

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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TEXAS DONATES BASS TO LOUISIANA

AUSTIN--Texas Gov. Ann Richards' office today announced that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be sending 400,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings to help restock hurricane-ravaged fisheries in South Central Louisiana.

Louisiana fisheries were devastated by Hurricane Andrew in August when the storm dumped tons of dead vegetation into rivers and lakes. The debris decomposed and caused depleted oxygen levels which, in effect, suffocated the fish.

The loss of 182 million freshwater fish in Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin has been valued by the Louisiana Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at about \$160 million.

"It's like a graveyard," said Tim Morrison, LDFW inland fisheries biologist. "Driving down Interstate 10, it looks like everything is dead south to Morgan City. It's devastating."

Texas fish hatcheries staff are preparing to ship the bass fingerlings to Louisiana by truck in early summer. They will work with the biologists in Louisiana to determine the best stocking sites. The fingerling donation will not adversely impact Texas fish stocking programs. In 1992, TPWD's freshwater hatcheries produced about 6.7 million Florida largemouth bass fingerlings and are expecting similar or increased production in 1993.

"This is a good neighbor gesture," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "All of us here, including Gov. Richards, have been moved by the tremendous loss experienced by the people of Louisiana. It's in our power to help them and we think it's the right thing to do."

The fish donation idea originally came from Phil Durocher, TPWD inland fisheries branch chief. "We see this as an opportunity to help a neighboring state recover from a natural disaster. After all, no matter what state we live in, all of us are working to improve fishing for the enjoyment of resident and nonresident anglers.

"We work closely with biologists in Louisiana on management of our border lakes," he said. "These Florida bass can have a tremendous positive impact on the future bass fisheries in these devastated areas, particularly with help from the emergency size and bag limits now in place."

Fish killed in Louisiana include about five million largemouth bass and almost four million miscellaneous species, including crappie, flounder, freshwater drum, buffalo, catfish, shad, striped mullet, carp, American eel, bowfin, paddlefish and others.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has issued a "declaration of emergency," and LDWF biologists have launched a recovery plan with stricter new bag limits to help bring back the fishery. It is now illegal for anglers to possess black bass less than 14 inches long in most parts of the Atchafalaya Basin area.

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LUNKER PROGRAM BEGINS EIGHTH YEAR

AUSTIN--If the eighth year of the Operation Share a Lone Star Lunker program is anything like the previous seven, then 1993 will be an excellent year for largemouth bass fishermen and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The program, which accepts 13-pound-plus bass for study and attempts to spawn, runs from Dec. 1 through April 30. The program promotes catch and release through returning the lunker to the lake where caught and the awareness of proper handling for live release of all sizes of bass.

David Campbell, manager of the Tyler State Fish Hatchery where the lunker program is based, expects a banner year. The program has gotten better each year and is becoming more popular across the U.S.

Last year the program drew 30 official entries and three unofficial entries from eight lakes, the most entries ever. There were 29 entries in 1990.

The most popular and noteworthy entry was Barry St. Clair's state record catch Jan. 24 at Lake Fork weighing 18.18 pounds. The Klondike angler's catch replaced the previous record belonging to Mark Stevenson, whose 17.67-pound lunker, caught Nov. 26, 1986, was the first entry into the program.

Campbell said entry of the new state record fish helps promote the program. "There are very few bass fishermen in this state that don't know about the program. The state record helps national coverage. Other states have shown an interest in starting a program, and not just for largemouth bass. I still can't believe the attention the program has gotten in other states."

As usual, most of the entries - 21 - came from Lake Fork, but Caddo Lake came in with three entries, the first time that lake has had more than one entry in a year.

"I anticipate Caddo will come on like gangbusters this year," Campbell said. "It won't replace Fork as the top big bass producer but the indications are that it could come on strong and not with just one or two fish.

"I think Caddo's success is a tribute to our management techniques. That the oldest lake in the state can come back like that, we've done something right or it wouldn't have happened."

Through the first seven years of the program 25 public lakes have produced fish weighing more than 13 pounds, a claim no other state can make, Campbell believes. The program has received 126 official entries weighing 1,777.9 pounds, an average of 14.11 pounds per entry.

Entries to the program are loaned to TPWD for study and attempted spawning. Any offspring will be used in the department's brood stock development program or stocked into public waters. Participating anglers receive a fiberglass replica of their fish. Fish that live are returned to the angler and most are returned to the lake where they are caught.

