

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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WOOD HATCHERY PRODUCES RECORD LARGEMOUTH FRY

AUSTIN--After two years of searching for the right combination of spawning material and brood fish density, the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos produced 4 million Florida largemouth bass fry in its inside raceways, doubling last year's fry production effort.

Combined with the outside raceways, the hatchery produced 8.5 million Florida largemouth bass fry. Four million fry were produced in eight 80-foot raceways, and 3.3 million were produced in 11 one-acre ponds during the production period. Another 1.2 million fry were produced in the outdoor ponds later.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fish hatchery personnel have continued to improve spawning success because of their ability to manipulate the environment at the state of the art facility in San Marcos, said Bill Bowling, hatchery manager. "We built this facility so we could control the environment where the fish are maintained."

In 1990, staff experimented to find out what kind of material bass would spawn best on in a raceway. Last year, biologists determined the best density of brood fish per raceway. This year, using Spawntex, an artificial Spanish moss mat that is used to stuff school bus seats, and 20 pair of brooders per raceway, the department had its most successful year ever.

The numbers prove what proponents of building the hatchery have said all along; that the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery would produce more fish for less time and money.

Bass in the outside ponds - 700 pair - produced 3.3 million fry, an average of 4,714 fry per female. The raceway bass - 160 pair - produced 4 million fry for an average of 25,000 per female.

"Inside, where we can control the environment, we can achieve optimum production," Bowling said. "These results tell us that we can produce more fry with less brood fish in raceways as compared to ponds. This would allow us to reduce the number of brood fish required, thus saving a substantial amount of money on feeding the fish. It also would open up outside ponds for other production."

It took two years to figure out the best system - the hatchery produced 1 million fry inside in 1990, 2 million last year. Bowling said the 4 million produced this year probably is the highest production in the nation.

Bowling gives most of the credit for this year's production to the state of the art hatchery's ability to control the environment. "Before, we were always trying to compete with Mother Nature and trying to mimic the way fish spawned in the wild. Now we're getting them to spawn under our conditions.

"I feel like we can do so much more, but I'm pleased with how things worked out."

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MIGRATORY GAME BIRD REGS PROPOSED

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have announced that the proposed 1992-93 Early Season Migratory Game Bird hunting regulations have been published in the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period.

The proposed regulations are similar to last year's with a few exceptions, said Ron George, wildlife branch deputy chief. Two regulations, if approved, would authorize a nine-day teal season beginning Sept. 19 and increase the special white-winged dove season from one weekend to two weekends.

Another change would discontinue that portion of the Special White-winged Dove Area from Del Rio upriver to Fort Hancock and place this area in the Central Dove Zone, he said. Also, the proposal calls for an increase in the number of whitewings permitted in the 12-bird aggregate daily bag limit during the regular mourning dove season from two whitewings to six in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties in order to make the bag limit consistent statewide.

Other proposals, George said, include modifying the extended falconry seasons to conform with federal regulations, defining the terms "personal abode" and "public cold storage plant," and deleting the current prohibition on the use of livestock for concealment when taking migratory game birds.

"The prohibition on the use of livestock in taking migratory game birds was a federal regulation dating back to the days of market hunting, he said. "Modern, biologically-based bag limits and effective law enforcement have largely eliminated the need for this regulation."

Final decisions on the September teal season and the special white-winged dove season depend on wildlife breeding population surveys currently in progress, federal regulation rulings made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late June, public comments and action to be taken by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on July 9.

(Proposed migratory game bird hunting season dates are included in the attached Outdoor Calendar.)

To comment on the proposed regulations contact George at TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4778, or (512) 389-4778.

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YOUTH HONORED AS 250,000TH HUNTER ED STUDENT

AUSTIN--Jeremy Heath Casanova, a 13-year-old from San Antonio, is the 250,000th student certified in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's hunter education program.

Casanova was honored May 16 during the Second Annual Hunter Education Instructor's Conference in Seguin. He was presented a new Ruger .22 rifle from Doug Cannon, manager of Oshman's in San Antonio, who donated the gun.

Terry Erwin, TPWD recreation programs coordinator, said the department maintains computerized records on each individual that completes the hunter education course. "We knew we were getting close to the quarter-millionth student. When the records came in and Jeremy was the 250,000th student, it was discovered that his father and sister also had taken the course."

Jeremy, his sister, Erica, 10, and his father, Ernest, took the hunter education course offered by his father's employer, H.B. Zachary Co., which began offering hunter education as part of their continued safety efforts for employees. The course was instructed by Rhonda Muller, volunteer area chief instructor from San Antonio.

"We were very excited to see that this was a family affair," Erwin said. "We have begun to stress the importance of family involvement in outdoor recreation. It's nice to see a family growing up safely together in the outdoors."

All of the Casanova family were presented with blaze orange vests and hats to wear on future outings. Jeremy also received a plaque honoring the occasion. It was presented by game warden Mike Fain, who was the first hunter education student certified in Texas when he was 15 years old in 1972. T.D. Carroll, retired hunter education coordinator who started the program in 1972 was on hand to celebrate the past 20 years.

