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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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RAYBURN SURVEY SHOWS BASS POPULATION GROWING

JASPER -- The 14-inch largemouth bass minimum length limit established just over a year ago is already paying dividends at Lake Sam Rayburn, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials.

The minimum length, along with a five-per-day bag limit, is in effect on most public reservoirs.

Biologist Paul Seidensticker said August cove rotenone surveys showed the standing crop of largemouths was 31.8 pounds per acre, compared to 19.8 pounds per acre found in the August 1986 survey.

Seidensticker said in the 1987 survey, 43 percent of bass collected were over 12 inches in length. In 1986, only 24 percent were over that length. Also, in 1987 about 16 percent were 14 inches and longer, compared to only nine percent in 1986.

Seidensticker believes the minimum length limit is an important factor in the increased bass density in the big East Texas lake. "The 14-inch

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minimum went into effect just when a strong year-class of bass in the 10-inch range was coming into the system," Seidensticker explained "The extra protection provided by the limit really helped these fish develop "

A creel survey conducted on the lake Sept 13 revealed that fishing is good, and that anglers are releasing many sub-legal sized bass Anglers in 27 boats were interviewed Seidensticker said the fishermen kept 31 bass that day, weighing 65 pounds They also released 31 additional bass over the 14-inch minimum length, along with 179 that were under 14 inches

"These data indicate that on that day, fishermen were catching an average of 10 bass per boat," Seidensticker said "That's pretty good fishing on anybody's lake "

Seidensticker said good numbers of school bass have been taken recently on topwater lures, but most of the larger fish have been caught on jigs and worms in hydrilla beds

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QUEEN ISABELLA FISHING
PIER LIGHTS TURNED ON

PORT ISABEL -- One of the most popular night fishing spots on the Lower Texas Coast is now back in operation

A new lighting system recently installed at the Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier on South Padre Island was activated last week, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials

The pier, which is a portion of the old causeway linking Port Isabel and South Padre Island, is operated by the department on a concession basis. It is open for fishing all the time, and a fee of \$1 plus tax per rod is charged, the concessionaire said.

Good catches of spotted seatrout over the 14-inch minimum length limit have been reported since the lights became operational. The lighting system is designed to illuminate the pier and also cast light on the water to attract fish, officials said.

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MOSS LAKE OFFERS PLENTY OF ANGLING VARIETY

GAINESVILLE -- Moss Lake near Gainesville is only 1,125 acres in size, but it offers more fishing variety than many larger reservoirs.

Biologist John Moczygemba said the lake, located just north of Gainesville, has been stocked with walleyes, smallmouth bass and Florida-strain largemouth bass. These fish supplement populations of native largemouth bass, white bass, white crappie and channel catfish.

Moczygemba said reports from the lake indicate walleyes up to five or six pounds have been caught. Walleyes were stocked in 1977, 1978 and 1979. Smallmouth bass in the four-pound-plus range were caught last spring, resulting from stockings in 1985-87.

Bass fishing has been good, and the lake appears to have large numbers

of 10- to 14-inch bass. Moczygemba said large numbers of bass in this size range were caught and released during a recent bass tournament. The largest bass weighed five pounds, 10 ounces. Moss Lake has the standard bag and length limits, including a limit of five black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted) in the aggregate. Largemouths must be 14 inches, but smallmouth and spotted bass over 10 inches long may be retained.

A net survey conducted in spring 1987 indicated there are plenty of channel catfish in Moss Lake. Moczygemba said more than 70 percent of the catfish collected were longer than 15 inches, and the heaviest weighed just under five and a half pounds.

To reach Moss Lake from Gainesville, take U.S. Highway 82 west to FM 1201 and go north nine miles. Facilities include two marinas, two boat ramps and a swimming beach.

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HYBRID STRIPER FISHING HOT
AT LAKE CALAVERAS

SAN ANTONIO -- Fishing for hybrid striped bass at Lake Calaveras during August was hot as the temperature, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials report.

Biologist Bob Zerr said a creel survey showed anglers caught 44 hybrids during the survey period, averaging 3 18 pounds.

