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# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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### QUAIL COUNTS VARY WIDELY ACROSS TEXAS HABITAT

AUSTIN -- Irregular rainfall patterns across Texas during the spring and summer have resulted in equally irregular quail populations for the upcoming hunting season.

Don Wilson, quail program leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said prospects range from excellent to poor for the Oct. 29-Feb. 26 season, depending on location.

"Our annual quail lines showed wide variations in numbers of quail from county to county and even different areas within a county," Wilson said. Overall, hunters can be fairly certain that quail numbers in most areas will not be as high as the bumper crop of 1987-88. "Last year was one of the all-time best for quail production, so we expected a dropoff this year," he said.

While the average quail population in most ecological areas is down, populations generally are comparable to the long-term average, Wilson

noted

In South Texas, the average count was 14 birds per mile, which is well below the 39 counted in the 1987 survey and below the long-term average of 20. However, counts in Zavala, Frio, LaSalle, McMullen, Jim Wells and Starr Counties rated as "excellent" compared to previous surveys.

The Cross Timbers of North Central Texas, which produced a whopping 34 birds per route in 1987 fell to an average of 15, which is roughly the long-term average. The Rolling Plains of West Texas and Eastern Panhandle dropped from 28 birds to 17.5, and the Trans-Pecos fell dramatically from 24 birds in 1987 to six in 1988.

Counts in the Edwards Plateau remained at about 1987 levels, while the Gulf Prairies was the only ecological area sampled that showed an increase, growing from 9.5 birds per route in 1987 to 12 birds in 1988.

The statewide quail bag limit for 1988-89 is 15 per day, with a possession limit of 45.

JC 8/31/88

FREE PERMITS REQUIRED TO  
HUNT PRAIRIE CHICKENS

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said anyone planning to hunt lesser prairie chickens during the Oct 15-16 season must obtain a free permit.

The permits are available from TPWD headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or from department law enforcement offices in Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland and San Angelo

The hunter's name, complete address, telephone number and current hunting license number are required. The permits also may be obtained by calling the department's toll-free number 1-800-792-1112

JC 8/31/88

SEA RIM PARK PRESERVES  
MARSH ENVIRONMENT

PORT ARTHUR -- Sea Rim State Park visitors can learn about Texas' important marshland ecology while enjoying traditional recreational activities such as camping and fishing

Located south of Port Arthur on State Highway 87, the park is divided into Marshland and Beach Units. The Marshland Unit is the visitor's gateway for observing the marsh ecology and the remarkable array of animal life it supports. The unit has a boat ramp, a boat channel and a pirogue/canoe trail. By boat, visitors can use the numerous camping and observation platforms in the marsh.

The Beach Unit offers camping on the beach on a first-come, first-served basis, but reservations are recommended for use of marshlands camping platforms or an RV site with water and electricity.

About two square miles of biologically-important tidal marshland are

preserved in the park. The area is a fertile nursery ground for shrimp, blue crabs, croakers, red drum, menhaden and other species. Waterfowl and many other kinds of bird life can be viewed from observation platforms, especially in fall and winter.

The Gambusia Trail is a 3,640-foot interpretive boardwalk that winds through the dunes behind the beach camping area. A free guide book and birder's checklist are available at park headquarters.

For further information about Sea Rim State Park, write the superintendent at P. O. Box 1066, Sabine Pass, TX, 77655, or call (409) 971-2559.

JC 8/31/88

HISTORIC CELEBRATION SET  
AT SABINE PASS

AUSTIN -- On Sept. 5, 1863, as the Civil War raged across country from the Atlantic to the Gulf Coast, an expedition of 22 ships set sail from New Orleans to invade Texas at Sabine Pass. A little over 48 hours later, the Union flotilla reassembled off the Sabine bar and awaited daylight to attack land fortifications guarding the pass.