Erwin said Texas has about 2,500 instructors, including more than 500 department employees, 800 professional educators and 1,200 volunteers. These volunteers have taught in excess of 25,000 individuals each year since hunter education became mandatory in 1988.

As of Sept. 1, 1992, hunters born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must have successfully completed the hunter education course in order to legally hunt in Texas. Certification is not required to purchase a license, but certification must be carried on the person while hunting. Texas's hunter education course is reciprocal with all other states and Canadian provinces.

For information on a hunter education course in your area contact the department at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4999, or (512) 389-4999.

(NOTE: A PHOTO OF CASANOVA RECEIVING HIS AWARD IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST CONTACT LYNDAL WALDRIP AT 512-389-4701.)

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LEAVE FAWNS, OTHER NEWBORN WILDLIFE ALONE

AUSTIN--Many Texans are concerned about wildlife and will do what they can to protect them. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been inundated with calls from concerned citizens who want game wardens to come get a fawn they've found, then get upset when they're told the fawn more than likely is okay and should be left alone.

This is not a new problem. Each spring brings the birth of deer fawns and other newborn wildlife, and also the urge by many Texans to take these animals home for fear that they have been abandoned by their mothers.

In addition to being illegal to handle most wildlife except during legal game seasons, newborn wild animals are almost never abandoned and should be left alone.

"Every year during late spring and early summer, fawns are found by people in rural areas and, thinking the fawns have been abandoned by their mothers, the well-intentioned individuals take the fawns home with them to try to bottle feed and raise," said David Rideout, a TPWD technical guidance biologist from College Station. "They often end up calling the local game warden, park ranger or biologist wanting to find out what to do."

The fawn should be left where it is found, "no matter how cute and appealing it may be," he said. "It is perfectly normal for the doe to leave her young fawn in grassy, weedy areas while she's off feeding. The doe returns occasionally to check on the fawn and allows it to nurse. Because of the fawn's natural instinct to lie still at this early age, people are able to walk right up to fawns."

"The public continues to handle fawns. They're even arguing with game wardens that fawns are abandoned," said Kathy Moore, a TPWD dispatcher who's received many calls from irate Texans. "We tell them not to pick them up but people just argue with you. They don't believe us when we tell them what to do with the deer."

Alfonso Campos, a Travis County game warden who's received several calls, said the concerns range from fawns being abandoned to the deer being sick to the children petted it and it won't do anything, so come and get it.

"We encourage them to leave it alone, or take it back to where they got it. We tell them to give the doe some time to come back; they can move it if it's in danger, but leave it in the general area where it was found," Campos said. "We've gotten several calls and they want us to come get them (fawns). We try to be understanding with them, but some of them won't listen to us."

David Palmer, director of field operations in the law enforcement division, said it is a violation of the law to handle wildlife species. It also is illegal to possess wildlife unless it is legally taken during a legal, open season. Anyone violating this law could be charged with a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor and would be subject to a fine of up to \$500.

"Handling fawns is a very bad problem, particularly in the San Antonio area and throughout Central Texas" Palmer said. "Anywhere you've got deer in subdivisions you'll have this problem."

Rideout said all wildlife should be left in their natural environment. Trying to treat them as pets inevitably results in unfavorable consequences for the animal and sometimes for people associated with wildlife that loses its fear of humans.

"It is illegal to keep wild animals in confinement, except under special permitting procedures," he said. "It is best for all concerned to leave them in the wild."

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MORE LAND ACQUIRED AT MAD ISLAND

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has added 1,580 acres of coastal wetlands and prairie to the existing 5,700-acre Mad Island Wildlife Management Area in Matagorda County.

The acquisition, five miles west of Matagorda, is about 75 percent fresh to brackish marsh and 25 percent coastal prairie. The new addition contains much of the Robbins Slough drainage that feeds fresh water to the WMA wetlands.

Dr Dan Moulton, program leader for waterfowl habitat acquisition and development, said the area supports large numbers of wintering waterfowl, native mottled ducks, sandhill cranes, a variety of wading and shore birds, Neotropical migrant birds, alligators and other reptiles, amphibians and fresh and saltwater fisheries resources.

The department and Ducks Unlimited are cost-sharing a DU MARSH wetland restoration project at Mad Island to reverse wetland degradation caused by saltwater intrusion into formerly fresh and brackish marshes and by erosion from excessive tidal flows.

"Both the acquisition and the habitat restoration project support the objectives of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan," Moulton said. "Texas Conservation Passport holders may be interested in wetland wildlife management and photographic tours occasionally held on the WMA."

For more information on passport events contact Dennis Brown, area manager, at (512) 576-0022 or 0023.

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SIX STATE RECORDS, ONE HUGE TIGER SHARK

AUSTIN--A Liberty County judge recently caught a half-ton tiger shark that, once certified, will be a new state record. Six other anglers have been certified with new state record fish by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Judge Chap B. Cain III of Liberty caught a tiger shark on May 24 measuring 13 feet, 4 inches long and weighing 1,128.98 pounds. The possible record was caught 50 miles off the Galveston jetties. Cain was using 100 pound test line and a bonito that had been cut in half for bait.

