

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the March 26, 1993, issue:

New State Park To Serve North Texas.....	1
Governor Nominates Three To Commission.....	3
Van Horn, El Campo Hosts Big Game Award Banquets.....	5
Fisheries Notes.....	7
Fort Richardson Hosts 'A Day At The Fort'.....	10
TPWD To Host Rock Climbing Show.....	12
Fishing Report	

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NEW STATE PARK TO SERVE NORTH TEXAS

PILOT POINT--People living in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex have a huge new playground just north of them near Denton. Ray Roberts Lake offers not only great recreation opportunities, it also is expected to be a significant source of tourism and economic development for North Texas.

The sprawling, 48,000-acre project features a 30,000-acre lake surrounded on all sides by 18,000 acres of recreational parkland and protected wildlife management area where the public can boat, swim, hike, hunt and fish. This means that all the lake shore property is protected from development by government ownership.

At 11 a.m. on April 3, local, state and national leaders will gather here to officially dedicate the new park, which has been in the planning and development stages since the 1970s. The public is invited to take part in the dedication.

The Ray Roberts Lake project, which features two state park units and six satellite park/boat ramp areas, will open in stages over the next few years. The 1,397-acre Isle Du Bois State Park unit on the lake's southern shore opened for day use on March 19. Isle Du Bois offers camping, picnicking, swimming, boat ramps and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

"We are extremely proud to at last make this beautiful site available to the people of Texas," said Andrew Sansom, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director. "More than half of the people in our state now live in or near big cities, so projects like this one are critical for us to help Texans enjoy the outdoors beyond the year 2000."

The project was made possible through a joint agreement between TPWD, the cities of Dallas and Denton and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps and the two cities are sharing the costs of developing the lake's recreational facilities and the cities have a contract with the department to operate and maintain the site as a state park.

The park is expected to draw about 500,000 visitors in its first year

"The economic impact of this park will be tremendous," said Steve Rollins, president of the Lake Ray Roberts Area Chamber of Commerce, which includes chambers from five lake area communities. "We have a lot of small businesses that have been investing and preparing for years to get ready for the park opening.

"This is not a big commercial, industrial area. We realize that one of our biggest assets up here is recreation. Travel time is nothing from Dallas to the lake and we also anticipate a lot of traffic coming down from Oklahoma that will benefit local retailers and service businesses."

The park project will generate an estimated \$3.56 million in direct economic impact during its first year, a conservative estimate based on 1987 state park survey figures not adjusted for inflation. The estimate assumes 500,000 park visitors per year to the Isle Du Bois unit and includes spending on transportation, food and lodging near the park and during travel to the park within Texas.

TPWD fisheries biologists believe the lake is destined to produce trophy bass. Biologist Bruce Hysmith of the Denison inland fisheries office said that since the dam gates were closed in 1987, the department has stocked the lake with more than 1 million Florida largemouth bass, 60,000 channel catfish, 10,000 threadfin shad and 350,000 bluegill.

"The mass stocking and nursery pond approach allowed us to jump-start the fisheries process that otherwise may have taken nature two to three years, he said. "We were also able to convince the Corps of Engineers to leave some 3,000 acres of timber uncleared at the backs of many coves and in the upper lake and to create big brush piles out of downed timber. This created great 'instant' fish habitat. I'm sure we've only seen the tip of the fishing iceberg at Ray Roberts Lake."

The Ray Roberts Lake Wildlife Management Area includes 41,130 acres of water and land surrounding the state park units. Already a favorite spot for waterfowl hunters, TPWD wildlife biologist Tim Lawyer said innovative management techniques should greatly enhance both game and nongame wildlife habitat on the WMA.

"We're installing flood gates in six areas that will allow us to keep them dry during the April through August growing season," Lawyer said. "During this time we can disk, shred, plant or conduct prescribed burns to enhance vegetation. Just before the ducks and geese come down for the winter we can close the gates and flood the area so that the waterfowl will find good underwater plant forage. This will also benefit the many nongame species we have here, such as shore and wading birds.

On March 19 at the WMA, Lawyer found what appears to be the northernmost bald eagle nest in Texas. Biologists spotted two adult eagles, one on a nest and another in a nearby tree. Lawyer said they'll have to fly a plane over the site to know for sure whether there are eagle eggs or young in the nest. Texas has various eagle nesting sites to the south and east, but this would be the first nest found this far north and west.

The Ray Roberts Lake park project features 12 miles of multi-use trails that connect two satellite parks to the Isle Du Bois State Park unit, plus a 4.5-mile improved surface hike and bike trail that connects the most-used areas within Isle Du Bois.

Satellite park/boat ramp areas currently open are Buck Creek, Pecan Creek, Pond Creek and Sanger Access, the site of a planned marina project. Still in development are the Johnson Branch State Park unit and the Jordan satellite park units.

The entrance fee to Isle Du Bois is \$5 per vehicle. This park unit offers 184 campsites, including a combination of water and electric sites, walk-in sites and equestrian campsites for groups on horseback.

The park is located on FM 455 just off I-35W north of Denton. For more information on Ray Roberts Lake, call Randy Bell, park manager, at (817) 686-2148.

TH 3/26/93

GOVERNOR NOMINATES THREE TO COMMISSION

AUSTIN--Gov. Ann Richards on March 17 announced the appointment of former Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby of Houston, John Raymond "Ray" Clymer Jr. of Wichita Falls and Mickey Ruth Fulwiler Burleson of Temple to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Upon approval of the Texas Senate, they will serve until Feb. 1, 1999.

