

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the April 19, 1991 issue:

Wardens Investigate Whooping Crane Death.....	1
Groups Meet To Discuss Endangered Resources.....	2
Coastal Issues Discussed At Fisheries Conference.....	3
Forensics Lab Used To Nab Game Violators.....	5
Playa Lakes Group Forms Steering Committee.....	6
Pearl Harbor Symposium, Air Show.....	7
Jet Ski Tournament Set For Fairfield Lake Park.....	8
Wildflower Celebration At LBJ State Park.....	9
Public Hearings Set For Hunting, Fishing Regs.....	9
Fishing Report	

WARDENS INVESTIGATE WHOOPING CRANE DEATHS

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens are investigating the death of an endangered whooping crane that was shot and killed in Lampasas County on April 15.

Game wardens also searched for a second whooping crane that may have been shot that day, but at the date of this release (April 17), a second crane had not been found.

There are fewer than 140 whooping cranes known to exist in the wild, and the bird is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as the Texas Endangered Species Act.

The investigation began April 16 after game wardens were tipped to the shooting. Jack Reynolds, game warden from San Saba, questioned a man allegedly involved in the April 16 shooting. The dead bird was discovered buried near the Colorado River in west Lampasas County. The adult bird apparently had been shot in the neck.

"No charges have been filed yet," said Chester Burdett, law enforcement division director. "Since whooping cranes are both state and federally protected as endangered species, the decision on where the charges will be filed will be decided later. There also is the possibility of civil restitution which could be as much as \$11,000 under state statute."

Criminal charges also are being considered. The maximum criminal penalty for killing a whooping crane under state statute is a fine up to \$500, but federal penalties are much higher. Tom Smylie of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southwest regional office said criminal penalties are a maximum of one year in jail and/or a fine up to \$150,000. TPWD game wardens and Steve Hamilton, special agent with USFWS, are working together to gather additional evidence.

The whooping cranes apparently were part of a small group of birds migrating north from their wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Rockport. At the beginning of the wintering season in October 146 birds were spotted, but only 137 were counted at the end of the season.

"We've already had a very bad year. We've lost nine birds this season due to unknown causes," said Dr. Larry McKinney, resource protection division director. "It's very serious. Any loss, particularly if the bird is of reproductive age, is serious."

LS 4/19/91

GROUPS MEET TO DISCUSS
ENDANGERED RESOURCES

AUSTIN--The 1991 Endangered Resources Forum here April 12-13 attracted more than 200 people from across the state. The Forum was sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The purpose of the second annual forum, according to Bob Murphy, endangered resources branch chief for TPWD, was to find out what the endangered resources goals and priorities are of various conservation organizations, and to encourage public discussion of endangered resources issues.

On April 12, experts from around the state attended technical workshops to review the 1991 Endangered Resources Annual Status Report (ERASR) and to discuss what the priorities should be for next year. Texas receives about \$330,000 in federal funds to spend on endangered species projects. Educating the public about endangered resources issues emerged as a top priority, as did better coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on projects in Texas.

"We're going to take these comments and build a better ERASR and forum for next year," said Dr. Larry McKinney, TPWD resource protection division director.

On April 13, TPWD Executive Director Andy Sansom addressed the crowd on his view of managing endangered resources in Texas. He said preserving and managing endangered resources habitat is the only way individual species will be protected.

"If we don't figure out a way to manage holistically, we might as well forget about individual species because there will be no place for them," he said.

Public sessions on April 13 included panel discussions on controversial topics, such as private property rights, aquifer management and habitat conservation plans.

LS 4/19/91

COASTAL ISSUES DISCUSSED
AT FISHERIES CONFERENCE

CLEAR LAKE--As fishing pressure increases and marine habitat continues to decrease, the Texas coast may be the most seriously threatened ecosystem in the state.

Professionals from several agencies and groups spoke on coastal issues to about 100 people attending the first Coastal Fisheries Conference, April 12-13 at the Nassau Bay Hilton here. The conference was hosted by John Wilson Kelsey, vice-chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's coastal fisheries branch.

"We've got an incredible constituency group, all with a stake in what's happening in the Gulf of Mexico," said Andy Sansom, TPWD executive director. "The Gulf of Mexico, in my view, is the most seriously threatened ecosystem in the state. The resources on the coast are, biologically, the most important resources in this state.

Sportfishing, the largest industry relating to coastal fisheries with 1.2 million saltwater anglers, brings in about \$2 billion a year in total economic impact to the state, said C.E. Bryan, director of TPWD's fisheries resource program. While fishermen are landing five to six million fish each year, the numbers are decreasing. The majority of fishing occurs in Galveston Bay where about 40 percent of the landings are speckled seatrout.