Similar data have been collected by the San Antonio River Authority,

which reported 490 hybrid stripers averaging 3.08 pounds were caught during August

The hybrids are a hatchery-produced cross between striped bass and white bass. They are known for their fast growth rates, hardiness and fighting ability.

Lake Calaveras is located off U.S. Highway 181 and just southeast of Loop 410 in San Antonio. Hybrid stripers also are a popular sport fish at Lake Braunig, located off Interstate Highway 37 south of San Antonio. Both reservoirs are operated by the San Antonio River Authority, and access fees are charged.

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BIG BASS SETS NEW LAKE
STAMFORD RECORD

STAMFORD -- A largemouth bass weighing a fraction under 11 pounds was caught from Lake Stamford during August, according to biologist Roy Bamberg of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Although the department does not maintain lake records, Bamberg said the fish caught by Quin Harvey of Guthrie, Oklahoma, is the largest ever reported caught from the 4,600-acre Haskell County lake.

Bamberg said the fish probably was one of the Florida-strain bass stocked in the lake around 1977. "Although an 11-pound bass is larger than normal for bass in northwest Texas, several eight- to nine-pound bass are

reported each spring from lakes stocked with Florida largemouths," Bamberg said

Lake Stamford is located about 60 miles north of Abilene From Abilene, take U S Highway 277 north past Stamford and turn east on FM 618

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C C C COMPANY PLANS
REUNION IN STATE PARK

MOODY -- A reunion of the Civilian Conservation Corps Company 817 will be held Oct 3 at Mother Neff State Park

The reunion last year attracted 110 former CCC workers and their families The C C C constructed many of the facilities at the park during the Depression

Reunion activities are scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information call V. O. Morgan at (817) 753-8911, or the park at (817) 853-2389

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BATTLESHIP 'TEXAS' TO BE
TEMPORARILY CLOSED

HOUSTON -- The Battleship "Texas" will be closed to public visitation on weekdays until Oct 31 to allow crews to pump seawater and fuel oil from her hull The veteran warship, moored at San Jacinto State Historic Park

near Houston, will remain open as usual on weekends

Bill Dolman, director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Parks Division, said about 1 1/2 million gallons of oil and water must be pumped from the battleship into a fuel barge "The oil removal project is key to preparing the 'Texas' for towing to drydock," said Dolman

Dolman said the 24-hour-a-day pumping operation is the first industrial work taking place above decks and is a part of phase two of a five-phase restoration project Phase one, which was research, documentation and analysis, began in 1983 when the TPWD received management authority for the ship.

A group of neighboring Ship Channel area businesses have cooperated to rid the "Texas" of old fuel left in her tanks when she was towed to Houston in 1948 At that time, salt water also was pumped into the tanks to set the hull hard aground and stabilize it against movement

Participating industries include Shell Oil Co , Briggs-Weaver, Coastal Hydro Consultation Services, Garner Services Inc , Grace Equipment, Hollywood Barge & Towing, Industrial Air Tool and Ray-Wright Pumps Inc This group is donating consultation services, industrial equipment and barge and pumping services

Dolman said hooking up a fuel barge and pumping equipment to on-board equipment that is 40 to 60 years old is a challenge "It's taking cooperative engineering innovation from TPWD staff and the corporate volunteers to remove the oil and water from about 250 internal tanks and

spaces," Dolman said

Meanwhile, the "Save Battleship Texas" campaign is continuing to raise funds for restoration by collecting aluminum cans. To locate your nearest "Save the Battleship" recycling center, call toll-free 1-800-64 TEXAS between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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GOOD ANTELOPE HUNTING
SEASON EXPECTED BY TPWD

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will issue 2,419 pronghorn antelope hunting permits to landowners in West Texas and the Panhandle for the Oct. 3-11 season.

This represents a slight decrease from the 1986 permit issuance of 2,588. However, permits will be issued in six Panhandle counties where none were issued last year.

Favorable weather during the past two years created good habitat conditions over most of the state's antelope range. "Pronghorn populations have been up for three years, to the point that the range may not support that many animals if we have a dry year in 1988," said Ted Clark, antelope program leader. The antelope herd is estimated at approximately 26,000 statewide, Clark said, so the 1987 hunting season should be a good one.

