

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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TPWD FORMULATES FISH VALUES

SAN ANTONIO--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has taken the lead in recovering damage from fish kills caused from pollution with an innovative methodology for determining the value of this resource.

Don Pitts, field response coordinator in the resource protection division, presented the paper, "Assessing the Value of Fish and Wildlife Killed During Pollution Events in Texas," during the American Fisheries Society conference Sept. 8-12 in San Antonio. The paper was co-written by David Sager, chief of the environmental contaminants branch, and Dennis Palafox, formerly of the department.

While not new - the department began using this new formula in the spring of 1986 - TPWD is the only state using the computer program, which was developed by the department.

"We're one of two or three states that have the ability to look at the recreational value, economic value, commercial value and habitat loss value," Sager said. In 1985, the Texas Legislature authorized the TPWD to place a value on the state's resources.

Department
OCT 21 1991

Most states use a value placed on the fish by the AFS. The department goes further. The TPWD formula takes the AFS value multiplied by the inflation rate plus either the recreational or commercial value plus impairment value (lost recreational value) plus investigative costs. "It's probably still a minimum value but it's more accurate than what was used before," Pitts said. "Other states charge usually whatever it costs to get the fish from a hatchery."

The difference in value placed on a fish between the AFS and TPWD can be considerable.

A 14-inch largemouth bass is valued at \$5.55 under the AFS formula and \$55.83 under the department's system. The state record largemouth (27 inches) is worth \$70.68 to AFS, \$210.21 to TPWD. A 15-inch spotted seatrout for AFS and TPWD is worth \$6.06 and \$27.42, respectively. A 33-inch trout, the state record, is valued at \$70.55 (AFS) and \$148.56 (TPWD). A 20-, 28- and 45-inch red drum, under the AFS system, is valued at \$16.41, \$45.65 and \$275.52. Using the department's formula, those three fish are valued at \$124.10, \$216.74 and \$630.19.

The new formula was developed because of a lack in the previous plan for recovering the full value of fish. Fisheries branch and resource protection division personnel looked at what other states charged, pooled their information together and came up with this plan.

"We're trying to get back what the loss was to the state," Pitts said. "Taking only the hatchery cost doesn't take into account the people's loss. It's usually a couple of years before companies settle and the stock's replaced."

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TEXAS DEER
LOOKING GOOD

AUSTIN--Deer across the state should be in good shape with most areas of Texas receiving sufficient rainfall this year. However, with the healthy deer comes better range conditions and tougher hunting.

"Overall, deer and range conditions are very good in Texas," said Mike Reagan, assistant white-tailed deer program leader. "Fawn crops should be better than average, antlers probably will be better than average and the deer should be in excellent condition.

'Hunting, though, will be tougher if the rain continues into the season. Hunting is harder under better conditions because deer don't have to move as much to feed, he said. 'It probably won't be a record harvest, but it should be a good hunting season.

Biologists began annual deer census surveys in mid-July and results won't be complete until some time in October. However, biologists who spend time in the field are aware of the conditions in their particular area.

OAK PRAIRIE

The Oak Prairie has had good range conditions all year according to Bob Carroll, district leader from La Grange.

'We've got a pretty good live oak acorn crop in the coastal plains area (Victoria, Jackson, Matagorda and Calhoun counties), he said. 'The northern part of the district is not as good. The post oaks are already shedding their leaves. It's not a bumper acorn crop.

Most of the Oak Prairie has had pretty good fawn production and survival. Lee, Fayette, Washington and Waller counties, where the habitat is not as good, didn't fare as well. 'We still have an adequate number of deer throughout the district," he said. Antler production should be average or slightly higher.

Hunting could be a little tougher, Carroll said. "I haven't seen this kind of weed growth in a long time. It'll make it harder for hunters to see the deer until the frost knocks it back some.

'All in all it's a pretty good year for deer and it'll be pretty good for hunters, too, he said. 'In the coastal counties, hunter success will be down because of a super good acorn crop, but the deer that are killed will be fat.

POST OAK SAVANNAH

'Range conditions are excellent in this area, said John Wallace, district leader from Tyler. 'We had a relatively mild late summer and adequate rainfall. This is normally a stressful period for deer.

The range conditions should be reflected on the body condition of the deer. Antler development also should be improved. "I'd expect the population to be the same level or slightly higher than last year," he said. "There won't be any significant change from last year."