Campbell would like to see another state record caught this year, but that's not the only thing he's looking for. "My business is to work for quality fish, but I hope we get a record. There's a good chance we can. I'm still looking for that first 20-pounder I would really like to get some entries from lakes we haven't gotten them from before. The more lakes that contribute means the fishing statewide is that much better."

If anyone catching a 13-pound-plus bass would like to loan the fish to the lunger program, handle the fish as little as possible, get it to an aerated tank - possibly in a marina, get organized before taking pictures - let everyone take a picture at the same time to prevent keeping the bass out of water for more than 30 seconds and call Campbell or one of his aides at (903) 592-7570. That telephone number is monitored 24 hours a day. If you get an answering machine, leave a message. The machine is checked every couple of hours.

The Operation Share A Lone Star Lunger program is sponsored by Irving Marine, Outdoor Trails, Fin and Feather Sport Sales and Professional Sporting Goods Inc.

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SPRING TURKEY PUBLIC HUNTS AVAILABLE

AUSTIN--Spring turkey hunters are reminded not to apply for a public turkey hunt on the Honey Creek State Natural Area. That hunt has been canceled.

Herb Kothmann, public hunts coordinator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said more than 400 application cards have been received for a spring turkey hunt on Honey Creek. All applications for Honey Creek are being returned along with a new application, a letter explaining that Honey Creek will not have a turkey hunt and a list of other areas to apply for spring hunts.

TPWD officials will draw for 209 spring turkey hunting permits on four wildlife management areas. Those areas are Walter Buck in Kimble County (44 permits), James Daughtrey in Live Oak and McMullen counties (40 permits), Gene Howe in Hemphill County (50 permits) and Kerr in Kerr County (75 permits). Last year 3,968 hunters applied for 215 permits on these four areas.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications at TPWD's Austin headquarters is Feb. 8. The permit fee is \$25 per hunter for a two-day hunt.

"We are asking that interested applicants don't apply for the canceled Honey Creek hunt. Choose one of the four remaining areas," Kothmann said. "The closer we get to the Feb. 8 deadline, hunters may not get their replacement applications back in time."

For more information on the spring turkey hunts check the 1992-93 Hunting Opportunities book or contact the department at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4505, or (512) 389-4505.

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BLACK BASS FISHERMEN OPINIONS VARY

AUSTIN--A diversity of opinions exists on the regulation of black bass throughout Texas by bass fishermen and guides. Opinions vary greatly from the average fishermen as seen through their responses to several management alternatives presented as part of the 1992 Texas Black Bass Fishing Study.

In addition to surveying general fishing license holders, the study provided the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M University a unique opportunity to also survey licensed freshwater guides and the presidents or representatives of Texas bass fishing clubs.

"We had an opportunity to compare how different angler groups view various management alternatives based on their own unique perspective in utilizing the resource," said Dr. Robert Ditton of Texas A&M.

Ninety-five club presidents, 322 licensed fishing guides and 1,180 licensed bass anglers provided usable responses. Specifically, the surveys sent to club presidents and fishing guides focused on number of days spent fishing per year, number of years fishing and, most importantly, their attitudes towards management alternatives.

Freshwater guides fished an average of 122 days per year while club presidents fished 74 days per year. The average bass angler fished 23 days per year. Freshwater guides averaged 27 years of experience fishing for black bass while club presidents and the average angler averaged about 20 years of experience.

Fishing guides and club presidents tended to give stronger support when asked about catch and release requirements of fish over 21 inches and limitations on the number of fish longer than 21 inches an angler could keep per year.

When asked whether or not they supported the idea of organized bass fishing tournaments in Texas, 50 percent of the general fishing population supported the idea, 68 percent of guides supported the idea and 96 percent of club presidents supported this idea.

Overall, general black bass anglers and guides supported the idea of permitting tournaments in Texas and that a percentage of the tournament purse be given to TPWD in support of bass management in Texas. Most club presidents did not favor permitting or returning a portion of the purse to TPWD.

Sixty-nine percent opposed or strongly opposed permitting tournaments and 53 percent opposed or strongly opposed returning money to the department for management purposes.

All three groups favored the use of regulations customized by lake or reservoir more than standardized statewide regulations. Guides more strongly support the designation of additional 14-inch to 21-inch slot length limit lakes, but all three survey groups showed more support than opposition for this question.