'Bill Hobby's wealth of experience as lieutenant governor and as a businessman and sportsman will be invaluable to the Parks and Wildlife Department," Richards said. "He is without a doubt one of the state's most knowledgeable state leaders."

Hobby, who served as lieutenant governor from 1973-1991, is chairman of the board of H&C Communications, a broadcasting company. He graduated from Rice University in 1953 and served four years in the U.S. Navy. Currently holder of the Sid Richardson Chair in Public Affairs at the LBJ School of Public Affairs in Austin, Hobby also is a Radoslav A. Tsanoff Professor at Rice University.

Hobby serves on the board of directors of Southwest Airlines, the board of governors of Rice University and the board of trustees of St. Edward's University. He has served as a member of the Trilateral Task Force on North American Higher Education Collaboration.

Hobby, 61, will replace Chuck Nash of San Marcos, a former chairman of the commission, whose term expired Feb. 1

Clymer, 67, is owner, president and chief executive officer of Golden Distributing Company. A native of Wichita Falls, he attended Southern Methodist University. Clymer serves as president of the Wichita Falls Board of Commerce and Industry and the United Way of Texas.

"Ray Clymer is a vital voice for North Central Texas on the Parks and Wildlife Board," Richards said. "Mickey Burleson will be a strong advocate for preserving our natural heritage."

Burleson, 55, has been a working partner with her husband, Bob, in the management of their family farm and the reconstruction of a good portion of it to native prairie vegetation. A native of Belton, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Baylor University and a master's in advertising from Iowa State University.

A recent past president of the Texas Nature Conservancy, Burleson served on the state board of directors for eight years, also holding the positions of vice president and identification chairperson. She has been active in various environmental organizations and causes, in community service and to local schools, in women's rights-related organizations and in working with youth and in her church.

Burleson, whose husband was a Parks and Wildlife commissioner in the 1970s, was founder of the Texas Explorers Club, Americans Backing Better Park Development and the Sierra Club.

In addition, she was a founding member and president of the Native Prairies Association of Texas. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Texas Archaeological Society and is a member of the board of the Miller Spring Park Planning and Coordinating Alliance.

Clymer replaces Peter Beck and Burlison replaces Bea Pickens, both of Dallas, whose terms expired Feb. 1

LW 3/26/93

VAN HORN, EL CAMPO HOSTS BIG GAME AWARD BANQUETS

AUSTIN--The first of this year's Texas Big Game Awards program banquets, designed to recognize quality deer and pronghorn antelope, the hunter and the land manager or owner upon whose land the animal was taken as well as hunters harvesting their first animal, have been scheduled for March 27 in Van Horn and El Campo.

Van Horn is hosting the Region 1 banquet, which is co-sponsored by Van Horn Convention and Visitors Bureau and Culberson County 4-H. El Campo is the site of the Region 7 banquet, sponsored by the El Campo Chamber of Commerce.

The Texas Big Game Awards program, sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Wildlife Association, received 1,317 entries, 1,031 scored entries and 286 entries for first harvest.

Region 1 (Trans-Pecos) received 15 typical whitetail entries, five non-typical whitetail entries, 46 typical mule deer entries, 14 non-typical mule deer entries and 46 pronghorn entries. There were 24 first hunter entries. The top five entries for the Trans-Pecos region in each category are listed below.

Typical White-tailed Deer

1) Randy Magum of Pleasanton, 159 net score, 12 antler points, 22 5/8-inch inside spread, taken in Culberson County; 2) Gustav Fosick of Green Bay, Wisc., 150 5/8, 10 points, 20 5/8 inches, Jeff Davis Co., 06 Ranch; 3) Katrina Jackson of Andrews, 145 2/8, 12 points, 19 4/8 inches, Terrell Co., Oasis Ranch; 4) Gary Lewis of Itasca, 137 2/8, 10 points, 14 inches, Terrell Co. 5) Terry Cox of Seminole, 136 2/8, 8 points, 18 2/8 inches, Terrell Co, Oasis Ranch-Sean Roden Trust.

Non-typical White-tailed Deer

1) William Smith of Midland, 177 4/8, 12 points, 24 2/8 inches, Upton Co. 2) William Fosick of Green Bay, Wisc., 169 4/8, 13 points, 19 1/8 inches, Jeff Davis Co., 06 Ranch; 3) Chris Felker of Colleyville, 158 1/8, 17 points, 17 6/8 inches, Terrell Co., Dean Ranch Company; 4) Charles Mitis of Odessa, 143, 10 points, 18 7/8 inches, Upton Co., Smith Ranch; 5) Brad McJunkin of Plano, 140 1/8, 12 points, 17 3/8 inches, Terrell Co., Dean Ranch.

Typical Mule Deer

1) Thomas O'Neal of Midland, 182, 11 points, 26 3/8 inches, Loving Co., 2) Roy Lee Conrady of Windthorst, 179 5/8, 10 points, 23 1/8 inches, Culberson Co., 3) Eric Swanson of Dallas, 178 2/8, 10 points, 20 2/8 inches, Culberson Co., 4) Dan Allen Hughes Jr. of Beeville, 171 7/8, 12 points, 25 3/8 inches, Culberson Co., Don Allen Hughes Jr., 5) tie, Bobby Stanley of Highlands, 169 4/8, 10 points, 17 4/8 inches, Brewster Co., and Leroy Young of Manchaca, 169 4/8, 10 points, 22 inches, Brewster Co., Ring Ranch.

