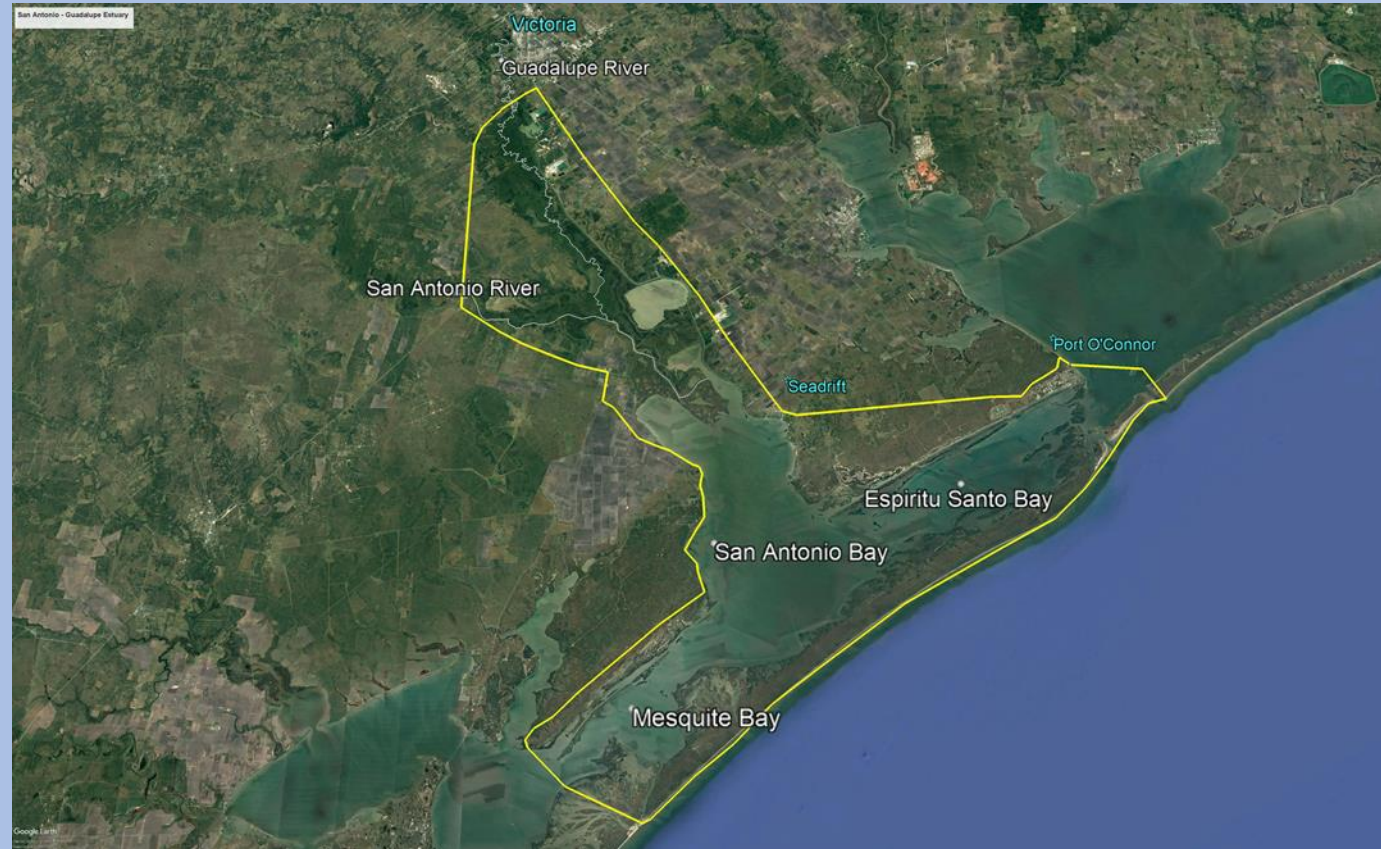


Removing Derelict Crab Traps



San Antonio – Guadalupe Estuary

Coastal Clutter

--All to Common--



Balancing the Good and the Bad

- Good: provides crabs to eat; livelihood for those who work them
- Bad consequence:
 - Litter
 - Navigation hazard to boaters / shrimpers
 - 'Ghost fishing' –self baiting killing machine for crabs, fish, turtles
- Current Approach
 - In 2001, legislation instituted a 10 -day closure period each Feb
 - Volunteer efforts along the coast have removed thousands during the last 17 years



Why so many?