Commercially, shrimp continues to be the number one catch, but fishermen are catching less shrimp and receiving less money for them. Of the 80-115 million pounds of commercial landings each year, about 90 percent are shrimp, making up 95 percent of the value, Bryan said.

One reason the shrimping industry is taking it on the chin is that there are more boats capable of catching shrimp than the number of shrimp can support. Hal Osburn, director of the fisheries harvest program, said total landings have remained constant the past 20 years, but the catch per boat has plummeted.

Edward McCulla, chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, updated the group on red snapper regulations. GMFMC has recommended to the National Marine Fisheries Service a red snapper limit of four million pounds, 2.04 million pounds for the commercial industry, and a seven fish bag limit for recreational anglers. If the scientific data doesn't support recovery of the stock in the next two to three years, though, the bag limit will be significantly reduced.

One of the more serious concerns of many people along the coast is by-catch, which is an ever growing topic of discussion among shrimpers.

"Shrimpers are just as concerned with their by-catch as are recreational anglers, said Jan Harper, chairman of the Texas Shrimp Advisory Committee. 'Anything besides shrimp caught in the nets results in wasted time and effort for the crews.

Harper said research continues on finfish excluder devices that would allow finfish to escape, although early models have not been effective. Shrimpers intend to meet federal guidelines calling for a 50 percent by-catch reduction by 1994.

Insufficient freshwater inflow is the number one issue affecting coastal fishing today, according to Ray Poage, executive director of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association.

Poage said inland reservoirs scheduled for completion before the turn of the century could drastically alter the natural balance in fragile nursery grounds along the coast. If that happens, all the hatchery and conservation efforts of the past 20 years will go for naught.

Dr. Bill Fox, assistant administrator for fisheries at NMFS and the keynote speaker, told the crowd during lunch that U.S. fishing is in a deplorable condition. There are 150 species of fish that are over fished and depleted. If the fisheries were managed better, it could increase commercial fishing by \$1.8 billion a year and much more in recreational fishing, an estimated \$230 million along the Texas coast.

Fox's management philosophy could help. "The responsibility of the government is to the long-term. We must be conservative in the face of uncertainty. We must have a good science base to improve our returns. Good management requires a consensus among people participating in the fishery. Management must be effective and detectible. And, we need to make better use of good state management.

Fox also has some ideas on how to keep from losing more habitat, which he says, is the greatest threat to fisheries in the U.S. Five approaches he believes we should use are habitat protection, habitat restoration, research and development, education and cooperative programs with other agencies and groups.

LW 4/19/91

FORENSICS LAB USED
TO NAB GAME VIOLATORS

AUSTIN--Since 1985, officials from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's law enforcement and fisheries and wildlife divisions have worked together to upgrade the department's wildlife forensics technology, which is becoming more useful in helping game wardens convict game violators.

Game wardens and biologists from the fish hatchery branch have been collecting blood samples to create a reference library, said Wayne Chappell, captain game warden at headquarters here. About 1,600 samples of fish, mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and invertebrates have been collected.

'Forensics has been responsible for the conviction of many wildlife and fish law violators when there would have been little chance without this improved technology, Chappell said. The samples are used to determine or verify what animal a species of blood, tissue or hair came from. In 1990, 33 cases were completed in the lab at the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos.

Evidence is brought to the lab and examined using isoelectric focusing in a polyacrylamide gel medium, said Loraine Fries, fish hatcheries biologist. Included on the gel with the evidence are samples of the same type of a suspected animal from the reference library. The banding patterns produced by the evidentiary samples can be compared side by side with known samples.

Fries said the lab sometimes uses a laser densitometer to more accurately compare the results of electrophoretic analysis of blood and tissue samples provided by law enforcement personnel.

The forensic lab also has aided a sheriff's department in a missing person's case, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a deer poaching case and they have contributed samples to the USFWS national forensics lab in Ashland, Ore. for research and development of new forensics techniques.

When the lab is needed to solve wildlife cases, evidence samples are submitted to the San Marcos lab by game wardens for determination of the species the sample originated from and other valuable information that assists in the prosecution of cases.

LW 4/19/91

PLAYA LAKES GROUP
FORMS STEERING COMMITTEE

AUSTIN--Members from several conservation agencies joined together to form the Playa Lakes Region of Texas Steering Committee, which is designed to be the action group for projects in Texas under the Playa Lakes Joint Venture.

The group will generate project proposals as well as review other projects submitted for action in the playa lakes region of Texas.

Committee members include Jim Ray, waterfowl biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Lubbock, chairman; Jim Steiert, Texas Waterfowlers Association, Hereford; Charlie Coffman, wildlife biologist with the Soil Conservation Service, Lubbock; Rob Lee, special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lubbock; and Frank Menges, president of the Dalhart Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Dalhart.