Non-typical Mule Deer

1) Alfred Schwartz of Garden City, 204 4/8, 15 points, 27 6/8 inches, Culberson Co., Charlie Taylor Ranch; 2) Kent Ficker of Ingram, 192 7/8, 14 points, 21 1/8 inches, Culberson Co., Sibley Ranch; 3) Jim Alcorn Jr. of Fort Hancock, 180 7/8, 14 points, 22 2/8 inches, Hudspeth Co., Mac Guire Ranch; 4) Johnny Wharton of Mineral Wells, 179 5/8, 14 points, 18 inches, Pecos Co., 5) Keith Duncan of Lometa, 178 3/8, 13 points, 18 3/8 inches, Culberson Co.

Pronghorn Antelope

1) Ray Sasser of Rockwall, 84, 10 6/8 inches, Hudspeth Co., 2) Bill Eikenhorst of Brenham, 83 6/8, 10 inches, Hudspeth Co., Mac Guire Ranch; 3) Ray Olin Herzog of Red Oak, 83 4/8, 9 6/8 inches, Hudspeth Co., 4) Walter Scott of Greenville, 82 6/8, 12 2/8 inches, Hudspeth Co., Bubba Glosson; 5) Aniano Banos of Mexico City, 79 6/8, 8 5/8 inches, Presidio Co., Wynta Dixon.

First Deer/Pronghorn Award

Some selected entries include Jason Glasson of Andrews, 8 years old, pronghorn antelope, Presidio Co., Austin Shero of Brownwood, 9, pronghorn antelope, Presidio Co., Jerad Zachary of Sanderson, 5, white-tailed deer, Terrell Co, Rob Allen Ranch; Bill Hill of Comanche, 62, pronghorn antelope, Jeff Davis Co., James Mayfield of Princeton, 62, white-tailed deer, Terrell Co., Harkins Ranch.

Region 7 (Coastal Prairies) received 43 typical whitetail entries and six non-typical whitetail entries. There were nine first hunter entries. The top five entries for the Coastal Prairies region in each category are listed below.

Typical White-tailed Deer

1) Michael Pomykal of Bedford, 153 7/8, 10 points, 16 1/8 inches, Goliad Co., 2) Alvin Dearman of Victoria, 152 2/8, 11 points, 19 4/8 inches, Victoria Co., Querencia Ranch; 3) Paulette Owens of Beaumont, 148 6/8, 8 points, 16 2/8 inches, Colorado Co., J.W. Golla Ranch; 4) Marvin Mills of Floresville, 148, 10 points, 17 2/8 inches, Wilson Co. 5) Ronnie Strelczyk of Victoria, 145 6/8, 10 points, 17 2/8 inches, Goliad Co.

Non-typical White-tailed Deer

1) Michael Rooke of Woodsboro, 161 2/8, 12 points, 19 6/8 inches, Refugio Co., 2) Danny Hales of Webster, 159 3/8, 12 points, 18 5/8 inches, Lavaca Co., Double G Ranch; 3) Larry Hicks of Edna, 152 3/8, 15 points, 16 2/8 inches, Jackson Co., Circle Bar Ranch; 4) Ron Owens of Bay City, 149 5/8, 11 points, 14 6/8 inches, Colorado Co., Golla Ranch; 5) Jordan Vaclavik of Bay City, 146 7/8, 14 points, 17 4/8 inches, Goliad Co.

First Deer/Pronghorn Award

Some selected entries include Wesley Ball of Berclair, 8, white-tailed deer, Goliad Co., Jacob Lynn Bonnot of Ganado, 10, white-tailed deer, Jackson Co., Lance Hosea of Lexington, 9, white-tailed deer, Lee Co., Kevin Kominczak of Houston, 9, white-tailed deer, Caldwell Co., and Fred Barthe of La Grange, 45, white-tailed deer, Fayette Co.

Award banquets for the other six regions are scheduled throughout April and early May. For information on the program and upcoming banquets contact TPWD at 1-800-792-1112 or (512) 389-4800. Cities interested in hosting a banquet in 1994 should call TWA's Charly McTee at (210) 826-2904.

LW 3/26/93

FISHERIES NOTES

WICHITA FALLS--Recent gill net sampling at Lake Possum Kingdom confirm a six-year trend of strong increases in the striped bass population.

Scott Robinson, TPWD fisheries biologist in Wichita Falls , said the average catch rate of striped bass per net has increased from 2.8 in 1987 to 5.5 in 1989, 8.9 in 1991 and 13.3 in 1993, an increase of more than 450 percent in six years. Comparatively, Lake Texoma, nationally recognized for quality striper fishing, usually has an average catch rate of 16 to 18 stripers per net.

"The dramatic increase in catch rates at Possum Kingdom indicates very good survival of striped bass stocked by the department," he said. "There also is evidence that these fish are naturally reproducing in limited numbers."

TPWD did not stock Possum Kingdom with stripers in 1992, however, three 1-year-old fish were found in the 1993 sample, Robinson said. The fish are apparently the result of natural reproduction of fish already in the lake. Although some natural reproduction probably has been occurring for several years, this is the first time it has been documented.

Also from the recent gill net sampling, blue and channel catfish populations look good with blue cats showing a slight increase and channel cats remaining stable. Catch rates of 1-year-old white bass was below average, indicating a below average spawning run last year.

