

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

December 16, 2025



DESTIN
FORT
WALTON
BEACH
FLORIDA



25,000 Redfish Released into Cinco Bayou to Enhance Ecosystem

Okaloosa County, Florida – Destin-Fort Walton Beach, in collaboration with the Coastal Conservation Association Florida ([CCA](#)), successfully released 25,000 juvenile redfish into Cinco Bayou on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025.

This multi-year collaborative effort seeks to address the issue of declining redfish populations across Northwest Florida fisheries and enhance the population with stocking initiatives for one of Florida's most popular inshore fish species.

"We appreciate this continued partnership with CCA Florida to promote the long-term health of our bay and bayous," said Okaloosa County Board Chairman Paul Mixon. "While this species is popular among our local anglers, it will also enhance area habitats and protect numerous species that add to the overall wellness of a robust ecosystem."

The redfish were about two to four inches in length and can take about three years to reach 26-inches in length. Redfish, also known as red drum, spottail, red bass, and channel bass can live up to 40 years.

"Returning to Choctawhatchee Bay for a third redfish release is a proud moment for our organization," CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. "Today's release marks another step forward in our commitment to sustaining Florida's marine resources, and we are grateful for our continued partnership with Okaloosa County to make this event possible."

[View a video of the release](#)

Panhandle fishing regulations for redfish include:

- Season: Open year-round
- Slot Limit: Not less than 18" and no more than 27" total length
- Daily Bag Limit: 1 fish per person per day; 4 fish vessel limit

Source: [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission \(FWC\)](#)

About CCA Florida - The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) was founded in 1977 after drastic commercial overfishing along the Texas coast decimated redfish and speckled trout populations. One of 19 state chapters, CCA Florida became the fifth state chapter in 1985. A 501(c)3 non-profit, the purpose of CCA is to advise and educate the public on the conservation of marine resources. Through habitat restoration projects, water quality initiatives and fisheries advocacy, CCA Florida works with its over 18,000 members including recreational anglers and outdoor enthusiasts to conserve and enhance marine resources and coastal environments. Join the conversation on Facebook or learn more at ccaflorida.org.

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