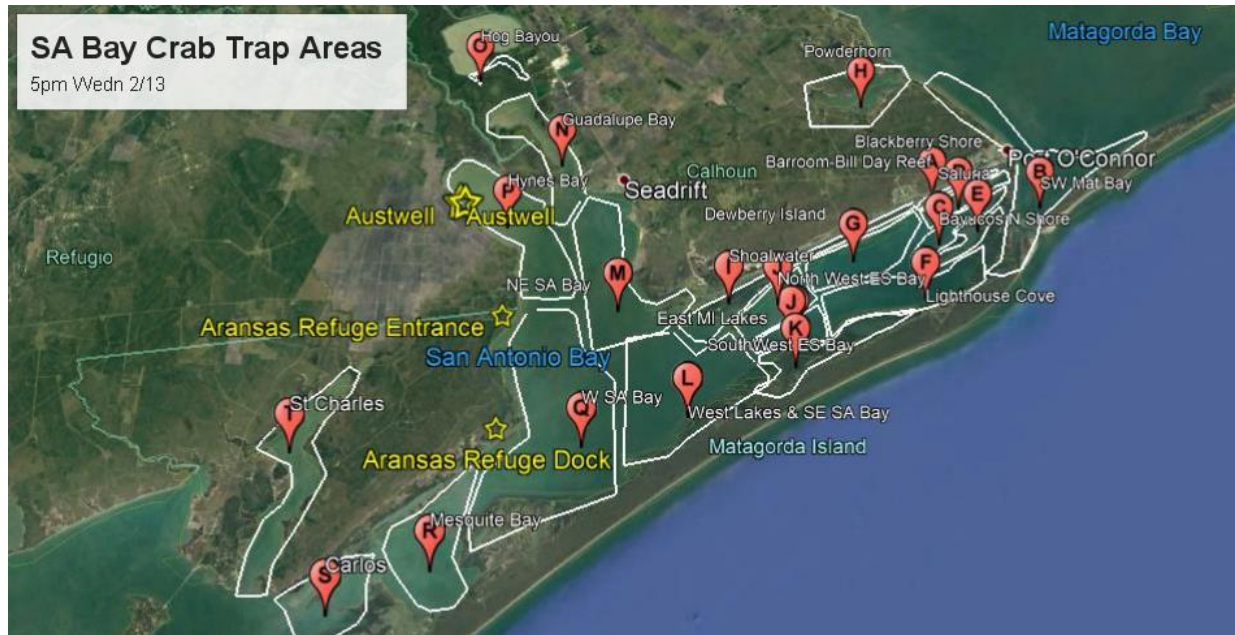


Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Project – February 2019 San Antonio Bay Area Cleanup Areas



POC	Bay Section	Description
A	Blackberry Shore	Blackberry Shoreline from Fishermans Cut to Army Cut
B	SW Matagorda Bay	Little Jetties, north to Powderhorn, and south into Sunday Cove and Fish Pond; East to Pass and Peninsula Shore, Big Jetty, to Breakwater
C	Bayucos N Shore	Chris's Cut, along Bayucos Shore to tip Grass Island
D	Barroom - BD Reef	Barroom Bay, Bill Day Reef, ES Bay til Army Channel
E	Suluria	Saluria west to Bayucos Point and south Grass Island and Farwell Island
F	Lighthouse Cove	Saluria west to Bayucos Point and south Grass Island and Farwell Island
G	Dewberry Island	From Army Cut west to Charlies Cut
H	Powderhorn	Powderhorn Lake, including Coloma Creek
Charlie's		
I	Shoalwater / Lagoon	Shoalwater Bay west to Steamboat; Lagoon east to Army Cut
J	North West ES Bay	North half of West ES Bay, from Charlies Cut to Steamboat chain;
JJ	South West ES Bay	South Half of West ES Bay from South Pass shore to Contee entrance
K	East Lakes	Pringle, Contee & South Pass
L	West Lakes & SE SA Bay	Long Lakes and other Lakes to Panther Point; SE Bay quadrant
N	NE SA Bay	Turnstake north, including Welder Flats, to Seadrift and west to Victoria Barge Canal
Austwell /Refuge		
M	Guadalupe Bay	Guadalupe Bay and Mission Lake; River
N	Hog Bayou	Hog & Goff Bayous
O	Hynes Bay	Hynes Bay south to ICWW & east to VBC
P	W SA Bay	South of ICWW, west to 2nd Chain, east to Panther Lake
Q	Mesquite Bay	2nd chain west to third chain
S	Carlos Bay	
T	St Charles Bay	