Sabine Pass was vulnerable. Fort Griffin, an unfinished earthwork strengthened with railroad and iron and ships timbers, manned by 47 Irish Houstonians and fortified with six cannon, was all that stood between Texas and the Union invasion forces of 22 ships and 5,000 men.

On the morning of Sept 8 two federal gunboats advanced in parallel paths up the channel toward the fort Lt Richard W Dowling and the band of determined Confederates stood firm, refusing to be hurried into action by the Union threat.

When the attackers were no more than 1,200 yards away, he gave the order to fire The gunboat "Sachem" was immediately put out of action and the "Clifton" ran aground

The action had lasted 45 minutes, two steamers had been captured and the main body of gunboats and troop transports was in retreat to New Orleans Texas and the Confederacy won the day in the battle of Sabine Pass

A celebration commemorating the Battle of Sabine Pass is planned for the weekend of Sept 9-11 Friday night a street dance will start the festivities in Sabine Pass.

Saturday, Sept 10, a parade beginning at 10 a.m in town will end at the Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park

Events at the park will include performances by local high school singers, cloggers and square dancers Historical re-enactors will have a Confederate era field hospital set up for public viewing

The highlight of the day will be a 4 p.m re-enactment of the battle complete with cannons and an "enemy" gunboat coming up the Sabine River

Sunday events will include sky divers landing at the park, an air-sea rescue demonstration and a memorial service and wreath-laying ceremony

Sabine Pass Battleground is located south of Port Arthur, one and a half miles south of Sabine Pass on FM 332 Call the park for more information at (409) 971-2559

SC 8/31/88

BEACH SEINING PROGRAM  
ENHANCES FISHERY KNOWLEDGE

AUSTIN -- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery crews have spent considerable time this summer doing the back-breaking chore of dragging a 200-foot beach seine in the surf and then tagging and releasing the fish they catch Now they need the cooperation of sport fishermen

Anglers should be on the lookout for the yellow plastic streamers that protrude from the belly of tagged fish Spotted seatrout were the most numerous species tagged in the surf seining operation, with about 200 released Each year Coastal Fisheries Branch personnel tag and release some 2,500 fish of several species

Biologist Jerry Mambretti said making 100-foot sweeps with the long seine is a physically taxing job, especially for the person stationed on the gulf end of the seine "It gets tough when the current is strong, and it's not unusual to step on a small shark or other creature," Mambretti said "That keeps you alert "

Tag returns can provide much-needed information about the age, growth, movement and mortality of important sport fish such as seatrout Anyone catching a tagged fish is encouraged to remove the tag and return it to a

TPWD office Those returning tags are eligible for rewards of \$1 to \$25, funded by the Gulf Coast Conservation Association The cooperating angler also receives a letter that contains all known information about the fish's origin

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REGULATION TERMS SOMETIMES  
THROW SPORTSMEN

AUSTIN -- When new hunting and fishing regulation guides roll off the press each August they contain terms that are baffling to some beginning sportsmen

For instance, hunters and fishermen have difficulty with the term "in the aggregate " When used in game or fish bag limits, the term means a combination of species If a limit on bass is five largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass in the aggregate, the fisherman is allowed to keep five bass of one species or a combination of the three species, as long as he retained a total of only five bass

Bag limits and other information on game and fish regulations can be found in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's hunting and fishing guides, now available at department offices and license outlets All new regulations are effective Sept 1, 1988

Here are some other terms that may be unclear to some sportsmen

-- RIMFIRE The term "rimfire" and "centerfire" refer to two basic

types of rifle or pistol cartridges. Centerfire cartridges have an observable primer that is centered in the base of the shell casing. The gun discharges when the firing pin strikes the primer. In rimfire ammunition, the firing pin strikes anywhere on the end of the shell casing, causing an internal primer to discharge the round.

Rimfire ammunition is not legal for use in taking deer, antelope or elk because it usually is too low-velocity to be effective on big game.

JET GUN -- This is another type of cartridge prohibited for use on big game. Jet guns and rocket guns use a self-propelled cartridge, rather than a casing and bullet configuration.