When the three groups were asked about their overall satisfaction with black bass fishing in Texas, 39 percent of general anglers reported they were very to extremely satisfied, 58 percent of guides reported being very satisfied and 63 percent of club presidents said they were very satisfied to extremely satisfied.

"The diversity of opinions shows us that the resource is used by many different types of people who are looking for different outcomes from their recreational experiences," said Phil Durocher, TPWD inland fisheries branch chief. "This information helps us in making decisions that we hope can meet up to the expectations of many of those users. The information also helps us to better understand the varied expectations of our constituents."

For more information on the survey contact Robin Riechers at TPWD by calling 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4645, or (512) 389-4645 or Ditton at (409) 845-9841

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BIG GAME AWARDS OFF TO GOOD START

AUSTIN--The Texas Big Game Awards program is off to a good second year with much of the hunting season still to come.

Entries are coming in every day and a couple of them indicate 1992-93 could be even better than last year, said Mike Reagan, a TPWD technical guidance biologist who coordinates the Big Game Awards.

TPWD officials in Austin have scored two whitetail bucks taken from Region 4 - the Edwards Plateau - and both have outscored last year's top typical Hill Country buck from McCulloch County which scored 151 5/8. Vivian Trahan of Leander killed a Uvalde County typical buck scoring 157 William Gattis of Houston harvested a typical whitetail in Edwards County that scored 156 2/8.

"A lot of the scorers are telling us they're seeing some really nice deer," Reagan said. "The program is going well. We're seeing some excellent antlers this year. With the range conditions as good as they are, deer are a little harder to find, but they're worth it."

The Big Game Awards program was designed to recognize the importance of habitat and wildlife population management as essential to the welfare of wildlife resources and the habitats upon which they depend. The program recognizes that the quality of animals is reflective of management efforts by land managers; the importance of hunting as a population management tool; and encourages participation by young and new hunters.

Entry into the program is open to wild-reared native white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope that are legally harvested in Texas during the current year's hunting season. The program will recognize the quality of the animal, the hunter, the land manager or owner upon whose property the animal was taken (optional) and hunters harvesting their first animal.

Hunters harvesting their first deer or antelope will be recognized in an alphabetical listing and will be presented with a certificate.

All scoring will be based upon Boone & Crockett Club guidelines utilizing net green scores. Entries must be scored by a Texas Big Game Awards certified scorer. More than 300 certified scorers are available statewide. Entry into the ranked listing requires hunters to complete and sign an entry form and certified score sheet. Entries must meet minimum scores for the region of harvest.

Eight regions have been established for white-tailed deer, two for mule deer and three for pronghorn antelope.

Minimum entry scores for white-tailed deer are 125 for typical, 140 for non-typical in the Trans-Pecos, Post Oak Savannah, Pineywoods and Coastal Prairies; 130 and 145 in the Panhandle, Cross Timbers and Edwards Plateau; and 140 and 155 in South Texas. Mule deer minimum scores are 145 (typical) and 160 (non-typical). Pronghorn antelope must score at least 70.

The program is sponsored by TPWD and Texas Wildlife Association. For more information contact TPWD headquarters at 1-800-792-1112 or at TPWD offices across the state.

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STATE PARKS ALL REMAIN OPEN

AUSTIN--Seven state parks slated to close Dec. 1 are still open and are at this time expected to remain open through some form of private management, local management or partnerships between Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other government entities or private groups.

Budget cuts went into effect Dec. 1 at 22 other state parks slated for reduction. Park managers at the reduced sites say recent feedback from visitors indicates some Texans still think the sites have closed. These sites are still open, although at reduced hours in some cases.

"In August, visitors were coming through thinking that any park on the cutback list was closing, even if the site was only on for reductions," said Don Whited, superintendent at Sebastopol State Historical Park. "Now I get people coming by saying they're glad to see we're still open. The shame of it all is I think some visitors may have assumed we've closed just when we need their support the most."

Sebastopol near Seguin lost one full-time employee and reduced its regular hours from five to three days per week. Like managers at other affected sites, Whited is trying to make up the difference with more volunteers and local partnerships.

Current hours for all of the affected state parks are listed below. The times and days of operation at some sites will be subject to change as hours of operation are adjusted further. Please contact the park directly for current operating information before visiting.

