

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## STATE BORDER MARKED FOR CADDO ANGLERS

TYLER--With changes in Louisiana bass fishing regulations taking effect June 20, representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries recently erected state line markers delineating the Texas-Louisiana border on Caddo Lake in northeast Texas.

The border markers, provided by the Texas Department of Transportation, will give anglers an accurate indication of their location with regard to fishing in Texas or Louisiana. The markers were prompted, in part, by a change in Louisiana's bag and size limits on largemouth bass.

In recent years, the neighboring states have worked toward adopting similar fishing regulations to avoid confusion and to assist law enforcement on Caddo Lake and Toledo Bend Reservoir. As of June 20, however, Louisiana has adopted a 14-inch to 17-inch slot limit for bass on Caddo Lake and a 10 fish daily bag limit, with no more than four bass longer than 17 inches, including spotted bass.

Texas currently has a 14-inch minimum length and an eight fish daily bag limit (in the aggregate) on Caddo, which means a legal bass in Texas could fall into the slot in Louisiana. Conversely, a keeper bass in Louisiana (below the slot) would fall under

the Texas minimum. The situation could become more confusing Sept. 1 when a three-per-day, 14-inch to 18-inch slot limit goes into effect on the Texas side, with a 12-inch minimum on spotted bass.

In order to simplify the situation somewhat, Caddo Lake anglers may fish in Louisiana waters and possess up to 10 bass under 14 inches. However, upon returning to Texas, anglers may not continue to fish that day.

In addition to bass, TPWD regulations for crappie and white bass on the lake will differ from Louisiana as of Sept. 1 with a 10-inch minimum length limit and 25 fish daily bag limit on both species in Texas. Currently, Louisiana has no minimum size and a 50 fish daily bag limit on crappie and white bass. Also as of June 20, Louisiana has adopted a closed season during certain times of the year on bowfin while Texas does not regulate bowfin.

"Our objective has been and always will be to manage Texas fisheries to maximize fishing opportunities for Texas anglers," said Phil Durocher, TPWD's director of inland fisheries. "We've worked with Louisiana to try and maintain compatible regulations when feasible. However, over the years, considerable differences in fishing regulations have evolved.

"With our slot limit we expect to see some quick changes in the fish structure at Caddo," he said. "We're seeing some big fish coming out of there and the anglers on Caddo are practicing catch and release. The people up there are interested in preserving the resource and that was evident in the number of fish donated to the Share a Lunker program last year."

Because of a cooperative management agreement between TPWD and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, black bass and crappie harvest regulations have been uniform throughout Caddo Lake. Statewide harvest regulations for other common game fish differ in length and bag limits while sunfish and pickerel harvest are unregulated by both states (Table 1).

Table 1. Existing game fish harvest regulations by state at Caddo Lake.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TEXAS</u>	<u>LOUISIANA</u>
Largemouth and spotted bass	14-inch minimum length 8 fish daily bag	14-inch minimum length 8 fish daily bag

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TEXAS</u>	<u>LOUISIANA</u>
(Note: On Sept. 1, Texas law calls for a 14- to 18-inch slot, three fish daily bag. On June 20, Louisiana began with a 14- to 17-inch slot, 10 fish daily bag.)		
Black/white crappie	No minimum, 50 per day	No minimum, 50 per day
(Note: On Sept. 1, Texas law calls for a 10-inch minimum length, 25 fish daily bag.)		
White bass	10-inch minimum, 25 fish bag	No minimum, 50 per day
Yellow bass	No length or bag limit	No minimum, 50 per day
Channel/blue catfish	9-inch minimum 25 per day	12-inch minimum 25 daily* under 12 inches
Flathead catfish	18-inch minimum 5 per day	14-inch minimum 25 daily* under 14 inches
(Note: On Sept. 1, Texas law calls for a 24-inch minimum length limit.)		
Pickereel	No length or bag limit	No length or bag limit
<u>Sunfish</u>	<u>No length or bag limit</u>	<u>No length or bag limit</u>

\* There is no bag limit on fish exceeding the minimum length limit.

The regulation of fishing devices also varies between Texas and Louisiana. Under existing Texas regulations, game fish other than catfish may only be taken with pole and line in Caddo Lake. Catfish also may be harvested using trotlines, jugs and throwlines which conform to special restrictions. While gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines are prohibited under Louisiana regulations in Caddo Lake, other methods of taking fish are legal for all species of fish (Table 2).

Table 2. Existing device and method of regulations by state at Caddo Lake.

