



The Lighthouse

Origin of crab trap removal program

by Art Morris, Outreach Specialist,
Coastal Fisheries Division, TPWD

Lost or abandoned crab traps are a problem for all users of Texas marine waters. First introduced to Texas in the late 1940s, the wire crab trap has made a positive impact on fishing efficiency and harvest, however the proliferation of trap use has led to user conflicts and other problems associated with lost or discarded crab traps. Removing thousands of traps can be expensive and time consuming. Texas was overwhelmed with the problem, until the 76th Legislature created a volunteer program through Senate Bill 1410 to cleanup traps.

February of 2002, the first abandoned crab trap removal program was conducted and the resulting effort was so effective, it is inspiring other Gulf

states to tackle the issue as well. In fact, it was so successful that another concentrated effort is planned for February in other years and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is looking for volunteers to lend a helping hand.

During the February 2002 effort, 554 volunteers representing over 60 organizations, businesses and government entities helped remove 8,070 traps from all the major bay systems along the Texas coast. Galveston Bay led the way with 3,214 traps removed, followed by San Antonio Bay with 2,131. Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Texas was a key supporter of the program and secured a much needed \$14,000 grant from the FishAmerica Foundation to help TPWD offset expenses. Other organizations or businesses like the Coastal

Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Wimberly Investments, Berkley, Best Manufacturing, Saltwater Conservation Association (SCA) and many others donated significant time and resources to assist with the cleanup.

Lost traps are capable of fishing continuously for many months, if not years, after they have been lost. This unattended fishing by crab traps is often referred to as "ghost fishing." Biologists estimated that over 11,000 organisms were saved just during the week of the cleanup last year. Even more were saved when you consider the traps were removed and will not continue to kill more fish and crabs throughout the year. Twenty-one species of organisms, many commer-

More Traps, page 4

Almost time for SWIBS at South Shore

by Keith Emmons

Presented by GEICO the South West International Boat Show offers an open invitation to manufacturers, dealers, brokers and charter companies from across the U.S.A. to participate in a truly international, in-water, boat show — making the event the largest power and sailboat show in Texas.

Over 400 boats, from 10-feet to 80-feet plus will be in-water and onshore,

with pre-season savings and boat show specials — bay boats, ski boats, sailboats, sportfish, powerboats and luxury yachts — all on display with many ready to demo right there at the dock.

Add to this 200+ vendors with fishing gear, the latest water toys, sound systems, finance, insurance, wakeboard towers, navigational equipment, gifts, apparel and outdoor furniture all you need for the boating and outdoor lifestyle.

This year, again, the show will feature the Sailing Village, with a full range of marine electronics, products and accessories, in addition to a comprehensive seminar program featuring access to free seminars for boat show attendees.

These entertaining and educational seminars, taking place on site at the South Shore Harbour Resort Hotel, will cover a wide variety of topics

More Show, page 4

Finding the right crew. . .

by Keith Emmons

A group of skippers were walking through town looking for crew, when they see a five-story building with a sign that read *Crew Association: Ship's Crew Available.*

Since they are without their crews, they decide to go in. The security guard, a very salty type, explains to them how it works.

"We have five floors. Go up floor by floor and once you find what you are looking for in a crew, you can go there and make a selection. It's easy to decide since each floor has a sign telling you who's inside," he said.

Everything seems wonderful, so they start going up and on the first floor the sign reads, *All the crew on this floor are beginners.* The skippers laugh and without hesitation move on to the next floor. The sign on the second floor reads, *All the crew here are experienced, smart but weak.*

Still, this isn't good enough, so the skippers continue on up. They reach the third floor and the sign reads, *All the crew here are experienced, smart and strong.*

They still want to do better, and so, knowing there are still two floors left, they keep going. On the fourth floor,

the sign is perfect, *"All the crew here are experienced, smart, strong and former Americas Cup champions.* The skippers get excited and are about to go in when they realize that there is still one floor left.

Wondering what they are missing, they head up to the fifth floor. There they find a sign that reads, *There are no crew here. This floor was built only to prove that there is no way to please a skipper!*

Don't forget the Yachty Gras Kick-off Party at Clear Lake Shores is Friday, February 28 from 7-11 p.m. and open to the public.



