

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the April 10, 1992, issue:

Additional Public Hearings Scheduled.....	1
Insects Eat Plants, Reduce Herbicide Use.....	2
George Named Deputy Wildlife Chief	4
Spring Whooping Crane Migration Begun	4
Potential State & World Record Sand Trout Caught.....	5
Rain Makes Gorman Falls Tour Exceptional	6
Recent Fish Stockings	7
Fishing Report	

Additional Public Hearings Scheduled

AUSTIN--Twenty-two additional public hearings have been scheduled for selected parts of the state from April 27 through May 1 to hear comments on amended proposals to the 1992-93 hunting and fishing regulations proclamation.

The public will be able to comment on an amendment to add one day to the end of the 1992 archery deer and turkey season, giving bowhunters five complete weekends to hunt. If approved, the 1992 season will run Oct. 1-Nov. 1.

An experimental muzzleloader season has been proposed for Oct. 17-25 in 14 counties in the Edwards Plateau and South Texas. These areas contain relatively high deer density so that additional hunting pressure is not a resource concern.

The inland fisheries branch is proposing to regulate mussel harvesting. The proposal would limit mussel harvesters to 75 pounds per day on weekends and allow harvest only during daylight hours. The proposal would allow harvesting by hand only and it also calls for minimum length limits on several species.

A proposal from coastal fisheries will clarify that it is illegal to possess a stone crab's left claw on board a vessel in public waters.

Coastal fisheries also proposes to adjust pickup times for saltwater trotlines. Currently, trotline hooks and lines must be removed by 1:00 p.m. each Friday and not replaced until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. The proposal would allow the lines to be picked up later or otherwise adjusted for safety reasons based on small craft warnings from the National Weather Service.

The public hearings are scheduled for:

- * Brownsville, April 27, Cameron County Courthouse, Central Jury Room
- * Galveston, April 28, Galveston County Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room
- * Beaumont, May 1, Jefferson County Courthouse, Jury and Panel Room
- * Corpus Christi, April 27, Corpus Christi State University, 6300 Ocean Dr., Rm 117
- * Victoria, April 27, Town Plaza Mall, 1502 E. Airline
- * Longview, April 28, Gregg County Courthouse
- * Athens, April 29, Henderson County Courthouse, Commissioners Court Room
- * San Angelo, April 28, Tom Green County Courthouse, JP Court Room
- * Johnson City, April 27, Blanco County Courthouse
- * Ozona, April 30, Crockett County Courthouse, Commissioners Court Room
- * Carrizo Springs, April 27, Dimmit County Courthouse
- * San Diego, April 27, Duval County Courthouse
- * Rocksprings, April 28, Edwards County Courthouse
- * Fredericksburg, April 29, Gillespie County Courthouse
- * Kerrville, April 30, Kerr County Courthouse
- * Junction, May 1, Kimble County Courthouse
- * Cotulla, April 27, LaSalle County Courthouse
- * Llano, April 27, Llano County Courthouse
- * Tilden, April 28, McMullen County Courthouse
- * Mason, April 28, Mason County Courthouse
- * Sonora, April 29, 4-H Center
- * Laredo, April 30, Webb County Commissioners court Room, Courthouse Annex

All hunting and fishing regulations will be finalized during the May 21st Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting in Austin.

LW 4/10/92

Insects Eat Plants, Reduce Herbicide Use

AUSTIN--Studies using insects to control aquatic vegetation at Lake Dunlap and Sheldon Reservoir are showing good results. As a result, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has not had to treat Lake Dunlap with herbicides.

Through the years, researchers have sought to identify host-specific exotic insects from the home countries of exotic plants to control them. "Native insects work well to control some native plants, but are not effective when it comes to exotic plants," said Joyce Johnson, TPWD director of aquatic habitat.

About 200 small pistia weevils, a small, black insect that feeds only on water lettuce, were stocked in Lake Dunlap last September to feed on the prohibited exotic plant. Water lettuce has caused problems for boaters and homeowners at the lake for more than two years.

The 410-acre lake along the Guadalupe River in Central in Texas had water lettuce on seven acres in spring 1991. A survey in early March 1992 showed water lettuce infestation of the lake had declined to less than one acre. It could not be determined if the insect was solely responsible, but Johnson believes they are a factor in reducing the amount of water lettuce.