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Cassells-Boykin | Open every day |
| Confederate Reunion Grounds | Day use - every day Subject to change on short notice Pavilion and camping by special arrangement Concession to assume operations soon |
| Old Fort Parker | Open every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. City of Groesbeck now operating park |
| Big Spring | Open every day from 8-5 |
| Copper Breaks | Open every day from 8-5 |
| Lake Somerville (Nails Unit) | Open every day from 8-5 |
| Lake Whitney | Open every day from 8-5 |
| Monahans Sandhills | Open every day from 8-5 |
| Monument Hill | Open every day from 8-5 |
| Eisenhower Birthplace | Open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m. every day) |
| Caddoan Mounds | Open 8-5 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday Reservations required - Wednesday, Thursday Closed - Monday, Tuesday |
| Fort Lancaster | Open 8-5 - Wednesday through Sunday Closed - Monday, Tuesday |
| Fort McKavett | Open 8-5 - Wednesday through Sunday Closed - Monday, Tuesday |

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| Magoffin Home | Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Wednesday-Saturday Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday |
| Fanthorp Inn | Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Wednesday-Sunday (closed noon to 1 p.m.) Closed - Monday, Tuesday |
| Fulton Mansion | Open 9-3:30 - Wednesday through Sunday Closed - Monday, Tuesday |
| Gov. Hogg Shrine | Open 8-5 - Saturday Open 1-5 - Friday, Sunday Closed - Monday through Thursday |
| Jim Hogg | Open 8-5 - Sunday, Saturday Reservations required - Mon., Thurs., Friday Closed - Tuesday, Wednesday |
| Jose Antonio Navarro House | Open 1-4 p.m. - Wednesday, Thursday Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Friday, Saturday Reservations required - Sun., Mon., Tuesday |
| Landmark Inn | Open 8-5 - Monday, Thursday-Sunday Closed - Tuesday, Wednesday Reservations taken for Wednesday night |
| Sam Bell Maxey House | Open 8-5 - Saturday Open 1-5 - Friday, Sunday Closed - Monday through Thursday |
| Sebastopol House | Open 9-4 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday Reservations required - Wednesday, Thursday Closed - Monday, Tuesday |
| Starr Family Home | Open 8-5 - Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday Open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Friday, Saturday (only through Holiday season) Closed - Monday, Tuesday |
| Texas State Railroad | Closed - Nov. 1 through March 20 Campgrounds open at Rusk-Palestine |
| Varner Hogg | Open 9-4 - Wednesday through Saturday (closed noon to 1 p.m.) Open 1-4 - Sunday Closed - Monday, Tuesday |

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| Bryan Beach | Day Use - every day |
| Fannin Battleground | Day Use - every day |
| Franklin Mountains | Day Use - every day |
| Sabine Pass Battleground | Day Use - every day |
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BIG BEND PLAN TO BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY

AUSTIN--A draft management plan on Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area should be completed by February and available for public review by April. A final plan should be available by next fall.

The projected completion date is a couple of months behind the scheduled announced last spring, but officials underestimated the amount of time required to put a draft together with a team made up of individuals who also have other responsibilities, said Jim Carrico, Big Bend Ranch SNA project manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

TPWD biologists, archaeologists, architects, land managers, wildlife biologists and others involved in the planning process are committed to considering public comments on Big Bend Ranch. However, decisions ultimately will be made based on professional judgment, with what is best for the resource foremost in mind, and in accordance with accepted state policy and applicable law.

"In our planning discussions and review of public comments three key issues stand out above all others," Carrico said. "First and foremost is the formulation of a mission statement for Big Bend Ranch. What is the purpose of this state natural area? The answer to this question not only will shape future decisions but will set the standard for public expectations.

"The second is to develop a systematic and thorough inventory of the many resources (archaeological, natural and historic) contained within the ranch. The third is to provide some immediate additional public access to the property," he said.

"The last two present somewhat of a quandary for the planning team in that resource protection and visitor use can conflict, unless carefully controlled. These key points will be addressed in detail in the final management plan as well as the issues identified during the initial public review."

The 265,000-acre ranch, acquired by TPWD in 1988, has been the subject of intense public interest because of its tremendous potential for recreation and conservation. The property has captured the imagination of diverse special interest groups, including hunters, fishermen, hikers, mountain bikers, canoeists and kayakers, bird watchers and photographers as well as conservation or preservation oriented organizations.