PANHANDLE

Once again, adequate rainfall has made for good range conditions.

"Most animals are in good shape," said Danny Swepston, district leader from Amarillo. "We haven't seen many bucks but that's not unusual during our surveys. What bucks we've seen have been pretty good."

The eastern Panhandle has heavy vegetation. "Some of the river bottoms are pretty green," he said. "They've got plenty to eat. Depending on when we get our first freeze, early season hunting could be tough."

Swepston said when the final numbers are tallied the Panhandle's population will be slightly higher than last year, mainly because of the range conditions and a small increase in fawn survival.

EDWARDS PLATEAU

The acorn crop may be spotty but continual moisture has the range conditions in excellent shape and still improving, said Max Traweck, district leader from Kerrville. Body condition will be average to above average and the bucks should have above average antlers.

"We have good quality food and cover but an average year for us is the deer not having enough quality food," he said. "If anything, we're a little above average this year but that's temporary. We're limited by the amount of good quality food. There's not enough habitat being managed."

"Whenever we get good conditions from Mother Nature the deer numbers pick up. But we're still under what our potential is with good habitat conditions," Traweck said. "We've had so much rain in the Edwards Plateau. Some areas were getting in poor shape but these latest rains should've helped."

PINEYWOODS

The Pineywoods should be comparable to last year, not an all-time high but pretty good, said Gary Spencer, district leader from Jasper.

"We have about the same adult population but I believe we have an above average fawn crop," he said. "That can be attributed to a mild winter last year, an abundant acorn crop and good range conditions in the spring and summer this year."

The deer are in excellent condition, physically. Spencer said, and antler development is above average. 'We've had above average rainfall through the summer. We're in good shape going into the season.

'Hunter success depends on weather conditions between now and then but a below average acorn crop will help, he said.

TRANS-PECOS

Last fall, the Trans-Pecos began to climb out of a prolonged drought. Since then, the area has had above average rainfall and forage conditions are excellent, said Mike Hobson, district leader from Alpine.

'We anticipate an increase in deer numbers. We anticipate good fawn survival this year and good antler development," he said. "Last fall, the rain came in time to improve body weight but not antler development. This year we should see an improvement in antler development and continued improvement in body condition.

'The deer are going to be there but hunting may be tougher Hobson said. 'There's so much surface water and food out there the deer won't have to move as much.

POSSUM KINGDOM

Larry Holland, district leader from Brownwood, is expecting an excellent year in this area. Numbers are up, fawn survival is up and antler development is good.

"The numbers are up considerably in some areas, especially the western portion of the district (Edwards Plateau and Permian Basin-type areas). It's up significantly, he said. "It's up probably because of a tremendous fawn crop. Fawn survival is good because of the good range conditions we've had and the cover for fawns."

Holland said range conditions are so good in some places that it may have hampered the census.

"We're anticipating a good season," he said. "Some deer are already shedding velvet. We've got above average antler development. We've had good conditions throughout the year. Another factor for improved antlers is that 1987 produced a good fawn crop and those deer are now 4 to 4 1/2 years old.

'Hunting will be more difficult if the vegetation lasts until hunting season, and I anticipate it will," Holland said. "There's not much of an acorn crop and what we have has already fallen. They should all be gone by the time hunting season opens."

SOUTH TEXAS

Overall, the number of deer in South Texas will probably be down somewhat from the recent three-year drought, but the condition of deer in the area is good.

Fawn survival and food supply should be good because most of South Texas has received adequate rainfall. Antler development should be above average. Hunter success could be below normal, though, because of the good range conditions.

The population is still at a healthy level, and if the range conditions remain good, the population should increase.

The archery deer season runs Oct. 1-31 statewide. The general whitetail season is Nov. 2-Jan. 5 for most of the state, Nov. 9-Jan. 12 in South Texas. The general mule deer season in the Panhandle is Nov. 23-Dec. 8 and in the Trans-Pecos, Nov. 30-Dec. 15. For bag limits check your local county listing.

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QUAIL OUTLOOK BETTER FOR 1991

AUSTIN--The statewide quail hunting season should be much improved over 1990 if August counts are any indication.

"The prospects for the 1991 quail season look much better than 1990," said Don Wilson, small game program leader at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "With the exception of the Gulf Prairies and the Trans-Pecos, the median count improved.