"The study is working. In fact, we didn't have to use herbicides on Lake Dunlap this year," Johnson said.

The insects are host-specific, which means they only eat water lettuce. Johnson said another 200 pistia weevils were stocked during the recent survey.

"Although we didn't find any of the very small weevils during the survey, we believe some are still there," she said. "Since they would die if all the water lettuce was removed, they won't kill all of it. They'll just keep it in check."

Biologists will monitor the lake the rest of this year, and begin a new nursery population at Brazos Bend State Park.

In a similar study on hydrilla at Sheldon Reservoir in Houston, hydrellia flies from Australia were stocked from June to November 1991. Johnson said a small population of the tiny fly has survived the winter and is reproducing.

"We're trying to establish a nursery area here," she said. "After we establish a population, then we'll monitor the effects they have on hydrilla. If it works well, we'll go on to other sites."

The average life span of the hydrellia fly is 41 days. Adults and larvae were found during the March survey, indicating the population is holding its own.

Broodstock of both of the insects involved were obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterway Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Miss.

LW 4/10/92

George Named Deputy Wildlife Chief

AUSTIN--Veteran Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologist Ron George has been named deputy chief of the wildlife branch.

"I am truly honored to have Ron George as deputy chief. He is a top-notch, professional wildlife biologist. Texas and the department are fortunate to have Ron; I know he will do a great job," said Bob Cook, wildlife branch chief.

A department biologist for 11 years, George has most recently served as program leader for migratory shore and upland game birds. He has worked extensively with pheasants, quail, doves and waterfowl and is the author of about 45 publications on wildlife conservation.

George, a Greenville native, has a master's degree in range and wildlife science from Texas Tech University. He was the 1991 president of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society and has been a certified wildlife biologist since 1978.

In his new position, George will be responsible for coordinating the wildlife research program. George also currently serves as the Texas representative to the Central Flyway Council.

LW 4/10/92

Spring Whooping Crane Migration Begun

AUSTIN--Endangered whooping cranes have begun their annual migration from wintering grounds on the Texas coast to their traditional nesting grounds at Wood Buffalo Park in the Canadian prairies.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge authorities reported a population of 104 cranes still on the coast on Tuesday, April 7th. At least 27 have already begun their 2,500-mile trip north. A total of 131 cranes returned to the refuge this year. Only one crane died during this year's stay in Texas.

To aid in tracking the movements of migrating whoopers, anyone who sees one during migration is encouraged to report the sighting to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department biologists. Whooping Cranes are large, white birds with black wingtips, long necks and long black legs that trail behind them in flight.

Whooping cranes travel in small family groups and are seldom seen traveling in groups of more than three or four. Similarly marked white birds, such as white pelicans and snow geese, usually are seen in large flocks and should not be confused with the larger whooping cranes.

When reporting a sighting, provide as many details as possible. Pertinent information includes the number of birds seen, their location, the date and time of day and the behavior of the birds (flying, feeding, etc.). However, the most important items to report are the color of any leg band and whether the band is on the right or left leg. Many of the cranes have leg bands on one or both legs, but birds produced since 1988 have not been banded.

Whooping crane sightings can be reported by calling TPWD at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4772, or (512) 389-4772.

LW 4/10/92

Potential State & World Record Sand Trout Caught

AUSTIN--What began as a search to identify an angler's catch may conclude with a state and world record for San Antonio fisherman Augustine Jaramillo.

Jaramillo was fishing off Port Aransas on March 7 when he caught a 28-inch trout-like fish weighing 8 pounds, 0.31 ounces.

After weighing the fish, Jaramillo took it home to San Antonio. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Jimmy Dean couldn't identify it, so he sent it to the Heart of the Hills Research Station at Ingram for identification. Bob Howells, fisheries research biologist, said the fish looked like a silver or sand seatrout. However, the fish's large size and a fewer number of fin rays and spines than expected threw biologists off a little.

Finally, Tim King at the Perry R. Bass Marine Research Station in Palacios positively identified the fish as a sand seatrout through biochemical genetic analysis.

The fish will be submitted as a state record. If certified, Jaramillo's catch will replace Dennis Herrick's 6-pound, 4-ounce sand seatrout caught Feb. 26, 1972, in Galveston Bay. Currently, the International Game Fish Association has no record for sand seatrout.