The season bag limit is one antelope per hunter, with buck or doe

designated by the permit Last year, hunters harvested 827 pronghorns

Panhandle counties added to the issuance list this year are Carson, Deaf Smith, Hartley, Oldham, Potter and Roberts Increasing antelope populations in those counties allowed the issuance rate in the Panhandle to increase from 101 permits in 1986 to 246 in 1987 Panhandle counties that received permits in 1986 and will again in 1987 are Borden, Dallam, Garza, Kent and Lynn

Permits are issued to landowners after pronghorn population levels are determined by surveys conducted each summer

Clark said the number of permits to be issued in the Trans-Pecos region dropped from 1,936 in 1986 to 1,779 in 1987 However, this is the second highest number of permits issued in that region since 1962, and hunting should be excellent, he said Clark also noted that a similar decrease in the Lower Plains region resulted mainly from survey results on a large ranch where poor weather conditions were believed to have caused low population estimates

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AUSTIN Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for September 23, 1987

CENTRAL

BASTROP Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 pounds on purple and gold worms, Skipjacks good early; hybrid striper slow; crappie fair to 20 fish per string in 12-18 feet of water on minnows at night; catfish fair to 3 pounds on stinkbait and crickets

BELTON: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 3 pounds on minnows from 4 p.m. til dark; hybrid striper slow; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds with limits from 4:30-10 a.m. on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on summer sausage and stinkbaits.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 1 foot below spillway; black bass fair to 4 pounds on wide variety of worms and lures; striper slow; crappie excellent with limits on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow. Dove hunting good in the area; teal hunting slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 1/2 pounds on blue and yellow spinners; striper good to 11 pounds on chrome or silver cranks, fish schooling; crappie slow; white bass good to 55 per string on Tom's Minners; catfish good to 6 1/2 pounds on smelly baits. Dove hunting good; teal slow.

CANYON: Water clear, 82 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on motor oil worms in 5-15 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 7 pounds, several over 6 pounds on dark worms early and late, topwaters good midday; crappie good at night around trees on minnows and jigs; catfish good to 10 pounds on rod and reel and juglines baited with goldfish and shrimp.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, 5 inches low; black bass fair but mostly in slot and smaller on topwaters early and worms and deeper lures during afternoon; crappie fair; catfish fair.

LBJ: Water murky 84 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 3 pounds on chartreuse spinners; striper good to 8 pounds on black and silver Long As in 18-20 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass good with strings to 45 fish on blue and white L'il Georges; catfish good to 3 pounds on shrimp and live bait.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 5 feet low; black bass good to 6 pounds on yellow or green spinners; striper slow; crappie good on minnows to 40 fish per boat to 1 3/4 pounds; white bass slow; catfish good on trotline to 7 pounds on small minnows.

SOMERVILLE Water clear, normal level; black bass fair to 3 pounds on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie fair on jigs and minnows in 8-10 feet of water; white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on stinkbait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 83 degrees, 3 inches high; black bass good to 2 1/2 pounds with limits with firetailed purple worms; hybrid striper good near the bridge and dam spillway on slabs and minnows to 3 pounds; crappie good at night on jigs and minnows; catfish good to 4 pounds on shrimp.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 83 degrees, 4 feet below normal; black bass very good to 3 pounds all week on chrome topwaters and silver and white spinners, Fat Getzits good in deeper water; catfish fair to 4 pounds on live crawfish.

WHITNEY Water clear, 81 degrees, 2 1/3 feet low; black bass excellent to 6 pounds with numbers of limits around cliffs and rocky banks on cranks, topwaters, spinners, Rat-L-Traps, Hotspots, small Redfins; striper picking up some, cooler weather helping, on live bait and some topwaters around the island to about 18 pounds, mostly 4-10 pounds on slabs, live bait; crappie fair with limits to 2 pounds on minnows in trees and in brush, cedar tops; white bass good to 30 keepers around bluffs and bridges on jigs, spoons, Flea Flies; catfish good with strings to 6 pounds per fish on nightcrawlers, perch and home made baits. Yellow catfish good to 20 1/2 pounds on live bait.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS:

BRIDGEPORT: Water slightly, 80 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string to 1 pound on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CADDO: Water clearing, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on red metal flake worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass fair to 6 1/4 pounds on purple metal flake worms in 3-10 feet of water; hybrid striper fair and spotty; crappie good early on minnows in 18-22 feet of water around stump fields and bridge pilings; white bass fair surfacing late afternoon in shallow points in open water; catfish good on catalpa worms and night crawlers in 12 feet of water to 4 1/2 pounds.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 80 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on black worms at night and purple worms during the day; crappie good to 2 pounds on minnows with limits; catfish good on shrimp baited trotlines to 14 1/2 pounds.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 94 degrees, 3 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and worms; catfish fair on trotlines baited with shad; redfish slow.