The Playa Lakes Joint Venture is part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, which was developed to guide cooperative efforts of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico in protecting and enhancing wetland habitats necessary to restore declining duck populations. The playa lakes region encompasses parts of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma.

There are more than 25,000 playa lakes, more than 19,000 of those in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, Ray said. The playas serve as migrational stopovers and wintering areas for many species of waterfowl, sandhill cranes and other migratory birds.

The goal of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture is the continued successful accommodation of migratory birds in the region, Ray said. "To accomplish this, we would like to see all playa lakes in the region protected and ample water provided so that migrating and wintering waterfowl will have plenty of habitat to disperse, thereby reducing conflicts with local agriculture and minimizing the impact of diseases and other mortality factors.

Ray said all of the steering committee members were raised in the region or have worked with the people in the region for many years. "This is important to me, especially since most of the playa lakes region is privately owned. We need the private landowners' trust and are determined to work hand in hand with them, keep them informed of wetland incentive packages and, with the exception of purchasing a couple of demonstration-type farms, are certainly determined to keep most playa lakes in private ownership.

For more information on the Playa Lakes Joint Venture or the steering committee, or for technical guidance on waterfowl and wetland habitats in the Panhandle and South Plains, contact Ray at TPWD, 4815 6th St. Lubbock, Texas 79416, or call (806) 791-3040.

LW 4/19/91

PEARL HARBOR
SYMPOSIUM, AIR SHOW

FREDERICKSBURG--A one of a kind air show is being planned as part of a historical symposium scheduled May 9-11 here.

"The Gathering Storm" is an incisive look at the historic events leading up to Pearl Harbor. The first two days of the symposium will be held in Austin at the Performing Arts Center on the University of Texas campus. It features military historians, veterans and writers who will explore the controversial social, political and military events surrounding "a date that will live in infamy" December 7, 1941.

On the third day of the retrospective, events will move to Fredericksburg for an historic air show. The show will feature a re-creation of the battle that took place over Pearl Harbor and Clark Field in the Philippines on December 7, 1941.

The Confederate Air Force is staging the show, including new maneuvers created especially for this program. American and Japanese veterans of those battles will be in Fredericksburg to witness the re-creation of their struggles of 50 years ago.

The air show is scheduled for 1 p.m. May 11 at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds in Fredericksburg. Admission is \$5 per carload. The Symposium is sponsored in part by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

For reservations and more information about the Symposium contact SelecTours at 1-800-759-7727

LS 4/19/91

JET SKI TOURNAMENT SET
FOR FAIRFIELD LAKE PARK

FAIRFIELD--About 200 jet skiers are expected at Fairfield Lake State Park on May 5 as the 1991 Mid-America Jet Ski Challenge begins its Texas tournament. This is the fourth year for the event at the 1,460-acre park.

The tournament, which will continue to other selected Texas reservoirs throughout the spring and summer, is put on at Fairfield by the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce and the Mid-American Promotion Corporation. There is no cost to watch the tournament but a standard \$2 entrance fee to the park will be charged.

'As it has in previous years, I expect this event will draw many participants and spectators, not only because it's an impressive display of these unique recreational vehicles, but because Fairfield Lake is in a particularly attractive condition from the warm water associated with the power plant and the still comfortable spring weather,' said Park Superintendent Dennis Walsh.

Park facilities include 36 campsites, 99 multi-use sites, 56 picnic sites, three restrooms with showers, a lighted fishing pier, fish-cleaning shelter and table, two double boat ramps, four playgrounds and a 3.3-mile hiking trail with a primitive camping area at the end. Fairfield Lake was created to hold cooling water pumped from the Trinity River. As a power plant lake, boaters, skiers, swimmers and fishermen can utilize the lake earlier in the season than many other lakes.

The park is 90 miles southeast of Dallas off I-45. From I-45, take State Highway 84 east to Fairfield and go six miles on FM 488 to FM 2570 to Park Road 64. For reservations and more information call (903) 389-4514. For more information on the jet ski event call Walsh at the same number or Genell Posey with the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce at (903) 389-5792.

LW 4/19/91

WILDFLOWER CELEBRATION
AT LBJ STATE PARK

STONEWALL--Lyndon B. Johnson State Historical Park will host Blumenfest, its annual wildflower celebration, May 11-12.

"The event is held during what we hope is the peak of the Hill Country spring wildflower bloom, said Park Manager Donald Schuch. Visitors can enjoy exhibits, speakers, wildflower and nature walks and a variety of special activities that will appeal to children and adults.

Blumenfest will be going on from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 11 and 1-4 p.m. on May 12. All regular park activities will be available to visitors as usual.

