

San Antonio Bay Crab Trap Clean-Up 2017 Complete

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department closes the bays to crabbing for 10 days each February to allow volunteers to legally pick up abandoned traps. Besides being eyesores, the traps continue to fish (“ghost fishing”) trapping crabs and fish that then die and providing “bait” that continues the killing process. Picking up the abandoned traps is essential to improving the health of our bays.

Led by Dan Alonso of the San Antonio Bay Foundation, volunteer boats and crews turned in 570 traps – leading the Texas coastal bay systems according to Norman Boyd of TPWD Coastal Fisheries. Directed by the results of a recon flight by Daniel’s Flying Service, commissioned with funding from Friends of Aransas and Matagorda Islands, Alonso was able to direct boats/volunteers from the Aransas Refuge, the International Crane Foundation, TX Airboat Association, Dow, GBRA, MANERR, USAA, SABP, and the Colville Ranch to pick up the sighted traps in San Antonio Bay. Allan Berger with the POC CCA and the San Antonio Bay Partnership had crews in Espiritu Santo Bay running specific routes designed to cover the bay.

A total of 56 volunteers and 19 boats participated in the effort this year and more than doubling the traps collected 570 over last year’s count of 258! Judging from the sheer number of commercial traps observed in the bay during crabbing season, derelict traps were certainly missed—additional help is always needed.

Effort & Results	
258	TRAPS REMOVED 2016
570	TRAPS REMOVED 2017
56	VOLUNTEERS
19	BOATS

