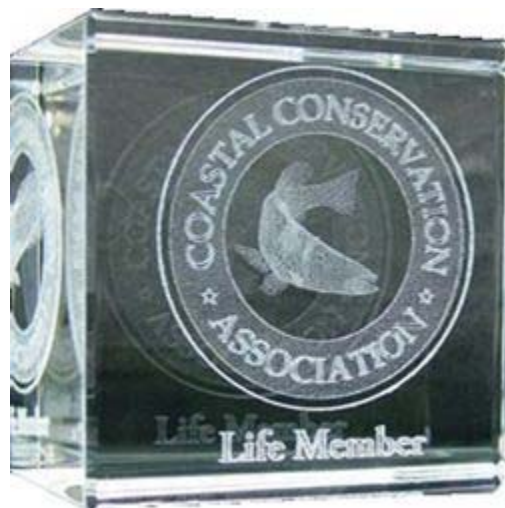
Matt Seymore is a resident of Daphne, AL. He is an Assistant District Attorney in Mobile, Alabama. when he is not representing the people of the State of Alabama in criminal prosecutions, he can be found in his Native Watercraft Ultimate chasing redfish and speckled trout in and around gulf shores and Orange Beach, Alabama.

"We are thankful to have this unique partnership with Sportsman Channel and DISH Network that helps to raise awareness and vital funds to restore the gulf of Mexico, said Pat Murray, CCA president. "there are some very positive programs and signs of progress occurring throughout the Gulf, but there is still much to do. This generous program will be an important part of restoring and enhancing the Gulf's fragile habitats."

SPORTSMAN CHANNEL: *Launched in 2003, Sportsman Channel is the only television and digital media company fully devoted to the more than 82 million sportsmen in the United States, delivering entertaining and educational programming focused exclusively on hunting, shooting and fishing activities. Sportsman Channel is now available in HD. Check with your local cable or satellite provider.*



Submitted by Dan Arzonico





Submitted by Dan Arzonico

Our new toll free number:

877.776.2221 (CCA1)

Get your CCA tag today!



Help improve Alabama's recreational saltwater fishery. Purchase your "Fish Alabama" tag today!

Remember that, of the \$50 tax deductible fee, about \$42.50 goes to CCA Alabama and will be used for marine conservation in the state.

CCA Life Members

Bibb Allen, Birmingham
 Joe D. Baldwin Jr., Mobile
 C. Thurmon Bell, Mobile
 Randall G. Bishop, Montgomery
 Wesley H. Blacksher, Mobile
 Tyler T. Boulo, Mobile
 Pratt Brown, Birmingham
 Joe Brown Jr., Mobile
 Trey Bryant, Mobile
 Coleman Bryars Jr., Bay Minette
 J. Coleman Bryars, Bay Minette
 Justin B. Bullen, Mobile
 Clarence Burke Jr., Summerdale
 William V. Cable, Birmingham
 James G. Campbell, Birmingham
 Katherine Cane, Fairhope
 Mary C. Cane, Fairhope
 P. Grey Cane III, Fairhope
 Peter G. Cane IV, Fairhope
 David B. H. Chaffe IV, Southlake
 Robert L. Constantine III, Mobile
 David Cooper Jr., Mobile
 Arthur Corte, Fairhope
 Tom Crawford, Birmingham
 John D. Crosby III, Bay Minette
 B. King Curry, Tuscaloosa
 Earl P. Davis, Theodore
 LaMont H. Dees, Mobile
 Scott Delaney, Mobile
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 Will Easterling, Fairhope
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 Patrick Fritze, Birmingham
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 John Goodloe, Mobile
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 William T. Green, Laurel
 John E. Griggs III, Foley
 Chris Haley, Point Clear
 Winthrop M. Hallett III, Mobile
 Grant Harkness Jr., Mobile
 C. Douglas Harrell III, Fairhope



Travis Goodloe III caught this beautiful white marlin last year 65 miles off Dauphin Island, Alabama!

Forgot to Renew your Membership?

You can now renew online at www.ccaalabama.org.

This newsletter is being sent to current and recently expired members. If you missed one of our events that included membership in the ticket price, or if you misplaced your renewal letter, please renew online or by contacting us at ccabama@aol.com or (251) 478-3474.