<u>MEANS/METHODS</u>	<u>TEXAS</u>	<u>LOUISIANA</u>
Pole and line	All fish	All fish

<u>MEANS/METHODS</u>	<u>TEXAS</u>	<u>LOUISIANA</u>
Trotline, jug and throwline	100 hook limit, catfish and nongame fish only	No hook limit or species restrictions
Nets/traps	All devices prohibited.	Gill/trammel nets prohibited, hoop nets and traps permitted
Yo-yos	Illegal	Legal
Bow and arrow	Nongame fish only	All fish
Spear gun	Nongame fish only	All fish

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### **RANCH TO TEACH OUTDOORS TO YOUTH**

AUSTIN--Troubled and underprivileged children from across the state now will have a better chance to learn all aspects of the outdoors at a Central Texas ranch through a cooperative agreement between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and three other groups.

TPWD is leasing the 4,400-acre Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen in Bell County from the Texas Youth Commission. The Texas Game Warden Association is under contract with Parks and Wildlife to operate the ranch. The Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas Inc. will raise money for operation of the camps and help develop a master plan for the camp.

Paperwork for the agreement only recently has been completed, allowing for only two summer camps in 1993. The first camp is scheduled for July 11. Thirty-two youths from 12-16 years old from the Comanche, Brady and Kerrville areas will spend a week on the ranch learning about the outdoors.

"We'll teach them fishing, canoeing, the basic hunter safety course, water safety, basic shotgunning, game management, plant and game identification, fishing

techniques and camping," said Alton Anderson, president of TGWA and a 24-year game warden stationed in Brazoria County.

"The Parrie Haynes family left the property to the orphans of the state of Texas in the late 1950s. The courts gave the property to the Texas Youth Commission. With the programs we have and the children we entertain the property is more useful to us," he said.

The 4,400-acre property includes six stock tanks, a couple of miles of frontage on the Lampasas River and two camping areas. TGWA volunteers hope to have two more camping areas eventually.

Anderson said TGWA hopes to entertain as many as 1,500 youths during the summers and many more during the school year. A lodge on the property sleeps 36. Camps are scheduled to last five days, although some may be for three days. Next summer's schedule is booked with 10 camps. However, during the school year, field trips can be scheduled during the day or on weekends for people within about 100 miles of the ranch.

"This facility is like what we've been trying to get for about 10 years. This is almost beyond belief, he said. "We're trying to show these youngsters there are alternatives with their spare time. We've got to get to them as kids."

"This is a great example of a partnership between the department, TGWA and the Foundation," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "This is a step to insure that future generations will know the value and beauty of the outdoors and its wildlife."

TGWA is a 6,000-member charitable conservation organization.

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## **DRAFT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS PARK**

AUSTIN--Acquiring the Castner Ranger, adding employees, improving existing facilities and opening a new visitor center highlight a draft management plan for Franklin Mountains State Park, which is now available for public comment.

Comments on these and other recommendations for the park will be taken from July 1 through Sept. 1, said Jim Carrico, project manager at the Texas Parks and

Wildlife Department. "We want constructive criticism on how to improve the plan. After we receive public input, we hope to have an approved plan ready by late fall."

The objective of the department is to manage the 23,744-acre park in El Paso in a way that will preserve its natural and cultural resources and at the same time make it available for public use.

Legislation creating the park in 1979 allows the addition of the Castner Range to the state park, but the issue of how to remove unexploded ordinance on this former Army firing range must first be resolved. The plan recommends adding the Castner Range in order to provide additional public access, to protect the resources and to preserve its scenic values.

Another concern mentioned in the plan is that only three people work at the park, Carrico said. "We need to address staff and operational concerns. There is a growing urban population out here. The staff levels are not adequate for protecting park resources or providing the kinds of visitor services needed.

The department proposes to manage the three El Paso facilities - Franklin Mountains, Hueco Tanks and Magoffin Home - with one administrative manager for efficiency and cost savings. Volunteers will be actively recruited to help with a variety of tasks from trail maintenance to clerical assistance to guided tours.

Another important aspect of the plan is improvements at McKelligon Canyon, a county-owned park that is operated by the city. "We've got an opportunity to work cooperatively with the City of El Paso in McKelligon Canyon," Carrico said. "We will develop the trails so the public can get to the mountains from there."

Recreation and public use access will be improved at Tom Mays and McKelligon Canyon and additional access is planned for Hitt Canyon and the Tin Mine area. Hiking areas in all areas will be improved and identified and designations of certain areas and trails will be made for equestrian use and mountain biking. The plan calls for eight trails covering 125 miles, 52 miles for hiking and climbing, 51 miles for hiking and biking and 22 miles for hiking, biking and equestrian.

Carrico said a key goal of the agency is to fix up the existing infrastructure of the park, such as the Tom Mays unit and the current network of trails. Another important agency goal is to develop a first class visitor center. The proposed management plan calls for negotiations with the City of El Paso so the department can either open a new visitor center or establish joint operation with the city of its existing Wilderness Park Museum on the Trans-Mountain Road.

