



CCA Alabama Year-End Report

2008 has been a year of great success and great challenges for CCA Alabama!

Net ban legislation enacted

The 2008 Alabama state legislature passed a bill that will eventually eliminate all commercial gill nets from the state's coastal fishery. Out-of-state gill net licenses have been discontinued, and local license holders have until March 2009 to decide whether to take the generous buy-out provided in the bill. Those commercial net fishermen who stay in the business will face a future filled with uncertainty. CCA is asking the Conservation Advisory Board to consider placing limitations on the remaining gill net fishery that will severely restrict participants' activities. Details of the proposals are found on our web site, CCA-Alabama.org.

Governor Riley rejected TORP proposal

CCA played a significant role in influencing Governor Bob Riley's decision to convince TORP to withdraw its application for an open loop Liquid Natural Gas terminal in the Gulf just off Alabama's coast. The terminal would have ingested about 125 million gallons of seawater (and every living organism in it) daily. Open loop LNG systems can have disastrous effects on marine life.

Conservation Department placed a limit on flounders

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources placed a 10-fish limit on flounders. Rarely do recreational anglers catch more than 10 flounder per person, but the overkill during jubilees on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay has raised serious concerns among fisheries managers. Reports of people taking more than 100 flounders during a jubilee are common. Some people believe flounders die after coming near the water's edge during a jubilee, but that is not the case according to Bob Shipp, CCA's marine science consultant. "They become moribund for a couple of hours and then return to business as usual," said Shipp. "When the commercial net fishery comes to an end, and recreational anglers take no more than 10 per person, the flounder stocks will return to levels not seen in years," predicted Grey Cane, CCA Alabama State Chairman.

New chapter formed and another one on the way

CCA Alabama's newest chapter is up and running. The area covering Dog River, Rabbit Creek, Hall's Mill Creek, Fowl River, Dauphin Island, and the western shore of Mobile Bay has been targeted for a new chapter for several years, and now it's a reality. The new group's first fundraising event was held on October 30 at The Gates of Fowl River and was attended by more than 150 people. President Kyle Craig attributes the initial success to "a small but hard-working group of individuals who care deeply about our coastal marine resources." - Stay tuned for information about a new chapter in the Dothan area. CCA vice presidents Manley Cummins and Lee Shook are working with volunteers in the Wiregrass area to have the chapter on line during early 2009.

Fish Alabama license tag program launched

The first 1,000 new saltwater angling license plates will be given away by CCA to those who register for the tag. Applicants have two options: Get the tag at no cost for the first year, or pay the \$50 tag fee and have their name put into a drawing for a new 19 1/2 foot Blazer Bay boat and trailer. The boat is powered by a 115 hp Yamaha 4-stroke engine. Eighty-four percent of the proceeds of tags purchased (\$42 per tag) goes directly to CCA Alabama for coastal conservation projects. Saltwater anglers now have an opportunity to proudly display their enthusiasm for coastal fishing while providing a much-needed source of funds for conservation.

CCA's business strategy helped ensure success

Our four-pronged strategy of Membership, Fundraising, Education, and Advocacy has served us well in 2008. Membership has increased for the year. Fundraising, in an extremely challenging year, has been difficult, but thanks to the dramatic increase in life members, has been adequate. Our educational programs are making more people aware of the importance of Alabama's treasured marine resources. And Alabama's coastal anglers can be proud of CCA's advocacy team for its success in Montgomery.

Continue the momentum

Success in marine conservation doesn't come easy, and it's not cheap. Our financial resources were severely depleted during 2008, and we need your help to keep the momentum going. There are important challenges to face in the coming years, and we're counting on your help if our success is to be sustained. Please consider the vital role CCA Alabama plays in the conservation of our marine resources. Please keep CCA Alabama in mind as you look over your year-end giving plan. And please make a significant gift to help continue our success. Your gift - regardless of its size - will be sincerely appreciated.

CCA counts on grassroots support

CCA Alabama is your organization. You are the reason we've been successful. Thank you for all you have done, and are doing, to guarantee a healthy coastal marine resource for future generations to enjoy.

Your investment in CCA Alabama stays in Alabama and is used entirely for coastal marine fisheries conservation.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. Thanks again for being a part of CCA Alabama.

Ed Williamson
Executive Director
CCA Alabama

P.S.: Contact the CCA Alabama state office for information about Life Membership options. Life members play a key role in marine conservation. 251-478-3474.