Results

Port POC	Bay Section	Description	Captain / Crew	Traps	Deposited	Mat	Aransas	# Boats	Hrs	Volunteers
A	Blackberry Shore	Blackberry Shoreline from Fishermans Cut to Army Cut	Karen Barton / Donald Goldman	5	TPWD			1	4	2
B	Powderhorn Shore	POC Little Jetties north to entrance of Powderhorn Lake	A Berger / Doug Berger	3	TPWD	3		1	3.5	2
B	SW Matagorda Bay	Little Jetties, south into Sunday Cove and Fish Pond; East to Pass	Doug Berger/Brenda, Cameron & Kolton	7	TPWD	7		1	3.5	4
C	Bayucos N Shore	Chris's Cut, along Bayucos Shore to tip Grass Island	Allan Berger and Doug B.	8	TPWD			1	2	2
D	Barroom - BD Reef	Barroom Bay, Bill Day Reef, ES Bay til Army Channel	Bob Hill / Chris Hansel	35	TPWD			1	7	2
E	Suluria	Saluria west to Bayucos Point and south Grass Island and Farwell Island	Dain Whitworth / David Berger	9	TPWD			1	5	2
F	Lighthouse Cove	Saluria west to Bayucos Point and south Grass Island and Farwell Island	Richard Porche / Charlie Kouba	25	TPWD			1	8	2
G	Dewberry Island	From Army Cut west to Charlies Cut	Not sufficiently covered by boat	0						
H	Powderhorn	Powderhorn Lake to Coloma Creek Bridge	Brian Franck & Fischer	7	TPWD	7		1	4	2
Charlie's										
I	Shoalwater / Lagoon	Shoalwater Bay west to Steamboat; Lagoon east to Army Cut	Harrell/Brawner/Guthry	31	Charlie's			1	5	3
I	Shoalwater / Lagoon	Lagoon / Shoalwater Sunday Cleanup	Bob Hill	2	Charlie's			1	5.5	1
J	North West ES Bay	North half of West ES Bay, from Charlies Cut to Steamboat chain	Brent & Melissa Harrell, Charlotte Fitzgerld, Lila & Hunt Harrell	13	Charlie's			1	4	5
JJ	South West ES Bay	South Half of West ES Bay from South Pass shore to Contee entrance	ICF Pistone, Grand, Alejandro	14	TPWD			1	5	3
JJ	South West ES Bay	Shoreline Contee to South Pass	A Berger, Laura Picariello, Ashley Berger	37	TPWD			1	5	3
K	Mat Island East Lakes	Pringle, Contee & South Pass	Mark Saddler / Rod Graci	22	Charlie's			1	5	2
L	West Lakes & SE SA Bay	Long Lakes and other Lakes to Panther Point- shoreline	Smisek, Caldwell - 2 boats	65	TPWD			2	7	7
L		SE Bay quadrant	Not sufficiently covered by boat	0				0	0	0
L		North end near steamboat	Rob and Sharon Snider	5	Charlie's			1	2	2
		South Pass area	TPWD 2-21	9	Charlies					
N	NE SA Bay	Turnstake north, including Welder Flats, to Seadrift and west to Victoria Barge Canal-see below	Not sufficiently covered by boat- see below	0				0	0	0
N	Turnstake west to Shore	Chasing Aerial recon data west of Turnstake 2/22	ABerger, Crane, Snider	28	Charlies			1	7	3
N	Back to Turnstake 2/23	continue	Allan & Brigid Berger	23	Charlies			1	5	2
N	Back to Turnstake 2/24	continue	Allan & Brigid Berger	26	Charlies			1	5	2
Austwell /Refuge										
M	Guadalupe Bay	Guadalupe Bay and Mission Lake; River	Jeff Crawford & Tina, Glenn Strickland 2/15	10	Charlies			1	3	3
M		Continue Crawford 2-20	Jeff Crawford, Glenn Strickland	11	Charlies			1	3	2
M		Continue Crawford and Glenn Strickland 2-21	Crawford, Strickland	21	Charlies			1	7	2
M		Guadalupe River from Calhouns, into Guadalupe Bay	Curtis Gosnell, Walter Brown & Billy Penney-GBRA	40	Austwell			1	6	3
		Upper SA Bay	Jeff Crawford crew	12	TPWD					
N	Hog Bayou	Hog & Goff Bayous	GBRA Penney and Brown	40	Austwell			1	2.5	3
O	Hynes Bay	Hynes Bay and N SA Bay from Sadrft	ABerger, Bridid , Ortego	30	Austwell			1	4.5	3
O			JPistone, Dodson, Tunnell	20	Austwell			1	4.5	3
O			ABerger, Rusty & Denise Crane 2-21	45	Austwell			1	7	3
O		McDowell Point	Colt S - 2/23	11				1	2	2
P	W SA Bay	South of ICWW, west to 2nd Chain, east to Panther Lake	not sufficiently covered by boat	0				0	0	0
		North of the oil platform west of Panther Reef	Troxler - TPWD 2/22	6	Charlies			1	1	3
Q	Mesquite Bay	2nd chain west to third chain	see below							
S	Carlos Bay		covered by Aransas tpwd							
PQT		Mustang Lake , Rattlesnake 2-19 (Ayres 3)	USFW: Stetter & Sanspree	24	Refuge		3	2	3	5
PQT		Mesquite, Ayres, W SA Bay Pier to Panther 2-20	USFW: Harrell, Sanspree, Affeldt	73	Refuge		36	3	6	10
PQT		W SA Bay 2-21	S Scott, Dan Reuscher-USFW	9	Refuge			1	4	5
PQT			Troxler Stack at Cedar lake- pu by Berger/Crane	18				1	3	2
		West Shore SA Bay 2/24 McDowell pt	Colt Sansfree	11				2	2	1
T	St Charles Bay	Circle St Charles Shore	Ed Boyer Crew	8	Goose Island		8	1	6	2
T			Scott Affeldt	5	Goose Island		5	1	3	4
	Port Bay		John Kisalul crews	10			10	2	3.5	4
	Preclosure Dock side		A Berger	10	TPWD					
			Berger threw in bin	1	TPWD					
			Total	789		17	62	43	163.5	111
				710	SA Bay					