Cain said he and Dwight Esmond, also from Liberty, anchored overnight and chummed the waters until morning. About 8:30 a.m. the shark hit the drifting bonito. Cain was able to bring the shark alongside the boat in about 45 minutes. The shark was tied to the boat and the two men drove to a nearby oil rig. Workers on the rig used a crane to lift the shark into the boat.

Cain said he will have the shark mounted. If certified as a new state record, the shark will become the largest fish officially recorded caught off the Texas coast. The previous record of 1,121.25 pounds was caught June 5, 1987, at Heald Bank by Larry Simmons Jr. of Katy. The fish measured 12 feet, 1.25 inches long.

There are several other recently certified state records, including one for an alligator gar in the saltwater category. Recent records include:

- * Alligator gar, 50 pounds, 64 inches long, caught April 12, Sidney N. Montgomery of The Woodlands, West Galveston Bay, saltwater category. Previous record - none.

- * Southern stingray, 238 pounds, 8 feet, 10 inches long, caught May 15, Don Eugene Flanagan of Texas City, Galveston Bay, saltwater category. Previous record - 229 pounds, caught June 2, 1991, by David Lee Anderson of Hitchcock, Galveston Bay ship channel.

- * Hybrid corvina, 20.8 pounds, 35 inches long, caught April 25, Phillip A. Mann of San Antonio, Braunig Lake, freshwater category. Previous record - 14.6 pounds, caught Feb. 17, 1991, by Harold Sinclair of San Antonio, Calaveras Lake.

* Red snapper, 37 pounds, 38.62 inches long, caught May 6, Stuart A. Morrison of Conroe, High Island 323 platform in the Gulf, hook and hand line, unrestricted category. Previous record - none. Record in the saltwater category - 35 pounds, caught March 13, 1985, by Randy G. Bellamy of Galveston, Clay Piles off Galveston.

* Bermuda chub, 4.53 pounds, 20 inches long, caught March 28, Frank R. Ramirez of San Antonio, off Port Aransas, saltwater category. Previous record - 1.37 pounds, caught Sept. 4, 1982, by David R. Lindsay Jr of Austin, 18 miles east of Port Aransas.

* Pinfish, 2.46 pounds, 15.91 inches long, caught Jan. 4, Mark A. Duncan of Houston, 35 miles southeast of Galveston jetties, saltwater category. Previous record - 1.99 pounds, caught Feb. 3, 1987, by Reginald A. Jeffers of Brazoria, 65 miles off Freeport jetties.

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RADAR GUN DONATED FOR QUAIL STUDY

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has received a radar gun, and the use of a bulldozer from two conservation organizations for use on a quail project and habitat work on a wildlife management area.

The South Texas Chapter of Quail Unlimited donated a radar gun, valued at \$1,300, to the upland game program of the wildlife branch to help determine the flight speed of quail.

Don Wilson, upland game program leader, said the radar gun will enable the department to make comparisons of the flight speeds of wild birds to captive reared birds. Flight speeds may be closely related to survival in the wild and thus be an important consideration in work to restore such endangered birds as the Attwater's prairie chicken and the masked bobwhite quail.

"To restore these populations it's quite likely we'll have to utilize captive reared birds," Wilson said. "We know from a large amount of previous research that captive reared birds do not survive very well in the wild."

Quail will be used in this research study because they are abundant. "We hope we can develop procedures to produce captive reared birds that have a much better capability of surviving in the wild that we've seen in the past," he said.

One aspect being looked at is the difference between the flight speeds of typical captive reared quail and wild quail. "Based on the data we have, the speed of wild quail is highly variable. They use only what is necessary to escape," Wilson said. Wild quail flight speeds have been measured from 18 miles per hour to 43 mph. The post hunting season average flight speed on a heavily hunted ranch was 38 mph. The average speed of captive reared quail was 22 mph.

* * * * *

Quail Unlimited also donated 40 days of bulldozer work, valued at \$24,000, to the Matador Wildlife Management Area near Paducah.

The bulldozer work was used to establish fire lanes on the area so the department could carry out prescribed burns where needed. The department was able to burn 1,800 acres on the Matador WMA, which will help improve habitat for quail and other wildlife species, both game and nongame, Wilson said.

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DONATION BUYS TRACTOR FOR RAY ROBERTS WMA

AUSTIN--The Texas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Dallas Ecological Foundation/Dallas Safari Club, the Houston Chapter of Quail Unlimited and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department cooperated in a joint effort to purchase a tractor for the department to use in habitat management work at Lake Ray Roberts Wildlife Management Area.

The three conservation groups each paid \$5,000 and the department paid \$10,000 to purchase the fully-equipped Case tractor, complete with front end loader and shredder.

