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texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY ISSUED ON THREE RESERVOIRS

AUSTIN--The Texas Department of Health on May 11 issued an advisory recommending guidelines for people eating fish from three Northeast Texas power plant lakes after the fish were found to contain elevated levels of selenium.

The affected waters are Martin Creek Reservoir in Rusk and Panola counties, Brandy Branch Reservoir in Harrison County and Welsh Reservoir in Titus County.

The advisory, issued by Dr. David R. Smith, commissioner of health, read in part, "This advisory is issued as a result of selenium contamination of the described species. Selenium is an essential trace element that can become toxic if excessively consumed."

Recommended guidelines for people wanting to consume fish caught in any of these three reservoirs are:

- * Adults should eat no more than 8 ounces of fish per week.
- * Children 7 or older should eat no more than one 4-ounce serving per week.
- * Children younger than 7, pregnant women or women who may soon become pregnant should not eat any fish from the three lakes.

* Anyone who eats fish from these lakes should not take dietary supplements containing more than 50 micrograms of selenium per day.

Selenium is generated by the burning of coal at the three power plants. Although it is an essential trace element in the human diet, selenium is toxic at elevated levels. Long-term ingestion of selenium at levels only five to six times higher than the requirement for good nutrition may cause symptoms of toxicity in sensitive individuals.

Human symptoms can include hair and nail brittleness and loss, skin inflammation or blisters, vomiting, fatigue and a variety of neurologic abnormalities. Excessive selenium is hazardous to developing fetuses.

"Resource protection and inland fisheries personnel collected the fish used in the determination as part of the trace elements monitoring program," said Roxie Carrier, TPWD contaminants biologist. "The advisory is for all fish species but most of the analysis work centered on largemouth bass, bluegill and shad."

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LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTOR FINALISTS NAMED

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director Andrew Sansom today announced two finalists for the law enforcement division director position.

The finalists, narrowed from a group of five, are Maj. Charles J. Hensley, director of law enforcement staff for TPWD in Austin and Greg A. Huljack, director of law enforcement for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game in Stockton, N.J.

Hensley, 54, has been with the department almost 30 years, serving as a game warden, district supervisor, regional director and in his current position. Hensley attended Texas A&M University.

Huljack, 40, has been with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game since May 1974, serving as a conservation officer, lieutenant, captain and in his current position since March 1985. He has a B.S. in wildlife science from Stockton State University and a masters degree in public administration from Rutgers University.

Before naming the two finalists, Commander J.L. Williford, regional director from Rusk, and one of the five, withdrew his name from consideration because his son has applied to become a game warden.

The short list of five was chosen by a committee named by Sansom. That committee included Jim Dickinson, TPWD deputy director; Capt. Carl Covert, regional law enforcement director from Houston; Stacy Bishop, game warden from Austin; Jim McElroy, TPWD's director of internal affairs; and Alicia Perez, Austin's assistant city manager, who's responsible for the Austin Police Department.

The position became available in early March with the retirement of Chester Burdett, who had worked in TPWD law enforcement for 35 years, 14 as director of law enforcement.

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TPWD GETS INPUT ON FISHING TOURNAMENT PROPOSAL

ATHENS--Texas bass clubs and fishing tournament promoters expressed willingness to help the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department develop a workable plan to monitor freshwater fisheries at a public round-table discussion May 8 here, though almost all of the 57 who participated opposed the department's initial proposal to require a permit for all state fishing tournaments.

Those who attended met with TPWD fisheries biologists in round-table discussion groups of about 10 each to brainstorm ways to improve the current proposal. Department biologists need to collect information on numbers and species of fish caught in freshwater lakes and reservoirs. The data is urgently needed to help guide management plans to maintain healthy fisheries.

"We had similar round-tables in the mid-(19)80s to develop bass management rules, but never to this extent, where the fishing public came down and helped us write rules that they can live with," said Phil Durocher, TPWD inland fisheries branch chief.

"I think it worked great. I didn't expect this group to agree with everything we proposed. They didn't come up with any opposition reasons we didn't know about, but they had some really good ideas. The next draft proposal will reflect many of they're ideas."

Durocher opened the meeting with an overview of competitive fishing in Texas and showed why better data are needed. He referred to a 1990 survey by the competitive fishing committee of the American Fisheries Society, a professional association of fisheries scientists in Canada and the U.S. The survey identified three major concerns about freshwater tournaments - concentration of effort (many anglers in one place), conflicts among user groups and impeded access to public waters.

TPWD biologists said that public perception of large fishing tournaments sometimes overlooks their positive contributions, such as angler education, significant economic benefits and promotion of angler ethics and conservation. For example, the department's catch and release management strategy would never have been as successful without the support it has received through tournaments.

Surprisingly, a recent Texas A&M University survey conducted for the department shows the majority of Texas bass anglers actually favor tournament permits. Incomplete results of the February 1992 survey show 58 percent of all bass anglers favor tournament permits, though only 23 percent of bass club presidents favor them.

