STAR is statewide again for 2017!! In 2016, the second year of competition, CCA Florida STAR implemented the family friendly fishing competition not only on the west coast but also throughout the east coast waters of Florida. The 157 tagged redfish released throughout the states coastal waters and the 13 additional divisions caught the attention of over 5,000 registered anglers and thousands of additional anglers on social media. STAR offered participants an opportunity to win their share of nearly $500,000 in prizes & scholarships and once again was the largest family friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida. All that registered anglers had to do was catch one of the first seven tagged redfish for the opportunity to win a new GMC Pick-up truck, boat, motor and trailer package worth over $40,000 or a college scholarship. If they caught and entered a picture of one of the other eligible species in the additional divisions, they also had the opportunity to win other amazing prizes.

How could CCA Florida STAR presented by Yamaha “step up” the 2017 competition? By offering *over* $500,000 in prizes and scholarships with an additional tagged redfish prize making the first eight tagged redfish eligible for a prize of a new GMC Truck or boat, motor and trailer package. And to make it even more exciting, adult winners in the tagged redfish division get to choose what they win from the list of prizes available at the time of their win. That is correct, the first tagged redfish winner can choose from the Conley Buick GMC Sierra Pickup or one of these Yamaha powered boat packages; Contender 22 Sport, Pathfinder 2200TRS, Maverick HPX-S, Sea Hunt 225 Ultra or the Carolina Skiff 21 Fish & Ski. The next winning anglers will get to pick from what is left. Youth anglers again will be eligible to participate in the tagged redfish division with the first two winners taking home a Carolina Skiff 16 JVX CC powered by a 40hp Yamaha sitting on a Road King trailer.

In STAR’s signature division, CCA Florida officials will be releasing an average of 4 tagged redfish per coastal county throughout Florida’s coastal waters and bays, from Pensacola to the Everglades National Park and along the east coast from the Georgia border to Homestead and the Keys.

The competition also features an Open, Ladies, Fly, Kayak, Lionfish and Professional Guides division. Eligible species are Spotted Seatrout, Snook, Sheepshead, Non-tagged redfish, Cobia, Dolphin (Mahi Mahi) & Kingfish. The STAR Youth Scholarship Division presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors offers New Tide member’s free entry into STAR and the opportunity to win one of twelve scholarships totaling $100,000.

Another fun division for STAR anglers, unique to Florida is the Conservation Division. This division is designed to reward anglers that provide the most catch data on all fish caught and released while fishing the tournament, no matter what species or size. In fact, all STAR entries provide a significant amount of catch data information that can be used by the conservation community to make science based decisions on habitat management, stock assessment and other relevant issues.

The newest addition to Florida STAR is the Trash Division. Participants who gather trash while on the water and submit a photo entry of at least a 5 gallon bucket full of trash with the 2017 official measuring device in their entry will be eligible for a random drawing at the end of the 101 days of STAR for 1st thru 3rd place.

This Catch & Photo competition is designed to educate the general public about the importance of conservation of Florida’s marine resources. STAR’s state-of-the-art smart phone app eliminates the need for anglers to bring their entry to a weigh-in. To enter a catch, anglers submit a photo of their fish on the official measuring device via the app right from the boat, dock, or boat ramp. It is not the biggest fish that wins as most division winners are determined by a random drawing. This format encourages sportsmen and sportswomen of all ages to protect and conserve Florida’s fishery for future generations. The kickoff for STAR is Saturday, May 27th, Memorial Day weekend, and ends Labor Day, Monday, September 4th at 5pm.

Take your friends and family fishing this summer and make it more fun by registering for STAR and joining Coastal Conservation Association. You just may win a new truck, boat, motor and trailer package, a valuable scholarship or one of the many other great prizes. For more information visit [www.ccaflstar.com](http://www.ccaflstar.com)