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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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ARRAIGNMENT SET IN BALD EAGLE KILLING

AUSTIN--A Henderson County man will be arraigned at 1:30 p.m. on May 4 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie in Tyler for allegedly killing a bald eagle more than two years ago.

A Tyler grand jury returned a two-count indictment April 22 in district court against Kimball Glenn McKinney of Frankston. He was indicted in separate counts with violations of the federal Eagle Protection Act and of the Endangered Species Act based on the killing of an immature female bald eagle in December 1989.

McKinney, 28, was released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond with pretrial supervision. The penalty for each count is up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will seek civil restitution of up to \$2,850.50.

The eagle was found, minus its talons, alongside a Farm to Market road near Lake Palestine and reported to authorities. Game wardens Mike Warren and Mark Davis, both of Athens, investigated the case with few leads.

In January 1992, game warden Jerry Chilton of Tyler received information that led to the identity of the suspect. The case was jointly investigated by TPWD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials.

The eagle was shot twice with a shotgun. The talons were never recovered.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER CONCERN FOR OUTDOORSMEN

TENNESSEE COLONY--Two state agencies have joined forces to determine the incidence of Rocky Mountain spotted fever from ticks collected in selected areas of East Texas.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided tick specimens from hunter-bagged white-tailed deer and the Texas Department of Health analyzed the ticks to determine the incidence of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Spotted fever is an infectious disease that can be transmitted to people through the bite of an infected tick.

"Ticks were collected from deer this past season on the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area in Anderson County and 26 percent tested positive for Rocky Mountain spotted fever," said Hayden Haucke, area manager. "Although there has been much recent publicity concerning the threat of contracting Lyme disease, none of the ticks collected from the Engeling area tested positive for Lyme disease.

"Ticks collected from other East Texas counties indicated that seven of the 11 counties also had incidence of Rocky Mountain spotted fever," he said.

The four counties checked with no diseased ticks were Marion, Panola, Shelby and Titus. The other seven include (county, number of ticks checked, number of ticks that tested positive for the disease): Camp, eight tested, two positive; Cass, 15, one; Franklin, 22, two; Harrison, 58, 13; Morris, three, one; San Augustine, 10, two; and Trinity, 198, 10.

The Gus Engeling WMA has been operated by TPWD since 1950, during which time there have been literally thousands of users. "I know of only two documented cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever over the years in which it is possible that the individual contracted the disease here," Haucke said. "We regularly advise the public to take precautions and make a thorough check for ticks."

A majority of the ticks that tested positive for the disease were deer ticks, which are more prevalent in winter, are slow moving and do not normally feed on humans. The more common lone star tick, the species generally found on humans in East Texas during spring and summer, is known to transmit the disease to humans. A human sample group has not been used to gather information and to determine the rate of Rocky Mountain spotted fever infection in this species on the area.

An infected tick must remain attached for a period of four to eight hours before the disease is transmitted to humans. Information from the Health department states that after a three- to 10-day incubation period, there is a sudden onset of fever, usually with chills, headache and muscle aches.

Initial symptoms may seem like the flu, but at the onset of this disease, the patient usually is so sick that a doctor must be consulted. A rash usually appears on the wrists and ankles, sometimes covering the entire body. Prompt medical treatment is extremely important since the disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics.

The Health Department recommends the following measures to protect against Rocky Mountain spotted fever while engaged in outdoor activities: frequent clothing checks of yourself and children are essential when in an area where there are ticks; a thorough examination of your entire body each evening is necessary with special attention to the head and scalp; wear long-sleeved shirts and pants tucked into socks or boots; use approved repellents and insecticides on your clothing and pets; and check pets regularly for ticks.

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TEXAS BIG GAME AWARD WINNERS

AUSTIN--The final two banquets honoring entries in the Texas Big Game Awards program have completed a successful first year of the program lauding Texas landowners and hunters.

More than 800 entries were received, including 550 for white-tailed deer, 93 for mule deer and 25 for pronghorn antelope in the scored entry categories and another 165 in the first animal category.

Eight regional banquets honored qualifying typical and non-typical white-tailed and mule deer as well as pronghorn and first animal entries. A statewide recognition ceremony, scheduled during the Texas Wildlife Association convention May 15-17 in Austin, will honor the top three statewide in each category.

The top 50 typical and all the non-typical whitetails in each region will make up the Texas 400. Hunters with deer in this group will receive an originally-designed lapel pin and a special certificate showing the deer's score and its regional standing.

Below is a list of the top five winners from the final two Texas Big Game Awards regional banquets (name, hometown, score and county where animal was taken) and first animal entries (species, name, hometown and county where animal was taken):

Region 1 (Trans-Pecos), April 25, Alpine

Typical Whitetail

1 Larry Bradley, McCamey, 143 6/8, Pecos; 2. Klaus Gilbert, Houston, 141 2/8, Pecos; 3. David M. Armstrong, Big Lake, 140, Upton; 4. Brent Johnson, Fort Stockton, 139, Pecos; 5. Sid Gallimore, Lexington, N.C., 136 2/8, Terrell.

