

For Immediate Release:

San Antonio, Texas - Texas Wade, Paddle and Pole presents its case to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission for "Low Impact Fishing Areas" along the Texas Coast.

Five members of TxWPP gave testimony at the August 25th, 2010 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commissioner's Annual Public Hearing at the International Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Their testimony centered on degraded coastal fisheries, user conflict issues and continued sea grass damage in highly sensitive shallow coastal areas. They proposed that some of these areas be set apart and designated as special Low Impact Fishing Areas (LIFA). It was pointed out that we do this on land and some inland waters when we designate public parks and it is time to realize the same need in our submerged coastal wetlands.

Below is the direct link to the archived mp3 audio of that TxWPP presentation:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/multimedia/media/commission_20100825/20100825_com_04_public_hearing.mp3

Time Line / Move fast forward cursor button to the designated time:

TxWPP group @ 42:45 - 59:55 Five Speakers

The concept of Low Impact Fishing Areas (LIFA) or Managed Fishing Areas does not exclude power boats or "close" areas of Texas bays to fishermen or hunters. It simply requires boats to shut down fuel burning engines after reaching these areas and then access them using a push pole or trolling motor. TxWPP fully endorses allowing motorized access during duck season. This is not a new concept, and has been used successfully in other coastal states.

Texas Wade Paddle and Pole (TxWPP: <http://wadepaddlepole.net>) is an organization formed one year ago to give a voice to saltwater anglers who access and share shallow coastal flats using low impact methods, those who wade fish, use paddle craft, and pole, drift, or use electric trolling motors with their boats.

We wish to use this voice to sound a common concern:

Many of our popular, shallow, coastal fishing areas are suffering the impacts from an escalating user population. Many of whom are increasingly accessing these areas utilizing high tech, high impact, motorized water craft. Such access methods are robbing many anglers of their traditional fishing opportunities.

Put simply--These world class fishing areas are being loved to death.

The cumulative degradation of these areas by irresponsible, high impact, motorized use, comes in four forms:

- > Increased habitat damage
- > Increased fishery disturbance
- > Increased safety issues
- > Increased user conflicts

TxWPP wishes to begin a dialogue among coastal user groups to find reasonable management solutions to reduce these pressures, impacts and conflicts, and provide Texas with a vital, sustainable, shallow water fishery.

For more information please contact:

Will Myers or Ben Frishman
Texas Wade Paddle & Pole <contact@wadepaddlepole.net>