Quail counts, figured by seeing and hearing the birds along a 20-mile route at sunrise or one hour before sunset, are used to gather information on annual population trends. The information is used when determining season length and bag limits, said Raymond Sims, fish and wildlife technician from Graham.

The most improved areas in the state were the Edwards Plateau and the Rolling Plains. The Edwards Plateau increased from 1 quail per route in 1990 to 13.5 this year while the Rolling Plains jumped from 4 last year to 15 in 1991. The long-term average for each area is 10 and 18.5, respectively.

'We had considerable improvement in the eastern half of the Panhandle from last year,' said Danny Swepston, district leader from Amarillo. 'It should be a good year but not a boom year. Forage conditions are excellent. There are tremendous amounts of quail food and a wide variety of foods. We could be building toward a boon year if we get adequate moisture this winter and spring.'

Two areas doubled or almost doubled their counts from the previous year. The Cross Timbers improved from 5 to 10.5 with a long-term average of 14. South Texas moved from 11 in 1990 to 21.5 this year with a long-term average of 15.

'I feel we are going to have a good quail year, better than the counts indicate,' Larry Holland, district leader from Brownwood, said of the Cross Timbers area.

'South Texas looks good. Much better than last year,' said David Synatzske, area manager of the Chaparral WMA near Artesia Wells. 'These are the best counts we have had since 1987. We are seeing quail of all sizes, some very large birds and some very young birds.'

The Trans-Pecos increased slightly from one bird in 1990 to four this year. The long-term average is eight. The Gulf Prairies is the only area that decreased, going from six in 1990 to five in 1991. The long-term average is 9.75.

'The Black Gap Wildlife Management Area (near Alpine) looks fair this year, not a bumper crop but much better than last year,' said Mike Hobson, Trans-Pecos district leader from Alpine. 'We have had good conditions for ground-nesting birds. The summer rainfall has been timely and above average.'

Although hunters' expectations are high following good quail production, Sims said, hot and dry range conditions can take a toll on young birds. About 70-80 percent of fledgling quail will not reach 12 months old under average range conditions. 'Timely rains, coupled with a mild fall, will be the keys to this season's quail population,' he said.

The statewide season runs from Nov. 2-Feb. 23. The bag limit is 15 daily, 45 in possession. Legal shooting hours for all non-migratory game birds are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The bag limit is the maximum number that may be killed during the legal shooting hours in one day. The possession limit is the maximum number that may be in one person's possession at any time, after the first day. On the first day of any open season the possession limit is the same as the daily bag limit.

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EAST TEXAS MEETINGS
ADDED, CHANGED

JASPER--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has scheduled two public meetings during October for East Texas and changed the date on a September meeting in Lufkin.

Members of the department's wildlife branch will meet with citizens of the Pineywoods to strengthen the rapport between the department and the public on wildlife issues.

The Lufkin meeting has been re-scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 24. It was originally scheduled for Sept. 12. The meeting will be at the Angelina County Courthouse, 159th District Courtroom. Another meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 26 at the First National Bank, Community Room, in Jasper

In October, the public can meet with department officials at meetings scheduled for Livingston and Marshall. The Livingston meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8 at the City Auditorium and the Marshall meeting will be Oct. 29 at the National Guard Armory. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

The first hour of the meetings will be devoted to brief presentations describing the wildlife branch's jobs and activities in East Texas. The remaining time will be open to an informal question and answer session.

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REUNION SET FOR
CCC VETERANS

BASTROP--Veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps will meet Sept. 28-29 at Bastrop State Park for two days of tours, discussion groups and recreational events during the Texas State CCC Reunion.

Registration opens at 10 a.m. Sept. 28. Activities include an escorted historic homes tour moderated discussions, dedication of a Texas Historical Marker and evening entertainment. The public is invited to the events.

On Sept. 29, registration begins at 9 a.m. followed by a business meeting and program and concluding with a luncheon. The day's events are limited to CCC veterans and their families.

The CCC was formed in March 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress. It employed men 17-25 years old whose families were listed on state welfare roles. The original function was erosion and fire control and forest replanting. Later the mission included building recreational areas and facilities.

The long-abused Lost Pines in Bastrop was an ideal project for the CCC and from 1933 to 1939 became home for CCC Companies #1805 and #1811

For more information on the reunion contact Nan Olsen in Bastrop at (512) 321-4344.

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FISH, WILDLIFE OFFICES
SCHEDULE OPEN HOUSE

AUSTIN--Several Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fish and wildlife facilities will have open house for the public on Sept. 28 during National Hunting & Fishing Day.