Typical Mule Deer

1 Barry Brock, Farmers Branch, and Ronnie Delz, Garland, 173 3/8, Culberson; 2. Gerald R. McBride, Albany, 171 4/8, Culberson; 3. Charles S. Teeple IV, Austin, 170 2/8, Presidio; 4. Ronnie Ledbetter, Cisco, 170, Jeff Davis; 5. Jerry Hudson, San Marcos, 169 1/8, Culberson.

Non-typical Mule Deer

1 Edward D. Koehl, Victoria, 200 1/8, Reeves; 2. Tom Parrish, Evant, 198 7/8, Culberson; 3. M.D. Shurley, Sonora, 197, Pecos; 4. Sam Sowders, Midland, 194 7/8, Culberson; 5. H. Ritman Jons, Kerrville, 191 2/8, Culberson.

Pronghorn Antelope

1 Dr. Larry R. Price, El Paso, 84 4/8, Hudspeth; 2. tie, Eduardo Padilla and Carl H. Green, both of El Paso, 83 4/8, both in Hudspeth; 4. Louise Davis, Cotulla, 82 6/8, Hudspeth; 5. Peter L. Naegelin, Lytle, 80 2/8, Brewster.

Region 2 (Panhandle), April 26, Amarillo

Typical Whitetail

1 Ronald Bagby, Amarillo, 168, Potter; 2. Randall Kimmel, Benjamin, 162 1/8, Knox; 3. Alvin A. Bostick Jr., Amarillo, 158 2/8, Hemphill; 4. Rick C. McDowell, Miami, 148 3/8, Lipscomb; 5. Tommy Isbell, Childress, 148 1/8, Cottle.

Non-Typical Whitetail

1 Randall Kimmel, Benjamin, 165 7/8, Knox; 2. Ronald Neusch, Panhandle, 154 6/8, Donley.

Typical Mule Deer

1 Darren L. Jones, Amarillo, 171 3/8, Armstrong; 2. Travis Horn, Dalhart, 167, Hartley; 3. Leonard W. Wood, South Plains, 165 6/8, Floyd; 4. Martin Hood, Vega, 161 6/8, Oldham; 5. Mark Sims, Sunray, 161 4/8, Moore.

Non-typical Mule Deer

1 Lonnie C. Horwood, Sterling City, 184 1/8, Hall.

Pronghorn Antelope

1 Brad Rogers, Canadian, 79, Ochiltree; 2. Wesley Parker Jr., Amarillo, 77 6/8, Hartley; 3. Darwin Strickland, Dallas, 75 4/8, Dallam; 4. Kaleb Lunt, Sunray, 72 6/8, Dallam; 5. Donald F. Loy, Wills Point, 72 6/8, Dallam.

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BLUE CRAB COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials are seeking nominations for a blue crab advisory committee soon to be selected by Ygnacio Garza, chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Garza will select the advisory committee that will represent commercial, recreational and conservation interests. The committee will advise staff on various recommendations outlined by the Texas Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan passed by the commission in January.

Areas the committee will review include joint management with other states, crab size limits, closed fishing areas, time restrictions, means and methods of taking crabs, bag and possession limits, licenses and penalties.

Nominations, along with any pertinent information, should be sent by May 15 to TPWD, Ralph Rayburn, Coastal Fisheries Branch Chief, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

The management plan is designed to preserve the blue crab resource and protect the long-term viability of the industry. The blue crab's economic impact is about \$12 million per year.

"Our goal is to use this new plan as a springboard to focus attention on blue crab management," Rayburn said. "We think that, through the involvement of the advisory committee, we'll be able to sustain the viability of this fishery."

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GOVERNOR ASSIGNS TPWD NEW GRANT PROGRAM

AUSTIN--Gov. Ann Richards recently notified the Federal Highway Administration that she is designating the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as the state agency to administer a new trails funding program.

President Bush authorized a new grant program for providing and maintaining motorized and non-motorized trails when he signed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 in December.

The trail portion of the omnibus transportation act, called the National Recreational Trails Fund, already has encountered one setback - Congress didn't appropriate the funds for fiscal year 1992. The program is authorized through fiscal year 1997 and the Bush Administration's fiscal year 1993 budget includes some funding for the program.

Texas stands to gain up to \$1 million per year for recreational trail opportunities. The new funds are based on estimates of the revenue from the tax on non-highway recreational vehicles.

A variety of trail projects are eligible for the funds, including urban trail linkages, maintenance of existing trails and development of trail-related facilities. The TPWD will be receiving federal guidelines for administering the program as soon as they are issued later this year.

By December 1994, each state must meet two requirements to stay eligible for federal funds. The department must have a recreational trail advisory board on which both motorized and non-motorized trail users are represented and the Texas Legislature must earmark a portion of the state fuel tax for recreational trails.

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VOLUNTEERS PLAN TO HELP SONGBIRDS

AUSTIN--Texans who enjoy listening to and watching songbirds in their yards, parks and forests now have a chance to become directly involved in their conservation.