Legend: White circles with X denote recovered crab trap. Note: not all areas cleaned utilized the marking technology. Black dots represent aerial siting of traps or clusters of traps.

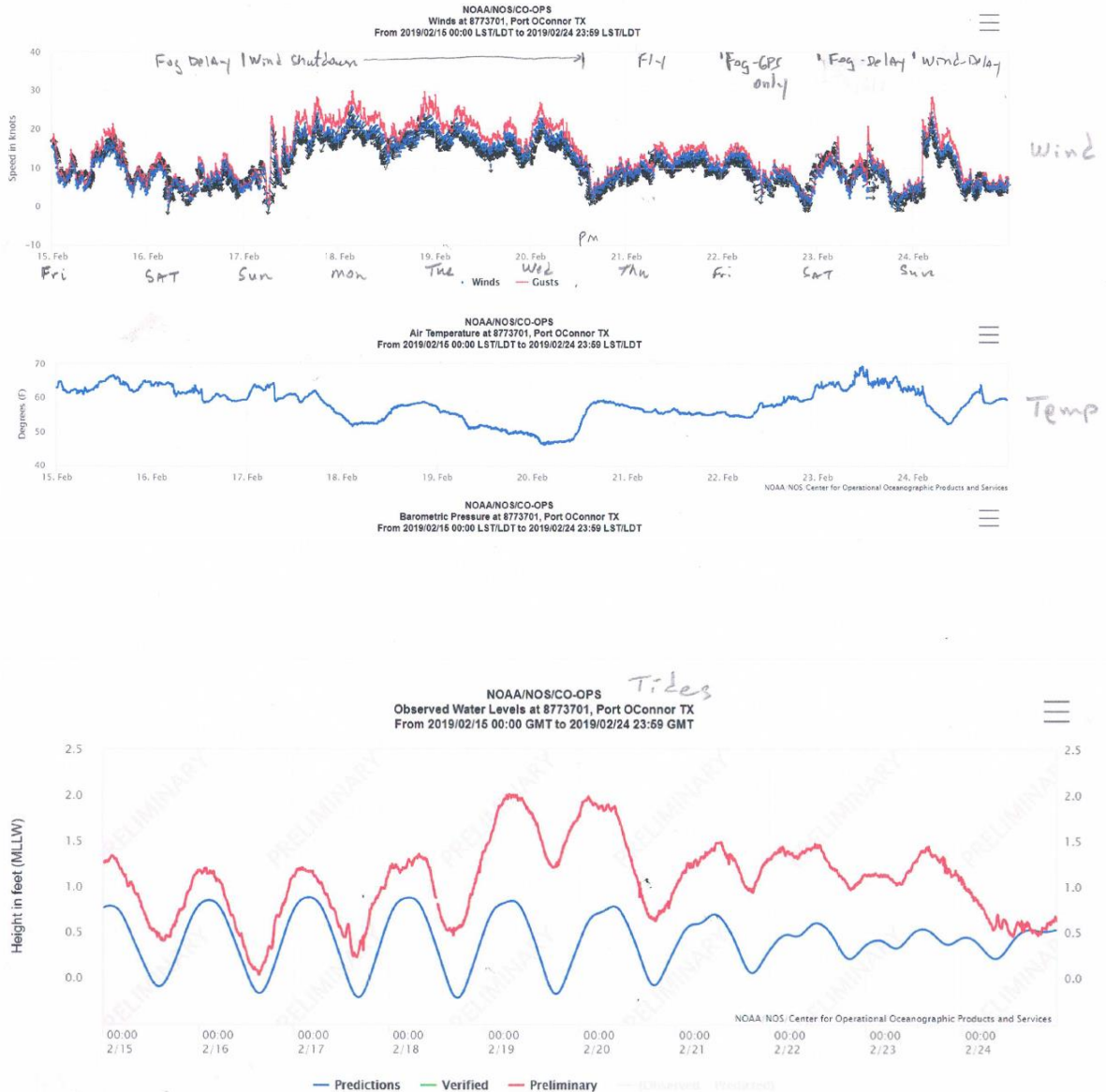
429 traps marked as picked up.