CHACHALACA -- Relatively few Texans get an opportunity to see the elusive chachalaca, or "Mexican pheasant" of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. There is a hunting season, however, to give certain hardy individuals the opportunity to pursue these low-flying game birds through their brushy habitat.

CIVET -- The term "civet" or "civet cat" refers to the spotted skunk. True civets are a European form of the skunk, but local custom still applies that appellation to spotted skunks, so the terminology has remained in the law book.

JC 8/31/88



PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR  
OYSTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will hold a series of public hearings across the state on Sept 7 to obtain public comment on the agency's proposed Oyster Fishery Management Plan and associated Economic Impact Statement

Hearings will begin at 7 p.m. at each of the 12 sites

Copies of the proposed plan may be obtained by writing the TPWD Coastal Fisheries Branch, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112. Written comments on the proposed plan also may be sent to this address

Hearing locations follow in alphabetical order by county: ARANSAS, Aransas Co Courthouse, Rockport; BEXAR, Naval Reserve Center, 3837 Binz-Engelmann Road, San Antonio; CALHOUN, County Agriculture Bldg, Fairgrounds, Port Lavaca; CAMERON, Co. Courthouse, Central Jury Room, Brownsville; CHAMBERS, White Memorial Exhibition Bldg, Hankamer; DALLAS, Co Courthouse, 700 Commerce, Room G-106, Dallas; EL PASO, 1200 Golden Key Circle, Suite 130, El Paso; GALVESTON, Jury Assembly Room, Co Courthouse, Galveston; JEFFERSON, Beaumont Council Room, City Hall, Beaumont; LUBBOCK, County Courthouse, Commissioners' Courtroom #103, Lubbock; MATAGORDA, Co Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Matagorda; NUECES, Texas A&M Extension Center, Corpus Christi

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NEW WHITEWING TRACT BOUGHT  
BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has completed acquisition of a new white-winged dove habitat tract in Hidalgo County

Ron George, dove program leader, said the 200-acre tract was purchased from the Taormina Co of Donna, with revenue derived from sales of \$6 White-winged Dove Stamps which are required of all whitewing hunters in Texas

The new tract, which will be designated the Taormina Unit of the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area (WMA), is located four miles southeast of Donna and is in close proximity to several other department-owned whitewing tracts

George said the Taormina Unit is mostly open pasture land that is reverting to native brush. Proposed management by the department includes reforestation, food plot establishment and wetland improvement. This management, designed primarily for whitewings, also will result in increased numbers of mourning doves, white-tipped doves, chachalacas, waterfowl, shorebirds and many forms of tropical and temperate wildlife including endangered species

George said the Las Palomas WMA now includes 15 separate units totaling over 3,700 acres

Persons interested in contributing to the TPWD White-winged Dove Program can do so by purchasing White-winged Dove Stamps or by making tax-deductible contributions directly to the program

JC 8/31/88



# Battleship Bulletin

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744

IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 25, 1988

For information call Jim Eaves  
Region 8 Headquarters  
(713) 471-3200  
(713) 462-1422

## BATTLESHIP TEXAS TO CLOSE FOR SHIPYARD REPAIRS

AUSTIN, Texas -- The Battleship Texas will close to the public at 6 p.m., Sept. 5 to begin preparations for her journey to shipyard late this year, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) officials announced today

"After all those years of planning and hoping, at last we're ready to send her off on one of the most crucial voyages of her history," declared Charles D. Travis, TPWD executive director. "She's going to win her long war against the ravages of corrosion."

The famed 70-year old dreadnaught is expected to remain away from her slip for about nine months, TPWD officials said. Extensive structural repairs

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are needed immediately to preserve the ship for the future. A \$5.08-million grant from the U.S. Navy, which was announced last year, is underwriting much of the repair cost.

Officials said bids for drydock repairs will be solicited within the next few weeks. During the ship's absence, TPWD will refurbish and expand the ship's berth at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park.