The 733-acre park, which was acquired in 1967, is open for day use only. There are 20 picnic sites, six with shade shelters. It also has a museum, interpretive center and trail, historic buildings, hiking trail, tennis courts, playground and a living history farm depicting early 20th Century life in the Hill Country.

The home of former President Lyndon B. Johnson is on the north bank of the Pedernales River. A reconstruction of LBJ's birthplace, east of the ranch house, is open to the public. Also, a portion of the official Texas longhorn herd is maintained at the park.

The park is two miles east of Stonewall and 14 miles west of Johnson City on Highway 290. For more information call (512) 644-2252.

LW 4/19/91

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET
FOR HUNTING, FISH REGS

AUSTIN- Texas sportsmen will be able to voice their opinions on proposed hunting and fishing regulations during 60 public hearings scheduled around the state during late April and early May.

Fishing and hunting regulations changes were recommended during the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting March 28 in Austin. A final vote on regulations for the 1991-92 seasons is scheduled for the commission's meeting May 23. Regulations will take effect Sept. 1

There has been some confusion about the content of the public hearings. The hearings are for hunting and fishing regulations. The proposed fee increases are not a part of the planned program. However, if people want to voice their comments on fee increases, the department will accept them.

All public hearings will begin at 7 p.m. CCH stands for County Courthouse and CCR stands for

Commissioners Court Room. The list of hearings are:

CITY	LOCATION	DATE
Abilene	Taylor CCH (new), CCR	April 30
Alice	Jim Wells CCH	May 1
Amarillo	Potter CCH, CCR	April 30
Alpine	Brewster CCH, CCR	May 3
Aspermont	Stonewall CCH, Main CR	May 1
Austin	TPWD Headquarters	April 29
Bandera	County Jail, Conference Room	April 30
Bay City	Matagorda CCH, Room 301, Big CR	April 30
Beaumont	Jefferson CCH, Jury Assembly Room	May 1
Bellville	Austin CCH	April 29
Big Spring	Howard CCH, CCR	April 29
Brownsville	Cameron CCH, Central Jury Room	May 2
Bryan	Brazos CCH	May 1
Childress	Childress CCH, CCR	May 1
Comanche	Comanche CCH	May 1
Corpus Christi	Texas A&M Extension Center, Hwy. 44	May 1
Dalhart	Dallam CCH, District CR	April 29
Del Rio	Dink Wardlaw Ag. Center, 300 E. 17th	April 29
Eagle Pass	Texas National Guard Armory, 489 S. Monroe	May 1
El Paso (MST)	Golden Key Plaza, 1200 Golden Key, Suite130	May 1
Fairfield	Fairfield City Hall, CCR	April 29
Fort Stockton	Small Community Bldg. 103 W. Callaghan	April 30
Fredericksburg	Gillespie CCH	May 1
George West	Live Oak CCH, CCR	May 2
Goliad	Goliad CCH	May 2
Grand Prairie	Criminal Justice Center, Justice CR	May 2
Greenville	Criminal Justice Center	May 3
Hallettsville	Lavaca CCH	April 30
Houston	Civil Courts Bldg. 11th Dist. CR, Room 305 301 Fannin	May 1
Huntsville	Walker CCH	May 2

Jacksboro	Jack CCH	April 30
Jefferson	Marion CCH, Courthouse Annex	April 30
Junction	Kimble CCH	May 2
Karnes City	Karnes CCH, District CR	April 30
Laredo	Laredo Civic Center, Auditorium Lobby	April 29
Linden	Cass CCH, District CR	May 1
Lubbock	Lubbock CCH, CCR	April 30
Lufkin	Angelina CCH, CCR	April 30
Marshall	Harrison CCH, District CR	April 29
McAllen	Hidalgo CCH, 206 District Court Chambers	May 1
New Boston	Bowie CCH, Central Jury Room	April 30
Odessa	Ector CCH, 2nd Floor, Room 215,	April 30
Orange	Orange CCH, 128th District CR	April 30
Ozona	Crockett CCH, CCR	May 2
Pampa	Gray CCH, CCR	May 1
Paris	Lamar CCH	April 29
Pearsall	Frio CCH, CR	April 29
Plainview	Hale CCH, CCR	April 29
Rusk	Cherokee CCH, CCR	May 1
San Saba	San Saba CCH	May 2
San Angelo	JP Courtroom, 122 W. Harris	May 1
San Antonio	Naval Reserve Center, Building 3620 3837 Binz-Engleman Road	April 29
Sherman	Grayson CCH	April 29
Throckmorton	Throckmorton CCH	April 29
Tyler	Smith CCH, Central Jury Room	May 1
Van Horn	Culberson CCH, District CR	May 2
Victoria	Town Plaza Mall	April 29
Waco	McClennan CCH	May 2
Wichita Falls	N.W. Field & Stream Bldg. 2005 S.W. Pkwy.	May 1
Woodville	Tyler CCH, District CR	May 2

For more information on the public hearings contact TPWD toll-free at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4505 or 4974 or (512) 389- 4505 or 389-4974.