The proposed management plan is expected to commit \$2 million to \$3 million in department funding to provide public use and support facilities. An additional expenditure by the Texas Department of Transportation for roads and parking is expected to bring the overall expenditure to \$4 million to \$6 million in funding over the next six years.

After public comments on the draft plan are received, the department will analyze the comments and incorporate them into the final plan, which should be approved by late fall.

Send all comments and requests for the plan by Sept. 1 to Carolina Ramos, Park Manager, Franklin Mountains State Park, Box 200, Canutillo, Texas 79835-9998, or call (915) 544-7184.

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### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT HEARINGS SET FOR JULY 6**

AUSTIN--Representatives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been asked to provide testimony at an upcoming hearing on the Endangered Species Act by Congressman Gerry Studds, Chairman of both the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and its Subcommittee on Environment and Natural Resources.

The subcommittee will conduct field hearings in both San Antonio and San Marcos on July 6. Subcommittee members are seeking public comments as congress considers reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

The hearing in San Marcos will be held from 9-11 a.m. in the Teaching Theater of Albert B. Alkek Library at Southwest Texas State University. In the afternoon, the subcommittee will move to San Antonio, where a hearing will be held from 1-3 p.m. at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center on South Alamo at East Market Street.

The purpose of the hearings is to review testimony on the implementation of the Endangered Species Act as it applies to species like the fountain darter, Texas blind salamander, San Marcos gambusia, San Marcos salamander and Texas wildrice. In particular, subcommittee members are interested in input on how the ESA affects the withdrawal of water from the Edwards Aquifer.

The pending reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act is one of the most hotly debated issues now facing congress. On one side of the issue, economic

interests express concerns for declining property values and private property rights. On the other side, environmental interests emphasize the need for stewardship and protecting our natural resources for future generations.

Opponents of the current ESA contend that by its application it restricts the rights of private landowners, agricultural producers, local departments of transportation and others to develop land where endangered species are found.

Some supporters of the ESA believe that funding to implement the current law is not sufficient to protect species before their populations become so depleted that they are not recoverable. They contend rare species should be protected before their population levels reach the critical level of endangerment.

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### **TEACHERS HIRED FOR SUMMER TO DO WILDLIFE SCIENCE**

AUSTIN--Four Texas schoolteachers, two from Austin and two from the Dallas area, have been hired for the summer to work with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists, educators and civil engineers. The teachers, most of whom teach science, will return to their classrooms with real-world insight.

Last year, the first year TPWD participated in the Texas Teacher Intern Program, the department hired two teachers part-time for six weeks. This year the department hired four teachers full-time for eight weeks.

"We pay them to do a job for us, they increase their expertise and take our message of conservation back to their classrooms," said Bob Murphy, TPWD resource protection biologist. "It's the most effective way to reach the youth of today; we hope they'll inspire youngsters to come work for us later, or at least to just go out and appreciate the out-of-doors."

The TPWD internships are part of a statewide program coordinated by the Texas Alliance for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education, a statewide consortium of leaders in science, industry, education and government. Teachers involved serve summer internships alongside practicing scientists to gain real-world experience in practical applications of the subjects they are teaching.

Susan Haskew, a Denton High School biology teacher, is working with Murphy to put together hands-on educational activities for Texas Wildlife Expo '93, a two-day



outdoor fair to be held at TPWD's Austin headquarters Oct. 2-3. Haskew is gathering information from endangered species biologists and providing it to TPWD Graphics Director Pris Martin to design black and white hats that schoolchildren will color with felt markers. The hats will look like rare or endangered species such as the ocelot, Kemp's ridley sea turtle and Barton Springs salamander.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for teachers to get to work with the people in various scientific fields where students will be going to get jobs," said Haskew. "Teachers like myself get to learn content that's highly specific to a particular subject, and at the same time provide input from the viewpoint of a classroom teacher on how we can best communicate this information to students."

Haskew is also helping to make arrangements for a series of aquaria to show kids examples of healthy and unhealthy aquatic communities. They'll use these to teach the kids to evaluate water quality based on the types of insects found in each aquarium. "We're thinking about giving each child a button that says 'I was a bug-picker at Expo,' or something similar," said Murphy.

Bill Glover, an Austin High School science teacher, is working with TPWD Biologist Mary Candee to develop a volunteer network to monitor rare species before they become listed as threatened or endangered. Since he started, Glover has learned to identify rare plants in South Texas and monitor the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker in East Texas. In early July, he'll be monitoring endangered Texas wildrice in San Marcos.

Once Glover learns through hands-on experience, he'll help design a program to teach these skills to others. Ultimately, he and Candee envision a volunteer program where public school and university students, local conservation groups and others will help keep state and federal scientists updated on the status of rare species.