The Texas was transferred to state control after World War II. To weight her firmly against the mud floor of her berth, her lower compartments were flooded with seawater.

When responsibility for the vessel was turned over to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1983, the agency embarked on an accelerated program to save the ship. For the past two years, the ship's crew has strengthened critical compartments and supports, established watertight integrity of over 200 doors, and installed emergency electrical systems. Shell Oil Company, with barges supplied by Hollywood Marine Company, removed the ballast of seawater and emptied bilge and fuel oil compartments.

On Sept. 6, Gulf Tank Cleaning Corporation will begin cleaning sludge and rust from a number of bottom tanks.

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"When these tanks are cleaned, our restoration crews will be able to get to the last vital areas that need reinforcement before the rigors of the move to drydock," said Bill Dolman, TPWD's parks director. "Our crews will be racing the clock to be ready by D-Day, departure day."

For safety the Texas will remain closed to the public during the tank cleaning operation. However, TPWD restoration specialists will be combing the ship to remove artifacts, complete repairs to the ship's electrical system and make final structural repairs.

The battleship was commissioned in 1914 and is the last survivor of the mighty dreadnaughts of that naval era. Her 14-inch guns and crew of 1800 saw combat duty during two world wars. Despite suicide attacks by Japanese kamikaze planes, torpedoes of German "wolfpack" submarines and frontline duty in Allied campaigns in North Africa, Southern France, Northern Europe and the Pacific, the decorated veteran was known as a lucky ship, suffering only one battle fatality during WWII.

"The Battleship Texas is a stirring symbol of all-American pride," Dolman concluded. "Her valiant crews struggled against the forces of political tyranny to keep freedom alive for our country. We're not going to allow that legacy to rust and decay and become lost to future generations."

-- END --

AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for August 31

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 4 pounds on strawberry worms and white Getzits crappie fair at night to 3/4-pound to 20 fish per string on minnows under lights; catfish fair to 3 pounds on stinkbait and live perch.

BELTON: Water clear 89 degrees 4 feet low; black bass good to 5 pounds on 4-inch strawberry Ringworms in 10 feet of water; hybrid striper good to 8 pounds on shrimp; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows in 15 feet of water; white bass good to 15 fish per string on small Jiggin Spoons in 20 feet of water; channel catfish good to 4 pounds on Legal Limit doughbait and nightcrawlers

BROWNWOOD Water slightly stained, 3 feet low; black bass fairly slow in the bayou to 4 1/2 pounds with only one fish out of three big enough to keep Rat-L-Traps; striper good early and late around shad schools to 5 pounds on small silver spoons and half-ounce jigs; crappie excellent to 25 fish per string but fish not large, only one out of five weighs over 1 pound; catfish good to 6 pounds in the bayou. Water is so hot that trotliners need to check lines every 1 1/2 hours to keep fish from dying.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds on black pork rinds; striper good to 15 pounds with live shad on the surface early and late; crappie poor; white bass good to 35 fish per string on clear Skipjacks and Tom's Minners; catfish fair to 3 1/2 pounds on Chunky dog food

CANYON: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 pounds on buzz baits early, worms later in the day; crappie good at night on minnows to 25 fish per string; some white bass schooling on the surface; catfish good on shrimp and nightcrawlers on rod and reel as well as trotline.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, 2 foot low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow. Few fishermen during the week but fair numbers on weekend

FAYETTE: Water clear 94 degrees, normal level; black bass spotty to 7 pounds, one day good, next day slow; most fish caught in deep water on live bait, tube worms, Boy Howdies and Pop Rs; crappie very slow; blue catfish fair to 30 pounds in deep water. There were few boats on the lake midweek.