The fisheries branch will open 17 inland offices, seven hatcheries and three coastal facilities.

Inland offices scheduled to be open from 9 a.m.-noon include Canyon, Abilene, San Angelo, San Antonio, Mathis, Denison, Waco, San Marcos, Fort Worth, Bryan, Huntsville, Marshall, two in Tyler, two in Jasper and the Heart of the Hills Research Station in Ingram. Coastal facilities, also open from 9 a.m.-noon, include the Rockport Marine Laboratory, Seabrook Marine Field Laboratory and the Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station.

The hatcheries scheduled to be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. are A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos; Tyler State Fish Hatchery; Jasper State Fish Hatchery; Dundee State Fish Hatchery in Archer County below Diversion Reservoir Dam; Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery below Possum Kingdom Reservoir Dam on the Big Wichita River; GCCA/CPL Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi; and the Freeport Satellite Ponds at the Dow Chemical plant in Lake Jackson.

The wildlife branch will open eight Type I and two Type II wildlife management areas from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Texas Conservation Passport requirement will be waived on that day at all the areas. On the two Type II areas, the department has waived the requirement for a Type II permit for non-consumptive users. Consumptive users with a \$35 permit or \$10 Limited Use permit may still use the facilities.

The Type II areas are Matador near Paducah and Black Gap near Alpine. The Type I areas include Elephant Mountain near Alpine, Gene Howe near Canadian, Kerr near Hunt, Walter Buck near Junction, Gus Engeling near Tennessee Colony, J.D. Murphree near Port Arthur, Matagorda Island near Port O'Connor and Chaparral near Artesia Wells.

Citizens are welcome to visit any of these facilities. For more information contact the facility or TPWD headquarters in Austin at 1-800-792-1112.

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HOPE CELEBRATES 500 FISHING REPORTS

AUSTIN--For the past 28 years Paul Hope has worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department providing information to the public. Since 1982 he has compiled a weekly fishing report that is distributed and used by newspapers statewide.

This week Hope has produced his 500th fishing report.

The first report was 'called' in by telephone to the San Antonio Express-News on Jan. 12, 1982, who sent it to the Associated Press in Dallas who then distributed it to the major daily papers. With news services producing many times what the media could possibly use every day, the fishing report made no great ripples, Hope said.

The first report included 10 lakes, about 250 words. When it increased to 500 words AP cautioned about keeping it short.

The report has come a long way since then. With a standardized format, more lakes gradually were added despite the limit. The fishing report has grown to today with about 90 fishing holes, including saltwater and some 4,000-5,000 words per week. Requests to add lakes continue to come in.

"When the fishing is good or extremely bad, your fishing reporter has a hard time finding anyone to get a report from, Hope said. "Most civic minded types would like to have their local lake publicized, but not everyone is so generous. One fisherman, in strong terms, did not want a fairly small, but good producing lake, on the report because he didn't want additional fishermen and the competition.

Since June 1986, Hope has produced the fishing report weekly, including holidays. (Hope is probably the only person who would work on a holiday to put out a fishing report.)

Technological advances have helped make Hope's job easier although he still calls every lake on the report weekly. The first reports were called in by telephone to someone typing as fast as they could. Nowadays, in addition to being mailed in the weekly news packet, the report is sent to AP by computer and modem. Sending the report via modem takes about 10 minutes. (Who knows what Hope does with his spare time.)

When Hope received a congratulatory letter from the Texas Association of Bass Clubs on his 500th report saying they were waiting for the 1,000th report, Hope joked, "Why in the hell are they mad at me?"

Happy anniversary Paul! Five hundred reports and you're still around.
Whew!

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Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.500
September 18, 1991