- Calhoun County has 23 commercial crabbing licenses
 - 200 traps each (4600 traps in area bays)
- Recreational crabbers can run 6 traps with a fishing license
- Removal rates from SABP cleanup program
 - 2018 - ~1000 traps
 - 2019 – 797 and we didn't get them all
 - 17-20% dereliction rate?

Causes of dereliction:

- Weather – high tides and wind move traps?
- Boat traffic cuts floats?
- Poor management by crabber?



SABP's Approach

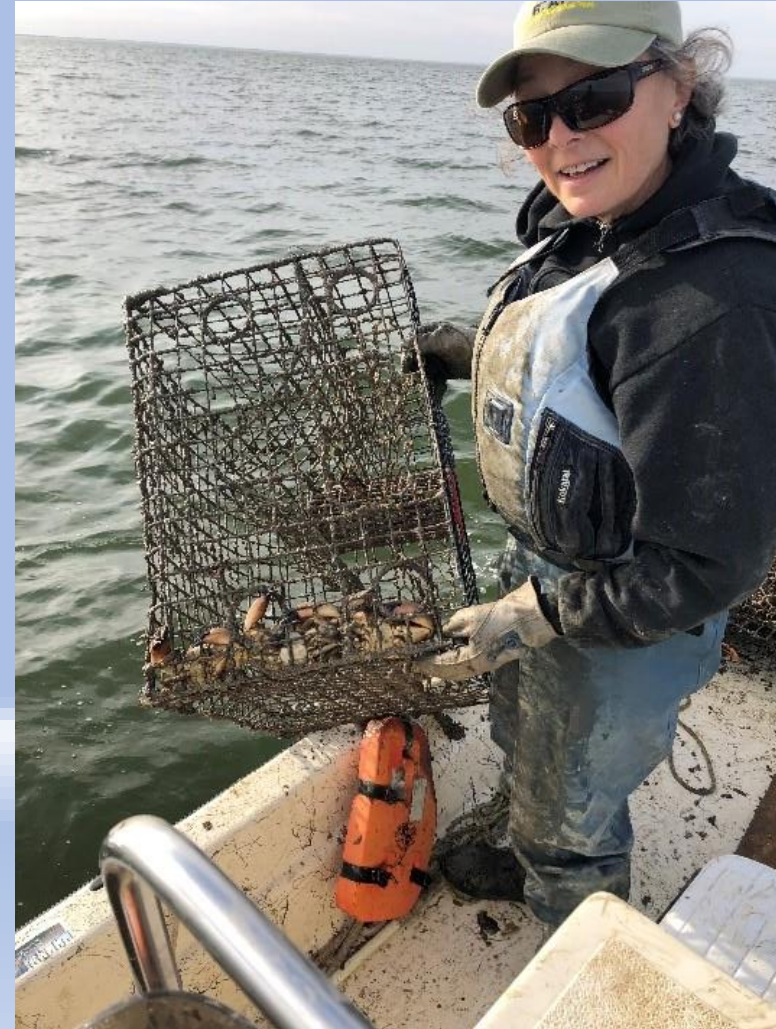
- Design Comprehensive and Systemic Search
- Recruit Volunteers to accomplish
 - Local CCA Chapters
 - Texas Master Naturalists
 - USFW , GBRA, ICF, MANERR,...
 - Conservation minded individuals
- Celebrate a job well done!
 - Dinner / party
 - Event caps for participants
- Plan for next year based on results



Rewarding work!



Dirty Work!



Ghost Fishing



Save Crabs!



Save Critters!



Not all need saving!



The Goal

- **Comprehensively search the Bay and remove all traps found**
- **Reduce the number of new traps escaping**

2019

- 111 volunteer days ; 43 boat days; 797 traps removed

2020

- Feb 21-Mar 1 closure -signup at AllanRBerger@comcast.net
- Efforts in Aransas, Lavaca & Matagorda Bays
- Begin identifying root causes

2021-22

- Applied for NOAA Marine Debris Removal Grant to begin addressing Root Causes of Dereliction –Mid-Texas Coast
- Address other Marine Debris?



SABayPartnership.org