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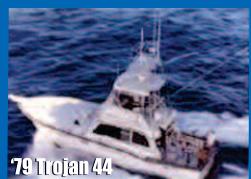
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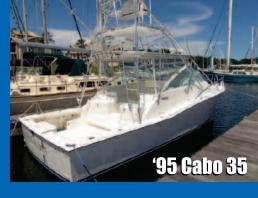
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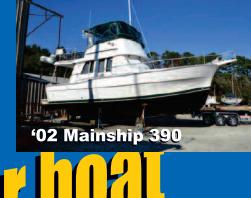
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Traps

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cially or recreationally important, were observed in these traps with blue crab and stone crab representing 76% of the organisms observed.

Lost traps have also been a source of user conflicts. Boaters and fishermen that have come in contact with these lost traps with their motors and fishing gear often end up with costly repairs or loss of valuable fishing time.

These traps may also be damaging sensitive habitat, such as sea grasses, in some areas. Additionally, the removal of lost traps enhances the natural beauty and aesthetic value and the experiences we have while being out in Texas bays.

The Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program for volunteers is scheduled to begin in late February or early March and will be well advertised on TPWD's website. <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> TPWD will facilitate roughly 20 sites coastwide, provide disposal facilities, supply tarps, gloves, crab trap hooks and other items to volunteers.

To volunteer or for more information contact Art Morris, at the Corpus Christi Field Station (361) 825-3356 or Bobby Miller, at the Dickinson Marine Lab (281) 534-0110 or contact your local TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division office.

Show

continued from page 1

from great destinations to information on how to turn boating dreams into on the water reality.

Additionally, sign up with Discover Boating for one of their exciting on-water educational programs designed to add more fun and excitement to your boat show experience — and take your boating skills up a notch. There's something for everyone, from absolute beginners to seasoned skippers. You can check out the entire program at www.southwestinternationalboatshow.com.

There will be live music every day, exciting giveaways, gourmet food trucks and entertainment for the kids, make this a great event for the entire family.

Show dates and hours:

Thursday, March 27, 12-7 p.m. with the opening ceremony at 4.30; Friday, March 28, 12-7 p.m.; Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, March 30, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

There will be parking and complimentary shuttle buses running

Thursday through Sunday. There are also many parking lots around the South Shore Harbour Resort which are free to use .

Unfortunately, the only pets allowed onsite are guide dogs or other licensed working dogs.

For more information, see: <http://www.southwestinternational-boatshow.com/index>

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Remember, it is illegal to discharge boat waste into Galveston Bay or Clear Lake.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Coastal Coordination Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration award Number NA10NOS4190207.

HANDY TO HAVE NEXT TIME YOU BUY A BOAT — SELLERS VESSEL DISCLOSURE

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1. Has not sustained any hull damage as a result of collision or grounding.
 Has sustained hull damage as a result of collision or grounding and is described as follows: _____
2. Has not sustained any storm damage due to hurricanes, tornadoes, microbursts or other weather related conditions.
 Has sustained storm damage due to hurricanes, tornadoes, microbursts or other weather related conditions and is described as follows: _____
3. Has not sustained any damage as a result of flooding or sinking.
 Has sustained damage as a result of flooding or sinking and is described as follows: _____
4. Has not sustained any damage as a result of fire.
 Has sustained damage as a result of fire and is described as follows: _____
5. Has not been repaired as a result of warranty claim.
 Has been repaired as a result of a warranty claim and was repaired by _____ and described as follows: _____
6. Has not had any insurance claim(s) filed and/or any repairs completed under an insurance claim(s).
 Has had an insurance claim(s) filed and/or repairs completed under an insurance claim(s). Repairs described as follows: _____
7. Has not sustained a lightening or any other electrical loss.
 Has sustained a lightening or electrical loss resulting in damage and is described as follows: _____
8. Has had no engine or generator problems or rebuilds.
 Has had engine or generator problems or rebuilds as described as follows: _____
9. Has had no peel, sand blast or grind out of osmotic blisters.
 Has had peel, sand blast or grind out of osmotic blisters and prophylactic coatings as described: _____
10. My vessel described herein is not subject to any liens.
 My vessel described herein is subject to the following liens: _____
11. I am not aware of any material mechanical or structural problems which would affect the marketability or value of the Yacht.
 I am aware of material mechanical or structural problems as follows: _____
12. I have and will defend that I have good and marketable title/ownership thereto and the lawful right to sell the same.
 I do not have good and marketable title/ownership thereto and the lawful right to sell the same.

I further certify that to the best of my knowledge all the vessels systems & equipment are in proper working condition, except: _____

Signature of Owner _____ Date _____

Signature of Owner _____ Date _____



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