Texas Partners in Flight, organized by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, helps volunteers become directly involved in songbird conservation on their own lands. Conservation tools include backyard habitat plantings, research and monitoring and helping with volunteer projects.

Texas Partners in Flight is part of a larger North American conservation network to address declines in Neotropical birds. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program was initiated in 1990 after reviewing more than 30 years of collected data that show a continuing decline in many of these songbird species.

Neotropical migratory birds are those that winter in the tropics of Central and South America and cross the Gulf of Mexico in the spring to nest in Texas and other North American states. They include such identifiable species as hummingbirds, orioles, tanagers, warblers and flycatchers.

Birding experts, enthusiasts, scientists, teachers, landowners and officials from governmental agencies met at TPWD headquarters April 24 in the first meeting of Texas Partners in Flight. Populations of many songbirds are declining but the reasons why are not certain. Officials believe the contributing factors are forest fragmentation on the breeding grounds, deforestation of wintering habitats, pesticide poisoning and the cumulative effects of habitat changes throughout the species' range.

Texans are beginning to look at how they can help save birds before they are placed on the threatened or endangered lists. Although a few of these tropical migratory birds already are endangered, most populations remain large enough to be recovered - if the problems are addressed now.

"We will be looking at habitat and how owners of big and small lands can help enhance songbird habitat," said Rudy Rosen, TPWD wildlife division director. "We want to emphasize that this is a pro-active program, meaning that we want to take action before songbird populations reach critically low levels.

"We also want to stress that participation, especially by private landowners, is voluntary. We hope to see action in the areas of research and monitoring, education and habitat management - management that should benefit many species of wildlife in addition to songbirds."

Anyone interested in participating in Texas Partners in Flight or in conserving habitat for Neotropical songbirds should call the department at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4771, or (512) 389-4771, Carol Beardmore with USFWS at (512) 482-5436 or Jane Lyons with the National Audubon Society at (512) 327-3249.

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RECENT FISH STOCKINGS

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently stocked Tradinghouse Creek with its first ever batch of white crappie. Four other water bodies also received crappie fingerlings.

About 10,500 one-inch white crappie fingerlings were stocked into Tradinghouse on April 15.

A total of 300,000 white crappie and almost 100,000 black crappie produced by department hatcheries recently were stocked in several lakes. Fingerling white crappie also were stocked at Cleburne State Park (12,084), Bastrop State Park Lake (96,577) and Choke Canyon Reservoir (149,294). Lake Jacksonville was stocked with 85,812 black crappie.

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ESSAY, POSTER CONTEST DEADLINE NEARS

AUSTIN--The deadline for submitting entries to the Texas Wildlife Expo '92 essay and poster contest is June 1

Texas Wildlife Expo '92, scheduled for Oct. 2-3 at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters here, will celebrate the legacy of hunting and the role hunters have played in conservation efforts in the state.

The essay contest is open to students in seventh grade through college - a winner will be named in each grade class. Essays must be 500-1,000 words on any hunting related topics. Possible topics include the traditions of hunting in Texas, the role of sportsmen as conservationists, the future of wildlife management, family traditions in hunting, hunting in the 21st century, the value of hunter education, hunting and outdoor ethics and my first hunting trip.

The poster contest is open for kindergarten through 12th grade - a winner will be named in each grade class. Drawings can be on any paper medium with a size not to exceed 36 inches by 36 inches on any outdoor/conservation related topic.

Winners will receive a Texas lifetime combination hunting and fishing license valued at \$800. Winners also will be honored at a banquet as part of the Expo on Oct. 2. Winners will be notified in September.

TPWD employees and their families are prohibited from participating.

Mail all entries to Texas Wildlife Expo '92, P.O. Box 17991, Austin, Texas 78760-7991 For more information call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4998, or (512) 389-4998.

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(NOTE: This column runs monthly in the news packet. It deals with common responses and concerns from comments received in the Texas Statewide Angler Survey. The information in the column was provided by Robin Riechers, TPWD economist, and Dr. Robert B. Ditton of Texas A&M University.)

WHAT FISHERMEN (AND WOMEN) TELL US!

By Lyndal Waldrip
TPWD News Editor

Some of the issues worrying some coastal fishing enthusiasts are concerns about the amount of vegetation in the bays and possible damage being done to that vegetation.

One comment received during the Texas Statewide Angler Survey said:

"Every time I go out to the bays I can't help but realize how much water there is but how little vegetation there is under it, and consequently, how few fish there are. Is there any way to get vegetation to start growing again? What's the use in stocking bays just to catch a few that happen to be passing through? They've got to have a reason to hang around for a while."

C.E. Bryan, fisheries resource program director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said vegetation doesn't grow naturally in some of the deeper bays along the coast because sunlight doesn't reach it. In areas like the Laguna Madre, grass is plentiful.

On the other hand, several groups have successfully done experimental restoration work. TPWD, Texas A&M University and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers all have done experimental work in the 1970s in Aransas and Galveston bays.

"Vegetation is important to bay ecosystems and much research into restoration has been carried out," Bryan said. "In areas that can be helped, experimenting has been done and is continuing. Texas A&M-Galveston is currently trying to restore grasses in Galveston Bay."