Judy LeMoyne, a science teacher with O'Henry Junior High School in Austin, is working with TPWD Project WILD Coordinator Ilo Hiller. She is helping to produce education modules geared specifically for Texas schoolchildren based on materials from Project WILD, a national program that teaches teachers to teach wildlife and environmental science. Once created, TPWD will put the new modules onto the TENET computer network so they can be accessed by teachers and students statewide.

Richie Champion, a computer mathematics teacher from Naaman Forest High School in Garland, is working with TPWD civil engineer Joe Hall to help streamline

computer software systems in the department's Construction, Design and Management Branch.

Champion will be working to improve the way information is put into computers, the way this information is stored in spreadsheets, and the way these spreadsheets communicate with each other. This will help project managers plan and keep track of large, long-range projects like the design of new state parks. An Australian citizen, Champion married a Texan and now lives in Dallas.

Cost estimate for this 1993 TPWD internship program is \$24,600. A portion of this amount will be reimbursed through the Section 6 cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

For more information, contact Murphy at 512/389-4360.

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## LAKE JACKSONVILLE TO GET DOSE OF VITAMINS

TYLER--In an effort to revitalize a bass fishery once touted as one of the "best bets" for a trophy largemouth in the state, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, with cooperation from the City of Jacksonville, is implementing a fertilization program on 1,500-acre Lake Jacksonville in East Texas.

During the early and mid-1980s, Lake Jacksonville enjoyed a lofty status with the likes of lakes Fork, Monticello and Murvaul as a producer of lunker-sized largemouth bass. However, an absence of nutrients in the lake have resulted in what fisheries biologists categorize as a stunted bass population.

"We've always had success managing fish populations," said Richard Ott, TPWD inland fisheries biologist from Tyler. "Now, we're learning how best to manage the habitat and that's a little tougher."

Ott said the decision to go with a fertilization program was based on the department's findings during recent research and data collection efforts. "It's taking these bass a year to a year-and-a-half longer to reach the 14-inch minimum than those on similar lakes in the area and it's because they've exceeded the available forage base."

The introduction of fertilization to regenerate forage supplies is nothing new on smaller bodies of water, such as farm ponds. However, considering the size of Lake Jacksonville, Ott sees this effort as a unique undertaking which could spell rebirth for other lakes with similar problems.

"We selected two arms on the lake - about 300 acres - to implement a three-staged fertilization project," he said. "We went to the City of Jacksonville with the plan and they agreed to purchase the fertilizer and the department would provide the expertise and apply it.

"We anticipate seeing direct results from the project by this fall and hopefully can turn this fishery around. Because fish populations are so dynamic, changes in management can often be measured soon after implementation," Ott said. "In terms of the forage population at Lake Jacksonville, anything that can be done to increase a year class of fish will strengthen the fishery."

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### **CEDAR CREEK TESTING GROUND FOR NEW HABITAT**

TYLER--When the harsh winter freeze of 1983 hit Cedar Creek Reservoir southeast of Dallas, it took with it most of the fish habitat on the 37,500-acre impoundment - milfoil. The result, not unexpectedly, has been a steady decline in fish populations since.

"We've seen only a minor regrowth of some native vegetation since the winter of 1983," said Richard Ott, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department inland fisheries biologist in Tyler.

In an experimental cooperative effort between the department and the local Cedar Creek Bass Club, a new and potentially better plant is being produced. Under technical guidance from TPWD professionals, the local anglers purchased about 1,000 sprigs of wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*), planted them in small peat pots with a nail attached for weight and grew them to a suitable size for planting in the lake. State law requires a permit must be obtained before any new plant may be introduced into Texas waters.

Water celery is fairly common in northern states and Canada, but can be found in Texas, most notably along the San Marcos River. It also is referred to as ribbon

grass, eelgrass or tapegrass and is one of the standard ornamental plants of the aquarium trade.

"Water celery is extremely good fish cover and is an excellent food source for waterfowl," Ott said. "It offers an additional benefit because, unlike milfoil or hydrilla, it is a soft plant that should not be a problem for boaters. If this takes on, we hope to encourage others, such as marina operators, to use it elsewhere."

Water celery also acts as a filtration device which could help clarify murky, or turbid, water conditions.

"This is the first time we've attempted habitat improvement of this type and we hope to see results by this fall," he said.

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## **TWO SALTWATER FISH RECORDS SET**

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has certified two saltwater fish as new state records, a guitarfish and a blue runner, both caught in the Gulf of Mexico.

Robert Pope of La Feria caught a 3.92-pound guitarfish May 14 in the South Padre Island surf about five miles north of Port Isabel. The fish measured 31 inches long. There was no previous record for guitarfish.