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Sept.19:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on spinners and Skipjacks; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on Bill's Sponge Bait.
BELTON: Water clear, 82 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on topwaters with propellers, Baby Guido Bugs and Ringworms; striper and hybrid striper are very good to 8 pounds on large topwaters, 1/2-ounce Roadrunners, slabs and live bait; crappie are fair on minnows in 6 feet of water; white bass are excellent on Tiny Torpedoes, Skipjacks and slabs; catfish are good on commercial catfish bait and worms.
BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 3/4 pounds on live perch, lures and minnows and nightcrawlers; striper are fair in number; crappie are good from the docks and around brush piles on minnows; white bass are schooling, best baits are silver spoons, good numbers of fish caught; channel catfish are good to 10 pounds on minnows and drifting shrimp.
BUCHANAN: Water clear, 79 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are good through 5 pounds, 6 ounces on Rogues; striper are good through 12 pounds on live shad, smaller fish were caught on topwaters; crappie are beginning to come into the coves, some limits caught on minnows; white bass are good in the Apple Orchard area on slabs and jigs; catfish are good on trotlines baited with live perch through 42 pounds; channel catfish are good through 5 pounds on stinkbait in baited holes.
COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners and cranks; striper are poor; crappie are good to 8 fish per string on small jigs and minnows; white bass are fair to 8 fish per string to 1 pound each on blue and white jigs; yellow catfish are very good to 16 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch; channel catfish are good to 3 1/2 pounds on worms and cut bait with rod and reel.
FAYETTE: Water clear, 85 degrees and dropping, normal level; black bass were fairly good to 6 3/4 pounds over the weekend with many slot sized fish, several over 21 inches caught on Slug-Gos and dark worms around the grass; crappie are slow; catfish are fairly good on rod and reel around timber; sunfish are very good on earth worms.
GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fairly good within the slot or smaller on deep diving lures; crappie are good to 1 pound, 13 ounces on minnows in 8-10 feet of water; catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on rod and reel with stinkbait and shrimp.
INKS LAKE: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 1/2 pounds on chartreuse and yellow buzz baits and Tiny Torpedoes; striper are fair in number to 18 pounds on

live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are slow, a few caught on clear Tiny Torpedoes and Tom's Minners; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp and chicken liver in 15 feet or less of water.
LBJ: Water muddy in lake due to rise in Llano, 80 degrees, lake full and flood gates are open; black bass are slow due to floodwaters; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good in the 5-6 pound range where muddy and clear water mix on worms and stinkbait.
LIMESTONE: Water murky, 89 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on Poe's 1100's and Jawtec Wacky Craws; crappie are slow; white bass are good early and late at the dam on Rattle Traps; catfish are slow.
SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 85-87 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are fair in 10-20 feet of water on Rattle Traps, plugs and Shadows; smallmouth bass are good to 4 pounds on topwaters and Rattle Traps; striper are slow; crappie are good in 35 feet of water in the 11-14 inch range on slabs and minnows; catfish have slowed down, some in the 2 1/2 pound range caught on stinkbait, chicken liver and slabs in 15 to 20 feet of water.
TRAVIS: Water clear, 82 degrees, 10 feet low; largemouth bass are good to 3 pounds on chrome topwaters, crawfish colored cranks and strawberry worms; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 inches on the same lures with frequent limits; striper are slow; white bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.
WACO: Water off color, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on craw worms and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on jigs and slabs; catfish are slow.
WHITNEY: water clear, 81 degrees, 5 inches low; largemouth bass are fair to good 5.6 pounds on spinners; smallmouth bass are fair and improving to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners; striper are good early to 20 pounds on shad; crappie are very good on minnows in 12 feet of water; white bass are good with limits to 2 pounds each on wide variety of lures; catfish are good on bloodbait, cut bait and shrimp; blue catfish are good to 17 pounds; yellow catfish are good to 15 pounds on bloodbait, cut bait and shrimp.

NORTHEAST

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, 81 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair in number and small in size on worms and topwaters, the largest bass of the week weighed 4.8 pounds; striper are slow; crappie are good in 8-12 feet of water on minnows, with limits in the brush and around banks; white bass are slow; yellow catfish are good to 26 pounds on trotline with live bait.
CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds, 11 ounces on grape worms; crappie are fair in number on minnows to 1 pounds in deeper water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow; sunfish are good but hard to locate, most fishermen have to move a lot.
CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 8 inches low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on worms and topwaters; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on