A comment about possible damage read, "I am also disturbed by the bottom damage in the shallow areas that is created by power boat props tearing up grass and bottom. I frequently fly over the area and from 1,000 feet every track and scar is visible evidence of our mistreatment of this fragile environment. One old timer remarks 'the scooters are killing our bay.' He may be right. Formation of a plan to combat this trend will be quite a challenge, I fear."

This person is not the only one concerned with possible damage. During the last regular session, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1054, the Coastal Management Program, that mandates scientific studies on the effects of boat traffic in wetlands and education of the public on proper non-damaging boating techniques.

"We recognize a lot of prop scars have been made," said Leland Roberts, TPWD assistant resource protection division director. "Prop scars are there. They're not heavily concentrated, but they are scattered throughout much of the coast.

"We need to know how long scars exist," he said. "What is the succession of plants? If a plant is cut down, does another come back temporarily until the original plant grows back? We don't know what the grow-back time is.

"We've drafted a proposal to study prop scars and are seeking funds for the study," he said.

Roberts said the TPWD, the General Land Office and the Boating Trades Association of Texas also are working together to produce a brochure that will be given to boat buyers informing them of the value of sea grasses and of ways to protect the grasses.

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A couple of other anglers are concerned with the game fish populations along the coast.

"I have been fishing Texas saltwater for 30 years and each year there seems to be less and less fish to catch. I remember when it was easy to catch a hundred trout in a day. Now I feel lucky if I can catch a limit. I don't know what happened to the fish, but I sure hope y'all can figure it out. And I hope some good will come out of my answering your questionnaire. Good Luck."

It used to be easy to catch that many fish. Because of increased pressure, speckled trout and redfish were overfished in the 1970s. Bryan said rules and regulations, such as taking redfish and trout off the commercial market, and size and daily bag limits on 23 coastal species were placed to restore these fishes and to maintain their populations.

Recovery has been slowed by three major freezes and one red tide since 1983, killing millions of fish. "Have heart," he said. "Beginning this year, biological samples indicate fishing on the coast should be the best it's been in many, many years."

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The anonymous questions and comments were provided by respondents to the 1991 Texas Statewide Angler Survey conducted cooperatively by Texas A&M University and TPWD. Statewide angler studies have been conducted by TPWD since 1986 to understand angler opinions and management preferences. Dr. Robert B. Ditton of the department of wildlife and fisheries sciences at Texas A&M served as the principal investigator for this study.

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04/14/92

Texas Top 50 Largemouth Bass

Rank	Weight (lbs)	Length (inches)	Water Body	Date Caught	Angler
1	18.18	25.50	Lake Fork	01/24/92	Barry StClair
2	17.67	27.50	Lake Fork	11/26/86	Mark Stevenson
3	17.64		Lake Fork	04/01/89	Stan Moss
4	17.63	26.25	Lake Fork	08/29/90	Jerry L. New
5	17.29		Lake Fork	02/14/88	Larry Barnes
6	17.08	25.50	Lake Fork	02/26/91	Troy Coates
7	16.90	27.66	Pinkston	02/16/86	Earl Crawford
8	16.77		Mill Creek	03/01/90	Herchel Brickey
9	16.75	25.50	Lake Fork	03/08/90	Stephen R. Trepkus
10	16.59	26.00	Lake Fork	05/15/87	Guy Witherspoon
11	16.54	25.00	Lake Fork	02/27/91	Bill Reed
12	16.17	26.00	Gibbons Creek	01/15/88	Troy Johnson
13	16.06	25.50	Lake Fork	03/09/88	Tom Hallum
14	16.04	25.75	Lake Fork	02/29/92	Gasper Cardinale
15	16.02	26.75	Possum Kingdom	10/13/89	Scott Tongate
16	16.01	25.50	Lake Caddo	04/13/92	Bobby Shaver
17	16.00	27.50	Lake Fork	07/03/89	John Stanley
18	15.95	25.50	Lake Fork	03/27/91	Wendall Atkinson
19	15.88	25.50	Lake Fork	02/17/90	Jim Taylor
20	15.65	27.50	Lake Fork	05/28/91	Rex Thompson
21	15.61	26.13	Lake Fork	05/08/91	Jim Gore
22	15.58	27.00	Amistad	03/11/89	Jay Hiler
23	15.53	27.00	Lake Fork	04/19/87	Dennis Canada
24	15.51		Lake Fork	09/23/91	Boyd Walker
25	15.50	25.75	Echo (private)	02/07/81	John Alexander Jr
26	15.46	25.50	Lake Fork	02/27/92	Bob Lancaster
27	15.41	25.00	Lake Fork	02/27/91	Dennis Bassinger
28	15.38	28.50	Lake Fork	03/17/89	Harold Stanley
29	15.38	26.00	Lake Fork	08/18/90	Bill Howell
30	15.38	26.25	Possum Kingdom	02/14/91	Don Allison
31	15.34	27.00	Lake Fork	09/28/91	John W. Alumbaugh
32	15.28	25.75	Lake Fork	04/11/92	Mark Bush
33	15.23	27.50	Welsh	12/23/83	Bill Ockerhausen
34	15.20	25.00	Houston County	02/27/88	Terry Walling
35	15.20	26.25	Amistad	03/03/90	Lendall Prevatt
36	15.20	25.00	Lake Fork	03/15/90	Scott Cupit
37	15.16	26.50	Lake Fork	02/08/89	Bill R. Lozano
38	15.15		Lake Fork	08/26/90	Frank High
39	15.12	27.80	Jacksonville	04/03/86	Melvin Berry
40	15.12	24.00	Falcon	05/01/91	Scotty Deaton
41	15.08	25.50	Lake Fork	03/31/91	David Wilson
42	15.02	26.25	Lake Fork	07/17/91	Scott Abish
43	14.92	26.50	Lake Fork	09/11/90	Bruce Gauthier
44	14.91	24.50	Lake Fork	02/11/90	Cal Wheeler
45	14.91	26.50	Lake Fork	08/12/90	Joseph Marra
46	14.88	27.00	Lake Fork	05/28/88	Arthur Keenom
47	14.85	28.25	Lake Fork	08/28/91	Charles Thompson
48	14.83	25.50	Lake Fork	03/11/88	Robby Bickley
49	14.83	25.75	Lake Fork	03/15/92	Archie Wade
50	14.80	25.00	Lake Fork	02/28/88	M.L. George