"These conservation groups did this as a way of putting something back to help everyone," said Tommy Humphrey, executive director of the Dallas Safari Club. "Even those who don't hunt can enjoy the benefits of this tractor through the habitat work that will be done with it."

"TPWD didn't have the funds available for this equipment item," said Don Wilson, TPWD upland game program leader. "The tractor couldn't have been obtained without a cooperative effort from these conservation organizations. Through everyone working together, we were able to get this vital piece of equipment."

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FISH STOCKING REPORT

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fish hatcheries branch has stocked almost 21 million fingerlings into the state's waters so far this year. An estimated 85 million fry also have been stocked.

Below is a list of several species of fish and the lakes that received stocking of fingerlings, along with the number of fingerlings stocked:

White crappie

* Bastrop, 94,577; Choke Canyon, 148,294; Cleburne State Park, 11,084; Tradinghouse, 10,494.

Black crappie

* Jacksonville, 85,312.

Yellow perch

* Palo Duro Creek, 20,000; Copper Breaks State Park, 12,000; Big Pond, 1,950; Marvin, 13,000; Southeast Park, 2,353; Greenbelt Stilling Basin, 598; Pauline, 119,900; Meredith, 125,166.

Hybrid striped bass

* Tanglewood Village, 51,057; Dupree, 3,062; Leftwich, 3,067; Buster Long, 2,625; Miller, 1,400; Canyon Lake Project #1, 10,937; Canyon Lake Project #2, 14,000; Proctor, 72,332; Ray Hubbard, 201,557; Palestine, 243,043; Braunig, 133,504; Belton, 219,408; Cedar Creek, 224,542; Corpus Christi, 197,622; Arlington, 12,840; Benbrook, 30,156.

Striped bass

* Livingston, 209,800; Buffalo Springs, 50,621; Amistad, 335,000; Whitney, 117,800; Tawakoni, 205,000; Buchanan, 60,000; Trinity Bay, 237,080; Sabine Lake, 218,000.

Florida largemouth bass

* Cooper, 1,929,012; Amistad, 507,075; Bastrop, 90,610; Toledo Bend, 406,497; Wright Patman, 500,018; Graham, 151,869; Bardwell, 178,811, Cleburne, 154,689; Bringle, 24,145; White Rock, 112,030; Bright Lake, 1,850; Granger, 220,166; Benbrook, 189,589; Ben Ficklin, 5,169; Lone Wolf, 8,615; Nelson Park, 861, New Castle, 5,743; Gladewater North Pond, 13,667; Childress, 17,787; Cliff Park, 2,000; Farmers Branch Rawhide, 200; Greenbelt, 450; Lake O'the Pines, 360,902; Casa Blanca, 35,600.

Native largemouth bass

* Palo Duro Creek, 124,562; Canyon Lake #3, 1,500; Casey Park, 600; Crow Park, 850; Higginbotham, 350; Howell, 300; Jennings, 500; Maxey, 2,100; Mahan, 150; McCullough, 600; Ribble, 350; Stevens, 300.

Smallmouth bass

* Whitney, 29,253; Palo Duro Creek, 12,580; North Fork, 32,774; Stillhouse Hollow, 35,249.

Red drum

* Galveston Bay, 464,730; Upper Laguna Madre, 370,107

Spotted seatrout

* Galveston Bay, 79,300; Upper Laguna Madre, 131,250.

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CHILDREN NEEDED FOR FISHING EVENT

AUSTIN--Children, adults, bass clubs and other sponsors are needed to participate in the First Annual Possum Kingdom Lake "Adopt-A-Fisherman" Day, scheduled for June 20.

Ronnie Brooks, game warden from Throckmorton who's helping to put the event together, said it is designed to provide a day of fishing and learning for children who want to fish and those who have never fished but would like to learn.

Prizes will be awarded in three age categories, 6-8, 9-12 and 13-16, and in several fish categories. The event is scheduled for 7 a.m. to noon. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided for participants, including children and adults. Cane poles and bait will be provided for participants who don't have equipment and boats will be available for those who want to fish from a boat. Participants should bring a life jacket if they have one.

Brooks said the fishing day came about after he received a call from Barry Burleson with Bait Services in Wichita Falls (817-322-2761), who said he had some prizes available and wanted to use them in association with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's game wardens.

A call also has been sounded for any bass clubs or other sponsors who would like to help. Brooks said he is looking for any group that would like to help by bringing children or providing boats, equipment and experience.

The event is sponsored by TPWD, the Texas Game Warden Association, Fort Worth Angler's Club, Field & Stream Sportsman's Club in Wichita Falls, Bait Services and is hosted by Hell's Gate Bass Club at Possum Kingdom Lake. Those groups along with Berkley, Eagle Claw, Phantom Tackle Co. and others will provide prizes.

Berkley's Bob Lawson will give a short talk on the negatives of drug use. The department also will display its traveling fish aquarium.