Howells said a fair amount of sand seatrout are caught each year, but most are small.

LW 4/10/92

Rain Makes Gorman Falls Tour Exceptional

BEND--This year's rains have enhanced the view of Gorman Falls and its surrounding habitat. The area is closed to the public except for an interpretive tour which runs each Saturday through November

The Gorman Springs and Falls area of Colorado Bend State Park have been closed for several years to allow the fragile ecosystem to recover after years of overuse.

Participants meet at park headquarters at 10:00 a.m. each Saturday for a drive to Gorman Creek. Once there, it's a three-quarter mile hike down the trail to below the falls. Clay Brewer, park ranger, said a tour guide will present historical information on the area, the falls and a nearby cave.

"Right now is probably one of the best times to see it," Brewer said. "We've had so much water, the falls are really flowing well."

Another site to see is the three-quarter mile long creek that feeds the falls. It has a population of one of the purest strains of Guadalupe bass, Brewer said. Gorman Canyon, where the creek is located, is home to the endangered golden cheeked warbler and the black capped vireo.

Tour participants need good hiking shoes. The trail is low impact, but can be rocky. There is no cost for the tour. Colorado Bend State Park has a \$3 per vehicle and \$2 per person entry fee. The park has three primitive camping areas, two accessible by hiking.

The park is located in San Saba and Lampasas counties. To get to the park from the east, take Highway 580 from Lampasas to Bend, then follow the signs to the park. From the west, take Highway 581 from Cherokee to Bend and follow the signs or take Highway 580 east from Highway 190, four miles north of San Saba and go 15 miles to Bend. The park entrance is four miles from Bend. Headquarters is six miles from the entrance.

For more information contact the park at (915) 628-3240.

LW 4/10/92

Recent Fish Stockings

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently stocked two areas with red drum and spotted seatrout.

Tradinghouse Creek was stocked the week ending April 4 with 90 red drum averaging 2-4 pounds.

The Upper Laguna Madre received 817,950 red drum fry and 285,000 spotted seatrout fry.

LW 4/10/92

Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.529
April 8, 1992

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

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 8 1/2 pounds on Craw Worms and Jerk Worms; crappie are fair at night on live minnows; catfish are good though 12 pounds on live perch.

BELTON: Water clear, under spillway level and dropping 1 foot per week; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners and Ringworms; striper are good to 7 pounds below the dam; crappie are slow; white bass are good in the lake and below the dam on Roadrunners and Bananahead jigs; catfish are good to 10 pounds on prepared bait and earth worms.

BROWNWOOD: Water clearing, 68 degrees, spillway level; black bass are fair in the 2-3 pound range on lures; striper are good in the 2-3 pound range on yellow spinners; crappie are good on minnows, Fleaflies and jigs, some keepers but many are undersized; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 18 1/2 pounds from the dock on live perch; trotline producing catfish to 15 pounds.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 66 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 4 pounds, 9 ounces on chartreuse worms; striper are excellent through 14 pounds on live bait and topwaters; crappie are fair in shallow water on minnows; white bass are fair around Garrett and Shaw Islands on slabs and jigs; catfish are good to 6 pounds up river on trotlines baited with fresh shad; yellow catfish are excellent to 25 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

CANYON: Water clear, 52 degrees, 16 feet above normal; black bass are good to 8 pounds on silver Rattle Traps and large minnows; striper are fair in the 18-25 inch range on live perch; crappie are good in 25 feet of water at night on minnows; white bass are good up river on minnows and trolling marble spinners and Phantom Lures; catfish are good to 3 1/2 pounds on worms; trotlines baited with perch and goldfish are catching catfish from 18 to 55 pounds.

COLORADO BEND: Water muddy, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; striper are good to 4 pounds on cranks and jigs; crappie are fair to 7 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good on jigs and crappie rigs but fishermen have to work for them; yellow catfish are good to 8 pounds on trotlines and live bait; channel catfish are good in the 2-3 pound range on cut bait and worms; carp fishing is very good with dough bait and earth worms.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Slug-Gos, jerk worms and chartreuse or white spinners; crappie are slow; catfish are fairly good to 21 pounds but many in the 5-7 pound category caught on shrimp and goldfish.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on spinners, worms and cranks; crappie are picking up to 1 1/2-2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good in the 3-5 pound range.