Weather and Tide Summary

-Fog and wind a consistent problem:

1. wind shutdown effort Sun – Wednesday AM
2. Fog delayed start and reduced visibility on most days
3. Generally higher tides made access to shoreline traps easier

Crab Trap Closure Weather Summary – Feb 15-Feb 24, 2019



Aerial Reconnaissance Plan

Planned: Two 3 hour (1 fuel tank) flights over San Antonio and Aransas Bay systems

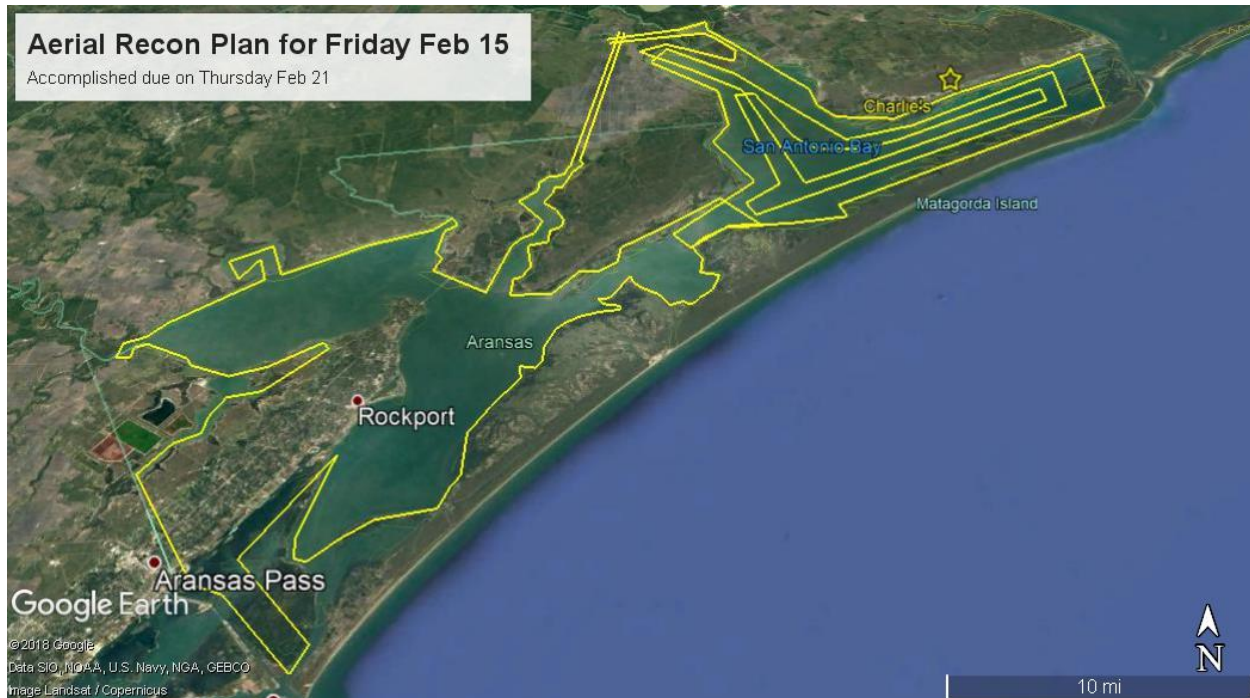
The recon flight from Daniel Flying Service was originally scheduled for the first closure day, Friday Feb 15, but flown on Thursday 2/21.