FORK: Water clear, 79 degrees, 10 inches low; black bass good to 10 pounds on black backed chrome Rat-L-Traps, Pop Rs, June Bug worms, plum worms, black bluetailed worms; crappie excellent with limits to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish good to 22 3/4 pounds crappie jig and night crawlers.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass very good but mostly undersized on plastic worms and topwaters; striper slow; crappie very good during the day on jigs with limits, fishing slow at night; white bass real good on slabs while schooling; catfish good to 5 pounds on shrimp, stinkbait, hotdogs.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 5 pounds on worms, frogs and buzz baits, some schooling activity but most fish are small; hybrid striper and white bass fairly good to 3 1/2 pounds on white jigs and small white Roadrunners; crappie slow; white bass good to 3 1/2 pounds on white jigs; catfish slow.

LAVON: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass improving to 10 pounds, 5 ounces on spinners in shallow water; hybrid striper fair to 9 pounds on slab; crappie excellent with limits to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass very good to 30 fish per string on slabs; catfish excellent to 19 1/2 pounds on shrimp with rod and reel.

LEWISVILLE: Water slightly murky, 79 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good early in shallow water on spinners; hybrid striper spotty; white bass slow; crappie good with good sized stringers all over like; catfish good drifting shrimp in 18-22 feet of water.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good in the 1-3 pound range, big bass slow, on spinners and worms; striper slow; crappie good in good numbers on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 95 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 9 pounds 1 3/4 ounces on 8 inch black worms; crappie poor; catfish very good on Canadian Crawlers and shrimp to 10 pounds.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; crappie good to 12 fish per string on white jigs and minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on chicken liver, shrimp and night crawlers Dove hunting good west in Montague and Jack Counties.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 82 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass fair to good to 10 pounds, 5 ounces on grape worms and black worms in 8-12 feet of water, a good number of 3-6 pound bass caught this week on buzz baits and topwaters around lily pads; crappie slow, a few more keepers landed this week around FM 1971 bridge; channel catfish good on trotlines to 5 pounds on cut shad and nightcrawlers; yellow catfish good to 55 pounds on trotline with live perch, several 8-10 pound fish also. Bream fairly good on crickets and worms.

NACOGDOCHES: Water clear on lower end of lake, 79 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass fair early and late to 7 pound on worms; crappie slow; catfish slow.

PALESTINE Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass good to 5 3/4 pounds on plastic worms and an occasional topwater; striper good to 12 pounds on cranks with some schooling; white bass good with strings to 50 fish; crappie slow but improving slightly; catfish good to 18 pounds on rod and reel with catalpa worms and nightcrawlers.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 2 pounds on topwaters and jigs; striper fair to 6 pounds on slabs and topwaters, live bait; crappie good on live bait in 10-15 feet of water on minnows; white bass good to 30 fish per string; catfish fair to 3 pounds on cutbait and worms on rod and reel.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow to fair to 10 pounds, most fish in the 2 pound or less range, mostly caught in 8-12 feet of water on worms and some on cranks; hybrid striper slow; crappie slow; catfish excellent to 4 pounds.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds on black worms in 10 feet of water; striper schooling in shallow water, good to 7 pounds early and late on Fire and Ice and plum worms; crappie good to 20 fish per string in 14 feet of water on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow and small Fishing fairly good on weekend, slow during week.