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for April 30:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on jerk worms and topwaters; crappie are fair at night on live minnows in the 12-14 inch range; catfish are good to 8 1/2 pounds on live perch; a 39 1/2-pound yellow catfish was caught on rod and reel baited with alive perch.

BELTON: Water clear, 19 feet above normal and dropping; black bass are very good to 5 pounds with some limits on Nachos and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good on topwaters and jigging spoons in the main lake and below the dam; catfish are good to 11 pounds on commercial baits.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 65 degrees, 4 inches below spillway level; black bass are fair in the 12-15-inch range off points in the afternoon on silver spoons; striper are fair under lights at night on jigs and minnows; crappie are fairly good in the shallow water late in the afternoon and early in the morning on minnows; channel catfish are good in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on trotlines baited with live shad; yellow catfish are good in the 15-20 pound range on shad and cut shad.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 71 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good through 6 pounds, 9 ounces on chartreuse worms; striper are excellent to 16 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are good early and late under the birds and around Garrett Island on slabs; catfish are slow.

CANYON: Water clear, 65 degrees, 10 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on large minnows and white spinners; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited with worms and shrimp, catfish are good to 30 pounds on trotlines baited with perch and goldfish.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on Slug-Gos, spinners and Ring Worms; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, lake full; black bass are excellent to 9 1/2 pounds on black lizards; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 12-15 feet of water; catfish are good to 5 pounds on minnow.

INKS LAKE: Water murky, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on chartreuse spinners; striper are good through 21 pounds on live shad; crappie are poor; white bass are good on minnows, live shad and white jigs; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on live shad.

LBJ: Water clear, 70 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 9 pounds, 11 ounces on white spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good on points where shad are running early, best baits are slabs, jigs and topwaters; catfish are good to 6 pounds in baited holes in 15-20 feet of water on stinkbait or fresh shrimp

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 5.66 pounds on

spinners, buzz baits and black and chartreuse Wacky Craws; crappie are fair on minnows around trees in 12 feet of water; white bass are good with many limits on Rattle Traps, slab spoons; catfish are fair in number to 18 pounds on perch or jug lines baited with shad.

SOMERVILLE: Water a little off color, 58 degrees, 12 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are good to 9 pounds on Hellbenders with Tony Accetta Spoon trailers; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent on speck rigs, live pencil minnows, slabs, topwaters and L'il Georges; catfish are fair in the 2 pound range on worms and frozen shad.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 33 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; hybrid striper are fair in the 4-5 pound range on minnows; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on minnows; catfish are slow; the fishing dock will be open 24 hours a day through the summer.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to 4 pounds on chrome topwaters, chartreuse spinners and smoke glitter grubs; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 1/2 inches on same lures; bass are good to 65 fish per boat per day with frequent limits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair early with surfacing in coves, best bait is a chrome topwater; catfish are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on cut bait.

WACO: Water off color, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on jigs; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on live bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 69 degrees, 5 1/2 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to good to 7 1/2 pounds on spinners and cranks; striper are excellent on topwaters and shad to 20 pounds; crappie are fair to good in the creeks to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows, best fishing is early; white bass are good in number with schooling mid lake with several limits caught to 1 1/2 pounds; catfish are good on perch with blue catfish to 29 pounds and yellow catfish to 42 pounds.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to excellent to 7.13 pounds on worms in 8-10 feet of water; crappie are good to 2.31 pounds on minnows with up to 12 fish per person per day in 18-20 feet of water; white bass are schooling early and late, best baits are L'il Georges, Roostertails and slabs; catfish are slow to 3 pounds each on worms and catfish bait; bream fishing is fairly good on crickets and worms.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, lake full; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on chartreuse spinners, worms, lizards; striper are good to 3 pounds on silver spoons; crappie are good at night and early morning on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow to 38 pounds on trotlines baited with bream.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 13 pounds on plastic worms in 4 feet of water; striper are slow; white bass are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish

are good to 2 pounds at night on set hooks baited with minnows; bream are good on worms and crickets and very small crawfish. CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 10 ounces on plum worms in 10-15 feet of water; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fairly good with strings to 15 fish on minnows in shallow and deep water; white bass are very good with early and late surfacing on Roostertails and L'il Georges, night fishing is excellent; yellow catfish are good to 32 pounds on cut bait and goldfish in 15 feet of water; channel catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on bloodbait.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair early and late on topwaters and lizards; crappie are good in 12-14 feet of water around brush piles, best baits are minnows and white jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 13 pounds on large minnows and nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 85 degrees, 2 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners; hybrid striper are good to 12 pounds on shad; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 15 pounds on bloodbait; redfish are good to 20 pounds on crawfish.

FORK: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are very good to 15.38 pounds on a Salty Craws in 15 feet of water, fish was caught by Randy Carroll; crappie are fair live minnows and jigs; catfish are slow.

JOE POOL: Water clear, 60 degrees, 1 inch low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on minnows; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on minnows, shad and blood bait, in the lake and below the dam.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good on Fliptail Floating Lizards and Slug-Gos to 9 pounds, 1 ounce; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are fair on jigs along the river channel; catfish are good to 20 pounds on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

LAVON: Water clear, 67 degrees, 3 feet above normal; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners and nightcrawlers; striper are slow this week, striper were good to 12 pounds last week; crappie are beginning to hit on the north end at 5-15 feet of water on small minnows, on the east side fish are good 6-8 feet of water near the bank on small minnows; catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on bloodbait.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 6 pounds on worms and Rattle Traps; striper are good to 10 pounds on live shad; crappie are fair 3 1/2 pounds to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good on the coves and secondary points on ghost minnows and Rattle Traps; blue catfish are good to 20 pounds on jug lines baited with shad.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on plastic worms and Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 26 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 1/4 pounds on black lizards and live crawfish; crappie

are fair on minnows; catfish are good to 9 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 1/4 pounds on topwaters and worms; crappie are good on the lake, around piers, boat houses and 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish are improving to 4 pounds on trotline baited with small bream and Canadian Nightcrawlers.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 6 inches over spillway level; black bass are fairly good to 7 pounds on worms, spinners and topwaters; striper are slow; white bass are good on L'il Georges, slabs and topwaters; catfish are good to 70 pounds on catalpa worms, bloodbait and shad.

PURTIS CREEK: Water murky, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 11 pounds on Slug-Gos; crappie are fair with limits on minnows; catfish are fair to 5 pounds.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 3 pounds on cranks; crappie are very good on minnows and jigs, some to 2 pounds; white bass are excellent with full limits to 2 pounds; catfish are very good to 1 1/2 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 7 pounds on grasshopper colored lizards and blue Power Worms; crappie are improving, fish are moving into shallows and in the brush; white bass are good and caught on slabs and Rattle Traps while schooling; catfish are fair to 40 pounds on trotlines baited with shad.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass and all fishing has been slow probably due to fronts;

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on worms and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on jigs and minnows; white bass are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds under birds on slabs during the day and minnows at night; catfish are good to 10 pounds on goldfish baited trotlines and worms on tight lines.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 62 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on pigs and jigs and worms; striper are excellent to 6 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad and topwaters; crappie are good on minnows in shallow water; white bass are excellent on live bait and Sassy Shad; catfish are fair to 40 pounds on live bait and cut bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water slightly stained on the south end of the lake and clear on the north, 73 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fair to good to 6 1/4 pounds on Craw Worms, lizards and spinners in the shallow water in the backs of sloughs; crappie are fair to good to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 15 pounds on trotlines baited with crawfish, shad, cut shad, chicken liver and nightcrawlers; bream are fair in shallows on crickets and worms.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 72 degrees,

4 inches above normal level; black bass are spotty to 6 pounds in 5-8 feet of water on spinners, Rattle Traps and worms; white bass are good off points on small silver baits and trolling deep running baits; catfish are moving into shallow water; quite a few bank fishermen are catching catfish and bream.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water fairly clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 3 ounces on water dogs, black worms, pumpkin seed worms and crawfish colored cranks; crappie are good off boat piers and around islands on minnows; white bass are good between the islands on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 7 pounds near the islands and the dam on gold fish and bream.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 68 degrees, 2 inches above normal pool; black bass are moving into deeper water, fishing has been fair to 8 3/4 pounds on pigs and jigs; striper are slow; crappie are fair, no limits but strings of 15 are fairly common and are caught on minnows; white bass are good trolling or jigging white slabs, most fishermen getting limits to 2 1/2 pounds; yellow catfish are good to 85 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait; blue catfish are good to 47 pounds on cut bait; channel catfish are good to 9 pounds on shad.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 68 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 10.27 pounds on the grass flats off Rayburn Park on worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows and small jigs in 6-8 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good in 40-60 pounds on trotlines with live bait; a 20-pound yellow catfish was caught on a crappie rigged rod and reel.