"Fish populations often experience cycles of good and bad spawning years and this is probably not a long-term decline in the white bass population," Robinson said. "There are still plenty of adult white bass (longer than 10 inches) in the lake and they are in excellent condition."

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FORT WORTH--South Bend Sporting Goods Inc., through its "Many Faces of America" program, has contributed 100 spincast rod and reel combinations to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's fisheries management office here to support the urban fishing program.

Through South Bend's contribution, the organization and sponsorship from several city parks and recreation departments and TPWD, metroplex youth and adults were treated to several rainbow trout fishing events during the winter, said Clell Guest, TPWD fisheries biologist in Fort Worth.

The City of Keller sponsored a children's fishing day on Jan. 23, which drew an estimated 350 children and 150 adults. The Hurst Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a fishing clinic on Feb. 9 and more than 100 children fished at Chisholm Park. On Feb. 12, children at risk from the Judge Edison Youth Center were given a fishing clinic, participated in stocking rainbow trout at Trinity Park and fished for them afterward.

The next day the City of Irving sponsored a Family Fishing Day at Thomas Jefferson Park with more than 150 participants. The Irving Christian Anglers Bass Club assisted youth with catching rainbow trout.

"The spincast combos were used by anglers in every one of these events," Guest said. "Through South Bend's and others' support these kinds of activities will continue to grow."

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WACO--January gill net sampling conducted on Lake Whitney indicated improvements in numbers and population structures of channel catfish, white bass and striped bass.

Channel catfish catch rates were twice as high as those in 1992. The population structure was similar to 1992, said Ken Sellers, district management supervisor in Waco. In 1992, about 69 percent of channel catfish sampled were 14 inches or longer; in 1993 that figure had climbed to 71 percent.

The catch rate of white bass in January was almost triple the previous year, he said. Also, about 51 percent of white bass collected last year were legal size (10 inches or longer). This year, about 82 percent of fish collected were legal. In 1992, 8 percent of collected white bass were 12 inches or longer. In 1993, 56 percent were 12 inches or longer.

Eighty-three percent of stripers collected were legal size (18 inches or longer) this year compared to 37 percent in 1992, Sellers said. About 58 percent of the sample was composed of fish 20 inches or longer compared to 33 percent in 1992.

"The overall results of the survey were very favorable and fishing should be exceptionally good within the next few months," he said.

* * * * *

CONROE--December frame net samples indicate Lake Conroe crappie fishing should be good this spring, said Mark Webb, TPWD fisheries biologist in Bryan. The largemouth bass population also seems to be improving.

Fifteen frame nets were set lake wide, catching 84 white crappie and 11 black crappie. Both adult and juvenile fish were present. The fish were in good condition, reaching 11 inches at 1.5 years old and 13 inches at 2.5 years old.

"In 1990 the crappie fishery at Lake Conroe was virtually non-existent, probably due to the combined problems of the lake's low fertility and the subsequent stress placed on fry, the lack of shoreline for cover for juveniles and high fishing pressure on spawning adults," Webb said. "The presence of a healthy crappie fishery is attributable to a combination of sub-adult white crappie stocked by the Lake Conroe Restocking Association in 1990 and the 10-inch minimum length limit in effect since September 1991 "

Webb said the loss of hydrilla in the 1980s has changed the character of the largemouth bass population, but according to TPWD population surveys the past three years the population is improving.

In the fall of 1990 fisheries crews captured 69 bass per electrofishing hour of all sizes and 39 per hour of 8 inches or longer. The next year the numbers increased to 98 and 44.5 per hour. By 1992, they were back down to 65.5 and 33 per hour, respectively. "These numbers are typical of stable largemouth bass populations in this area and illustrate the long-term stability of the Lake Conroe bass population," Webb said.

Encouraging, though, is that the largemouth bass population apparently is shifting in size distribution toward larger fish. Since 1990, bass 14 inches or longer have increased from 13 percent to 17 percent. The number of bass 12 inches or longer have increased all three years from 24 percent in 1990 to 35 percent in 1991 and 41 percent in 1992.

LW 3/26/93

FORT RICHARDSON HOSTS 'A DAY AT THE FORT'

JACKSBORO--On April 10 and 11, Texas Conservation Passport holders can step back into time and assume the role of 19th century cavalry as Fort Richardson State Historical Park hosts "A Day At the Fort."

This event will be offered again June 12-13.

From 8 a.m. on April 10 through noon on April 11, Conservation Passport holders can spend the day at the fort and become a part of history as they portray 1870s cavalry and engage in military activities of that era. They can take part in marching and drilling on the 21-acre parade grounds and test their skill with soldiers on horseback against 10 twirling dummies.

Those interested in bringing their own horses can participate in military horse jumps over logs and rocks. Participants also can sleep in the barracks along with reenactors from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. In addition, there will be opportunities for simulated mounted patrols, the raising of the colors and KP duty.

Each adult must have a Conservation Passport to participate in the activities. There is a nominal fee for each meal provided by the park, but visitors also may go out for lunch.

Fort Richardson was named in honor of Gen. Israel B. Richardson, who died in the battle of Antietam during the Civil War. Established in 1867, the fort was located only 70 miles from the Indian Territory in Oklahoma, making it a highly strategic position in a new line of forts created to protect travelers and settlers. By 1875, the Texas frontier was relatively secure and the last troops marched away from Fort Richardson to their new station at Fort Griffin on May 23, 1878, ending the fort's useful life as a military installation.