GIBBONS CREEK Water clear, 86 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fairly good with many in the slot, a 10 1/2 and an 8 pound, 7 ounce bass were caught on Rat-L-Traps. Getzits also fairly good; crappie very good to 3 pounds to 25 fish per sting on minnows; catfish very good to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear to murky, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 23 pounds on black worms with chartreuse tails in 6-8 feet of water; striper fair to 8 pounds on blue and silver Pencil Poppers; crappie slow; white bass good to 30 fish per string on pearl colored L'il Georges; catfish fair to 1 1/2 pounds on shrimp and chicken liver baited trotlines; fishermen should check trotlines often to keep catfish from dying.

LIMESTONE Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows; white bass fair; catfish slow. There were few fishermen on the lake midweek.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 2 pounds on earthworms in 8-10 feet of wader; striper fairly slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string, mostly early on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on catfish bait and shrimp.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear 89 degrees, 12 feet low; black bass hybrid slow; striper good to 3 pounds on slabs; minnows and jigs from 6-15 feet of water; crappie fairly good to 15 fish per string in 10 feet of water at night on minnows; catfish good to 1 1/2 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline at night with liver, nightcrawlers and shrimp.

TRAVIS Water clear 86 degrees 11 1/2 feet low and slowly dropping; black bass good early to 3 pounds on chrome topwaters and smoke colored Tom's Minners in 35 feet of water; striper

slow; crappie slow; white bass very good to 50 fish per boat on chrome topwaters while fish chasing shad; catfish good to 12 fish per string in 30 feet of water on crawfish and drifting shrimp.

WHITNEY Water clear 73 degrees, 10 feet low. black bass fair to 3 pounds on topwaters early; striper good to 20 pounds on live bait; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass good to 1 1/2 pounds to 30 fish per string on slabs jigs and Fleaflyies catfish good on trotlines to 3 pounds each on shrimp and worms

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS Water clear. 85 degrees lake level 11 inches below overflow and dropping; black bass fair to 7 pounds on purple and black worms in 8-10 feet of water; hybrid striper and white bass fair trolling Hellbenders at 10-15 feet in 20-30 feet of water; crappie good at to 1 1/2 pounds in 25 feet of water over brushpiles on minnows catfish slow

BOB SANDLIN Water clear 84 degrees 3 feet low; black bass good to 10.05 pounds on buzz baits; crappie slow; white bass have begun to school mostly early; catfish good to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with worms and cutbait

CEDAR CREEK Water clear. 82 degrees. 39 inches low; black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds in 10-12 feet of water near brushpiles and dropoffs on red Bloodline worms. hybrid striper good in 16-18 feet of water in open water on silver bucktailed slabs crappie fair to 15 fish per string in 18 feet of water on minnows. white bass good on slabs with strings to 30 fish mostly in the late afternoon. channel catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers; blue catfish good to 12 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

FORK: Water clear 94 degrees 1 foot low; black bass good to 9 pounds on dark worms in 20 feet of water. crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows over brushpiles in 16-18 feet of water; catfish fair to 6 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear. 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fairly good to 5 1/2 pounds on worms in 6-8 feet of water; crappie scattered and fair on minnows in 12-14 feet of water; white bass fair with some schooling in midlake in the afternoon; fair strings caught on white jigs and small cranks; catfish slow.

LAVON: Water clear 5 feet low; black bass slow; hybrid striper fair to 3 pounds on live bait; crappie very good to 25 fish per string on minnows in deep water white bass very good to excellent with early and late surfacing on the south end of the lake best bait seems to be silver slabs catfish very good on shrimp, large worms and shad, still fishing best.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear. 82 degrees 10 feet low black bass slow hybrid striper fair to 6 pounds on jigs in deep water; crappie good to 25 fish per string on minnows in deep water over brushpiles; white bass good in the afternoon to 20 fish per string. catfish very good to 8 pounds drifting stinkbait.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear 4 feet low black bass fair to good to 5 1/2 pounds on topwaters and worms early and late hybrid striper fair to 3 pounds in channels on live bait; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good in deeper holes on liver baited rods and reels as well as trotlines