SHELDON: Water muddy, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on dark plastic worms and minnows; crappie are fair to 5 fish per string on minnows; catfish are fair to 5 pounds. Fishermen are reminded that alligators in the 5-8-foot range consider unattended fish stringers as an open invitation to lunch.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 72 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow to 13 pounds, a few were caught on topwaters, spinners and worms in 12 feet of water; striper are slow to 12 pounds on live bait, some caught trolling deep diving Redfins; crappie are fairly good in the 2 1/4 pound range on jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 40 pounds on trotlines and live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on Slug-Gos in 12 feet of water, smaller bass are in shallow water; striper are good to 20 pounds on Redfins in 25 feet of water; crappie are slow; white bass are good in the pecos to 19 inches on minnows and spinners; catfish are good in 5-30 feet of water on shrimp and stinkbait.

BRAUNIG: Water is very green due to an algae bloom, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 1/4 pounds on cranks; hybrid striper are very good to 9-pound average on spoons and chrome Rattle Traps with blue backs; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds on chicken livers, shad and shrimp; yellow catfish are good to 29 pounds on shad; corvina are good to 20 1/2 pounds, a new lake record caught on spoons; redfish

are good to 17 pounds on spoons. **CALAVERAS:** Water murky, 75 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on artificials; striper are fair to 7.5 pounds on shad, chicken livers and spoons; catfish are fair with strings of channel catfish to 75 pounds on cheese baits, chicken livers and shad; yellow catfish are slow to 15 pounds; redfish are fair to 15 pounds on crawfish and shad.

CASA BLANCA: Water is a little murky, 75 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fair to 10 pounds on Rattle Traps; catfish are good in the 20-30 pound range on trotline with live bait.

CHORE: Water clear, 72 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fair to 9 1/2 pounds early in shallow water off main lake points and in Four Fingers on black and chrome Zara Spooks and Crazy Shad; chartreuse spinners with chartreuse worm trailers, plastic worms and deep diving cranks are working mid day in 10-15 feet of water off points, tank dams, roads and humps along the south shore flats and Four Fingers; spinners are good in coves in the late afternoon; catfish are fair, most are small and are caught in 3-8 feet of water off south shore tank dams and road beds; some catfish caught along the river channel in 10-25 feet of water above highway 99 bridge; cheese bait and shrimp are good; jug line and trotline fishing has been good with best action on jug lines along the south shore and trotline in the river above 99 bridge; crappie are fair around 99 bridge and along the river channels and Possum Creek on live minnows in 10-20 feet of water; white bass are slow, some scattered catches along the river channel; striper are slow.

COLETO CREEK: Water muddy, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in number but most are undersized on spinners around hydrilla beds; striper are poor; crappie are poor; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number to 4 pounds on bloodbait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 76 degrees, lake full; black bass are slow; striper are good to 15 pounds below the dam on white Bananahead jigs; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string in 2-3 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair all over the lake on Tiny Traps and silver spoons; blue catfish are good to 4 pounds in 2-5 feet of water on trotlines baited with lye soap and shad; channel and blue catfish are good below the dam on worms and shad.

FALCON: Water clear, 67 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; white bass are fairly good on slabs and spoons; catfish are excellent to 4 pounds on shrimp baited rods and reels.

MEDINA: Water clear, 8 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on Power Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 15 fish per string on chrome slabs; catfish are good to 6 pounds on rod and reel with nightcrawlers and shrimp; yellow catfish are good to 24 pounds on trotlines baited with perch.

TEXANA: Water muddy, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds in the jungle area on dark worms; crappie are very slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on trotlines with cut bait.

WEST

BAYLOR: Water clear on east end, murky on the west side, 58 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass are excellent to 9 1/4 pounds on Craw Worms, Slug-Gos and cranks; crappie are good with some limits on minnows in 30 feet of water; catfish are good to 14 pounds on water dogs.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 72 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on spinners; striper are fair to 5 pounds on silver sides and cut shad; crappie are good to 1 pound on minnows and jigs; white bass are good on silver sides; catfish are good to 5 pounds on trotlines baited with cut shad.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds, 7 ounces on topwaters; crappie are fairly good to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fairly good on spoons; catfish are good to 11 pounds on worms and minnows; walleye are good in the 3-4 pound range near the dam.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on spinners; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 25 pounds in the river.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good; hybrid striper are good in the 8-11 pound range on minnows; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are good on minnows; catfish are fair and improving on minnows nightcrawlers.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are very good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good on minnows; catfish are good to 23 pounds on trotlines baited with large minnows and live perch; walleye are fair to 7 pounds on large minnows.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear, 67 degrees surface, 59 degrees on the bottom; black bass are fair in the 17-17 3/4-inch range on Rat-L-Traps and dark colored worms with chartreuse tails, several in the 5-6 pound range or 19-22 inches in the Elm Creek area; crappie are good on minnows and white and yellow jigs in 3-13 feet of water to 12 fish per string at Elm Creek Marina; channel and blue catfish are good with strings to 12 fish in the 2-5 pound range on Catfish Charlie, live minnows, perch and nightcrawlers in 5-40 feet of water or in flooded portions of creeks or rivers; yellow catfish are good on minnows and live perch, fishing best in the upper portion of creeks or rivers near inflows in 15-20 feet of water.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on Slug-Go worms in gray and silver in shallow water; striper are good to 15 pounds in 38-40 feet of water on Hellbenders with Texas Trailers; crappie are good to 2 pounds in shallow water on minnows; white bass are slow, some were caught on L'il Georges; catfish are slow on rod and reel; trotline fishing for catfish is good to 5 pounds on cut bait.