Fort Richardson State Historical Park is located one mile south of downtown Jacksboro on State Highway 281. The park is about one hour from Wichita Falls and Fort Worth. For more information on "A Day At The Fort," contact the park at (817) 567-3506.

Passport activities require a \$25 Texas Conservation Passport which offers holders free daily entry and overnight camping discounts at state parks across Texas, as well as access to guided tours and events like "A Day At The Fort." To obtain a passport, visitors should contact their nearest state park.

AR 3/26/93

TPWD TO HOST ROCK CLIMBING SHOW

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Central Texas Mountaineers have scheduled a rock climbing slide show and video premier presented by leading climber Kurt Smith for 7 p.m. April 8 at TPWD headquarters here.

For more than 10 years Smith has been on the cutting edge of rock climbing, from sport routes and first ascents to international climbing competitions. On the 1993 Hard Rock Tour, Smith brings a slide show featuring world-class climbing at Rifle Mountain Park in Colorado and a premier of the climbing video, "Hard Rock: Masters of Stone II."

The video features a variety of climbing by masters such as Ron Kauk at the Needles, Calif., Smith at Rifle, Colo., and Hidetaka Suzuki at Yosemite, Calif.

"We're trying to promote climbing and strengthen our working relationship with the climbing community," said Andy Jones, administrative assistant in TPWD's public lands division. "We have a good relationship with Central Texas Mountaineers, but we want to make it better. We've received a lot of support from them on a volunteer and resource management basis."

The department has three state parks where rock climbing is popular, he said. They are Enchanted Rock near Fredericksburg, Hueco Tanks State Park near El Paso and Lake Mineral Wells near Mineral Wells.

Admission to the show is free. It is scheduled for the Commission Hearing Room. TPWD headquarters is located at 4200 Smith School Road in southeast Austin.

For more information, contact TPWD's Jones at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4439 or (512) 389-4439 or Tony Faucett (512-477-1033) or Tim Wise (512-454-6968) with Central Texas Mountaineers in Austin.

LW 3/26/93

Paul Hope, Fishing Report No. 579
March 24, 1993

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for March 24:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 60 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on Bass Assassins; crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 6-8 feet of water; catfish are good to 6 pounds on Bill's Sponge Baits and punch baits.
BELTON: Water clear in main lake, murky in upper reaches, 56 degrees, 8 feet above normal level; black bass are excellent to 6 1/2 pounds along with several 5s, winning string of 5 fish over the weekend weighed 22 pounds, most were caught on black and blue jigs and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows and fleaflyies in 10 to 25 feet of water; white bass are good on jiggling spoons and topwaters on the surface; catfish are slow.
BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 feet below spillway level; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds in shallow water on cranks and spinners; striper are fair under lights at night, a few keepers caught on jigs and minnows; crappie are fair off docks in deep water to 12 fish per string on jigs and minnows; white bass are running under birds when wind is calm; channel catfish are fair in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on ghost minnows and shrimp; yellow catfish are slow.
BUCHANAN: Water clear, 61 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 5 pounds, 14 ounces on pig and jig combinations; striper are excellent with limits to 10 pounds on live shad in shallow water; crappie are good through 2 1/2 pounds with some limits on minnows; white bass are good around Garrett Island trolling deep diving baits; catfish are good on stinkbait around points and in shallow water under corks.
CANYON: Water clear, 62 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on large minnows and silver spinners; striper are fair in number in deep water on deep diving lures; crappie are good on minnows at Crane's Mill pier; white bass are good up river below the rapids on minnows and silver cranks; catfish are good to 6 pounds on worms, liver and shrimp in the river; yellow catfish are good to 28 pounds on live perch and goldfish baited trotlines.
COLORADO BEND: Water muddy, no fishermen midweek.
FAYETTE: Water clear, 63 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are excellent to 8 1/2 pounds on live water dogs, slab minnows, pumpkin seed lizards with a chartreuse tail, cranks and spinners early; crappie are slow; catfish are good in the 5 to 15 pound range on live water dogs; a 39-pound yellow catfish was caught on rod and reel with live bait.
GIBBONS CREEK: Water a little off color, 62 degrees, 1 foot above normal pool level and falling; black bass are good to 12 pounds along with a couple of 8-pounders in the shallow water on soft jerk baits and spinners; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds on bloodbait, shrimp, shad and cut bait.
INKS LAKE: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on topwaters and chartreuse worms; striper are

