



THE GREAT OUTDOORS



Talks of changes for the new year

by Capt. Steve Schultz

Sponsored by: Premier Yamaha Boating Center, Majek Boats, E-Z Bel Construction, Power Pole Shallow Water Anchor, Aggregate Haulers, Interstate Batteries, Pure Fishing, Mirr-O-Lure and Columbia Sportswear.

Happy New Year All!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a safe New Year's. I would like to start by getting everyone up to date on some scheduled scoping meetings set by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. At these meetings, TPWD will be scoping several items for the upcoming 2014 statewide hunting and fishing proclamation process.

The department is considering changes to the current flounder and spotted seatrout regulations to improve overall numbers in these fisheries. The TPW Commission, which sets policies for the TPWD, has instructed Coastal Fisheries to look at the potential effects of expanding the five fish daily bag limit for

speckled trout currently in effect in the Lower Laguna Madre to other areas of the coast. Also, at the commission's urging, the staff will look at the potential effects of further tightening flounder regulations, including increasing the length of the current November-long prohibition on gigging flounder. After these meetings, department staff will present recommendations to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its Jan. 22-23 meeting.

Based on the commission's feedback, TPWD staff will hold a series of formal statewide public hearings if any regulatory proposals are advanced. Hearings for all fishery- and wildlife-related proposals would be held after the January meeting and before the March 26-27 commission meeting. Final decisions about proposed regulations will be made by the commission at that meeting. I urge everyone who is interested in voicing their comments to attend one of the upcoming meetings. Here is a list of the upcoming meetings.

Jan. 7, 2014, Port Lavaca: Bauer Community Center, 186 County Road 101

Jan. 8, 2014, Rockport: Aransas County Court Room, 301 N. Live Oak St.

Jan. 8, 2014, Corpus Christi: Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples St., Room 106

Jan. 8, 2014, San Antonio: Lion's Field Adult and Senior Citizens Center, 2809 Broadway

Jan. 9, 2014, Port Isabel: Port Isabel Community Center, 213 Yturria

Jan. 9, 2014, Port Arthur: Gallery Room of the Port Arthur Public Library, 4615 9th Ave.

Jan. 9, 2014, Dickinson: TPWD Dickinson Marine Lab, 1502 Pine Dr. (FM 517)

As we prepare for the upcoming fishing season, now is a good time to check your

gear and perform preventive maintenance. Also for those of you that have a boat, there is still time to get it to the dealer to get your annual service performed. I really urge you to get these things done before entering the spring so that you can be ready to fish at the first sign of good weather. For those of you that wade fish during the winter months, now is a good time to check waders for leaks and gather your cold weather gear as most of our colder weather comes in January and February.

Baffin Bay fishing in January and February can be very exciting and rewarding also. All you sportsmen and women seeking a trophy trout for the wall ought to have your gear ready to go. There is no time like the present to achieve a personal best fish or try to surpass one you have under your belt and getting on the water is the first step to getting that done.

To schedule your next bay fishing trip give Capt. Steve Schultz a call at 361-949-7359 or 361-813-3716, or e-mail him at SteveSchultzOutdoors@gmail.com. Already booking for the 2014 fishing season. Good luck and Good Fishing.

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They got their ducks in a row



Jon Marek, branch manager for MEMCO, and Mike Fry, project manager/estimator for NeoPod Systems, got two buffleheads and four red heads on a duck hunt together in the Upper Laguna Madre. -mp

Submitted to Construction News

Beyond the trees



Andrew Ronan, *The Stump Guy*, likes to get away from grinding tree stumps and take to the water fishing. Here's one nice catch he reeled in recently. -mp

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