LIVINGSTON Water clear, 80 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fairly good until front last Saturday, bass improving early this week to 4 1/2 pounds on dark worms; striper fair and scattered; crappie picking up to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass beginning to pick up, some boats pick up from 50 to 75 pounds up to 2 pounds each on slabs or trolling; catfish fairly good on trotline to 6 pounds average, a few big fish. Sunfish still good.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 75 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass fair to 6 pounds but fish unpredictable; striper slow; crappie good in submerged brush in 20 to 25 feet of water; white bass spotty off points and around tree lines; catfish fair to 5 pounds on trotlines and rod and reel. Fair numbers of teal bagged around the lake, not everyone getting limits.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 5 feet low; black bass fair to 6 pounds on strawberry worms, Tequila Sunrise worms; striper good near the dam to 17 pounds on Big Redfins; crappie fair but nothing plentiful; white bass slow; catfish fairly good.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 80 degrees, conservation level; black bass very good to 6 pounds and plentiful in the 3-4 pound range on red worms with white flirt; striper scattered but not plentiful, some on 2-ounce Sassy Shad up river; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish excellent on Bill Rogers' cheese in 45 to 65 feet of water to 3 pounds.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie real slow; catfish good to 4 pounds on shrimp, tilapia and shad; redfish good to 20 pounds with numbers from the bank on tilapia; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS Water murky, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 6 pounds on plastic worms and cranks; striper fair to 20 pounds on tilapia and silver spoons; crappie slow; catfish good to 10 pounds on chicken livers and tilapia; orange mouth corvina good to 8 pounds on tilapia and silver spoons.

CHOKO: Water clear, normal level; black bass picking up to 6 pounds on deep diving lures off points, with some limits; striper slow; crappie good in 18 feet of water on minnows; white bass slow; catfish excellent on trotline to 31 pounds with live perch. on rod and reel with Roger's Cheese. Teal hunting fairly good over weekend, numbers of birds increasing.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good at night around 1 pound or less on minnows; white bass slow; catfish good to 3 pounds on shrimp and bloodbait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 4 pounds over weekend on worms; all other fishing slow.
FALCON Water clear, conservation level; black bass fair on worms to 3 1/2 pounds in 5-12 feet of water; striper good around dam and state park area on Blakemore Knocker spoons; crappie slow; white bass plentiful up the river, around the park; catfish real good in 7-20 feet of water on frozen shrimp.
MEDINA: Water clear, 84 degrees, lake full; black bass good to 16 inches, no limits, on dark plastic worms; striper slow; crappie good mostly at night on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair but small on stinkbait.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water clearing, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass fair to 3 pounds in 6 feet of water; striper good in the 2-3 pound range trolling silver spoons and lures; crappie good in 15-18 feet of water on medium minnows; white bass fair trolling silver spoons and Shysters; catfish good drifting on Ghost Minnows and shrimp to 4 pounds. Teal and dove hunting slow.
GRANBURY: Water clear, 70-degrees, normal level; black bass good to 5 pounds on deep diving cranks; striper slow; crappie good to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass good late on slabs and Hot Spots; catfish good to 8 pounds on Mr. Catfish.
GREENBELT: Lake clear, creeks murky, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 8 1/2 pounds, normally 2-3 pound average, on plastic worms; crappie real good on minnows with limits; white bass slow; catfish good.
HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass good in numbers but small in size on motoroil worms, topwaters, buzz baits; hybrid striper good; white bass excellent to 30 fish per string on slabs; crappie real good on minnows with some limits; catfish good to 51 pounds on trotline baited with a perch.
MCKENZIE: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; smallmouth bass fairly good to 3 pounds average; largemouth bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish good to 7 1/2 on trotline baited with perch.
MEREDITH Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds on live minnows; crappie good to 12 inches with some limits on minnows; white bass good to 20 fish per string to 2 pounds on slabs and minnows; catfish good to 48 pounds on trotline with live bait; catfish good to 18 pounds on rod and reel and on trotline with live bait.
POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 76 degrees, 13 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 4 pounds on clear topwaters; striper slow; crappie good in the crappie houses and in the brush; white bass good on slabs; catfish good to 5 pounds on rod and reel.
SPENCE Water clear, 78 degrees, 18 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 2 pounds on worms and lunger lures; striper fair to 12 pounds on topwaters and slabs; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 3 pounds on shrimp and nightcrawlers.
TWIN BUTTES Water fairly clear, 5 feet low; black bass beginning to hit to 13 1/2 inches with a few keepers on plastic worms; hybrid striper slow; crappie picking up to 1 1/2 pounds in 20 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish good with good strings to 5 pounds on shad and goldfish.
WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 76 degrees, lake full; black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds on cranks; crappie real good on minnows; catfish good to 7 pounds on large minnows and nightcrawlers at night.