minnows; white bass are excellent with many limits on Roostertails and L'il Georges; catfish are good to 8 pounds.
CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on chartreuse buzz baits; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 17 feet of water; catfish are good to 12 pounds on nightcrawlers.
FORK: Water clear, 88 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 10.67 pounds on cranks; crappie are fairly good to 1 pound on jigs; catfish are slow.
GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow to fair, most are small on topwaters and worms; crappie are slow to fair on minnows in 17-22 feet of water; white bass are fairly slow, good numbers of fish are caught but most are small on chrome topwaters, spoons are good in deeper water; catfish are slow, some caught drifting shrimp in 35 feet of water.
JOE POOL: Water murky due to rains, 82 degrees, 2 inches high; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on cranks and worms; crappie are good to 1.75 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on shad gizzards and shrimp.
LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/4 pounds on buzz baits and frogs; crappie are fair on minnows in 10 feet of water; white bass are fair; catfish are fairly good on nightcrawlers and minnows in 10-18 feet of water through 12 pounds on rod and reel.
LAVON: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds off the rocks on the east side of the dam on Berkley peach colored Power Worms; crappie are good to 2 pounds with several limits on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are excellent to 10 pounds on jug lines baited with live shad and drifting shrimp.
LEWISVILLE: Water clear, 79 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on topwaters early and worms in the middle of the day; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good to 1 pound on slabs; catfish are excellent to 6 pounds on live bait.
MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are good in number; white bass are slow; catfish are good on trotlines.
MONTICELLO: Water clear, 96 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds; 12 ounce on 11-inch black worms and Rattle Traps; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on Canadian Crawlers and shrimp.
MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 83 degrees, 4.8 feet low; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 7 fish per string, fish are running again; catfish are fair in number to 5 pounds.
MURVAUL: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on worms and topwaters early and late; crappie are slow, some caught around brush piles on minnows; catfish are improving on trotline in the 4-pound range on cut shad and Canadian nightcrawlers.
PALESTINE: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on worms; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good with schooling, on spoons, cranks; catfish are good to 18

pounds on rod and reel as well as trotlines baited with catalpa worms, nightcrawlers and bloodbait.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair late and early to 8 pounds on dark worms; crappie are fair to 2 pounds late on minnows; catfish are good to 12 pounds early and late on worms, shrimp and bloodbait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear despite the rains, 82 degrees; black bass are good to 7 pounds on bubble colored flash worm; crappie are good around brush piles on minnows; white bass are good with schooling around the dam and near Wolf Island; catfish are fairly good to 8 pounds on shad and shrimp.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 82 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms, spinners and cranks; crappie are very good to 1 1/2 pound on minnows in 12 to 18 feet of water; white bass are fairly good but few limits caught on slabs and spoons; catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 82 degrees, 14 inches below spillway; black bass are good to 6 pounds on topwaters and worms; striper are poor; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good to 3 pounds on jigs and slabs; catfish are excellent to 12 pounds on worms, shrimp and grasshoppers.

TEXOMA: Water off color, 80 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on worms and topwaters; striper are good to 14 pounds on topwaters, slabs and live baits; crappie are fair on minnows in 15 to 20 feet of water; white bass are good on spoons and topwaters; catfish are good to 26 pounds on cut bait, live bait, shrimp and liver.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water clear, 81 degrees, slightly above normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on spoons, Scum Frogs and worms in 2-5 feet of water along the shoreline, best fishing is under the duckweed; crappie are poor; white bass are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on the lake, fish are also good below the dam on L'il Georges and Roostertails; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on liver, cut shad, catalpa worms and nightcrawlers.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 84 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are improving to 8 pounds but most are throwbacks on worms, Rattle traps and Mudbugs; crappie are fairly good; white bass are good trolling spoons, most are too small to keep; catfish are fairly good; bream are good in number but most are fairly small.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 3/4 pounds on Berkley Power Worms in red shad; crappie are improving to 12 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good to 1 3/4 pounds off the points toward the dam on minnows; catfish are good to 16 pounds on trotlines baited with perch.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 82 degrees, 3 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 6 3/4 pounds on Rattle Traps, cranks, buzz baits; striper are good to 18 pounds at daylight south of Pine Island trolling spoons; crappie are fair early on minnows until 10 a.m. to 15 fish per string; white bass are spotty and hard to locate while trolling spoons or jigs; catfish are slow

with few fishermen out.

RAYBURN: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fairly good with the largest bass weighed 9.74 pounds on 1-ounce slow rolling spinners and Jawtec Wacky Craws; crappie are good around brush piles on minnows; catfish are slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 89 degrees on the surface, 3 feet low; black bass are slow to 6 pounds on worms near the dropoffs and moss beds; striper are fair to 11 pounds on topwater lures while schooling; crappie are fair in baited holes on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water muddy in the river but clear in the lake, 82 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 5 pounds on topwater spinners early and worms in the afternoon; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are improving in San Pedro; catfish are good from 10-30 feet of water on cheese baits and shrimp.