INKS LAKE: Water murky, 68 degrees, 6 inches above normal

level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds in shallow water in the late afternoon on chartreuse spinners; striper are fair to 12 pounds on live bait; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are good on live minnows and shad as well as chartreuse and white jigs; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on trotlines with live minnows.

LB: Water clear, 67 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 7 pounds, 2 ounces on Craw Worms; striper are slow; crappie are good in shallow water off points with structure on live minnows; white bass are good in mid lake under birds on slabs and jigs; catfish are good to 8 pounds in baited holes with stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky to muddy, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on plastic worms and Strike King Spinners; crappie are improving in shallow waters on minnows; white bass are fair on spinners; catfish are slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water a little off color, 58 degrees, 16 feet above normal level; black bass are fair; hybrid striper are good to 6 pounds on DB#3 with a Tony Accetta spoon trailer, Hellbenders and spoon trailers; white bass are good on slabs, speck rigs and topwater rigs when schooling; catfish are slow to 30 pounds on rod and reel.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 68-70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good around 4 1/2 pounds in shallow to 30 feet of water on cranks, minnows and the black and red worms; crappie are slow; white bass are slow, some have been caught in 10-20 feet of water on cranks; catfish are good in 20-30 feet of water in the 5 pound range on shrimp and stinkbait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 60 degrees, 42 feet above normal level; black bass are fair in the shallows to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; hybrid striper are good in the 5-7 pound range on minnows; striper are slow; crappie are spotty up river in the 1 1/2 pound range minnows; white bass are schooling all over the lake, best baits are slabs; catfish are slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 64 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; largemouth bass are good to 5 1/4 pounds on shad colored Slug-Gos, smoke glitter grubs and chartreuse spinners; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on same lures; striper are slow; crappie are fair in 10 feet of water on chartreuse crappie jigs; white bass are fair at night under lights, day time fishing is slow, best baits are grubs and white jigs; catfish are slow.

WACO: Water off color, 70 degrees, 2 1/2 feet above normal level; black bass are good through 7 pounds on chartreuse and white spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in number on trotlines baited with live bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps and worms in shallow water; smallmouth bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on cranks; striper are good to 20 pounds with live bait early and late;

crappie are fair to good on minnows to 1 pound on jigs and minnows; white bass are good on Castmasters in the creeks with limits to 2 pounds each; blue catfish are slow to good to 10 pounds and yellow catfish are good

to 17 pounds. All boat ramps and portions of the state park were opened last weekend.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8.88 pounds on worms and lizards, Slug-Gos and stick baits; hybrid striper are fairly good in the 3-4 pound range on slabs and spoons and are caught while fishing for white bass; crappie are beginning to move with strings to 15 fish per string, black crappie are in shallow water; white bass are schooling in the creeks, best baits are Roostertails, slabs and spoons; catfish are slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 13 pounds on floating lizards; crappie are good to 15 inches on minnows and jigs; white bass are good to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fair in the 4-6 pound range on minnows.

BRIDGEPORT: Water murky, 61 degrees, lake full; black bass are good in 2-8 feet of water on worms and spinners; striper are fair with slabs in 20 feet of water; crappie are good in number with many keepers on minnows in 2-3 feet of water; white bass are fair on slabs; catfish are fair on shrimp and worms.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/4 pounds on purple worms and black worms with blue tails; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds near the Louisiana line on minnows; catfish are good to 22 pounds on live goldfish baited trotline.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 64 degrees normal level; black bass are good to 8 1/4 pounds on black worms and chartreuse spinners in very shallow waters; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass are very good with better fishing at night up the major creeks; catfish are slow.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 11 3/4 pounds on chartreuse spinners; crappie are fair to 15 inches in shallow water on minnows; catfish are good to 34 pounds on shiners and nightcrawlers in shallow water.

FORK: Water clear, 62-65 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 11.07 pounds on pumpkin seed colored Craw Worms; crappie are fair in numbers on minnows and jigs; catfish are slow to 55 pounds on trotlines.