"If it is enforced and there's a way to make it equal-for everyone, we'll abide by it. But I oppose what has been presented so far," said Ed Partin, spokesman for the Texas Association of Bass Clubs.

"The data are important and I want to help get it, but Texas hunters and fisherman have about reached their limit on fees," said Jerry O'Bryant, tournament director of the annual KEAN Big Bass Bonanza in Abilene. "The permit should be free."

TPWD biologists have repeatedly stressed that the proposal is not intended to be a revenue generator, and that any fee would be the minimum needed to cover administrative expenses. In fact, the draft proposal would not require any fee from tournaments who provided Form B of the simple, two-page draft permit document.

Several others who made public comments were concerned about Form B. This form would include the sizes and numbers of fish caught and released, etc., the kind of information department biologists really want to obtain. Some participants were concerned about potential fish mortality while competitors waited to fill out the form.

"Form B as it stands would be a real bottleneck at a tournament weigh-in station. It needs to be reworked," O'Bryant said.

The fee increases are necessary because the alligator program is virtually all commercial, said Dr. Bill Harvey, director of special programs in the fisheries and wildlife division. "There is very little sport hunting. If the funds generated don't pay for the program, then the agency, in effect, is subsidizing a commercial enterprise. We're trying to make the program self-sufficient."

Harvey said the farm raised tag fee was lowered to help farmers stay in business. "There are so many alligators (about 20,000 on Texas farms) that the farmer will pay a disproportionate share of the costs."

Increasing the tag fee to \$10 for wild caught alligators is proposed because the hide value of large wild caught alligators is greater than that of farm-raised alligators. "A \$10 wild tag more equitably represents the value of wild alligators. Farmers were paying the same hide tag fee for alligators worth less money, he said.

Another change will allow alligator farmers to get tags from some field offices, saving time. Previously, all tags came from TPWD headquarters in Austin.

Finally, Harvey said, the regulations were closely examined and, where possible, modified to better serve constituents. For example, current regulations state that an alligator must be tagged before being removed from the capture device. The board realized that that was a safety problem, so the regulation was modified to allow the alligator to be tagged immediately after removal from the capture device.

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COMMISSION AGENDA SET

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will decide whether or not to adopt several fishing and hunting regulations changes as well as several other items during a public meeting at 9 a.m. May 21 at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department headquarters here.

The commission also will vote on proposed Type I and Type II Wildlife Management Area changes, reflecting movement toward eventual consolidation of the two programs. Other items on the agenda are proposed changes to alligator regulations and the sale of nongame fish taken from public water as well as other items.

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On May 20, the regulations and strategic planning committees will meet at TPWD headquarters.

The regulations committee, scheduled to meet at 10 a.m., will discuss competitive fishing in public fresh water. The committee also will be updated on migratory game bird hunting regulations and on the Coastal Fisheries Conference.

The strategic planning committee will meet at 4 p.m. in Room C-200 to discuss the department's strategic plan for 1992-98.

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NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK SET FOR JUNE

AUSTIN--"Boat Smart " is the theme for this year's National Safe Boating Week, June 7-13, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department plans to continue two new programs in conjunction with the boating safety week.

The department has a toll-free telephone number that provides information on boater education courses that began at this time last year. For boater education course information call 1-800-253-4536.

TPWD will rerun a television public service announcement featuring Gov. Ann Richards. The promotion, which will run all summer, focuses on getting people to take the boater education course.

National Safe Boating Week, along with the Memorial Day weekend in May, launches the recreational boating season in the U.S. and officials are looking to decrease boating accidents. According to statistics maintained by the department, there were 225 boating accidents in 1991, up from 220 in 1990, and boating related fatalities increased from 51 to 59.

The 225 accidents involved 307 vessels compared to 274 vessels involved in 1990s accidents. A total of 168 injuries were incurred last year, up from 123 in 1990. Class 1 boats, those 16-26 feet long, were involved in 162 of the 225 accidents. More than \$645,000 in property damage resulted from the accidents.

The largest number of accidents occurred while boaters were just cruising around the lake - 145 in 1991 and 101 in 1990. Ninety-four of last year's accidents occurred on Saturday, 92 on Sunday. The prime time for an accident was from noon to 7 p.m. (155 accidents).

Memorial Day weekend typically is the most dangerous time to be on Texas waters. In 1991, there were 14 water related deaths, four involving boats. Eight of the deaths occurred on Memorial Day. Six of the fatalities that weekend happened in lakes and four in the Gulf of Mexico or its bays.

Boating can be stressful and studies have shown that exposure to the sun, wind, engine noise, vibration and constant motion can slow reaction time significantly. Boaters also should avoid alcohol, which can double the effects of other stress factors. In addition to having U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices on board for each person aboard, boaters also should have a Coast Guard-approved marine fire extinguisher, navigation lights at night and a horn or whistle for boats 16-26 feet long.

