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Kayakers set out for one of many trails available around the island.

### A kayaker's dream

# Water, water everywhere!

**K**ayakers will find no shortage of places in the Port Aransas area to enjoy the sport.

The paddling trails around Mustang Island have opened up waters that only kayak anglers can get into for good fishing.

The Lighthouse Lakes Paddling Trail was the first Texas Paddling Trail established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The trails consist of a series of paddling trails that wind across shallow waters and flats north of Port Aransas.

The Lighthouse Lakes Paddling Trails include four trails along the South Bay side of Lydia Ann Channel.

These trails are accessible from TPWD's Lighthouse Lake Trails Park along State Hwy. 361. Cutters Loop Trail is 5 miles long; the Electric Lake Loop is 1.25 miles in length; Redfish Loop is the longest at 6.8 miles, and the South Bay Loop is 6.7 miles.

Waterproof wade fishing maps and satellite photo maps to any of the trails, including GPS coordinates (on the photo maps), are available at the South Jetty newspaper office, at 141 W. Cotter Ave.

The trails have markers placed by TPWD to guide kay-

akers as they paddle them.

The Lighthouse Lakes Trails are a series of intertwining trails that point the way for navigating the black mangrove estuary behind the Lydia Ann Lighthouse. It is an ideal place for great experiences in kayaking, fishing and wildlife or bird watching.

The Mustang Island Paddling Trail winds along the bay side of Mustang Island between Mustang Island State Park, past Shamrock Island and ends near the edge of the Port Aransas city limit. This trail reveals some of the best wildlife habitat in the Coastal Bend and provides a roadmap for excellent saltwater fishing.

There are also two trails along the Corpus Christi Bay side of Mustang Island that extend from Port Aransas to a point just short of Mustang Island State Park to the south.


Any of the trails offer rewarding shallow water fishing and spectacular birding.

The TPWD estimates that 80 percent of the kayakers in the Port Aransas area are fishing enthusiasts, except for spikes during bird migrations. During those times, birders also flock to the shallow water wetlands to catch a glimpse of the many birds that fly to Mustang Island.



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