Participants should meet at the North D&D boat ramp on the peninsula at Possum Kingdom Lake. To help with the event or for more information contact Brooks at (817) 849-9811 or Burleson at (817) 322-2761

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OUTDOOR CALENDAR 1992-93

(P) means proposed--not final

(P) Sep 1-Nov 9--North zone, mourning dove season(P)
(P) Sep 1-Nov 9-- Rail and gallinule seasons, all of Texas (P)
(P) Sep 1-Oct 31--Central Zone, mourning dove season(P)
(P) Sep 5-6,12-13--Whitewing dove season, Rio Grande (P)
(P) Sep 19-27--Teal duck season, all of Texas (P)
(P) Sep 20-Nov 11--South zone, mourning dove season (P)
Oct 1-Nov 1--Archery season, deer and turkey
Oct 1-Feb 28--Javelina season, most of Texas
Oct 3-11--Antelope season, TransPecos, Permian, Panhandle
Oct 1-Jan 15--Squirrel season, East Texas
Oct 17-18--Prairie chicken season, North Texas only
(P) Oct 24-Jan 24--Goose season, west of US Hwy 81(P)
Oct 31-Feb 28--Quail season, statewide
Oct 31-Feb 28--Pheasant season, coastal
Oct 31-Feb 28--Chachalaca season, South Texas/Rio Grande
Nov 7-Jan 3--White-tail deer, turkey seasons most of Texas
Nov 7-Nov 15--White-tail deer season, Hunt County
Nov 7-Jan 17--Aoudad season, 8 Panhandle counties only
Nov 14-Jan 10--White-tail deer, turkey seasons, South Texas
(P) Nov 14-Feb 21--Light goose season, east of US Hwy 81 (P)
(P) Nov 14-Jan 24--Dark goose season, east of US Hwy 81 (P)
Nov 21-Dec 6--White-tail deer season, 4 Panhandle counties
(P) Nov 21-Jan 10--Duck and coot season, High Plains (P)
(P) Nov 21-29--Duck and coot season, rest of state (P)
Nov 21-Dec 6--Mule deer season, Texas Panhandle
Nov 28--Dec 13--Mule deer season, Trans-Pecos
(P) Dec 12-Jan 10--Duck and coot season, most of Texas (P)
Dec 12-27--Pheasant season, Panhandle

1993

(P) Jan 1-10--Central zone winter season, mourning Dove (P)
(P) Jan 1-17--South zone winter season, mourning dove (P)
Jan 16-31--Late white-tail doe season, South Texas only
Apr 3-May 2--Rio Grande turkey season, most of Texas
Apr 3-18--Eastern turkey season, East Texas
May 1-31--Squirrel season, East Texas

PH

(P) means a **proposed** season. The early season migratory bird seasons will be set on July 9 by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and the duck and goose seasons will be set August 27. Seasons for migratory birds must be approved both by the USFWS as well as the TPWD Commission.

Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.537
June 3, 1992

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for June 3:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water murky and off color, 80 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 5 pounds on jerk worms and, Rattle Traps; crappie are good at night on live minnows; catfish are good to 4 pounds on red wigglers.

BELTON: Main lake clear, muddy in the rivers, 76-80 degrees, about 20 feet above normal level and rising; black bass are good to 6 pounds, 6 ounces on twitch bait, buzz baits and spinners in shallow water; striper are slow; hybrid striper are good to 6 pounds on topwaters and jigging spoons; crappie are slow; white bass are good on Tiny Torpedoes and jigging spoons; catfish are good to 7 pounds in the creeks and rivers, Cowhouse Creek and Leon Rivers provide the best catfishing.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 1 foot below spillway and slowly rising; black bass are fairly good in number but most are fairly small; striper are fairly good in keeper size ranges; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are good to 3 pounds on shad and live perch on trotlines.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 76 degrees, 18 inches low and rising; black bass are fair to 4 pounds, 9 ounces on dark worms; striper are fair through 20 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are fair with some full strings on jigs and slabs; catfish are slow.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good over the weekend through 7 1/2 pounds on Bass Assassins and Slug-Gos; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 9 pounds on rod and reel with live bait.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good through 8 pounds on Slug-Gos, Rattle Traps and other cranks; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are excellent to 47 pounds on jug lines baited with live perch; catfish are good to 5 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp and shad.

INKS LAKE: Water muddy, 73 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly slow on topwaters and chartreuse worms; striper are fairly good in number but 90 percent are too small to keep, best baits are live shad and minnows; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; channel catfish are good through 4 pounds on shrimp and strung-on minnows.

LBJ: Water clear, 75 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 7 pounds, 6 ounces on chartreuse spinners; striper are fair to 17 pounds on upper end of Colorado on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are good on the upper end of the Colorado on slabs and jigs under birds; catfish are good in the 7-8 pound range in baited holes in Llano arm of lake on stinkbait.

SOMERVILLE: Water off color and rising, few fishermen out midweek.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds on plastic worms; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in 35 feet of water on slabs; catfish are good

in the 4-6 pound range on worms, grubs and minnows in 35 feet of water or less.