LW 4/12/91

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for April 18:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on dark worms and Rapalas; crappie are fair at night on minnows with strings to 20 fish; catfish are excellent to 12 pounds on earthworms and Bill's Sponge Baits.

BELTON: Water clear, 66 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows in 25-30 feet of water; white bass are slow but are improving; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair trolling with down riggers using white and yellow jigs with plastic grub trailers in 15 to 20 feet of water; crappie are fair from the docks and off brush piles to 15 fish per string, many throwbacks caught on minnows and jigs; white bass are beginning to run some at night under lights, some limits of keepers caught at night on jigs and minnows; catfish are slow due mostly to the lack of fishermen.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 66 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good in the shallows on chartreuse baits; striper are fair through 11 pounds on live shad, some caught on downriggers; crappie are good and are moving into shallow water; white bass are good in the Tow area and up river; yellow catfish are good through 40 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait; channel catfish are good in baited holes and on trotlines baited with fresh shad.

CANYON: Lake is clear, some murkiness in the creeks, 70 degrees, 18 inches above normal; black bass are fairly good to 3 pounds on black worms with chartreuse tails and purple worms with chartreuse tails; striper are slow; crappie are good with some limits; several near limits of white bass caught around Crane's Mill Park on live minnows; catfish are fair in number on small live crawfish.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, 72 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fair in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on cranks; striper are poor; crappie are fair to 12 inches on minnows; white bass are fair to good with some limits on blue, white and chartreuse jigs; yellow catfish are good to 5 pounds on perch; channel catfish are good on worms; carp are fairly good in the 10-12 pound range on earth worms.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 76 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on artificials such as Ringworms, Craw-Worms and a few white spinners; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 30 pounds on live minnows, shrimp and worms.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water murky, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fairly good within the slot over the weekend, fishing has been slow since; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds on stinkbait and shrimp.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on frog colored topwaters and chartreuse spinners; striper are good to 37

pounds on live shad below the dam, a 33 and an a 37 pounder caught over the weekend; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 10-14 feet of water; white bass are good in number and size on Tom's Minners; catfish are fair to 20 pounds on trotline baited with live perch and shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear, 66 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 5 pounds, 9 ounces on chartreuse Ringworms; striper are good and some big fish caught through 39 pounds on live shad; crappie are fair in shallows and around structure on minnows; white bass are good in Llano arm of lake on slabs and jigs; catfish are good in baited holes through 5 pounds on stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky to muddy, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on a chartreuse Jawtec Salty Daugs and Strike King Spinners and Poe's RC#1s; crappie are very slow; white bass are very slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on live perch baited trotlines.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear with 8-foot visibility, 65 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are fair in 3-18 feet of water on spinners, minnows and worms; smallmouth bass are fair but most are small in size in 5-20 feet of water on cranks, minnows and worms; white bass are good on Cordell's chrome slabs and minnows in 20-40 feet of water; catfish are excellent in the 6-8 pound range on shrimp, worms and chicken livers in 5 to 20 feet of water; walleye and hybrid striper are slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to 5 pounds with up to 60 fish per day per boat on chartreuse spinners, shad colored Slug-Gos and smoke grubs; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 inches on same lures with several limits caught; striper are slow; crappie are fair in 15 feet of water in brush; white bass are fair on plastic grubs in backs of sloughs; catfish are slow.

WACO: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on Craw-Worms and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds with limits on minnows; white bass are good to 1 pound on small topwaters and small cranks; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on stinkbait and shrimp.

WHITNEY: Water clear in lake, muddy in the creeks, 63 degrees, 6 inches high; black bass are good to 6 pounds on topwaters; smallmouth bass are good on jigs and white twisters to 6 pounds, 9 ounces; striper are good on topwaters and live bait to 18 pounds, most are in the 6-10 pound range; crappie are slow to good on minnows and jigs, most are small with a few limits caught; white bass are good on slabs, jigs and spoons with good numbers of small fish to 1 1/2 pounds; catfish are good to 25 pounds on cut bait, shrimp and worms.