fair to 8 pounds on live bait; crappie are poor; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on small shad, white and chartreuse spinners and slabs; catfish are fair in number to 4 pounds on minnows and shrimp.
LBJ: Water clear, 61 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 13 ounces on Big Os; striper are fair to 28 pounds, 11 ounces up Colorado River on live shad; crappie are excellent to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good up Llano River on jigs and minnows; catfish are good to 12 pounds in baited holes on stink baits and worms.
LIMESTONE: Water murky due to 4 inch rain, 64 degrees, 3 inches above normal level; black bass are slow on Bulldog spinners, black and chartreuse Big Bite Jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number to 6 pounds on live bait and cut bait.
NAVARRO MILLS: Water clear, 66 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are fair in the keeper range on minnows; crappie are good in the brushy areas to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on trotlines baited with big minnows.
SOMERVILLE: Water a little off color due to rains, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows and jigs in deep and shallow water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to good in the 2-3 pound range on liver, shad and nightcrawlers.
SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 66 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 5 pound range in 2 to 15 feet of water on worms; smallmouth bass are good in the 5 1/2 pound range in 8 to 20 feet of water on worms, grubs and green jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 5 to 20 feet of water; white bass are good in the 3 pound range in 12 to 20 feet of water on Rattle Traps; catfish are fair to 12 pounds in 6 to 15 feet of water on bloodbait.
STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 17 inches on worms and minnows; striper are slow; crappie are good in 14 to 25 feet of water; white bass are good in the 13 to 16 inch range on minnows; catfish are good.
TRAVIS: Water clear, 59 degrees, 1 foot low; largemouth are excellent to 9 pounds, 10 ounces on chartreuse Baby Slug-Gos chartreuse spinners and smoke grubs with up to 50 bass per boat per day; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on same baits, frequent limits; striper are fair to 3 pounds on grubs and white jigs, some schooling around points; catfish are slow.
WACO: Water off color, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on spinners and jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on red and yellow tube jigs; white bass are good through 2 pounds on small Rapalas; catfish are slow.
WHITNEY: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are fair to 5 pounds on cranks; smallmouth bass are slow; crappie are good on the barges and under boat houses and boat docks to 1 1/2 pounds with some limits; striper are slow to 8 pounds, most are small and caught on live bait or topwaters; white bass are good through 2 pounds in the Nolan River on slabs and spoons; catfish are good on worms and cut

bait, yellow catfish are good to 49 pounds on trotline with live bait, good numbers of fishermen out midweek.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water murky in creek channels, main lake clear, 53 degrees, 3 inches above normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow, no birds working; catfish are slow.
BOB SANDLIN: Water clearing, 50 degrees, lake full; black bass are picking up but most are small, fish are caught on white or chartreuse spinners or plastic lizards; striper are slow; crappie are moving into shallow water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in the 6 pound range on rod and reel in 45 feet of water.
CEDAR CREEK: Water murky, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on lizards and French Fries in June bug colors and black and blue jigs in 2-4 feet of water; crappie are excellent; white bass slow; catfish slow.
CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on black and blue lizards; crappie are good with limits on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 15 pounds on nightcrawlers.
FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 60 degrees, 10 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 1/4 pounds on Sassy Shad, small Rattle Traps, buzz baits and Slug-Gos; hybrid striper are good around hot water discharge on white trailers and shad colored baits; catfish are good to 3 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with cut bait and stinkbait, redfish are slow.
FORK: Water clear, 60 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 14.72 pounds on jigs; crappie are good with limits to 2.19 pounds on jigs; catfish are slow.
GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 54 degrees, 3 1/2 feet high; black bass are good to 4 pounds on white spinners and black and blue lizards in 3-5 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are good to 16 inches in 15 to 18 feet of water around boat stalls; white bass are good to 2 pounds on minnows and chartreuse jigs in the Denton Creek area in 10-15 feet of water; catfish are good to 12 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp and shad along creek channels in 10-15 feet of water.
JOE POOL: Water murky, 50 degrees; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on minnows, shad and spinners; crappie are good to 1 pound on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on shad gizzards and shrimp.
LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 59 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 9 3/4 pounds on buzz baits, chrome Rattle Traps and orange and black Phantom Slithers; crappie are fair in number above 259 bridge on minnows and jigs; white bass are good above 259 on small cranks; catfish are fairly good to 45 pounds on nightcrawlers and live minnows.
LEWISVILLE: Water muddy, 52-60 degrees, 5 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds in 1-3 feet of water on chartreuse spinners with a golden blades; striper are good to 10 pounds on live bait; crappie are fairly good in 16-18 feet of water on minnows and crappie jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly

good to 22 pounds on shrimp, cut shad and worms.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 11 pounds on water dogs and dark worms; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 49 degrees, 12 inches high; black bass are slow; crappie are good to 10 fish per string on minnows in 18 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on stinkbait and shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water murky, 58 degrees, 18 inches high; black bass are good to 7 pounds on spinners and jigs in 3-7 feet of water; crappie are good to 2 pounds under 1971 bridge on jigs and minnows; catfish are good to 5 pounds on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

PALESTINE: Water a little murky, 57 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on jigs, spinners and worms; stripers are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good on small spinners and spoons; catfish are slow.

PURTIS CREEK: Water murky, 57 degrees, 2 inches high; black bass are fair to 10.33 pounds on minnows and red Rattle Traps; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water murky, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on water dogs; hybrid stripers are fair to 7 pounds on Sassy Shad and Allison's Flutter baits; crappie are very good to 1.75 pounds on minnows; white bass are very good in the creeks and at the mouth of the river, lake fishing is slow; catfish are slow.

RAY ROBERTS: Water murky, muddy in places; 49-55 degrees, 4 inches high; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds on spinners; crappie are slow in the shallows on minnows and jigs; white bass are up the creeks; catfish are slow to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear in main lake, upper end murky, 2 inches above normal level; black bass were good last week and is improving this week; crappie are slow in the creeks; white bass are on the bottom on slabs and spoons, most fish are large; catfish are good in the 7-8 pound range on shad.

TAWAKONI: Water a little murky due to rains, 51 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to in the 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 pound range on spinners and worms; stripers are slow; crappie are picking up, some caught on minnows in 12-15 feet of water around brush and docks; white bass are fair in number on Allison Slabs and Flutter Baits; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on Bill's Baits and bloodbait, trotline fishing has been good.