Your membership is a vital part of our mission to conserve our marine resources. **Please renew today!**

News Release from CCA National

Remington Arms teams with CCA for gulf habitat restoration

Remington rebates benefit Building Conservation habitat program

HOUSTON, TX - In a unique partnership between the hunting and angling communities, Remington Arms Company is offering a way for its customers to restore one of our country's most valuable wildlife habitats through CCA's Building conservation Habitat Program. As part of its Fall 2010 Rebate Roundup

C. Douglas Harrell IV, Fairhope
 Douglas Harrell Jr., Fairhope
 Bernie J. Heggeman, Mobile
 Warren C. Herlong Jr., Mobile
 Philip M. Hodgson, Daphne
 Sandy Howard III, Mobile
 John T. Jenkins, Montgomery
 Monroe Jones, Birmingham
 Tommy Joyce, Birmingham
 William W. Kennemer, Mobile
 Anne Marie Kilpatrick, Mobile
 Gaither King Jr., Tuscaloosa
 Kevin B. Kynerd, Birmingham
 Edwin Lamberth, Mobile
 John M. Lamberth, Gulf Shores
 Stephen G. Lauten, Mobile
 Edward S. Leatherbury, Mobile
 John Lee, Spanish Fort
 Thomas M. Leland III, Mobile
 Frank J. Lott Jr., Fairhope
 Gaylord Lyon Jr., Mobile
 Jim MacQueen, Orange Beach
 George P. Mann, Opelika
 T. Todd Martin III, Mobile
 Mac McAleer, Foley
 Pat McAleer, Mobile
 Norman M. McInnis, Mobile
 Kenny McLean, Point Clear
 Malcolm McLean, Foley
 Frank L. McPhillips, Mobile
 J. Manning McPhillips Sr., Mobile
 James P. Meador, Point Clear
 Robert H. Meaher, Mobile
 Henry Morgan Jr., Point Clear
 Frances Morrissette, Mobile
 Harris V. Morrissette, Mobile
 Edward W. Morrissette, Mobile
 Fran W. Morrissette, Mobile
 Harris V. Morrissette Jr., Mobile
 J. Manson Murray, Mobile
 M. Kenny Muscat, Point Clear
 Samford T. Myers, Mobile
 Amy Niesen, Birmingham
 Jerry C. Oldshue, Tuscaloosa
 Richard Otts, Mobile
 A. Robert Outlaw Jr., Point Clear
 Trip Palmer, Mobile
 Ryan Parker, Orange Beach
 Kirk Patterson, Northport
 Cliff Pitman, Fairhope
 Rod Platt, Fairhope
 Larry Rackley, Birmingham
 Ryan Reid, Mobile

program, Remington customers will have the option to donate all or a portion of the rebate to marine habitat projects in the gulf of Mexico.

"We are pleased and honored that Remington sees building Conservation as a worthy recipient of rebate contributions from its customers," said Patrick Murray, CCA president. "Hunters and anglers share the same conservation ideals, and we are grateful that Remington is creating a program to help the Gulf when it needs it the most. Those funds will help create the reefs and marshes that future generations of sportsmen will enjoy."

"Our Fall 2010 Rebate Roundup is the largest rebate program we have ever offered at Remington. By partnering with CCA's Building Conservation Program, our consumers have the option to donate all or a portion of their rebates to help the restoration of one of our country's most valuable wildlife habitats - the Gulf Coast," commented Roy Gifford, Vice President of Brand Management and Research for Remington Arms company. "We are truly honored to be involved with the largest marine resource conservation group of its kind in the nation."

CCA's Building conservation Program was created to provide funding for local, state and national marine habitat conservation and restoration projects. Program funds are directed to CCA's 17 state chapters for grassroots-driven projects like marsh-grass planing, oyster shell recycling and offshore artificial reefs.

"Habitat restoration is not about just enhancing habitat, it is about creating a destination for recreational anglers to access the resource," said Murray.

"Hunters and anglers understand better than anyone the need to give something back to the resource. with partners like Remington, we can restore areas today that will mean more habitat, more fish, and better angling opportunities for the future."

About Remington Arms Company, Inc.