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NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD WORKSHOP SET

AUSTIN--Monitoring and managing of Neotropical migratory birds and educating the public about these birds will fill the agenda at the Texas Partners in Flight Workshop, scheduled for Jan. 15-16 at the Holiday Inn in Brownsville.

The workshop, which will include three moderated sessions and a half day field trip, is sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society.

The first session on Jan. 15 will deal with the monitoring efforts for Neotropical migratory birds, which include species such as hummingbirds, orioles, warblers and flycatchers. Speakers will address monitoring efforts at Davis Mountains State Park, the U.S. Forest Service's monitoring program and a breeding bird survey and migration count.

The next morning session will cover community and public education. Speakers will address topics on Neotropical birds and Project WILD, working with gifted and talented students, maximizing community resources, rallying support for conservation and bi-national environmental education.

The Jan. 15 afternoon session is about managing public and private lands. Speakers will talk about bottomland hardwoods and migratory birds, management at the Engeling Wildlife Management Area, Neotropical birds and ecosystem management on Texas Nature Conservancy preserves, habitat restoration in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, habitat changes on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, analysis of habitat use by these birds on the King Ranch, management at Parkhill Prairie, restoration of coastal habitats and habitat management efforts at Fort Hood.

On Jan. 16, workshop participants can go on one of four field trips. Field trips are scheduled for Boca Chica and nearby areas, special areas of the Laguna Atascosa NWR, the National Audubon Society's Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary and the TPWD's wildlife management areas (bring your \$25 Texas Conservation Passport).

Field trips will begin early in the morning and return about noon. Provide your own food and drink. Water will be provided. Each trip is limited to 20-25 participants and will have a local guide.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn in Brownsville, (210) 546-4591. A \$10 per person registration fee will be collected at the workshop. Do not send money in advance. Registration forms should be sent in by Jan. 4.

To register or for more information contact Carol Edwards, National Audubon Society, 2525 Wallingwood, Suite 1505, Austin, Texas 78746, or call (512) 327-3249.

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BOATING CRACK-UPS

AUSTIN--Boating accidents generally are not humorous, but many times the explanation of an accident can be funny.

For every boating accident in Texas, the parties involved must fill out a form reporting the accident to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Dexter Harris, TPWD boating law administrator, deals with these reports and over the past couple of years has compiled a list of excuses.

Just in case anyone thinks we're morbid for laughing about boating accidents, think again. These excuses were taken from accident reports that did not involve injuries or death.

(NOTE: Other than to provide a simple laugh or smile, this news release has no apparent news value.) Enjoy. (Comments in parentheses are not part of the official report.)

* My boat accident is the result of hitting a submerged stump. It is unknown to me when the accident occurred as I have hit many stumps. (Sounds like a tournament bass fisherman.)

* Followed Russell out of marina. Did not notice his sudden stopping. Tried to turn and miss him but clipped his rear end. (OUCH!)

* Returning to the dock, poor visibility due to darkness. (DUH!)

* We were going home. Had no vision and I ran the boat ashore. Sorry. (Apology accepted -- this time.)

* While backing the boat in yard the house hit it. (Check this story insurance man.)

* Hit rock. Broke prop. Could have been something else. (No comment.)

* Spear fishing, fish drug boat into rocks. (Another big fish story.)

* While on boat road, found new stump. (Would you have gone around if it had been an old stump?)

* The owner of the boat wanted me to drive it and it was running rough. I smashed the gas pedal and it stuck. I went to the end of the cove and then onto the beach. ('Nuff said.)

* I came upon a stump, it was submerged because the water was over it and I came up to it. I was watching, but did not see it. It hit my boat and put a hole in it. I headed for shore but only made it halfway. (HUH?)

* Ran over log I could not see underwater. (Possible.)

* While flying, hull encountered crosswind which caused boat to go past stop point.

* Lake was one foot above normal. While running down the lake to my fishing spot, I hit a stump that was not there. (" .hit a stump that was not there." Hmmm.)

* This is my accident report that I did not have.

* This accident was nobody's fault - I think. (Sure.)

* I could not miss his boat because of darkness.

* My father made me fill this out. We were not drinking this time.