TRAVIS: Water clear but has a little color to it, 76 degrees, 2 1/2 feet above normal level and rising slowly; largemouth bass are good to 40 fish per boat per day to 4 1/4 pounds on chrome topwaters early, salt and pepper ring worms and smoke glitter grubs; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 inches on same lures; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair with some surface schooling early; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on fresh cut bait.

WACO: Water muddy, 83 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 15 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 72 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds in 5 feet of water on spinners, Rattle Traps, buzz baits and plastic worms. smallmouth bass are good in number to 4 pounds, most are too small to keep on spinners; striper are good to 14 pounds on Mann Shadows, live bait and topwaters; white bass are excellent with many limits on slabs and spoons in the afternoon; catfish are good in shallow water on perch, stink bait; blue catfish are good to 15 pounds; channel catfish to 2 pounds and yellow catfish to 22 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear in main lake, murky in creeks, 74 degrees, 2 1/2 inches above normal level; black bass are good through 12.25 pounds on minnows; striper are slow; crappie are good through to 20 fish per string on minnows in 10-20 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are good and moving in the 4-6 pound range on shrimp, liver and minnows.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 6 pounds on topwaters; crappie are good to 14 inches on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 16 inches on slabs, spoons, Rattle Traps and other small cranks, white bass are schooling in the shallows; catfish are fair in the 4-6 pound range on bloodbait and bream.

BRIDGEPORT: Water murky, 73 degrees, lake full and rising; black bass are fair with good numbers of smaller fish caught on worms and spinners; striper are good to 10 pounds, surfacing early around Steel Island and off points over almost all the lake, best baits are slabs, topwaters and Rattle Traps; crappie are very good with several strings on minnows and jigs in 12-20 feet of water; catfish are good in the river and at the freshwater inlets on worms, shrimp and cut bait.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/4 pounds on topwaters and frogs; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds in Big Lake and on the Louisiana side with minnows; catfish are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with small bream and minnows at night.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 66 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in numbers on Chatterboxes and buzz baits in 4-10 feet of water; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair with strings to 10 fish around artificial reefs and bridge

pillings on minnows; white bass are very good with limits early and late on slabs, spoons and chartreuse Roostertails; channel catfish are very good drifting; yellow catfish are good to 37 pounds on goldfish and live bream. FAIRFIELD: Water muddy, 78-80 degrees, 3 inches above normal level; black bass are fair in the 5-8 pound range on Slug-Gos; catfish are good in the 6-15 pound range on live bait; hybrid striper are good in the 4-10 pound range on shad; redfish are fair in the 10-20 pound range on DB#3s.

FORK: Water in good shape, clear to slightly stained in the creeks, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds in 10-15 feet of water, good numbers of slot size fish, about 5 fish over 10 pounds were caught in the past week; crappie are good under the bridge around the pillings at 12-15 feet in 35 feet of water; catfish are good to 27 pounds on rod and reel.

JOE POOL: Water murky, 70 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good in the 4-6 pound range on minnows, lizards; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good in number to 12 pounds on minnows and shrimp.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are poor; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish are good on trotlines.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on 8-inch black worms with blue tails; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water slightly murky, 75 degrees, 18 inches high; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good through 4 pounds on shad and cut bait, perch.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 75 degrees, 6 inches high; black bass are good to 10 pounds, 13 ounces on spinners in 6-8 feet of water; crappie are fair around 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish are slow to 3 1/2 pounds on trotlines; bream are good on crickets and worms.

PALESTINE: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on worms or topwaters early and late; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good on cranks and spoons, a few limits caught; catfish are good to 14 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline on catalpas nightcrawlers and shrimp.

PURTIS CREEK: Water a little murky, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow due to weather; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 18 pounds on a variety of baits.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are beginning to hit in the 7-8 pound range, many small fish; crappie are fair with a few keepers, most are small; catfish are good to 12 pounds on bloodbait and shrimp.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on grasshopper, electric blue and bubblegum ringworms, Long As; crappie are fairly good with limits on minnows; white bass are schooling near the dam and Wolf Island on slabs, spoons and Rattle Traps; catfish are fairly good to 40 pounds on trotlines, rod and reel catfish are fairly

slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 6 pounds on worms; striper are fair to 16 pounds on live bait; crappie are good through 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are excellent on Allison Slabs; catfish are excellent to 10 pounds on shrimp and bloodbait.

TEXOMA: Water off color, 68 degrees, 3 feet above normal level; black bass are good through 6 1/2 pounds on spinners, worms, jig; striper are good through 12 pounds on live bait and Sassy Shad; crappie are fair only; white bass are good in the shallow water on Rattle Traps, spoons and live bait; catfish are good in the grassy areas on cut bait, shrimp, worms.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water stained on the south end, clear toward the dam, 75 degrees, normal level and falling slowly; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on buzz baits, jerk baits, worms and jigs; crappie are fair to good to 1 1/2 pounds in the deeper clearer water; catfish are fair to poor in number to 12 pounds on trotlines.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water fairly clear, 76 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 8.49 pounds on worms and cranks in 15 feet and others at 8 feet; white bass are fairly good in number; crappie are good; catfish are very good due to incoming fresh water on a wide variety of baits.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water a little off color, 76 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 8 1/4 pounds on live perch, root beer colored Ringworms, cranks and Rattle Traps; crappie are good in 18 feet of water on plastic worms, some off piers and around stickups on minnows; white bass are good around the north shore on white cranks; catfish are good to 18 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch near the spillway and near the Golden Acres subdivision.