Remington Arms Company, Inc., headquartered in Madison, N.C., designs, produces and sells sporting

Frank T. Richardson IV, Birmingham
 Paul Ridley, Auburn
 Howell Riggs, Brownsboro
 Scott Ritter, Dauphin Island
 Jimmy Robinson, Theodore
 Edward Rowan, Mobile
 Pat Ryan, Montgomery
 David Schmohl, Mobile
 Jessica L. Smith, Homewood
 Leo A. Smith, Auburn
 Andrew A. Smith Jr., Fairhope
 Stefan A. Springer, Mobile
 Clint Steadham, Fairhope
 Chris Steber, Mobile
 Alan Steele, Tuscaloosa
 R. E. Steiner III, Montgomery
 Sands M. Stimpson, Mobile
 Scott Stimpson, Mobile
 V. J. "Major" Thompson, Fairhope
 Vester J. Thompson, Mobile
 Emily Thompson, Fairhope
 Kathryn Thompson, Fairhope
 James J. Thompson Jr., Birmingham
 James a. Turnipseed, Mobile
 Michael B. Turnipseed, Spanish Fort
 David B. H. Tutt, Montgomery
 Eric Wade, Mt. Pleasant
 Walter Y. Walker, Huntsville
 Palmer Whiting, Mobile
 Wythe L. Whiting III, Mobile
 Charles L. Williams, Mobile
 Wes Williams, Mobile
 David Williamson, Birmingham
 Ed Williamson, Mobile
 Curt Wilson, Mobile
 Patrick J. Wilson, Mobile
 Brannon Wyatt, Wetumpka



Costa Del Mar hosts CCA

goods products for the hunting and shooting sports markets, as well as solutions to the military, government and law enforcement markets. Founded in 1816 in upstate New York, the company is one of the nation's oldest continuously operating manufacturers. Remington is the only U.S. manufacturer of both firearms and ammunition products and one of the largest domestic producers of shotguns and rifles. The company distributes its products throughout the U.S. and in over 55 foreign countries. More information about the company can be found at www.remington.com.

benefit on U of A Campus

"A Party with a Purpose" was the theme of a CCA Alabama benefit concert hosted by Costa Del Mar on the campus of the University of Alabama on Friday, August 27th. According to the *Crimson White*, the University of Alabama newspaper, over 5,000 tickets were sold to students. After a brief shower, the concert began, and the crowd enjoyed music by *Pretty Lights*, *Thugs-n-Harmony*, and *Simply Stoopid*. CCA Alabama will use the funds for post-oil spill marine conservation and habitat restoration.



Fall Brings Multiple CCA Events

The months of September, October and November are filled with opportunities to attend CCA events around the state. Below is the schedule

Tuesday September 21: CCA Montgomery Chapter will host a "State of the Fishery, Post-Oil Spill." Watch for an announcement of time and location in your e-mail inbox. Dr. Bob Shipp, Chairman of National Marine Fisheries Gulf council, Alabama Conservation Advisory Board member, chairman of the Department of Marine Science at the University of South Alabama, and CCA Marine Science Consultant, will talk with members and prospective members about the spill and its effect on our recreational fishery, now and in the near and long term.

Thursday October 7th: CCA's Eastern Shore Chapter will hold its 15th annual Fall Out. Location: Oak Hollow Farm in Fairhope. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. The event will include live entertainment by **The Leavin' Brothers**, as well as dinner, auctions and prize drawings, including your chance to win a sportfishing trip to Costa Rica, and/or a fly fishing and/or sightseeing trip to the beautiful West Coast of Ireland. Tickets are \$85 per couple (\$95 day of event), and \$55 per single (\$60 day of event). You can order your tickets directly from our website at www.ccaalabama.org, or by calling our office at (251) 478-3474.

Thursday October 21st: CCA's Western Shore Chapter will hold its 3rd annual Bay Blast at The Gates of Fowl River (near the Pelican Reef restaurant) on Dauphin Island Parkway. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Live entertainment by **Grits 'n Pieces**, dinner, auctions and prize drawings, including a chance to win a sportfishing trip to Costa Rica, and/or a fly fishing and/or sightseeing trip to the beautiful West Coast of Ireland. Tickets are \$75 per couple

or \$50 per single, and can be ordered directly from our website at www.ccaalabama.org, or by calling (251) 478-3474.

Sometime early in November: CCA Mobile Chapter will hold it's 29th annual fall event. Details are currently being finalized. Stay tuned for updates...

For updates and questions on all events, please call CCA Alabama at (251) 478-3474 or e-mail ccabama@aol.com

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