TEXOMA: Water murky, 47 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners, cranks and pig and jig combinations; stripers are fair to 14 pounds on live baits, Sassy Shad and deep diving Redfins; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are excellent to 53 pounds on cut bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water muddy on the south end, clear on the north, 54 degrees, 3 feet above; black bass are poor; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are poor; catfish are fair to good to 65 pounds; sunfish are poor.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water fairly clear in main lake, a little cloudy on the north end, 57 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on spinners, Crawworms, worms and cranks; crappie are fairly good under 1097 bridge and around boat sheds on minnows; white bass are improving around humps; catfish are fairly good to 25 pounds, most are in the 2-3 pound range on catfish bait, chicken livers and nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 64 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass are good to 10 pounds, 1 ounce on water dogs; crappie are good to 20 fish per string in the Golden Acres area on minnows; white bass are good to 15 fish per string on minnows; catfish are fair to 7 pounds on rod and reel with minnows.

LIVINGSTON: Water a little off color from rains, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds in the creeks on spinners; stripers and white bass are still up river; catfish are fair in the 8-15 pound range on trotlines and along the shoreline.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 59 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 7 1/4 pounds, good numbers of small fish caught on spinners, diving baits, worms and lizards; crappie are slow to 1 1/4 pounds on jigs in 10 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on trotline.

TOLEDO BEND: Water murky, 58 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are slow to 5 pounds on cranks, spinners, Crawworms and Rogues; stripers are good to 13 pounds around generators on live bait; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on shiners in shallow water; catfish are fair to 50 pounds on live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 6.18 pounds on Bomber cranks in the weed beds in shallow water; stripers are good in smaller sizes, larger stripers are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are picking up with some caught in shallow water on cheese baits and shrimp.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on jigging pigs; hybrid stripers are very good in the 3 1/2 pound range on chicken livers and Rattle Traps, fishing from the banks is fairly good; catfish are good to 3 pounds on worms, liver and shrimp; blue catfish are slow to 10 pounds; redfish are good to 17 pounds on crawfish and shrimp from the bank; redfish from boats are good with trolling spoons.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on plastic worms; stripers are good to 12 pounds, 11 ounces on artificials; catfish are good to 26 pounds on live shad; redfish are good to 25 pounds on artificials.

CHOKO: Water clear, 63 degrees, 5 inches low; black bass are good through 10.25 pounds on 1-4 feet of water on Slug-Gos and floating worms in the shallow water grass beds, topwaters, shallow running cranks are also good; limits caught in mid lake, above the bridge, and in lower end at Four Fingers Cove; stripers are slow;

crappie are slow and scattered, best crappie fishing is at night around Highway 99 bridge on minnows white bass are good near Tilden, around San Miguel Creek and at Highway 99 on minnows and white Roadrunners. catfish are good and concentrating in shallow water, fish are best around Elm and San Miguel Creeks on cheese bait under corks; catfish are good in the 5-42 pound range on trotlines and jug lines on live and cut bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on spinners; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are fair above 9 inches on shrimp and bloodbait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear from mid lake to the dam, muddy in the upper areas, 64 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 1/2 pounds on black jigs and pork in 3-5 feet of water, good numbers of bass are caught by crappie fishermen using minnows; stripers are slow; crappie are excellent in the back of coves on black and silver Hog Rustler Jigs, from 2 p.m. til dark in 1-2 feet of water; white bass are fair to good up the Nueces River to Highway 59 bridge on chrome Tiny Traps and L'il Cleos, most are caught while trolling; blue catfish are excellent to 21 pounds on jugs and trotlines baited with cut shad; yellow catfish are good to 37 pounds on deep lines baited with goldfish and perch.

FALCON: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 12 pounds on red shad, blue fleck and tequila shad Power Worms in 1-8 feet of water; stripers are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on Knocker Spoons; catfish are good through 7 pounds on shrimp baited rods and reels.

MEDINA: Water clear, 60 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on pumpkin seed Power Worms; stripers are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good to 2 pounds on Roadrunners and Tiny Traps; catfish are slow.

TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, fairly clear in the jungle area, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds in the jungle area on Slug-Gos, some limits caught over the weekend; crappie and white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 15 pounds on trotlines baited with shad.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 52 degrees, 6 inches below spillway level; black bass are slow; crappie are good in 8-10 feet of water on minnows; catfish are slow.

GRANBURY: Water murky, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds in shallow water on spinners and black Power Worms; stripers are good in number below the dam on Swimming Minnows and jigs; crappie are fair in 22 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair up the river; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds off river channel on Mr. Whiskers cheese bait.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; crappie are good to 1.66 pounds on minnows in 45 feet of water along with some in 4 feet of water; white bass are fair; catfish are slow; walleye are good to in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on Countdown Rapalas and minnows in shallow water.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, normal level, black bass are fair to 7 pounds, most are small and caught on artificials; striper are slow; crappie are good in the creeks on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow

MEREDITH: Water clear, 45 degrees, 83 feet; black bass are slow; crappie are beginning to hit on minnows in 15-20 feet and also around 45-60 foot range; white bass are slow; catfish are slow to 23 pounds on rod and reel with a bass bait; walleye are beginning to hit, some caught around midnight on minnows near the surface.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end murky, 54 degrees; 1 inch low; largemouth bass are good to excellent to 8 pounds on spinners, cranks and worms; smallmouth bass are excellent to 18 inches on jigs, gold spoons and spinners; crappie are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds with some limits on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair on jigs and small cranks on surfacing fish in the main lake; catfish are fair to good to 6 pounds on trotlines with stinkbait and shad up river in baited holes; yellow catfish are fair to good to 15 pounds on live bait and trotlines in the upper part of the lake.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Phishticks, smaller fish are moving into shallow water and are caught on Carolina rigged Ringworms; striper are fair to 8 pounds with most in the 5 pound range trolling at 15 feet and some on the surface with shad under birds; crappie are slow under the docks on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are mixed with smaller striper and are caught with Shadrap No. 9 or No. 7 around 15 feet; catfish are slow, a few small fish caught from the dock on stinkbait.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 51 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on cranks and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on worms.