NORTHEAST

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 63 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5.64 pounds on cranks with many small fish caught on spinners; striper are good on Rat-L-Traps; crappie are good on minnows and jigs all over the lake, best fishing is in the river and around crappie houses; white bass are good early and late in the river in front of the

Methodist's camp on Rat-L-Traps and slabs; catfish are good to 8 1/2 pounds on worms and shrimp. CADDO: Water murky, 3 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on Tequila Sunrise worms; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are good trolling yellow Rooster Tails in Bradley Canal; catfish are slow.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8.4 pounds on bloodline worms and buzz baits in shallow water; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair with limit to 15 fish per string on minnows in shallow and deep water; white bass are very good on L'il Georges and Rooster Tails with surfacing in the late afternoon; catfish are fair on rod and reel in 10 feet of water on shrimp and nightcrawlers. CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clearing, 68 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 9 1/2 pounds in 3-4 feet of water on chartreuse spinners and red Rattle Traps; crappie are good in 4 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 12 pounds up the creek channels.

FAIRFIELD: Water muddy, 70-80 degrees, water level is 8 to 10 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on Slug-Gos; hybrid striper are good in the 5-10 pound range on shad; catfish are good in the 3-5 pound range on live bait; redfish are good in the 15 to 20 pound range on cranks.

FORK: Water clear, 65 degrees; normal level; black bass are slowing, some caught in the 6-13 pound range on Chatterboxes, Slug-Gos and Craw-Worms; crappie are fairly good under the bridge on jigs; catfish are slow; good numbers of sunfish on minnows.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 71 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 8 1/2 pounds on black and blue lizards, black and chartreuse lizards, Long As and Billy Bass Lures; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are fairly good along the creeks on Rattle Traps, some limits; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish and worms.

LAVON: Water murky, 70 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on shad colored cranks and spinners; crappie are good to 15 1/2 inches on minnows and jigs; white bass are still up stream; catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds on live shad, shrimp, bloodbait.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on spinners and worms; striper are slow; crappie are good around the bridges and fishing piers on minnows; channel catfish are excellent on live bait and trotlines; yellow catfish are good in the 3 pound range on live bait also.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 9 ounces on Chatterboxes and Rattle Traps; crappie are fair to 9 fish per string to 2 pounds each on minnows; catfish are good to 40 pounds on worms and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 58 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are good around boat docks on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water muddy, 65 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass are fair only over the weekend to 4 pounds or so on spinners; crappie are fair under the bridges

and in the coves; catfish are good to 6 pounds on small bream and nightcrawlers.

PALESTINE: Water muddy, 70 degrees, 18 inches high; black bass are good to 7 pounds on worms and topwaters; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on jigs and minnows; white bass are good with some limits landed on cranks; catfish are good to 23 pounds on trotlines mostly, fish are beginning to move into shallow water, best baits are bloodbait, catalpa worms and night crawlers.

RAY HUBBARD: Water dirty because of a 4-inch rain over the weekend, 70 degrees, 8 inches above normal level; black bass are slow to 2 1/2 pounds on lizards and topwaters; striper are slow due to lack of fishermen; white bass are good to excellent with schooling in the main lake off creek channels with limits daily on double jigs and small blue and white Sassy Shad; catfish are excellent in number to 3 1/2 pounds on a wide variety of baits including dough bait, bloodbait, baloney and shrimp.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 22 inches on white spinners and Slug-Gos; crappie are excellent in back so of coves with limits on medium sized minnows; white bass are excellent at the dam on chrome Rattle Traps at 20 feet in 70 feet of water; channel catfish are good to 10 pounds on shad gizzards; yellow catfish are fairly good to 10 pounds on rod and reel with a live earthworms.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear in main lake, muddy in the upper parts due to weekend rains, 64 degrees, 5 inches high; black bass and all fish are spotty due to the weather. Fishing should be back to normal by the weekend.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 64 degrees, water is high; black bass are good to 3 pounds on worms; striper are poor; crappie are good to 25 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good to 2 pounds on Allison Slabs; catfish are good to 7 pounds on shrimp and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to 8.2 pounds on stick baits, worms, cranks and worms; smallmouth are good to 5.2 pounds on cranks and lizards; striper are excellent to good to 18 pounds on deep divers trolling, Sassy Shad, jigs and topwaters; crappie are good to 2 pounds on jigs and minnows around structure in 20 feet of water; white bass are good to 2 1/2 pounds on topwaters and Sassy Shad; catfish are excellent to 44 pounds on cut bait and live bait in 5-30 feet of water.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water colored in some sections, some clear areas, 68 degrees, about 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good during fair weather to 8.1 pounds on worms and a few cranks, pumpkin seed worms and black with blue tails; white bass are fairly good over the humps on jigging spoons mostly; crappie are beginning to show up, most crappie are small and are caught under bridges and at night; catfish are small, most under 1 pound, on shrimp and nightcrawlers; bream are good sized but numbers are still fairly low on nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on black

lizards; crappie are good to 15 fish per string on minnows near the dam; white bass are good with limits on minnows; catfish are slow.