- mechanical issue prevented on Friday
- Weather issues prevented on Saturday
- then, Pilot unavailable until Thursday Feb 21

Pilot: Glenn Priddy, Victoria

Spotter: Brent Ortego

Note: By Thursday, a significant number of traps were already recovered.



Cost Summary

Crab Trap Removal Program Expenses by SABP		
Celebratory Party		
Hoopers Bar & Grille	Food and Beverages	\$ 900.00
Jack Motley	Entertainment	\$ 500.00
Compadres Ink	Banner	\$ 81.19
Amount Due		\$ 1,481.19
Crab Trap Removal Program		
Daniel Flying Service	Aerial recon	\$ 1,040.00
Outburst Advertising	Caps for volunteers	\$ 1,190.00
Amazon	trap retrieval hooks	\$ 243.00
Action welding	trap retrieval hooks	\$ 140.20
Amazon	trap rope snipers	\$ 89.70
Amount Due to SABP		\$ 2,702.90
Other expenses by GBRT via grant from Alaskan Brewing CODE		
3 gps	3 @\$250	\$ 750.00
gloves	100 @ \$10	\$ 1,000.00
gas Cards	30 @\$50	\$ 1,500.00
Estimated Expenses - GBRT		\$ 3,250.00
Total Budget		\$ 7,434.09

Sponsors

Program: \$7600 grant sought by GBR Trust from Alaskan Brewing Coastal CODE

Party: Funded by GBRA

Bins at TPWD POC, Charlie's Bait Camp, and Austwell Boat Ramp, arranged by TPWD and donated by Waste Management



Photo Gallery available at <http://www.sabaypartnership.org/>

General Timeline

1. Debrief / initial planning for next year – April / May
2. Seek Funding – ASAP
3. Nov – notice to volunteers – hold the date; early route selection and data collection signup/training
 - a. Confirm closure period: Feb 17-26, 2020?
 - b. obtain equipment , Caps; plan party
 - c. aerial survey planning
4. Jan – route defination and final signup to volunteers; press releast local newspapers
 - a. TPWD – confirm bins
 - b. recruit groups (eg, cca, mctmn, gbra, ...)
5. Feb –
 - a. Week prior to closure – route assigments and final plans
 - b. Feb 17 – aerial recon
 - c. Feb 18 – main event – POC / ES Bay and Party
6. March
 - a. press release re results
 - b. debrief and improvement plan

Recommendations for 2020:

1. **Aerial Recon:** Plan single flying the Friday Plan for both SABAY and Aransas Bay systems on the initial closure Friday.
 - a. Pilot Markings
 - i. traps with buoys, likely visible to boat
 - ii. traps w/o buoys, likely not visible to boat
2. **Volunteer Data Collection:** Strongly encourage volunteers to mark traps with a person assigned data responsibilities.
 - a. Signup and software training earlier – ask Brigid to be trainer.
 - b. Data to be input:
 - i. Location of removed trap
 - ii. Trap owner from Tag, or “No tag”
 - iii. location characterization of removed trap:
 1. on land
 2. at shoreline
 3. in water
 - iv. Entrapment in traps removed- yes for all that apply
 1. blue crabs
 2. stone crabs
 3. diamondback terrapin
 4. sea turtle
 5. fish
 - v. Attach photo of items of significance or interest
 - vi. Traps not removed because:
 1. buried, or otherwise not retrievable
 2. inaccessible due water depth / mud
 3. inspected, but not a trap
 4. aerial marking could not be found
 - vii. Encourage volunteer photos of the volunteers in action and of catch of interest
 - viii. improve data sheet, including e-submittal
3. **Improve Logistics:** add Bins at Seadrift and Refuge; consider staging from Matagorda Shoreline? crushing? utilize airboats.
4. Develop **associated cleanup effort** of on shore traps, especially on remote Matagorda Island Shoreline and/or Marsh
 - a. Possible timing: with GLO Beach Cleanup programs
 - i. Spring Coastwide Cleanup: Saturday, April 13, 2019 –too soon to plan; earliest practical date would be mid- May
 - ii. Fall effort in September , generally associated with National Estuaries week
 - b. Effort might involve 25 volunteer transported to Matagorda Shoreline (South Pass to Panther Point to Ayres Point)
 - c. Walk / paddle beach and marsh to locate / stage / remove (?) truly derelict traps