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AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Dec. 9:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on worms and jigs; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BELTON: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 6 pounds on jigging spoons, Pro Bugs with jig trailers and spinners in 12-25 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are good with some limits on fleafly and small yellow grubs; white bass are good on jigging spoons in deep water; catfish are fair in the 3 pound range drifting shrimp and dough bait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 61 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range, not many fishermen out because of the cold weather; striper are fair under birds on spoons and slabs; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair on slabs and spoons under gulls; channel catfish are good to 4 pounds on shad; yellow catfish are slow.

CANYON: Water clear, 66 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on topwaters; striper are fair to 6 pounds on large minnows and black goldfish; crappie are good at night on medium minnows in 20-25 feet of water; white bass are fairly slow; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on worms, shrimp and chicken livers; yellow catfish are fairly good in the 15 to 20 pound range on trotlines baited with live perch, goldfish and lye soap. Fisheries biologists plan to make the second stocking of Rainbow trout below Canyon Dam Thursday.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 65 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on a wide variety of baits following the front; crappie are fair with some strings to 20 fish on minnows; catfish are slow.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 60 degrees, 12 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds; crappie are fair on minnows in 12 to 15 feet of water; catfish are good to in the 6 pound range on cut bait and live perch.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 54 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow to 5 1/2 pounds on JawTech Big Bite Jigs with Wacky Craw Trailers and Bulldog Spinners; crappie are slow; all other fishing is slow due to lack of fishermen.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 58-60 degrees, 3 inches above normal; black bass are good in the 3-4 pound range on black jigs and pigs, worms and cranks; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs in 4-9 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SQUAW CREEK: Water a little off color, 58 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are fair in the 2 1/2 pound range on 10 to 25 feet of water on cranks, worms and slabs; small mouth bass are good in the 2 1/2 pound range on cranks and worms; crappie are good on minnows in 35 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good in the 10 pound range in 25-28 feet of water on cheese bait and bloodbait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are good on live perch and artificial lures in 14 feet of water or more; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 14 to 20 feet of water; white bass are excellent on minnows and slabs in 20 feet or more water; channel catfish are fair to 4 pounds on worms.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 64 degrees, 1 foot low; largemouth are fairly good to 30 fish per day per boat with some limits to 3 pounds each on crawfish colored cranks, brown jigs and shad colored Slug-Gos; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 inches on the same lures with frequent limits; striper are slow; crappie are fair in 15 feet of water under docks on live minnows; white bass and catfish are slow.

WACO: Water off color, 50 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on live perch.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 56 degrees, 4 feet, 2 inches low; largemouth bass are good to 7 pounds on cranks in shallow water; small mouth bass are fair in number to 6 pounds on cranks; striper are good to 19 pounds on slabs, live shad and Sassy Shad in the creeks and under the birds; white bass are schooling, limits caught on slabs; crappie are good to 1 3/4 pounds in barges on minnows and jigs; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds; blue catfish to 12 pounds and yellow catfish to 20 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp and live bait.

NORTHEAST

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds on worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows and jigs in 15 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 60 pounds on trotlines.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/4 pounds on Devil's Horses and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows on the edge of Louisiana; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on minnow baited trotline at night.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 59 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on jigs and eels and Rattle Traps; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair to 12 fish per string in 24 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 3 1/2 pounds on jug lines, shrimp or bloodbait.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on bloodline worms; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows in 30 feet of water; catfish are good to 15 pounds on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers.

FORK: Water clear, 50 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are slow; crappie are good to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 53 degrees, 2.72 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on deep diving cranks and jig and pig combinations in 15 to 18 feet of water; crappie are fair on minnows and black and chartreuse jigs in 12 to 15 feet of water around the marina; white bass are fair on slab spoons in 20-25 feet of water on creek channels and around marinas; catfish are slow; some

caught near the islands drifting shrimp and shad; most catfish are small.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 45-46 degrees, 1 foot low; crappie are biting; all other fishing has been slow due to weather.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 45 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on black and blue jigs and pork; crappie are fair in 15 to 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