MONTICELLO: Water clear 102 degrees normal level. black bass good to 8 pounds, 2 ounces on 6-inch red Bloodline worms; crappie poor; catfish very good to 9 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp on trotline, drift fishing also productive

MOSS LAKE: Water clear 88 degrees 20 inches low; black bass slow; crappie fair early on minnows to 12 fish per string; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MURVAUL Water partially clear in lake, clear in upper reaches, 82 degrees, normal level black bass fair to good to 8 pounds on dark worms; crappie fair under 1971 bridge with a few keepers. no limits on small minnows. catfish good on trotline to 4 1/2 pounds on cut shad and Canadian nightcrawlers. Bream are excellent in number and size on crickets and worms.

NACOGDOCHES Water stained 84 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 9 3/4 pounds on crabapple colored worms, Tequila Sunrise worms and white spinners in 12-15 feet of water crappie good at



night on live minnows to 35 fish per boat. catfish slow.

PALESTINE: Water clear 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on dark worms; striper fair to 7 pounds around 155 bridge on cranks; crappie slow; white bass fair on cranks between Highway 155 bridge and Henderson Point; catfish good to 34 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline baited with nightcrawlers, shrimp and grasshoppers.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear. 86 degrees, 30 inches low; black bass very slow; hybrid striper slow; crappie improving to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass are schooling early and late to 2 pounds on slabs, but most fish are still fairly small; catfish good to 3 pounds drifting shrimp in 15 feet of water around riprap.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 83 degrees normal level; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds over the mossbeds and around the docks on dark worms and spinners early and late; hybrid striper good to 10 1/2 pounds on live bait; striper good to 15 1/2 pounds trolling live bait; crappie moving back under the docks with limits on minnows; white bass are good to 20 fish per string, some fish to 3 pounds each on slabs; catfish excellent to 8 pounds on bloodbait and shrimp in 8-12 feet of water.

TEXOMA: Water clear generally, some murkiness in shallow water; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on purple worms; striper fair to 8 pounds trolling live bait as well as topwaters in the flats; crappie fair to 12 fish per string on minnows and some jigs; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on topwater poppers; catfish good to 5 pounds on worms, shrimp and cutbait.

WELSH: Water clear, 104 degrees 2 feet low; black bass fair in the 4-6 pound range at night and early in the morning on 12-inch grape worms, a few bass caught during the day on 5-7 inch worms fished deep; crappie slow on minnows and tube jigs around the dam in 10-20 feet of water; catfish good to 20 pounds, most in the 2-4 pound range, on trotline on shad and shrimp and chicken livers. Bream are good in 10-12 feet of water on worms, shrimp and worms. Fairly good numbers of undersized yearling bass being caught.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear 2 1/2 feet low; black bass slow to fair to 8 2 pounds, most fish are around 12 inches in length and are caught in 8 to 25 feet of water on smoke bluetailed worms or deep diving cranks; hybrid striper and white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish good to 1 1/2 pounds; white amur good in the 15-17 pound range on Papa Earl's.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear 90 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are excellent to 9 1/2 pounds on black Silver Ringworm and June Bug worms early; striper slow; crappie fairly good at the pump station on live minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow to 10 pounds on live perch baited trotline.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 85 degrees, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass are fairly good in the 7 1/2 to 8 3/4 pound range on dark worms, a few on cranks; striper good early and late around Pine Island with limits in the 12-18 pound range while jigging white slabs; crappie slow; white bass fair and spotty; a few good catches; catfish very good with blues and channel catfish to 12 pounds on trotline and rod and reel with several limits, no yellow catfish this week; bream are excellent on worms and mealies.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 78 degrees, 6 feet below pool level; black bass good early and late to 7 pounds on topwaters, worms and spinners; striper fair near the dam in deep water; crappie good in 25 feet of water fishing at 15 feet over the brush with a few limits; white bass fair late schooling off points; catfish fair on rod and reel; trotline slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 80 degrees 4 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair to 12 pounds near the dam on large topwaters; crappie fair to 3 pounds at Holly Park on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 14 pounds on trotline baited with live bait.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 86 degrees 2 feet above normal level; black bass excellent to 8 pounds on topwaters early and Rat-L-Traps and worms midday; striper excellent to 26 pounds on 2-ounce white and blue and white and green Bananahead jigs up the