COASTAL

SABINE LAKE Redfish fairly good in the marsh and the lake to about 7 pounds but fish unpredictable on dead shrimp; trout fairly good with some limits, a good number of smaller trout; sandtrout fairly good; drum fairly good to 6 pounds, averaging 3-4 pounds on small crabs some flounder, no run yet; golden croaker fairly good; gafftops fairly good to 3 pounds; live bait plentiful. Teal hunting good first weekend, some hunters say best in years.
GALVESTON: Good numbers of big redfish along the beach front, piers and the end of the jetties; 1 fish to 46 inches, most all oversized; good numbers of gafftops to 6 pounds along the beach

front; bay fishing slow due to rough water; good numbers of sandtrout to 40 fish per fisherman; a few flounder to 2 pounds; offshore fishing slow due to rough weather; not many fishermen; live bait shrimp available; fishing should improve as soon as the weather cools more.

PALACIOS: Good catches of redfish from 18-29 inches from grassy shorelines especially along Grassy Point in Palacios Bay to the Carancahua River on live and dead shrimp, gold spoons and white flash yellow rigs; good numbers of specks but about half undersized most in slicks and under birds on shrimp and artificials; large specks to 5 pounds caught at the wells in Matagorda Bay and in turning basins since cooler weather arrived early Monday. Flounder plentiful in bays due to great amount of small shrimp and mullet in shallow bays; flounder catches good to 3 pounds on tackle and gig. A few golden croaker to 3/4-pound on shrimp. Fair catches of sandtrout to near 1 pound. Live bait shrimp are available at \$8 per quart. Good numbers of teal, few hunters fail to limit out in rice fields and in marshes. Dove hunting good with good populations, best opening in years. Good numbers of black ducks, fulvous tree ducks, spoonbills and pintails.

ROCKPORT: Cedar Bayou open again and flowing; the area producing trout just above keeper size on shrimp. East Flats producing good sized redfish between 25 and 30 inches; fish caught between thunderstorms; white and strawberry touts producing trout in Copano Bay. Live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish very good until Tuesday when winds came up, fish from 22-27 inches before front; mild north winds midweek; bays choppy since Saturday, very little trout fishing; offshore producing snapper to 5 pounds in fairly good numbers; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50. Horace Caldwell Pier producing redfish to 50 pounds, about 15 fish too large to keep; some trout to 5 pounds; some Spanish mackerel and blue runners; a couple of drum to 2 pounds.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of big redfish, some over 30 inches, from Corpus Christi Bay to the Landcut and Baffin Bay; specks good in number but not many keepers on live shrimp and artificials; a few golden croaker around Humble Channel, no run yet; a few flounder along Intracoastal, mostly small; live bait shrimp scarce in the afternoon, but generally available early. Oso Pier fishing slow midweek, weather cool, mild north winds. Bob Hall Pier producing redfish to 48 inches, 90 redfish caught last Sunday afternoon and 10 were oversized; 20-25 redfish per day with about 7 of these over 30 inches; 10 kingfish this week; trout good when water calm; a few flounder, bluefish, Spanish mackerel; a 6 1/2 foot hammerhead shark last Friday; 4 or 5 blacktip sharks everyday; 3 tarpon to 4 1/2 feet this week, a total of 21 tarpon this year; some live bait shrimp available at the Intracoastal.

PORT MANSFIELD: Heavy rains, up to 4 inches, slowed fishing Tuesday, weather clearing midweek; redfish have been good in size and number, many oversized fish; trout fishing slow; flounder slow; no croaker; no offshore parties; no live bait shrimp.

PORT ISABEL: Some rains over weekend, rains all day Tuesday; weather fair midweek, fishing should improve; some trout to 4 pounds south of Three Islands in Gaswell Flats; not many fishermen out right now; some kingfish offshore when boats can get out; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PH 9/23/87