LAVON: Water clear, 47 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are excellent to 15 inches on minnows and jigs in 8-12 feet; catfish are slow.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 53-56 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 9 pounds on spinners and jigs; striper are good to 14 pounds on live shad; crappie are good on minnows in 15 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 18 pounds on cut shad and shrimp.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on 8 inch black worms with red or blue flake and water dogs; crappie are slow; catfish are excellent to 6 pounds on shrimp and Canadian Crawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen, weather is cold.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 50 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow to 5 pounds on worms, buzz baits and cranks; crappie are fair in number but most are small; catfish are fair on trotlines to 4 pounds on cut shad and small perch, few fishermen out.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 6 inches low; black bass are slow; crappie are fairly good in 15 to 20 feet of water on minnows; other fishing has been slow.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear, 49 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are slow; hybrid striper are good under birds; crappie are very good from barges and docks on jigs; catfish are good in the 10-14 inch range on chicken livers and bloodbait; buffalo fish are good in the 10 pound range on dough bait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 1/2 pounds on spoons; crappie are fairly good on brush piles with minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on shrimp baited trotlines.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 50 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are slow along the edge of the creek channels on jigs and jigging spoons; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are good through 10 1/2 pounds on shrimp and frozen shad in 35 feet of water.

TEXOMA: Water murky, 55 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good through 5 1/2 pounds on pigs and jigs; striper are good through 12 pounds on Sassy Shad and live bait; crappie are poor; white bass are good on spoons and Sassy Shad; catfish are good through 22 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: River area is murky, rest of the lake is fairly clear, 54 degrees, seasonal level and falling; black bass are slow

to 4 pounds on spinners and jigs and pig combos; crappie are fair on the north end, poor on the south end to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are small in size, poor on the main lake and fair below the dam on L'il Georges and Beetle Spins; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on trotlines and rods and reels on live perch and shad, cut bait and chicken livers; sunfish are fair to poor, best fishing is below the dam on red wigglers and crickets.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on Rattle Traps, winds have been fairly strong; white bass are fairly good in number with good numbers of undersized fish on slabs, spoons and jigs; crappie are good on minnows under 1097 bridges and around brush piles; catfish are fair in number but most are small.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on Rattle Traps; crappie are good with limits on minnows; white bass are schooling, some caught along with crappie; catfish are fair to 7 pounds at the dam.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair with several limits to 6 1/2 pounds on cranks, shallow diving lures, Rattle Traps, worms and buzz baits; striper and white bass are up the river; crappie are slowing down, some caught in 6-8 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 86 pounds with trotlines with live bait; blue catfish are good to 30 pounds on trotline with cut bait; channel catfish are good to 8 pounds on shad.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 56 degrees, 8 1/4 feet low; black bass are slow, some caught trolling DB#3s; fishing pressure is very light; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to slow to 3 pounds in baited holes with nightcrawlers.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 60 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on spinners, Rattle Traps, Craw Worms and spoons near dropoffs; striper are slow to 13 pounds near the dam; crappie are slow in baited holes with shiners; catfish are slow in baited holes with trotlines; bream are slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good but most are in the 2-3 pound range in 10-18 feet of water on dark worms; striper are good with white bass and most are in the 5-12 pound range on Bombers and Rattle Traps and jigs and slabs; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are good on slabs and spoons; catfish are fair in the 4-5 pound range on cheese baits in deeper water.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fairly slow in the 3 pound range on artificials; catfish are fairly good in the 2-3 pound range on shrimp, chicken livers and nightcrawlers; a 24 1/4 pound blue catfish caught on worms or nightcrawlers; redfish are fair in the 14 pound range on tilapia.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on worms and cranks;

striper are excellent in the 4-5 pound average on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 16 pounds on live perch and cut bait; redfish are good to 19 pounds live perch and Rattle Traps; corvina are slow.

CHOKO: Water clear, 59 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 10 pounds, 5 ounces on plum and chartreuse worms, larger fish are caught along the grass beds in 4-12 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fair around 99 bridge in the river, also along Possum Creek, Mason Point, the dam area is also producing crappie in 15 to 35 feet of water early on live minnows, white grubs and jigs; white bass are fair, small whites have moved back into the river and up San Miguel Creek and are caught on live minnows, chrome cranks and jigs early; catfish are fair in the creeks in shallow water in 10-20 feet of water on warm days; cheese baits and chicken livers are good on trotlines, jug lines have produced fish to 38 pounds.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 64 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair around keeper size on Rattle Traps and plastic worms; crappie are poor; catfish are fair in the keeper range on cheese bait with trotlines.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 60 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; largemouth bass are slow, few fishermen on the lake due to the north wind; striper are slow; crappie are good off state park piers on jigs and minnows; white bass are good from the state park to the dam on white slabs, jigs and minnows; blue catfish are good to 22 pounds in the river on trotlines baited with shad; good numbers of snow, blue and speckle belly geese on the north end of the lake. Also, good numbers of scaup, widgeon and pintails using the north end of the lake.