GRAPEVINE: Water clearing, 64 degrees, 1 foot high; two boat ramps opened last week and a few fishermen are returning to the lake; fishing has been fairly slow.

JOE POOL: Water murky, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 3/4 pounds on dark worms and cranks; striper are slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are slow on minnows and blood bait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 1/2 pounds on Fliptail Floating Lizards, Slug-Gos and spinners; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good to 2 1/2 pounds with some schooling, best baits are small cranks; catfish are fairly good to 13 pounds on trotlines with nightcrawlers.

LEWISVILLE: Water fairly clear, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners;

striper are slow; crappie good with full strings on minnows; white bass are spotty and slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on shrimp and bass minnows.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 12 1/2 pounds, a possible lake record, caught on Slug-Gos by Randell Hammett of Louisiana; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs around brush piles and bridges; yellow catfish are good to 35 pounds on perch baited trotlines; channel catfish are good to 6 1/2 pounds on rod and reel baited with stinkbait.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 2 ounces on live water dogs and 8-inch black worms; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on Canadian Crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows; white bass are fair; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clearing, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 7 pounds with a good numbers of undersized fish on worms and topwaters, Rogues and Slug-Gos; crappie are good on small minnows around boat docks and piers and under 1971 bridge; catfish are good with some trotline catches to 33 pounds on small perch; bream fishing is picking up.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 6 inches high; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pound on worms and topwaters; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows with a few limits; white bass are good on small cranks, spoons with some limits caught; catfish are good to 70 pounds on trotlines with bloodbait and cut bait.

PURTIS CREEK: Water a little murky, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good with an unconfirmed 15 pounder caught last Saturday; crappie are slow; catfish are fairly slow.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear in places murky in others, 61 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds on chartreuse spinners, blue and black lizards, Slug-Gos; crappie are slow and are picking up; white bass are fairly good around Wolf Island on slabs; catfish are good on cut shad baited trotlines as well as rod and reels.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass and all fishing slow; some crappie are fair at night; some white bass caught trolling.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 6 pounds on spinners; striper are poor; crappie are good with full strings caught on minnows and jigs; white bass are excellent on green and white slabs; catfish are good through 6 pounds on blood bait and stinkbait.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 56 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 5 pounds, 6 ounces on Rapalas, Slug-Gos, Long As, Fish Sticks; striper are good to 15 pounds on deep diving Redfins, Sassy Shad and live bait; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on Sassy Shad and Rattle Traps; catfish are fair to 30 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water stained on the south end, clear on the north end, 63 degrees, 4 feet above

seasonal normal and falling; black bass are fair to poor to 5 pounds, 2 ounces on lizards, jigs and pigs and spinners in shallow water along the bank; crappie are fair to poor to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to good in number but most are small on L'il Georges and minnows; catfish are fair to poor, trotline fishing is best.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clearing, still some color, 70 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 10.27 pounds along with a 9.6 pounder and a bunch of 4-5 pound fish, mostly on worms, cranks, spinners and Rattle Traps; crappie are excellent under the 1097 bridge on minnows and jigs; white bass are plentiful around the humps, best baits are small slabs and spoons; catfish are fair to good on different catfish baits in shallow water.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds, 12 ounces on live water dogs; striper are fair around 7 pounds on minnows; crappie are fairly good to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good to 30 fish per boat on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 20 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 4-6 pound range in shallow water; striper are slow; crappie are very good with several full strings on minnows; white bass are hard to locate; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines baited with bream and cut bait.

SHELDON: Water murky, 70 degrees, normal level; all fishing is slow due to rain and murky water; fair numbers of fishermen out.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on worms, Rattle Traps and jigs in 15 feet of water; striper are fair to 16 pounds near the generators on live bait; crappie are fair to 2 pounds in 4-14 feet of water on minnows, big crappie are in 10-12 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 56 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 59 degrees, 3 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 12 pounds in 5 to 7 feet of water on worms mostly; striper are very good around the dam on Redfins and Ponyhead jigs in the 23-pound range; crappie are slow; white bass are good up the Pecos on minnows and white slabs; catfish are picking up in the 1-2 pound range on stinkbait, shrimp and worms.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are picking up on cranks; striper are fairly good to 9 pounds on Rattle Traps, spoons and chicken livers; blue catfish are good to 13 pounds on tilapia and cut bait; channel catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds from the pier; redfish are good in the 16 pound range on Tony Accetta spoons.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 62 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds, 2 ounces on plastic worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; channel catfish are good to 1 pound on cheese baits and shad; redfish are slow to 12 pounds, 4 ounces on artificials.