BRAUNIC: Water murky, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; striper are fair to 5 pounds on liver; catfish are excellent to 3 pounds on nightcrawlers; redfish are good to 15 pounds with Rattle Traps along the dam.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow with some small fish landed; striper are slow to 5 pounds on artificials; catfish are fair to 2 pound average on shad and liver; redfish are good to 12 pound average on tilapia on perch and crawfish; corvina are fair to 9 pound average on shrimp and Rattle Traps.

CHOKO: Water clear, 84 degrees, 17 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 11 pounds on topwaters due to cooling water, spinners and Rattle Traps in 5 feet of water around grass beds, worm fishing is very good after the sun comes up around main lake points, at the edge of the grass beds and along the river channel from Mason Point to Highway 99 Bridge; striper are slow; crappie are slow with some caught along the river channel in 10-20 feet of water on river channels; white bass are slow; catfish are good with limits averaging 1 pound each in 20-40 feet of water, some also caught around the dam on prepared cheese bait, nightcrawlers and drum; big blue catfish are caught at night on drop lines with cut bait in 25 to 40 feet of water.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on plastic worms and spinners; crappie are fair on minnows with some keepers; catfish are good to 25 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water slightly stained, 83 degrees, 7 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds in 15-20 feet of water on crawfish patterned cranks and black plastic Big Craws; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair near the dam on chrome or pearl colored small A's; blue catfish are good to 19 pounds on trotlines baited with cut carp; channel and blue catfish are good to 2 1/2 pounds on rod and reel in baited holes in 30 feet of water using cheesebaits. Good numbers of bluewinged teal on and around the lake.

FALCON: Water murky, 80 degrees, 13 feet low; black bass are good to 8 pounds on jig and pig; striper are hitting near the dam

to 12 pounds on rod and reel trolling; crappie are slow; white bass are good all over the lake; catfish are good to 8 pounds on rod and reel in the river on shrimp baited rod and reel.

MEDINA: Water off color in the upper end of the lake, main lake is clear, 39 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 9 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

TEXANA: Water murky, normal level; black bass are fairly good in the jungle area to 4 1/2 pounds on buzz bait; early and late and worms in the middle of the day; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

WEST

BAYLOR: Water clear, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on topwaters, buzz baits, worms, Slug-Gos; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 8 pounds on minnows, worms and stinkbait.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 77 degrees, 2 inches high; black bass are good to 2 pounds on minnows and spinners; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds to 5 fish per string on minnows; white bass are good on slabs with limits; catfish are good to 11 pounds on nightcrawlers and chicken livers early and late; walleye are good to 26 inches along the dam with cranks.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, lake full; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds; striper are slow; crappie are fairly good up the creeks on minnows; white bass are fair on slabs and spoons; catfish are beginning to hit; rivers are running because of rains.

IVIE: Water clear, 70 degrees, 30 feet low and rising; black bass are fair in the 16 to 18 inch range on jigs; catfish are very good to 8 pounds.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 77 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds, 2 ounces on minnows; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; walleye are slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fairly slow; white bass are excellent with limits on shad; catfish are good on shad, liver and minnows; walleye have been slow.

MILLER CREEK: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners; striper are poor; crappie are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on jigs at 15 feet; white bass are excellent at 8 feet on minnows; catfish are fair in number.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Rains falling midweek; water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds, many caught from the banks, on PopRs and Baby Chuggers; striper are slow; crappie are picking up in baited houses on minnows; white bass are good when schooling, sometimes schools are hard to find; catfish are slow on rod and reel as well as trotline.

SPENCE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 33 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on worms; striper are good to 13 pounds on live shad; crappie are slow; white bass are fairly good to 2 pounds on Castmasters; catfish are good on shrimp.

STAMFORD: Water a little murky, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on spinners early and late and worms in the middle

of the day; striped are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good to 25 pounds on trotline with live bait.