PROCTOR: Water murky, about 25 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fairly good to 14 pounds on live crawfish; crappie are slow on minnows; channel catfish are fairly good; yellow catfish are good to 16 pounds on rod and reel with worms and live perch below the dam.

SPENCE: Water clear, 62 degrees, 28 feet low; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on red shad worms; striper are good to 13 1/2 pounds on cut shad; white bass are very slow; crappie are very slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on trotlines with nightcrawlers and bass minnows.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass and all fishing has been slow due to lack of fishermen.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has been good; fair numbers of drum in the keeper range caught south of Stewt's Island on dead shrimp; sheephead are good near the sunken barge on the west side with dead shrimp; croaker are good south of Stewt's Island; scattered flounder caught on dead shrimp and white touts; catfish are good to 6 pounds in Cow Bayou and Black Bayou; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Water rough around jetties; a few big drum caught at the jetties on dead shrimp; around causeway, flounder have been fairly good; the Louisiana side is producing redfish; specks and redfish are good in 8-21 feet of water in the channel, best baits are strawberry touts and strawberry Gill Rakers; South Levee Road fishermen are catching keeper redfish, a few specks and a good number of croakers; gafftops are fairly plentiful; fairly good sized redfish in 20 feet of water in the ship channel; water a little off color but still fishable.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of trout to 24 inches under birds early on live shrimp around Carancahua Reef in West Bay; some redfish in the 16-19 inch range caught along the shoreline and in the coves; some flounder and a few trout caught around the pass; a few trout, bull redfish and jack fish were caught from the piers over the weekend and Monday; live bait shrimp available from \$8.50 to \$10 per quart; some black tip shark to 4 feet caught in the surf.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing is good with plenty of snapper from 1 1/2 to 15 pounds; plenty of warsaw to 20 pounds; amberjack are good in the 15 to 25 pound range; a couple of dolphin have been caught along with a few ling; good numbers of bonito, jack crevalle and kingfish have been caught in Texas waters or less than 10 miles offshore.

PORT OCONNOR: Winds fairly high midweek; few fishermen out; those who went out did catch fish around the jetties, Cattle Pens, Cedars, Boggy Bayou and from the front pier; a few caught in Pringle Lake; shark, trout and redfish caught at Big Pocket; offshore, when fishermen can get out, fishermen are catching kingfish and snapper about 40 miles off shore. Good populations of redfish and trout have been caught in sample nets by TPWD net samples.

MATAGORDA: Some redfish in the keeper range, no limits yet, caught in West Bay along the north shore line on cut mullet; trout are showing up around Greens Bayou area and around Port O'Connor; some trout are caught in West Matagorda, a 11-pound, 2-ounce speck caught in East Matagorda along the south shoreline; flounder are plentiful around 2 pounds; live bait shrimp are available but not plentiful at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Winds fairly strong from the south and southwest mid week; water is sandy; a few redfish and trout caught in Kellers Bay on Cordell's Broken Backs; south shore line and the flats are producing reds and trout; reports of good sized redfish and trout from the Port Oconnor Jetties; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Fishing has been good with good numbers of specks to 24 inches with the average in the 18-19-inch range and are caught on live shrimp around Mud Island, off Ransom Island and Stedman Reef; some redfish caught around Allan's Bight, around Traylor island and Estes Flats in the 23-25 inch fish on topwater Cordell's; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 to \$8 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Fishermen are catching good numbers of specks to 27 inches along California Hole, Hog Island, Cummings Cut, Lydia Ann Channel, the ship channel on live bait shrimp, perch, mullet and mud minnows; some good catches of redfish in South Bay at low tide; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart. Good numbers of snapper, ling, amberjack, strawberry and warsaw grouper, black fin tuna and trigger fish caught early this week by offshore fishermen about 44 miles offshore. Blue runners and sandtrout also caught offshore.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of drum and trout caught along the causeway, day time fishing is fairly slow due to high winds; some redfish caught at Indian Point on live shrimp or mullet; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each; back bays are still fresh.

PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing has been slow due to high winds; scattered trout caught in the Saucer area, some trout caught near Marker 35; redfish have been caught in the flats; most fish are caught on live shrimp; live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout fishing has been good with good numbers of sow trout near the spoil dumps; good numbers behind Three Islands; some redfish caught in the Holly Beach and Cullen's; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. Specks have been fairly at night under lights at the fishing pier.

PH 4/30/92