CHOKE: Water clear, 74 degrees, 9

inches low; black bass are fair to 11 pounds on deep diving cranks, Zara Spooks, Crazy Shad and spinners; fish are scattered; spinners and topwaters are good early and late afternoon in 1-5 feet of water; deep diving crawfish colored and chartreuse colored baits are good in 8 feet of water along the old 72 roadbed, at the tank dam and around the green willow trees; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow and scattered around river channel from 99 bridge up river; catfish are good in the 1-2 pound range on cheese baits in 3-20 feet of water along the south shore flats, the tank dams, in Salt, Opossum and Elm Creeks; big catfish are good on jug lines with cut bait, shad, carp and live perch. Larger fish are moving in to spawn.

COLETO CREEK: Water murky, 70 degrees at the dam, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds, but most are small and are caught on plastic worms and spinners early; striper are poor; crappie are poor; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 30 pounds on trotline with cut perch and shrimp; CP&L has closed the generating plant until April 26 for maintenance, no warm water right now.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 71 degrees, lake full; black bass are slow; striper are good in the 20-25 inch range below the dam on white half ounce jigs; crappie fishing is improving in the 1 1/2 pound range in 2-3 feet of water at KOA and Clearwater coves; white bass are good off state park piers on minnows and jigs under the lights; blue catfish are good to 18 pounds on trotlines set in 3 feet of water near newly submerged brush and baited with shad and lye soap; catfish are excellent to 20 pounds below the dam on rod and reel baited with shad; good numbers of shad to be caught for bait in release waters.

FALCON: Water clear, 74 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on black and blue floating lizards; striper are good in number but most are small; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good in number but most are small; catfish are good to 4 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp.

TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, clearing in the jungle area, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners early and worms in the afternoon in the jungle area; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on cut bait.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 59 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to fair to 5 pounds on worms and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds to 15 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish are slow.

BAYLOR: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are good with a 10 pound, 10 ounce fish, a 10 1/4 pounder, a 9 3/4 pounder, a 7 pound, 9 ounce fish and a 6 3/4 pound bass on Slug Gos, cranks and spinners; crappie are good on minnows; catfish to 7 pounds are beginning to hit minnows, no limits caught.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are good up to 7 pounds on Fire Tiger Cranks; striper are good to 8

pounds on minnows; crappie are good to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds on Mister Whiskers or shrimp.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds on live baits; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good on chicken livers; walleye are fair only.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 56 degrees, lake full; black bass are slow; striper are fair in the 5-6 pound range on minnows; crappie are fair with full strings on minnows; white bass are fair to 3 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 3 pounds in the creeks on minnows; walleye are slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 49 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair and are hitting minnows; white bass are good with full string on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 14 1/4 pounds, an 11 pounder also caught, both on shad; walleye have been fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds on artificials.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 61 degrees, 2 1/2 inches low; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 9 ounces on dark worms; crappie are good at night on minnows; white bass are beginning to run, some caught trolling white jigs and Puddle Jumpers; catfish are slow.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear in main lake, murky in stream tributaries, 58.7 degrees on surface, 56.5 bottom, normal level; black bass are excellent in number in the 5-6 pound range or 22 inches on Rat-L-Traps and dark plastic worms; crappie are fair in number on minnows, Roadrunner jigs with spinner trailers and white and yellow jigs in 3-12 feet of water, no full strings, crappie are scattered and hard to find; channel and blue catfish are fair with strings to 12 fish in the 2-5 pound range on Catfish Charlie, stink bait, live minnows, perch and nightcrawlers in 5-40 feet of water in the main channels of the Concho River, Gatlin Creek and Grape Creek; yellow catfish are good on minnows and perch in the upper creeks in 5-20 feet of water.

SPENCE: Water clear, 61 degrees, 30 feet low; black bass were fairly good to 8 pounds over the weekend; striper are good 19 pounds on live bait; crappie are good around the bridges on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good in number.

