

# Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR  
TEXAS MARINE HABITAT



## CCA Texas Port Mansfield Offshore Reef

By Matt Warren

This August, CCA Texas's Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow Program (HTFT) will complete an artificial reefing project out of Port Mansfield with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Artificial Reef Program. This reef, which will provide increased habitat for snapper, grouper, and Texas's other near-shore species, is the second out of three artificial reefs to be completed by HTFT's initiative to create near-shore reefs along the Texas Coast. The Vancouver Reef out of Freeport on the upper coast was completed last summer, and the mid-coast reefing project out of Matagorda will be completed next spring. The Port Mansfield reef, when completed this summer, will provide important near-shore habitat as well as angling opportunities to Texas's lower coast. Slated to begin in June of this year, the Mansfield reef project received \$50,000 in funding from HTFT, as well as additional funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Artificial Reef Program. The overall cost of the project is in excess of \$450,000.

The actual location for the reef is a 160 acre site in state waters roughly nine nautical miles out of the Mansfield jetties. The site will be filled with over 4,000 concrete culverts of different sizes generously donated by Alamo Concrete out of San Antonio. "These kinds of near-shore reefs are very popular with many anglers because they create good fishing opportunities that do not force anglers to run a long distance offshore," said John Blaha, director of CCA Texas's HTFT



program. "It's a win-win for marine resources and for Texas anglers. With the great partnerships we are developing with TPWD and with good corporate citizens like Alamo Concrete, HTFT is in great shape to keep the underwater building boom going strong." Since its inception in 2008, CCA Texas's HTFT Program has set in motion a number of habitat projects which have been and will continue to be very beneficial to our state's coastal resources. HTFT has funded over \$350,000 in artificial reefing projects, marsh restorations, and shoreline stabilizations since 2008, and will continue to focus on the restoration and enhancement of our coastal marine resources for years to come.

## EcoVantage donates EcoPrem Wood for giant fishing pier in Texas

By Kate Gigli

CCA Texas has graciously accepted a donation of decking and railing product from EcoVantage LLC, a thermally

modified wood manufacturer in Northern Indiana. This donation, with a retail value of approximately \$40,000 will help the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center in Flour Bluff Texas construct a series of piers that when completed will enable children and adults of all ages to enjoy the wonders of being on the water and the thrill of landing a fish! The Marine Development Center and its Hatchery rearing ponds are important to the stocking of Texas Bays with fish for generations to come. EcoPrem was selected for this project because it contains no chemicals whatsoever...and therefore would not leach harmful toxins into the saltwater and affect the young fingerlings. EcoPrem is made of Southern Yellow Pine that is processed using only heat and steam to create a wood product completely different from any other. The thermally modified wood is lighter, stronger and resistant to rot, cupping, splitting and insects....because the sugars, resins and excess moisture have been baked out by our state of the art kilns.

EcoVantage LLC is proud to continue to support CCA Texas in their Coastal Conservation efforts, to see more photographs of this project visit [www.ecovantagewood.com](http://www.ecovantagewood.com). 