A 8.5-pound blue runner was caught June 2 in the Gulf by Kenneth Dorris Jr. of Abilene. The fish was 27.96 inches long. There was no previous record for blue runner

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## **BOATERS: LEAVE ALCOHOL AT HOME ON JULY FOURTH**

AUSTIN--A day on a boat with the sun shining, a breeze blowing and the boat gently rocking in the water sounds like pure relaxation. Add a few alcoholic drinks to the scene, though, and this ideal Fourth of July celebration can come crashing down in a hurry.

A few hours of small boat operation can be more stressful than the same amount of time spent driving on the highway.

Dexter Harris, boating law administrator for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said studies have shown that exposure to the sun, wind, engine noise, vibration and constant motion can slow reaction time significantly. Boat operators tested on specially designed courses have shown a decreasing ability to deal with obstacles and to control their vessels in tight maneuvering situations as the day progressed.

"Consuming alcoholic beverages while boating can make the situation worse," he said. "Peripheral vision is reduced and hearing is made less acute. Many boat operators who've been drinking don't feel the effects, so they feel fine until they hit the dock - or something else."

Boating accidents and overall water fatalities during the Memorial Day holiday weekend decreased from previous years, Harris said.

The seven boating accidents was the lowest number of Memorial Day weekend accidents in the past five years. The highest was 16 with six water fatalities in 1988. The average is 12 accidents with four fatalities. The seven total water fatalities this year was the lowest the past five years, too. The highest was 18 in 1989; the average is 12.

Game Wardens also handed out 24 boating while intoxicated tickets during the 1993 Memorial Day weekend. Only nine were given during the 1992 holiday.

Harris encourages holiday boaters not to become another statistic. "Make sure you take a break and deal with the fatigue from exposure to the environment for extended periods. The boat operator should refrain from drinking while operating a boat. Boating while intoxicated is illegal in Texas and can be deadly for a Fourth of July holiday."

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

#### CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 89 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to good to 7 pounds, this fish was caught by a 7-year-old Eric Faglie of Neiderwald; crappie are fair at night on live minnows; catfish are fairly good to 4 pounds on red wigglers and Lewis King's punch bait.

BELTON: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 6 pounds, 5 ounces on spinners and Carolina rigged worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows and fleafly; white bass are fair in number on jigging spoons and slabs; catfish are good to 7 pounds on worms and minnows; yellow catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 74 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair in the 2-3 pound range on topwaters; striper are fair to 4 pounds on silver spoons; crappie are good with strings to 9 keepers on minnows and jigs; white bass are good on silver spoons under lights at night; catfish are fair to 6 pounds with some channels caught on rod and reel and some on trotline.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds, 12 ounces on chartreuse Ringworms; striper are fair to 9 pounds on live shad; crappie are slow; white bass are good near the island on slabs and spoons around underwater points and ridges in 10-20 feet of water; catfish are slow.

CANYON: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair in number in the lake above the dam; white bass are slow; crappie are good on points and around dead trees in Toms Cove and around Crane's Mill Pier on minnows; channel catfish are good to 6 pounds on shrimp and worms; yellow catfish are good to 22 pounds on rod and reel with live minnows, other in the 4-5 pound range caught on live bait.

PAYETTE: Water clear, 87 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on Bass Assassins and topwaters worked shallow, some schooling in the afternoon and fish are caught on Rattle Traps and live carp; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 18 pounds on rod and reel with live carp.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 11 pounds, 10 ounces in a weekend tournament; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 5 pounds on worms, shrimp and stinkbait.

LBJ: Water clear, 80 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 4 pounds, 11 ounces on a red Mr. Whiffle; striper are slow, some fish caught up the Colorado Arm; crappie are slow; white bass are good around the dam, back to Light House Point, fishermen should watch for schools on top; catfish are good in baited holes with worms and shrimp.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 5 pounds on Bulldog Spinners and Jawtec Wacky Craws early, Lunker Lures are good later in the day; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in

midlake with schooling during mid afternoon on slabs and Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 12 pounds on live perch baited trotlines.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water clear but green, 88 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair in deep water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky, 4 1/2 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs at the marina; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on shrimp, liver, minnows and worms near marinas.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good in the 4 pound range on spinners and plastic worms in shallow to 10 feet of water; smallmouth bass are good in the 5 pound range on the same baits in the same area; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in the 3 1/2 pounds range in 3 1/2 feet of water on cranks; catfish are fairly good in number in 5 feet of water on stinkbait; minnows and crawfish.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 81 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on chrome topwaters, salt and pepper Ringworms and firecracker grubs; Guadalupe bass are fair to 14 inches on the same baits; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow, little surfacing activity; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on cut bait.