FALCON: Water clear, 66 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are excellent to 10 1/2 pounds on Power Worms; striper are good to 9 pounds up the river on Knocker Spoons; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent up the river on Knocker Spoons with many limits caught; catfish are excellent to 5 pounds on rod and reel with frozen shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to weather and lack of fisherpersons.

TEXANA: Water muddy, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; crappie are poor; catfish are fairly good in the 3-5 pound range on trotlines baited with live perch; few fishermen out.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clear, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 18 fish per string to 2 pounds each on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 3 pounds on stinkbait.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water fairly clear, 49 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; striper and all fishing are poor due to weather and lack of fishermen.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 47 degrees, 83 feet; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; walleye are good in 7-9 3/4 pound range on minnows and shad; catfish are slow.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, upper end clear to murky, 52 degrees, 2 inches low; largemouth bass are good to 20 inches up the larger

draws on cranks and buzz baits in 8 to 15 feet of water; small mouth bass are good to 16 inches on deep diving cranks in 20-30 feet of water or slow jigging on points and ridges; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds in 15 to 20 feet of water along the ridges; channel catfish are poor to fair on minnows or worms on in bottom in 10-20 feet of water; yellow catfish are fair on trotlines with live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 52 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on Jiggin' Pigs; striper are good to 10 pounds on Sassy Shad under the birds in 20 feet of water; crappie are fair on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are fair, some caught with striper; catfish are slow.

PROCTOR: Water clear, 68 degrees, 3 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on worms and shrimp.

SPENCE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 22 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are fair in number to 4 pounds on live bait and slabs; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on spoons; catfish are slow.

THEO: Water clear, 35 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass, crappie and catfish are slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Few fishermen out, some redfish caught under birds and around East Pass and Stew's Island, mostly on dead shrimp or touts; on live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Whiting, croaker and sand trout caught along the beach front; an occasional redfish caught from the piers and jetties; scattered keeper redfish and trout in East and West Bays; good numbers of flounder caught in the bay; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 to 10 per quart; not many fishermen out.

FREEPORT: Fishing has been slow; weather is rainy and cold; few fishermen out.

MATAGORDA: Colorado River is clear, trout are plentiful north of the Intracoastal; fishing is excellent at times and poor at others; trout are in the 15 to 20 inch range on artificials; redfish are good in West Bay with some oversized fish caught and released; offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of snapper to 15 pounds; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Good numbers of trout caught at the Baptist Encampment and in the long jetties turning basin on blue backed Jumping Minnows, and models TT26, TT21 and 51M18 MirOlores; good numbers of redfish and trout caught around Green's and Cotton's Bayous and the south shoreline on Hogies Pearl pink tailed Swimming Shad; good numbers of redfish and trout caught around Buttermilk Slough and Turtle Bay on dead bait and most all Hogies Swimming Shad with pink tails; good concentrations of geese in the area.

ROCKPORT: Redfish were good in the South Bay area and in Redfish Bay along the east shoreline reports of trout caught on the south side of Dagger and Ransom Islands.

PORT ARANSAS: Good numbers of trout caught around the Klondike and behind Hog Island on live shrimp and cacohoe minnows; some limits of redfish caught in the same area on same baits; flounder giggers have been doing very well along the edges of the ship

channel; fairly good catches of flounder near Charlie's Pasture on live shrimp and live mullet; live bait shrimp is available.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Trout good in the 15 to 27 inch range and flounder in the 12 to 17 inch range on live shrimp or finger mullet in the high line area; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing has been slow due to messy weather; about a half dozen boats out all week.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of trout with limits averaging 3 pounds around Gas Well Flats when fishermen could get out; good numbers of redfish caught near Three Islands; good numbers of redfish caught in South Bay; good numbers of large whiting caught in the surf with strings to 100; some redfish caught in the surf, many oversized; one redfish was 43 inches long and had a 27 inch girth; jetty fishermen care catching sheepshead and flounder; snapper fishermen are doing very well when they get out; pier fishing is excellent for sandtrout; good numbers of specks at night under lights; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 12/9/92

