

Dear _____

I am a member of Texas Wade, Paddle & Pole, a growing community of ethical and responsible shallow-water anglers.

In recent years we have seen a disturbing increase in unethical and abusive boating and fishing behavior on our shallow coastal flats. For this fishing environment to remain healthy, we must form a comprehensive management plan to address the destruction of seagrass habitat and the irresponsible behavior being displayed by a growing number of anglers.

What we actively support:

- Anglers that locate fish on the Texas coastal flats by wading, paddling, poling, drifting and (electric) trolling.
- Protection of the sensitive seagrass habitat that builds and sustains our inshore fisheries.
- Efforts to educate boaters and anglers on the ethical and responsible use of our resources.
- A system of Managed Fishing Areas (MFA's) on the Texas Coast that are open to all fishing methods, but closed to running motorized craft.
- The establishment of more public access points for waders and paddlers so that existing locations might receive less pressure.

What we adamantly oppose:

- The complete closure of any area to fishing.
- Boaters (prop, air, or jet) that run across shallow coastal flats in an effort to locate fish, reach remote areas, joyride, or "eco-tour".
- The destruction of valuable seagrass habitat and the harassment and disturbance of fish and anglers by boaters that utilize the above unethical tactics.
- Tournaments, fishing guides, outdoor media, conservation groups, and boat/tackle manufacturers that promote this type of behavior through film, articles and product endorsement.

Since 1960, our coastal population has more than doubled, and many forecast models predict that the number of coastal residents is likely to double again within the next 30 years.

The time has come for Texas Parks & Wildlife to employ *enforceable* laws against this practice of destructive, abusive, and harassing behavior. If we don't act soon, we are facing the loss of a remarkable shallow water fishery to a growing sect of anglers that apparently has very little respect for the sensitive nature of this resource.

Respectfully,