WACO: Water off color, 83 degrees, 12 inches high; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners and jigs; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on small jigs and slabs; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on trotlines with live perch.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 84 degrees, 6 feet above normal level; black bass are slow to 5 pounds; striper are slow to 12 pounds in river channels; blue catfish are slow to 18 pounds.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 10 pounds on Centipedes and topwaters; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 70 degrees; normal level; black bass are good through 9 pounds on topwaters, small French Fries and Centipedes; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are fair to slow; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on live bream and bloodbait; bream are excellent to hand sized in the heat of the day on worms and crickets.

BRIDGEPORT: Water murky, 85 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass are good in number on Power Worms and white and chartreuse spinners; crappie are fair in number on jigs and minnows; catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water clear in lake, murky near river channel, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds in the muddy river with a jig; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds in the Big Green Breaks on minnows; white bass are schooling near Big Green Brakes and are caught on slabs, spoons, PopRs and blue and silver Chuggers; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on goldfish.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 1/4 pounds early and

late on Bloodline worms; crappie are fairly good around brush piles in 16 feet of water on white jigs and minnows; catfish are beginning to move in 4-15 feet of water and are caught on worms, large minnows, shrimp.

FORK: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on watermelon Centipedes; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 26.52 pounds on rod and reel.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 80 degrees, slightly above normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/4 pounds on 6-inch watermelon worms Carolina rigged in 10 feet of water near dropoffs; crappie are fair on minnows around boat houses, most are small and most caught after dark in 15-20 feet of water; white bass are fair on PopRs and Tiny Torpedoes early and on 1-ounce black and chrome and black Critter Gitters later in the day around humps in 25 feet of water; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on shrimp and liver on the north side in 20 feet of water.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 83 degrees, 8 inches high; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on Slug-Gos, buzz baits and dark worms; crappie are fair on minnows in 20-foot of water along the timberlines; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on cranks; catfish are fairly good to 8 pounds on minnows and nightcrawlers.

LAVON: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds on worms; crappie are fairly good around trees, stumps and around brush piles in deep waters and are caught on minnows and jigs in 18-20 feet of water; white bass are very good with some limits while schooling north of the islands; catfish are good to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with live shad or frozen shad; bream are very good.

LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 79 degrees, 1 foot high and dropping; black bass are good to 3 pounds on Fishsticks, 4 inch Power Worms and buzz baits; crappie are good to very good in 8-10 feet of water in the willows on minnows; white bass and hybrid striper are beginning to hit to 15 fish per string to 2 pounds on slabs, spoons and PopRs when surfacing; catfish are good in the 4-5 pound range near the old dam on shrimp.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 93 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on 8-inch black neon lizards; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 8 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 8 fish per sting on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are picking up to 5 pounds on homemade baits and shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water murky, 6 inches high; black bass are picking up to 6 pounds, 6 ounces on buzz baits and spinners, a good number of smaller bass caught also; crappie are fair in different coves and boat houses on small minnows; catfish are fairly good in the 3-4 pound range on trotlines baited with cut shad; a 45-pound yellow catfish caught on trotline baited with live bream.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on worms and topwaters; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on jigs and minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on catalpa worms, shrimp and blood bait.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 11.38 pounds on a wide variety of baits; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds late on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 12 pounds on bloodbait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; white bass are good on Allison Spinners and jigs; crappie are good in deep water on minnows; catfish are fairly good in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range on catfish bait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 72-77 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on pumpkins seed lizards with chartreuse tails and Carolina rigged French Fries; crappie are good around brush piles on minnows; white bass are good around state park before 8 a.m.; catfish are good to 30 pounds below the dam, some caught in the shallows after dark on stinkbait, shad and perch.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on worms and cranks; crappie are good though 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good on slabs and spoons in 25 feet of water; catfish are good to 38 pounds on trotlines baited with shad in the creek beds.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 80 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on worms and cranks; striper are fair to 14 pounds on shad and slabs; crappie are poor; white bass are fair in number on slabs and Pet Spoons; catfish are excellent to 16 pounds on cut bait and catalpa worms.

TEXOMA: Water off color, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 4.65 pounds on worms, pig and jig combinations and spinners; striper are good to 15 pounds on live baits, topwaters, Sassy Shad and trolling; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs; white bass are good to 3 pounds on Sassy Shad, Rattle Traps and L'il Georges; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on shrimp, cut bait and worms.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks, white buzz baits, spinners and pig and jig combinations; crappie are slow to fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs in the stumps and brush piles, in the creeks and along the edge of the river; white bass are fair to good to 1 3/4 pounds on main lake and below the dam on Rattle Traps, L'il Georges and Roostertails; catfish are fair to 15 pounds drifting and on trotlines with live shad, perch, catalpa worms and stinkbait; bream are fair to good on crickets and red wigglers.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 18 inches high; black bass are fair to good to 7.17 pounds early on worms; crappie are falling off some on minnows; catfish are good to less than 2 pounds, many small fish, on cheese flavored bait, catfish are moving because of fresh water; bream are fantastic and are caught on worms and shrimp pieces with small hooks; larger sunfish are hanging around rocks.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; 18 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds, 12 ounces on June Bug Ringworms along the shoreline in 3 feet of water; crappie are good with limits at Golden Acres on minnows in 14 feet of water; white bass are fair to

10 fish per string in the creek channels; blue catfish are good to 54 pounds on trotlines baited with perch between the islands; yellow catfish are good to 27 pounds on trotline with live bait in the same area.