SPENCE: Water clear, 58 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on chartreuse spinners and red shad worms; striper are slow, some in the 6-8 pound range caught on topwaters; crappie are slow; white bass are good sized but not in great numbers and are caught on cranks; catfish are good to 4 pounds on trotlines with minnows and cut bait

STAMFORD: Water clear, 50 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 5 pounds on Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 18 pounds on live bait.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has been fairly good; limits of redfish and drum, scattered flounder and croakers; a couple of undersized specks caught live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Water is 66 degrees and flounder moving; the causeway bridge is producing flounder to 22 inches on mud minnows; redfish have been good since the weekend, best fishing is on the Louisiana side from the Causeway Bridge to Blue Buck Point and eastward on dead shrimp or artificials shad or touts in red; specks are showing to and including 7 pounds up on the shell

reef; on the south end of the lake and are hitting rainbow trout colored Pin-S Fish; specks are hitting best on incoming tides; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Fairly good numbers of specks and redfish caught in East and West Bays; limits of snapper to 10 pounds caught offshore; a 62 pound dorado caught way offshore; good numbers of oversized drum caught at the jetties and at the ship channel; gafftops are showing up along the beach front, mackerel run should hit on Easter; live bait shrimp available in the \$10 to \$12 per quart range.

FREEPORT: A few kingfish caught offshore; a flounder caught at San Luis Pass; Offshore fishermen have been catching good numbers of snapper to 20 pounds, most are in the 2-5 pound range; several warsaw grouper in the 38-75 pound along with several smaller fish; several amberjack to 25 pounds caught; a few kingfish to in the 18-20 pound range caught; some trigger fish and vermilion snapper also caught.

MATAGORDA: Some trout in the 20 inch range caught in West Bay; redfish are fairly good with limits; north winds Tuesday Afternoon; some live bait shrimp available.

PALACIOS: 2 1/2 inches of rain fell Monday night; bays and rivers are fresh; a few fish caught around the turning basin on topwater baits; some redfish and trout caught in Kellers Bay, trout and redfish good around Green's Bayou at Matagorda Peninsula on strawberry metal flake Super Jacks with white tail; high north winds midweek; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of trout caught at night from Copano Causeway Pier and Goose Island Park Pier on worms puzzlers in lime green and white and speck rigs; redfish are still good in shallow water around shell reefs on red and white cacohoe minnows and Cajun Pepper in the B&L Bait; live bait shrimp available. Good numbers of fish caught this week; tides are back to normal; and good numbers of fishermen out.

PORT ARANSAS: Weather is very good midweek; good numbers of redfish caught in South Bay, good numbers caught in Estes Flats, Hog Island Hole and on the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, on live shrimp; good numbers of sheepshead caught at the jetties on live shrimp; good numbers of drum caught around Markers 43 and 13; specks are scarce live bait shrimp are available at \$7.50. Offshore fishermen are catching amberjack, red snapper, vermilion snapper, some black fin tuna, some shark, barracuda also caught; offshore trips leave everyday when weather permits; the 11 1/2 trips are more consistent, fishing is a little tougher on the 9 1/2 hour trips; no kingfish yet.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Fishing is still a little slow in the Upper Laguna and all the way to Baffin Bay; live bait shrimp available at 12 cents each. Back bay fishermen are catching drum and trout between the two high lines; trout and redfish have been caught along the causeway. Live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: King Ranch shore from the oak motts north is still producing the best trout, many limits caught on live shrimp or red touts, fish seem to be moving north; inside the north cut fishing is still fair with trout over 5 pounds not uncommon on live

shrimp and the touts of their redfish are good south of the East Cut also the saucer is yielding occasional limits of redfish and half limits of trout; birds working north and south of Port Mansfield on the west side, 1 of 4 specks are keepers; offshore fishing is tough for small boats because of heavy seas, snapper are plentiful live bait shrimp plentiful in the \$10 to \$12 per quart range; a weak front passed through noon Tuesday, some rain but no disturbance to the fish. SOUTH PADRE: Redfish and trout are excellent behind Three Islands, in the Gas Well Flats area and from the Lookout north to Cullen's House on live bait with a clicking popping cork; brown tide is still here; good numbers of limits with some oversized redfish caught; off shore is good for snapper and poor for trolling; jetty fishing is excellent for sheepshead along with some large black drum; a few flounder showing up; Brownsville ship channel producing large drum on crab and sea lice. Pier fishing has been good for sandtrout, black drum and croaker during the day; night pier fishing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. produces good number of big trout; some schoolie trout are showing up in Laguna Vista Cove and along the Long Bar; fishing is good; weather is iffy; live bait shrimp available.

PH 3/24/93

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