WHITE RIVER: Water a little off color with rain falling midweek, 77 degrees at 12 feet, 10 1/2 feet low; black bass are excellent to 6 1/2 pounds early and late on topwaters; crappie are very good in 10 feet of water on small minnows; catfish are very good to 9 pounds on stinkbait and Canadian Crawlers; walleye are slow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing for redfish has been fairly good with many throwbacks; few oversized fish; tides have been high; best baits are dead shrimp, live shrimp and live finger mullet; speck fishing is fairly slow, most specks are undersized on were caught on live shrimp and red touts; live bait shrimp is available at 6 cents each; flounder fishing is fair; some drum, sheepshead and good numbers of croaker caught; some gafftops in the 4 pound range also landed.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of gulf trout along the beach front on dead shrimp; good numbers of big redfish also along the beach front; fishermen are hooking a fair number of tarpon from the piers, the jetties and about 4 miles off San Luis Pass; good numbers of keeper sized trout in the bays but only half are keeper sized; good number of croaker; a few more flounder caught but the coming cool front should help flounder fishing; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50-\$10 per quart.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishing was excellent over the weekend; snapper to 10 pounds caught on squid and ice minnows around 35 miles offshore; an occasional kingfish landed; several beeliner or vermilion snapper brought in; grouper are beginning to show up, many are small. Good numbers of specks to 5 pounds caught at the jetties on MirOlares; fairly good numbers of flounder in the 2-3 pound range at San Luis Pass; live bait shrimp are available at \$5 per pint and \$8 per quart.

PORT OCONNOR: Good numbers of redfish at the jetties on live shrimp, when available; good numbers of trout and redfish caught in the surf when the wind lays; good sized trout and redfish caught in the back bays around South Pass on live shrimp; some trout caught around Grass Island; some shark caught along the shoreline of the old air base on croaker; trout are fairly good at Boggy Bayou; good numbers of flounder at night with a gig; offshore activity has been fairly slow with some kingfish and shark caught; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful; frozen shrimp available.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of redfish, many oversized, on cut mullet in West Matagorda Bay, along the north and south shorelines, East Matagorda Bay has been producing some good sized trout; good numbers of flounder all over; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$10 per quart. Offshore fishing is still fairly good with snapper, kingfish and dolphin.

PALACIOS: Tides have been running above normal level; redfish are fairly good in number Green's and Cotton Bayous on strawberry with white tailed Hogies Swimming Shad;

some redfish around Little Redfish lake in Tres Palacios Bay on live bait; Keller Bay producing good numbers of redfish and trout; good numbers of small reds and specks caught in Carancahua Bay; live bait shrimp available sometime at \$10 per quart.

ROCKPORT: Fishing has been slow and tough due to high tides; fish have been scattered; a herd of large redfish spotted off the south end of Mud Island, most are too large to keep; some keeper redfish caught in Redfish Bay in the Hog Island and South Bay areas; trout are located in the ship channel around Pelican Island and in Aransas Bay around the bay front in Rockport; flounder are fairly plentiful on live bait and shrimp tails; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful at \$8 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Tides are high; fish are scattered; some redfish and trout caught in the flats in Redfish Bay, best fishing is on the falling tide; some trout caught around Mud Island on mullet, perch and croaker; some trout also caught on Cordell's Broken Backs; some flounder caught in the same area; live bait shrimp are small and not plentiful at \$7.50 to \$8 per quart. Offshore fishing has been good in the 30-40 mile range; mixed bags of dolphin and a few blackfin tuna, kingfish, some Atlantic sharp-nosed shark, and good consistent catches of snapper along with amberjack. Most amberjack are in the 26-30 inch range, fish must be 28 inches to be a keeper in federal waters; a sailfish hooked Tuesday about 40 miles offshore; 40 fishermen caught 1100 pounds of fish on Tuesday; white marlin and blue marlin caught this week about 50-60 miles offshore.

CORPUS CHRISTI: A few reds, specks and flounder caught at the back bay of the Nueces Bay Causeway on live shrimp and finger mullet; Ingleside and Portland and along Shamrock Cove and Longs Pier, fairly good numbers of specks on plastic worms, cranks and live shrimp; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each or \$10.50 per quart or \$5.50 per pint.

PORT MANSFIELD: Good numbers of keeper sized trout north of the East Cut, south of Port Mansfield just north of the pipeline; good numbers of redfish all over the area, great numbers of oversized fish; good numbers of snapper caught north of Port Mansfield at Steamer Rocks; live bait shrimp not available.

SOUTH PADRE: Fair numbers of trout caught in the Three Islands in the Intracoastal; a few redfish off the spoil banks in the same area; a few flounder landed in the flats with live bait and touts; flounder gigging activities have been fairly slow; live bait shrimp available at \$10.50.

PH 9/18/91