LIVINGSTON: Water off color with clear areas, 78 degrees, 1 1/2 feet above normal level and dropping; black bass are spotty to 6 pounds on spinners, buzz baits and worms; striper are good in 12-18 pound range at night with minnows and trolling Depth Sticks; crappie are good but most are smaller than normal on minnows; white bass are very good with several limits caught on slabs with yellow trailers and minnows at night; catfish are good with great numbers of smaller fish.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 15-20 feet of water near brush piles or baited holes; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good on live bait and worms.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow, some caught on topwaters, spinners and Crawworms; striper are fair to 14 pounds on deep running Redfins, jigs and live bait; crappie are fair on live bait to 2 1/2 pounds; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 78 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds on topwaters early and worms in the middle of the day; striper are slow, many spotted but fish won't hit; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good during the day with some surfacing, fish are skittish, some are caught at night on minnows; channel catfish are fairly good in 6-30 feet of water, most are caught in 12-15 feet of water under corks with cheese baits, shrimp and worms.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/4 pounds on shad, most are under the 21 inch minimum size; hybrid striper are good to 3 1/2 pounds on chicken liver from banks and from boats, good numbers caught but most are undersized; channel catfish are good to 3 1/2 pounds on chicken livers, shad and shrimp; redfish are good to 19 pounds on shrimp, crawfish and trolling spoons.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 90 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 6 1/2 pounds on artificials; striper are slow to 4 pounds on artificials and liver; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on shrimp, cheese bait and worms; redfish are good to 9 pounds, 6 ounces on artificials and crawfish; corvina are good to 14 pounds on live perch, shad and artificials.

COLETO CREEK: Water muddy, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 8 pounds on plastic worms; striper are poor; crappie are fair to 10 pounds on minnows and worms; white bass are slow; catfish are good in number on live perch baited trotlines.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear with a lot of freshwater inflow, 82 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to good to 3 1/2 pounds early on chartreuse spinners and black buzz baits on the edges of newly flooded grass lines and willows; striper are slow; crappie are good

off state park piers and Alice Pump House and the manmade brush piles in 10-12 feet of water on minnows and white flea fly jigs; white bass are fairly good from Corpus Christi Abbey to the buoy line on chrome small A's and white slabs under the birds; blue catfish are good to 14 1/2 pounds from KOA up the river with trotlines baited with shad and lye soap.

FALCON: Water clear, 83 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on spinners, jigs and worms; striper are good on Knocker Spoons in 25 to 40 feet of water; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in 20-30 feet of water on spoons; catfish are good to 3 pounds on shrimp and shad.

MEDINA: Water clear, 82 degrees, 20 inches low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on topwaters and cranks later in the day; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 15 inches, no limits on chrome slabs; blue catfish are fair to 18 pounds on trotlines baited with perch; catfish are good to 3 pounds on rod and reel baited with night crawlers.

TEXANA: Water murky, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; white bass are fairly slow, some schooling, fish are caught on chartreuse cranks; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on cut bait and trotlines.

#### WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 3 feet of water; white bass are fair on slabs and spoons; catfish are fairly good to 2 pounds on minnows.

GRANBURY: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on worms in 5-25 feet of water; striper are good through 12 pounds on big jigs; crappie are good in number on minnows in 25 feet of water; white bass are good on spoons, trolling, with some schooling; catfish are picking up in good numbers to 3 pounds on Mr. Whiskers.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on minnows; crappie are poor; white bass are good to 1 1/2 pounds trolling Rapalas and Rattle Traps near the dam and in the west end; catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds on cut bait, minnows and worms; walleye are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water off color, normal level; black bass are small and are caught in the shallows on artificials and minnows; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are small and caught on the bottom with worms.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 4.9 pounds on minnows; crappie are good through 1 pound on minnows; white bass are good on slabs and spoons; catfish are good through 30 pounds on trotline with live bait; channel catfish are good to 4 1/4 pounds on worms; walleye are good to 2 pounds on worms.