Rio Grande and the Devils River: crappie and white bass slow; catfish excellent to 4 pounds with many limits on cheese and stinkbaits in 60-80 feet of water

BRAUNIG: Water slightly murky, 92 degrees 1 foot low black bass fairly slow to 6 pounds on plastic worms; striper fairly good to 2 pounds on chicken liver and tilapia; catfish excellent to 3 pounds in good numbers on chicken liver tilapia and shad; redfish good to 10 pounds on tilapia and Tony Accetta spoons. corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 94 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass fair to 5 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and plastic worms; striper fair to 3 pounds average on spoons and tilapia crappie slow; catfish good to 10 pounds on cutbait and tilapia. redfish good to 10 pounds on silver spoons corvina excellent to 11 pounds on tilapia and silver spoons.

CHOKER: Water clear, lake full black bass fairly good to 8 3/4 pounds many undersized fish on worms and topwaters early and late; striper slow; crappie very good to 1 3/4 pounds on minnows in 18 feet of water with some limits. white bass slow; catfish excellent in the 3-6 pound class with limits of 25 fish on Roger's Cheese Bait and Bob's Blood bait. trotline fishing slow.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 86 degrees 2 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on plastic worms and live minnows striper slow; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on live minnows fished deep around bridge pilings. white bass slow; catfish fair to 7 pounds on bloodbait and trotlines

FALCON: Water clear, 8 feet low and rising slowly; black bass fair to 5 pounds on dark worms in the huisache brush; striper fairly good trolling and jigging in 60 feet of water. best trolling in between 35-40 feet of water crappie slow off docks; white bass excellent all over the lake, best around state park; catfish good in number but generally small on frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear 86 degrees, 6 feet low; largemouth bass good to 4 1/2 pounds, most in the 1 1/2 pound range on dark worms in 15 to 30 feet of water smallmouth good to 5 1/2 pounds on spider jigs with pork trailer in deep water striper slow; crappie fair and scattered. white bass slow; catfish good to 2 pounds on stinkbait, no limits

TEXANA: Water slightly murky 87 degrees 1 foot low black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on worms and cranks in shallow water around mossbeds; striper and white bass slow crappie are good in deeper water around stickups on minnows, some limits to 1 1/2 pounds each; catfish slow.

#### WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clear 3 1/2 feet low black bass slow; striper very slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string, most fish fairly small white bass fair to 20 fish per string on slabs. catfish fair to 2 pounds on stinkbait and minnows.

BAYLOR: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level black bass good to 7 pounds 6 ounces with several 4s and 3s on brown and crawdad colored worms, black and chartreuse worms and Crawworms; crappie slow; catfish very good to 7 pounds on waterdogs and stinkbait.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass good in the 3-6 pound range on spinners and nightcrawlers in the river and in Kelley Creek; crappie good on minnows in the river; white bass very good to 50 fish per string on minnows and nightcrawlers near the dam; catfish good to 10 pounds on chicken livers and minnows; walleye good in the 3-5 pound range on nightcrawlers and minnows near the bluffs

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees 7 feet low; black bass fairly good on chartreuse worms and spinners to 7 pounds in 4 feet of water. hybrid striper very good to 6 pounds on silver slabs; crappie fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass fairly good to 2 pounds on silver slabs catfish slow.