STAMFORD: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; catfish are slow.

TWIN BUTTES: Water has some debris, fairly clear, 64 degrees, normal level and rising; black bass are good to 6 pounds on Rattle Traps and plastic worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 50 pounds, a new lake record caught by Donald Woehl and son Courtney of Tankersley.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 58 degrees, 5.7 feet low; black bass are good in the 3-7 pound range on spinners and Rattle Traps; crappie are good in 14 feet of water on minnows, crappie are moving into shallows; catfish are good in the 4-8 pound range on minnows, worms and shrimp; a 44-pound yellow catfish was caught on April 4; walleye are running 2 1/2 to 6 3/4 pounds on minnows and lures.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Water is in fairly good shape but mostly fresh; a few redfish caught, good numbers of undersized fish; a few sheephead and drum caught along with fair numbers of flounder; no live bait shrimp available; mud minnows are scarce.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Flounder are running most are in the keeper range in the 15 to 20-inch range, flounder are in good condition and are full of shrimp; speck are plentiful on the reefs on red touts and California Gold Gill Rakers and chartreuse shad; redfish are fairly good around Blue Buck Point and are caught on shrimp, red touts and the Wildfire Tiger worms; jetty fishermen are catching specks on the east side with red touts and large gold spoons; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Beach front fishermen catching whiting, sandtrout, keeper sized drum and gafftops; good numbers of black drum in the ship channel and in the passes, most drum are too big to keep; scattered trout and flounder caught in the bays, the largest flounder weighed 4.2 pounds; water is clearing and is in good shape; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 to \$10 per quart; good numbers of fishermen on the piers.

FREEPORT: Some good catches made last Saturday, weather bad Sunday and Monday so no trips were scheduled; weather looks good for the weekend.

PORT OCONNOR: Rains over the weekend brought plenty of fresh water; limits of trout caught at the pier; Boggy Bayou also producing speckled trout; the Cattle Pens and Cedars are producing good numbers of fish; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of flounder on hook and line and with a gig in East Matagorda Bay; some redfish were caught in East Bay, most are undersized; beach front fishermen are catching a few keeper redfish, whiting and all sorts of panfish; limited supplies of live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Fishing has been fairly slow; some trout caught around the pavilion, at the long jetties and at the turning basin; heavy rains over the weekend brought a lot of new fresh water to the bay systems; live bait shrimp spotty.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are good up to maximum size in Corpus Christi Bay, around Shamrock, fairly good numbers of redfish have been caught around Long Reef in Aransas Bay; good numbers of big trout in Copano around Redfish Point; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful; fresh water is a big problem; a 6-inch rain fell last Saturday morning.

PORT ARANSAS: Some redfish caught in the flats; trout and black drum were caught in the same area; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$7.54 per quart and \$4.31 per pint. Some black fin tuna in the 15 to 25 pound range caught in deep water offshore; amberjack fishing is very good; no kingfish yet; water is good about 25 miles offshore; snapper fishing has been good 25 mile rigs; Atlantic sharpnose sharks in the 6-15 pound range are showing up.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are fairly good in the back bays, some oversized fish caught; good numbers of undersized redfish along the causeway; trout good along the causeway and at Indian

Point in the 15 to 25 inch range; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each; the flounder and drum runs are over; some gafftop landed.

PORT MANSFIELD: Some specks caught near the Land Cut and down by the Saucer Area; a few redfish were caught; live bait plentiful.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of trout to 5 pounds, many 14 7/8-inch trout caught and released on live bait in the Brownsville Ship Channel, Submarine Bar, Unnecessary Island, behind Three Islands; the flats are producing spotty redfish and should improve by the weekend; good numbers of drum to 5 pounds on live bait in the same areas; trout in the Brownsville ship channel, at the Y and in South Bay and around the old causeway; fish are caught mostly by anchored fishermen while free shrimping; jetties fishermen are catching sheephead, flounder, whiting and sandtrout; pier fishermen are catching good numbers of specks to 20 inches from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. on live shrimp and chartreuse lures with red tails; pier fishermen are catching whiting, sandtrout and a few small drum during the day; live bait shrimp plentiful; offshore fishing has been fairly slow.

PH 4/9/92