O.H.IVIE: Main lake clear, 79 degrees, 2 inches low; black bass are good to excellent on plastic worms in 15 to 25 feet of water, some keepers taken on topwaters early and late along shoreline worming the ledges; smallmouth bass are mixed in with black bass; crappie are good on minnows and

jigs in 15 to 25 feet of water, best fishing is late at night under lights; white bass are fair trolling or casting into feeding schools in the main lake; catfish are good on trotlines and rods and reels in 15 to 30 feet of water during the day and on flats early and late, in baited holes and drifting worms, stinkbait best; yellow catfish are fair on trotlines along rock ledges with live perch or goldfish; walleye are poor.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on Power Worms; striper are fair to 8-10 pounds on live bait, some surface activity; crappie are fair in the 1 1/2 pound range on minnows; white bass are scattered and hard to find schooling; channel catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on jug lines baited with shad gizzards; yellow catfish are slow.

PROCTOR: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair to 8.8 pounds; crappie are fair to 2.1 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 42 pounds on trotline with live bait. SPENCE: Water clear, 76 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass are good to 11 pounds, 14 ounces in a bass tournament over the weekend; striper are good to 22 1/2 pounds on live bait, cut bait and trolling, several limits of 3-5 pound fish caught; crappie are slow; white bass are good on Kastmasters and Rattle Traps; catfish are good in the 4-5 pound range on trotlines with cut shad and shripp.

**COASTAL**

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Good numbers of big redfish caught around East Pass, Hickory Cove and Old River Cove and flounder caught south of Stewt's Island; no live bait shrimp available; fish were caught on live mullet, shrimp and mud minnows.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Lots of fresh water coming into the area but fishing is holding up; fairly good numbers of specks caught in 18 feet of water near the causeway bridge on mud minnows; flounder and redfish are fairly good, some limits of redfish caught on mud minnows; flounder are good near causeway bridge; some fishing activity at jetties but weather is rough; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Surf still muddy due to winds; good numbers of limits of trout to 7 1/2 pounds, redfish in the keeper range and flounder to 4 1/2 pounds; offshore fishermen are making good snapper catches; a few kingfish around Heald Bank and beyond; live bait available at \$10 to \$12 per quart.

FREEPORT: Water is muddy; some redfish caught in the Intracoastal on live shrimp or mud minnows; offshore fishing is good with 2 kingfish at 35 pounds each caught at the first rigs about 8 miles offshore; some specks caught at the jetties and at San Luis Pass.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish and trout are good in number; kings, lings, snapper and amberjack are good offshore; a few dorado also caught; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart and live croaker at \$3.50 per dozen, plus ice fish, ribbon fish, squid and frozen shrimp available; the Cedars and Bayucos Point, Grass Island, Farwell, the old Coast Guard Station, Dewberry Shoreline are all producing fish, some also

caught off the Intracoastal at the Army Channel; some big trout caught at first and second Boggy Bayou.

MATAGORDA: Fishing is excellent; tides good midweek with limits of trout to 5 pounds on gold and silver Johnson Sprite Spoons, and Storm Thundersticks; flounder are plentiful in both bays and are caught on live bait and a lot of other baits; East Bay is producing good numbers of reds and trout on the south shoreline and over the shell; offshore fishing is good with snapper, amberjack and ling; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: The north ends of the bay systems are still fresh but are changing back to salt water; fish are beginning to move again; should be good by the weekend if there is no more rain in the drainage areas; redfish and trout showing up in Turtle and Kellers Bay; good numbers of redfish and trout caught on the Matagorda Peninsula with strawberry metal flake Hogies Swimming Jack with a white tail; redfish, trout and flounder caught around the mouth of Oyster Lake on live shrimp or mullet; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; winds fairly strong midweek.

ROCKPORT: Weather has been fairly calm; water is in good shape; good numbers of specks and redfish caught on live and artificials; trout are caught in Mesquite Bay and Carlos Bay in good numbers; outside beach at Traylor has good numbers of trout to 23 inches; Ransom and Dagger Island also producing good sized trout; Copano Bay and San Antonio Bay are fresh from run off; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Offshore fishermen are catching billfish about 65-70 miles offshore; some yellow fin tuna, some kingfish in the 20-22 pound range caught at the rocks.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Back bay fishermen are catching a few redfish in the back bays and a few trout taken around the Portland Causeway; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: The weather improved over the week; exceptionally high tides and fresh water inflow rushing into the Laguna via the Arroyo Colorado have made fishing difficult; some limits of redfish caught just south and north of East Cut but overall action slow on redfish; some good trout caught along west shoreline under birds; trout also showing up around Land Cut, but not in great numbers; fishing was excellent prior to Arlene's arrival and should rebound nicely when the Laguna settles down; live bait shrimp spotty. Offshore still hindered by rough seas but should be good again soon.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of trout to 6 1/2 pounds; a few redfish caught; some bonito caught offshore; live bait trip spotty; more fishermen out this week.

PH 6/30/93