MCKENZIE: Water clear 80 degrees normal level, black bass fair to 4 3/4 pounds on topwater chuggers; crappie slow; catfish good to 4 1/4 pounds on nightcrawlers on rod and reel

MEREDITH: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on live bait; smallmouth bass fair to 5 1/4 pounds on nightcrawlers; crappie fair in 30-40 feet of water on minnows; white bass good to 3 1/2 pounds to 85 fish per

string on minnows catfish very good on trotline as well as rod and reel to 27 pounds on live bait; walleye good to 7 1/2 pounds on live minnows worms and jigs in 60 feet of water

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are good on dark worms to 5 pounds in 10 feet of water crappie improving to 15 fish per string on minnows white bass are fairly good while trolling spoons, catfish are good in number but small in size on shrimp baited trotlines

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 76 degrees, 12 feet low black bass are slow; striper are fair in the 3-4 pound range on cranks; crappie slow; white bass are beginning to run with stings to 30 fish on minnows and slabs; catfish slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass good to 9 pounds on buzz baits and worms; striper good to 14 pounds on live bait; crappie good to 1 1/4 pounds with limits of 25 fish; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on slabs; catfish fair to 3 pounds on trotline.

TWIN BUTTES Water clear lake level down black bass fair to 4.68 pounds on artificials, striper slow, crappie good with limits on minnows; white bass slow catfish fair to 4 pounds average on shad, shrimp and live perch.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 77 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass fair on topwaters early to 6 1/4 pounds; crappie slow; catfish excellent in deep water on stinkbait to 6 pounds.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish are good to 30 inches, with several oversized fish; speck fishing good but not constant many undersized fish, several big trout landed; sandtrout good; flounder fishing fair on rod and reel, not much gigging; croaker fishing good to excellent; drum good to 6 pounds average; live bait shrimp plentiful at 6 cents each.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish good in numbers but no keepers on mud minnows and live shrimp; specks are good to 6 1/4 pounds on shrimp good numbers of jackfish at the jetties live mud minnows fairly plentiful

GALVESTON Gulf Coast Pier producing sandtrout, specks, Spanish mackerel, and 11 bull reds that were too big to keep. Waders are picking up a few redfish to 8 pounds near San Luis Pass some oversized redfish at Seawolf Park and from the piers, trout in good numbers from surf when weather is calm; West Bay fishing now is better than it has been in a month, live bait shrimp available thunderstorms kicking around the area midweek the area had northeast winds early Wednesday.

PALACIOS Redfish are good in rivers but poor in bays, limits to 30 inches on dead shrimp and artificials; trout catches fair on live shrimp and artificials at the Peninsula, around the wells and along the bay shore lines, only about half of specks are big enough to keep; flounder slow, gigging poor during the full moon phase.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are scattered with a few limits, most between 28-30 inches trout very slow in bays trout fair around the wells in Aransas and Corpus Christi Bays on live chubbies, mullet, croaker and piggy perch; live bait shrimp are available but not plentiful

PORT ARANSAS: Trout are good to 3 pounds on live shrimp around California Hole and Hog Island; redfish scattered; kingfish good to 25 pounds; black tipped tuna plentiful; live bait fair and should be plentiful for the Labor Day weekend.

CORPUS CHRISTI Before the north wind on early Tuesday, redfish were plentiful from Corpus Christi Bay to Baffin Bay and the Landcut, many oversized, many limits; fair numbers of trout to 4 pounds scattered in the same area, many undersized trout live bait shrimp scarce Oso Pier fishermen catching a few trout to 3 pounds on shrimp. Northeast wind blowing early Wednesday.

PORT MANSFIELD: Redfish have been fair, some to 30 inches and above north of the East Cut Channel good numbers of redfish tailing in shallow water in the same area trout slow; no live bait shrimp available Weather good midweek with northeast winds. Good numbers of kingfish, Spanish mackerel and snapper showing up.

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish fairly good to 29 inches in the Three Islands area on shrimp and red touts with white tails specks good along Intracoastal over the flats to 4 pounds good numbers of flounder to 20 inches around the Intracoastal good numbers of throwback redfish from 4 inches to 17 inches along the Intracoastal Live bait plentiful