LIVINGSTON: Water slightly off color, 76 degrees, 1 foot above pool level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds with several limits in the creek on spinners and cranks; striper are beginning to hit trolling baits, fish seem to be moving back down stream; crappie are fairly good in the creeks, minnows are best baits; white bass are excellent with most everyone getting limits on slabs and trolling or fishing at night with minnows; catfish are fairly good with yellow catfish to 85 pounds on live bait; blue catfish are good to 35 pounds on cut bait and shad; channel catfish are good in the 2-3 pound range. bream are excellent.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal pool level; black bass are good through 10 pounds, 1 ounce on Tiny Torpedoes; striper are slow; crappie are fair in number on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good in the 5-7 pound range on live bait, catfish Charlie and soap.

SHELDON: Water muddy, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; catfish are good to 3-4 pound range on cut bait and liver.

TOLEDO BEND: Water off color, 79 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on topwaters, spinners and worms near the moss beds and around drop offs; striper are fair to 10 pounds on Redfins and jigs; crappie are fair

to 2 pounds on jigs and shiners; catfish are good to 64 pounds on trotlines with live bait; bream area excellent on worms and crickets.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 72 degrees, 6 inches above conservation pool; black bass are fairly good but most are small, some to 6 pounds on topwaters early and late and dark worms during the middle of the day; striper are slow; crappie are fair up the Devils River; white bass are good all over the lake; catfish are fair and improving in 5-30 feet of water on cheese baits and worms.

BRAUNIG: Water fairly clear, 74 degrees, 5 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 6 3/4 pounds on worms, cranks and Rattle Traps; channel catfish are good in the 2-3 pound range on chicken liver and shad; yellow catfish are slow; redfish are fair to 11 pounds on spoons and cut bait; corvina are slow.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 88 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on artificial worms; striper are slow; catfish are fairly good to 2 pounds on liver; redfish are slow to 15 pounds; corvina are excellent to 15 pounds on perch, shad and crawfish.

CASA BLANCA: Water murky, 80 degrees, 1 foot below spillway; black bass are fair on spinners to 5 pounds around cattails; catfish are good to 30 pounds on trotlines and live bait.

CHOKI: Water clear, 76 degrees, 4 inches above normal level; fair numbers of small black bass caught along main lake points and road beds on chartreuse, pepper and black worms and plum colored Carolina rigged worms; deep diving fire tiger colored cranks are beginning to pick up bass in 10-17 feet of water; best fishing is the first hour of the day, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then the last hour of the day; best areas are south shore flats and Four Fingers; crappie are slow in 15 to 25 feet of water; white bass and striper are fair in number in the dam area and around Four Fingers points, some schooling early and late on deep diving cranks; catfish are good on soured maize and chum baits helps bring in fish; cheese bait is good in 3-8 feet of water on a cork; some caught on cheese bait in 10-20 feet of water, best area is South Shore Flats, dam area and Four Fingers. **COLETO CREEK:** Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair at night to 9 pounds; crappie are fair on minnows to 12 fish per string in the evenings; catfish are good to 5 pounds all day long on perch and worms.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear from Highway 888 to the dam, muddy in the upper end, 77 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on white and white and chartreuse spinners in Pernitas Creek; striper are slow in the lake, striper are excellent below the dam on 4-inch white Sassy Shad; white bass are good at night from both state park piers on Tiny Traps; crappie are good near the old dam riprap and the Alice pump house in 15 feet of water on minnows; blue catfish are good to 20 pounds in 3-5 feet of water from Highway 888 to the KOA camp on trotlines baited with shad; catfish are good to 25 pounds in the boils below the dam on rod and

reel baited with shad.

MEDINA: Water mostly clear, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are slow to 3 pounds on red shad worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp, some caught on live baits to 13 pounds on trotlines.

TEXANA: Water muddy, 82 degrees, normal level and rising; black bass are fairly good to 3 pounds in the jungle area on spinners and buzz baits early; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds in good numbers on rod and reel.

WEST

BAYLOR: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6 pounds, 5 ounces on water dogs; crappie are fairly good in number but most are too small to keep on minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds on liver and water dogs.

GRANBURY: Water murky, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair on spinners; striper are fair to 5 pounds on live bait; crappie are fair on minnows in 10-12 feet of water; white bass are fair; catfish are fair on stinkbait to 4 pounds.