- iii. review results of aerial surveys from 2019 (and previous years if it can be located)
 - iv. recommend improvements and /or additional reconnaissance needs to identify traps missed (eg, submerged, no floats)
 - d. Characterize causes of abandoned traps, eg
 - i. Weather events
 - ii. Crabber practices
 - iii. recreational boat incident (cut float line)
 - e. Estimate the cost of abandoned traps to the industry, the public, and the environment
 - f. Recommend improvements that would result in continually decreasing occurrence of abandoned traps
9. Work with potential partners in **adjacent bays** to strengthen their programs
- a. Aransas Bay- identify champion / group to coordinate volunteer effort
 - b. Lavaca Bay Foundation – try again
 - c. Matagorda Bay Foundation for Palacios area

Press Release to local newspapers: Victoria Advocate, Port Lavaca Wave, POC/Seadrift Dolphin Talk 2/26/19 version (statistics finalized 2/28 and highlighted figures have since been updated)

Crab Trap Removal Effort Cleans Local Bays of Derelict Crab Traps

TPWD closes the bays to crabbing for 10 days each February requiring that all traps be removed. All remaining are assumed derelict and subject to removal. Derelict traps continue to entrap and kill crabs, fish and turtles.

The San Antonio Bay Partnership coordinates a systematic effort where volunteers sign up to clean an assigned area of traps. This year, 20 areas centered around San Antonio Bay were identified, from Powderhorn Lake to St Charles Bay. The effort removed 769 traps from the three TPWD Coastal Fisheries Systems (San Antonio, Aransas, and Matagorda Bays).

The effort involved 42 boat days and 104 volunteer days from several organizations representing US Fish and Wildlife Service Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, TPWD Coastal Fisheries, CCA chapters in Port O'Connor/Victoria/ San Antonio/Houston/Austin; the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority; the International Crane Foundation, the Mid-Coast Texas Master Naturalists, the Mission-Aransas NERR, the San Antonio Bay Foundation, and other individuals who appreciate the Bay.

SABP Chairman, Allan Berger, states: “The effort was a great success! Participation was up from last year and new technology was employed to improve efficiency. While the technology helps, it’s still about boats/volunteers and eyes on the water. We recovered fewer traps than last year, likely because we did not have another Harvey moving traps, but 769 traps is both a significant accomplishment and an indication that we have more work to do to clean the Bays.”

The effort used, for the first time, USFW’s capabilities to mark abandoned traps from the air and to make that data available to volunteers on the water. Unfortunately, mechanical and weather difficulties delayed the aerial survey until mid-closure when many traps were already removed. None-the-less, the aerial survey identified traps missed from the water that were then able to be located. Also, volunteers who participated in the technology were able to mark the location of traps removed. Berger continues “The data reveals that many of the derelict traps are on the shoreline, likely the result of weather events. However, a significant number appear to be in place and not picked up by commercial crabbers. It is anticipated that an analysis of the data can reveal root-causes and result in fewer lost traps in the future.” (see map below)

The effort was funded by a grant obtained by Guadalupe Blanco River Trust from the Alaskan Brewing Company through its Coastal CODE (Clean Oceans Depend on Everyone) Fund. Monies went to the aerial survey, GPS devices, gloves and hooks, and a cap for volunteers. To celebrate the success of the effort, GBRA sponsored a party at Hooper’s Bar and Grille in Port O’ Connor.

Berger says that while the cleanup is a lot of work, it is essential to keeping our bays clean and productive—and it’s fun. Additional boats and volunteers are needed to comprehensively cover the bays. “We did not get them all, which is always the goal.” If you want to be included in the early planning for next year, contact Allan Berger at allanberger@comcast.net.

(Photos and marking map included)