LIVINGSTON: Water off color, 68 degrees, 8 inches high; black bass are fair with several limits to 8 1/2 pounds on spinners and buzz baits in white or chartreuse; striper are fair early with surfacing on topwaters; crappie are fairly good to 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are beginning to hit, most are now returning to the lake; catfish are fair to 60 pounds on trotline baited with live bait; blue catfish are good in the 40 pound range on cut bait; bream are fairly good on earthworms. Due to high waters, fisheries biologists last week had to cancel plans to catch brood striper below the dam.

RAYBURN: Water off color, 72 degrees, lake level is rising and now 2 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 11 pounds with good numbers of 5s, 6s and 7s in shallow water on pumpkin seed colored lures and also in 12 feet of water near grass lines on Ringworms; striper are slow; crappie are fair with some spawning, many are undersized on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in 12 feet of water on live perch.

TOLEDO BEND: Water a little off color, 68 degrees on the surface, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on topwaters, Long A's, worms, Craw-Worms and spinners; striper are good to 15 pounds on live bait, jigs and deep running Redfins; crappie are good on live bait and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 53 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear in main parts of lake, 68 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on topwaters such as Zara Spooks, spinners and worms; striper are fair to 22 pounds on topwater red or blue Fins around dam or between Markers 18 and 22; crappie are slow; white bass are very good up the Pecos and Devils Rivers on white slabs or minnows; catfish are good in shallow on pork in 4-10 feet of water, cheese baits, shrimp or worms in baited holes.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 70 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on plastic worms and Slug-Gos; striper are very good with a couple lake records in the last couple of weeks, the largest was 11 1/4 pounds and was caught on a shad; catfish are very good on shad to a 6 pound average; redfish are excellent with 200 pounds landed in 4 hours on silver Tony Accetta Spoons, and Tony Accetta spoons trolled near the spillway.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 76 degrees, 3 feet high; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 12 ounces on dark worms; striper are excellent to 9 pounds trolling Tony Accetta Spoons or chicken livers fished on the bottom; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 6 pounds on Bob's Cheese Baits; redfish are slow; corvina are slow.

CHOKI: Water clear, 70 degrees, 12 1/2 feet low; black bass are good with limits to 10 pounds each on spinners early and plastic worms later in the day in 10-12 feet of water; white bass, crappie and crappie are slow; catfish are good in shallow water in the 3-5 pound range on cheese baits,

nightcrawlers and shrimp.

COLETO CREEK: Water murky, 66 degrees, a little above normal level; black bass and all fishing slow this week.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 72 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on willow leaf spinners and grape colored curl tailed worms in 3-5 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 8 fish per boat on minnows in the coves; white bass are good early under the birds on chrome Tiny Traps and white slabs near Corpus Christi Abbey; blue catfish and channel catfish are good to 4 pounds early on cheese baits.

FALCON: Water murky, 74 degrees, 11 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are good in number but most are small; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good in the 5-6 pound range on shrimp.

MEDINA: Water clear, 39 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on motoroil worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair but no limits on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on liver and nightcrawlers. The Lone Star Lunger fish display will be at Jim's Re bait tackle shop on Park Road 37 beginning Friday.

TEXANA: Water murky, normal level; black bass are slow in the jungle area; striper and white bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fairly good on trotlines baited with shad.

WEST

BAYLOR: Water murky due to high winds, 62-65 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on chartreuse spinners and black and blue jig and eel, and crawdad colored cranks; crappie are fairly good on minnows to 2 pounds, 9 ounces; catfish are fairly slow in the 5-6 pound range.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on spinners; hybrid striper are good to 8 pounds on ghost minnows; crappie are beginning to move, best bait is a minnow; white bass are beginning to hit; catfish are good to 10 pounds on live bait.

GRANBURY: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds, 2 ounces on red worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are beginning to hit in shallow water on small sunfish on drop lines.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are beginning to pick up, a 7 1/4 pounder and some 4 pounders also landed on Hot n Tots and Rapalas; crappie are good to 2 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair on slabs; catfish are good to 13 1/2 pounds on liver and shrimp.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 72 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are good to 11.76 pounds on Rattle Traps; crappie are good in shallow water on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are picking up.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow to 4 pounds on spinners; crappie are good in the creeks in 6 feet of water on minnows, worms and Rattle Traps; catfish are slow.

MEREDITH: Water Clear, 50 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are slow; smallmouth are good to 3 1/2 pounds on minnows; crappie are very good on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good in the

3-15 pound range on trotlines baited with small perch and minnows.