GREENBELT: water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on minnows and nightcrawlers; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds around the creeks on minnows; catfish are good to 9 pounds in Kelly Creek on water dogs; blue catfish are good to 14-15 pounds on water dogs; walleye are good to 5 pounds on minnows;

HUBBARD CREEK: Water murky, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fairly slow; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 16 pound on trotline with live bait.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 69 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are good in number on minnows and Rattle Traps; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 1/2 pounds.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are fair on minnows; catfish are fair; walleye are good to 7 pounds on minnows.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 9 inches above normal level; black bass are good in the 2-4 pound range on plastic worms; striper were good to 20 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are schooling; catfish are good in the sloughs and in the creeks where water is coming in, most are caught on trotline baited with perch and shad.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 12-17-inch range on a variety of lures, some keepers; crappie are good to 25 fish per string of points in 20-25 feet of water; channel catfish are good in 20-25 feet of water on stinkbait.

PROCTOR: Water murky, about 20 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good on minnows; catfish are good in the 3 pound range on crawfish.

SPENCE: Water muddy, 68 degrees, 23 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on worms; striper are fairly good to 17 1/2 pounds on frozen shad; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good on worms and shrimp; catfish are fairly good 5 pounds on worms and shrimp.

STAMFORD: Water clear, 18 inches over spillway level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good through 1 1/2 pounds to 20 fish per string on live bait; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 75 degrees, 10 feet low; black bass are slow in shallow water to 5 pounds on PopRs and Buzz baits; striper are slow, a few caught near the dam on horse head jigs and jiggling spoons; crappie are good in 20 feet of water on minnows at the mouth of spring creek; white bass are schooling around the equalization channel at the river mouth; catfish are good to 22 pounds on perch baited trotline.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has been fairly good despite the heavy rains, which affect conditions only temporarily; some croaker, drum, redfish, specks and flounder caught; trout have been caught on mud minnows; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Weather has slowed the fishing somewhat; jetties have been producing big drum and specks; the light house has been fairly good for flounder; the old pilot station has been producing good numbers of flounder; Mesquite Point has been producing flounder to 5 1/4 pounds on mud minnows and dead shrimp; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Rains have been heavy; before the rains good numbers of spanish mackerel, specks and jack fish caught along the surf, piers and at the jetties; good numbers of jack fish and blacktip sharks in the ship channel; reasonably good trout and redfish in the bays; offshore fishermen are catching snapper limits to 33 pounds; king mackerel are plentiful offshore; good numbers of dolphin, amberjack, ling and bonito offshore; live bait shrimp available \$8.50 to \$10 per quart. Good numbers of fishermen along the beach front and rock groins.

FREEPORT: Good numbers of ling in the 15 to 40 pound range and good numbers of snapper in 8-12 pound range some 30-45 miles offshore; good numbers of kingfish about 13 miles offshore.

PORT OCONNOR: Area still has plenty of fresh water; Lighthouse Cove along the south shore line is producing trout; Pringle Lake, Bill Days Reef, Barroom Bay, Cattle Pens and Greens and Boggy Bayous as well as the Cedars, little jetties and front beach are producing specks; offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of kingfish; area has had some high winds and heavy rains; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful at \$8.50 per quart.

PALACIOS: Between thunder storms midweek, fishermen were catching flounder in the mouth of Oyster Lake on live bait; a two-inch rain fell early Tuesday; the mouth of Oyster Lake is producing trout just above minimum size; good numbers of specks caught along the south shoreline from Cotton's Bayou to Port O'Connor on smoke colored Hogies Swimming Jacks with chartreuse tails and strawberry Hogies Swimming Jacks with white tails; good numbers of redfish are caught along the south shoreline but most are too small to keep; surf is very productive when weather isn't too bad to fish; live bait shrimp available at \$10

per quart. Tides were high midweek.

ROCKPORT: Some trout caught on the outside of Lydia Ann Channel and Traylor Island; good numbers of redfish caught on the outside and inside of Traylor Island; a few good sized trout caught in California Hole; natural live baits are best. Live bait shrimp are hard to get because of fresh water.

PORT ARANSAS: Offshore fishermen are catching a good number of sailfish in the 40-50 pound range offshore, fish are released; no blue nor white marlin caught this week; some wahoo coming in; snapper, amberjack and grouper are all good offshore; some good tuna in the 20 pound range also landed; some kingfish caught in federal waters but the season won't open until July 1; fairly good numbers of hammerheads to 125 pounds, sharpnose and blacktip sharks caught.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Fishing has been fairly slow due to fresh water in the back bays; some fish spotted along the causeway; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each. Baffin Bay fishermen are catching trout to 10 1/2 pounds on live shrimp; scattered trout caught in the Intracoastal; redfish are good around Dead Man's Hole; some scattered trout are caught around the mouth of Corpus Christi Bay; live bait shrimp available at 12 cents each.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of specks in the lower bay in deeper water; an occasional redfish around Unnecessary; some flounder showing up along the edges of the channel; some kingfish showing up offshore; some dolphin also caught; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; pier fishing is excellent for trout in the evening; some shark, whiting, croaker and sandtrout during the day.

PH 6/3/92

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