MILLER CREEK: Water clear, 63 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on a wide variety of lures; striper are good to 16 pounds on trolling lures; crappie are fair to fairly good with many small fish, few legal fish on minnows on tube jigs; white bass are fair but mostly small; catfish are good to 42 pounds on trotlines in deep water on live perch, live minnows and crawfish.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 61 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 6 ounces on plastic worms; crappie are good on minnows with full strings of 25 fish; white bass are good on rubber jigs; catfish are good to 8 pounds on chicken livers.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 68 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on Bomber A's; striper are slow; crappie are good on live minnows in 6 feet of water under baited houses and around boat docks; white bass are fairly good under birds; catfish are good on rod and reel to 10 pounds on worms and trotlines with live bait and cut bait.

PROCTOR: Water murky, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds on cranks and worms; striper are good trolling live shad and jigs; crappie are excellent on minnows and jigs; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on trotlines baited with cut shad.

SPENCE: Water clear, 61 degrees, 38 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on plastic worms; striper are good to 16 pounds on topwaters and live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

STAMFORD: Water a little on the murky side, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds in the cattails in 3-4 feet of water on black jigs; striper are good to 6 1/2 pounds on buzz baits; crappie are good to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows early; catfish are good to 6 1/2 pounds on live bait; blue catfish are good to 8 pounds on live bait; yellow catfish are good to 27 pounds on live bait.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 5-10 pound range on spinners and Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good to 2 pounds, fish are schooling and the best baits are spinners; catfish are good to 20 pounds.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 65 degrees, 9.9 feet low; black bass are excellent to 7 3/4 pounds on worms and cranks; catfish are good to 4 pounds on live bait.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Some 35 inches of rain have fallen so far this year, which is more than half of the annual rainfall; fishing has been fairly slow due to wind and rains; tides are fairly high; fishing pressure has been very light; a few redfish and some flounder and drum as well as croaker landed; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Fairly good numbers of specks and redfish caught over the reef; best baits are Fire and Ice, Tequila Fire and most anything in chartreuse; no live bait shrimp available; flounder are beginning to show up,

best baits are mud minnows and grubs; jetty fishermen are catching redfish and drum on crab. GALVESTON: Good numbers of gafftops to 4 pounds on live shrimp while fishing for specks; dead bait catches gafftops in the surf; trout have been scattered; good numbers of redfish in all the bays; keeper sized flounder in all bays; beach front producing sandtrout and whiting; drum run is slowing down; clear water produced Spanish mackerel along the beach front; some live bait available but nobody is pushing it at \$8.50 to \$10 per quart;

FREEPORT: Good numbers of flounder caught in Galveston Bay, but all were undersized; wind has been keeping fishermen at home; some live bait shrimp available. Offshore fishermen had to stay at home last weekend because of high winds and poor weather.

PORT OCONNOR: Good numbers of good sized trout in Boggy Bayou by waders on live shrimp; big jetty fishermen are catching redfish, drum, jackfish and gafftop; little jetties are catching trout, redfish and gafftop; Farwell Island and Grass Island fishermen are catching fair numbers of trout; a few redfish caught in Pringle Lake; gafftop and drum caught in Salura and around the old Coast Guard Station flats; no live bait shrimp available.

MATAGORDA: River is on the rise and muddy; redfish are good on the north shoreline and the west shoreline of West Bay on mullet and live shrimp; good numbers of trout and redfish in Oyster Lake on live shrimp and mullet; a few live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Fishing has been slow due to bad weather, high tides most of this week; some keeper sized redfish caught at the mouth of the Carancahua River; a few trout caught from the East Jetty turning basin on clear metal flake shad with fire tail; area has had a lot of rain and plenty of fresh, muddy water.

ROCKPORT: Weather has been fairly good midweek, but few fishermen out; tides are very high; a few redfish caught but fish are scattered, water is murky because of weekend winds; a few trout caught in the Shamrock area and in the East Flats area; live bait shrimp is available but not plentiful at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Fishing has been fairly good this week; redfish are fair in Estes Flats and the East Flats; specks have been good to 5 pounds on live shrimp in Shamrock, Pelican, Corpus Christi and Redfish Bays; good numbers of black drum from Shamrock and in around Ingleside; some king mackerel to 39 pounds caught off the jetties; some small dolphin caught around weed lines offshore; Spanish mackerel and jackfish caught around jetties and in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel; first ling caught offshore at 37 pounds; live bait shrimp available at \$7.50 per quart.

PORT MANSFIELD: Good numbers of trout in the 22 inch range on live shrimp north of Port Mansfield; good numbers of redfish in the 20-24 inch range on silver spoons on the east side in shallow water; lots of live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of fishermen out after the floods; redfish are caught in good numbers with many limits with some oversized and undersized south of Cullens, behind Three Islands and

in Gas Well Flats; good numbers of specks to 7 1/2 pounds, many limits, many 2 pound plus average strings, one string of specks weighed 72 pounds; surf producing whiting and pompano; offshore fishermen are catching bonitos and jack fish; no kingfish yet; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$10 per quart.

PH 4/17/91