Here is a list of scheduled boater education courses across the state (city, date, name of instructor, telephone number for sign up):

- * Austin - May 26, Eugene R. Frith, (512) 929-3004, also Aug. 25; June 1, Gilbert G. Bartz, (512) 266-2572 or 3607
- * Colleyville - May 26, Richard W. Thomas, (817) 277-4990.
- * Dallas - June 15, Thomas Benedict Spalding, (214) 350-1810.
- * Del Rio - May 18, Warren H. Beitel, (512) 775-7491
- * Fort Worth - June 6, Buell Dean Griffin III, (817) 847-7114 or 237-8585; also June 13, 20 and 27
- * Lake Cherokee - June 6, William Bryan Waller, (903) 643-0085.
- * Lewisville - June 3, Thomas Benedict Spalding, (214) 350-1810.
- * San Antonio - June 20, Ernest Galan, (512) 922-6450 or 925-7017; also July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19 and Oct. 17
- * Seabrook - July 11, William R. Barrow, (713) 333-2628.
- * Sugarland - July 23, Guy C. Connelly, (713) 494-3626; also Sept. 10.

For more information call the TPWD boater education course hotline at 1-800-253-4536, general information at (512) 389-4800, boater registration at (512) 389-4828 or boater education at (512) 389-4999. The TPWD toll-free number is 1-800-792-1112.

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TPWD ANNOUNCES GULF SHRIMP CLOSURE

AUSTIN--The Gulf of Mexico shrimping season will be closed from 30 minutes after sunset May 15 to 30 minutes after sunset July 6, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials.

The Gulf shrimping grounds are closed annually until a substantial number of shrimp reach 65 shrimp tails to the pound, said Ralph Rayburn, the department's coastal fisheries branch chief.

"The season is closed to allow the shrimp to grow to a larger, more valuable size and to prevent waste from discarding smaller-sized shrimp," he said. "If we opened earlier or later than July 6, it would mean that shrimp harvest most likely would not meet the objectives of the state or federal shrimp management plans."

The full closure, as set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, is May 15 to July 15 unless the department makes changes as it is doing again this year. "The date is based on biological sampling," Rayburn said. "Initial indications are that the upcoming season will be similar to last year when the same closure period was set."

Crews will continue to monitor the shrimping grounds in order to observe any changes that might alter the current projected pattern of shrimp growth and migration from the bays. To open the Gulf on a date other than July 6, the department would have to give the public 24 hours notice.

Rayburn said the closure is in effect for state waters out to nine nautical miles. The National Marine Fisheries Service, which will close waters out to 200 nautical miles, will announce their dates to conform to the Texas closure.

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BASS, OTHERS HONORED BY SCOT

AUSTIN--Perry R. Bass of Fort Worth, chairman emeritus of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and four other individuals and groups with ties to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department were honored for their conservation work by the Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas during its annual awards banquet April 28 here.

Bass was named SCOT's Conservationist of the Year for his long and outstanding commitment to the outdoors. Bass was appointed to the commission in 1977, became chairman in 1979 and served on the commission for six years. He was later named chairman emeritus, a position created by Gov. Bill Clements.

As chairman, Bass played major roles in the passage of the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983, the Red Drum Act, formation of the Local Parks, Recreation and Open Space fund and the management of the Matagorda Island State Park and Wildlife Management Area.

In 1987 he received the Chevron Conservation Award, perhaps the most prestigious such award in the nation, for his accomplishments and leadership. The Texas Outdoor Writers Association recently named him "Citizen Conservationist of the Year" for 1991

After the past session of the Texas Legislature Bass, through his personal intercession with the Governor, the State Comptroller and the Attorney General, was able to get some \$400,000 in annual interest monies returned to the state's game and fish fund for wildlife restoration projects. Otherwise the interest, earned on money paid in by sportsmen for hunting and fishing licenses, would have been spent on other state programs not related to wildlife.

By saving those funds for wildlife, Bass greatly reduced the possibility that the federal government would withhold from Texas about \$14 million annually that it receives from excise taxes paid by Texas sportsmen buying hunting, fishing, boating and shooting equipment.

Ernie Davis, a department wildlife biologist from Cotulla, was named Wildlife Conservationist of the Year by the group. Davis has worked for TPWD since graduating from Texas A&M University in 1966.

He is currently the technical guidance biologist for the South Texas district, but also has worked as area manager at the Engeling and Chaparral WMAs.

Davis has authored several publications on wildlife management, and is a frequent speaker and presenter at ranch programs, field days, clinics, symposiums and conferences.

SCOT honored Ernest G. Collins of Broaddus as its Hunter Education Volunteer of the Year. An agricultural science teacher for 41 years, Collins has been a certified hunter education volunteer for 18 years, certifying 416 students. He now is an area chief for the department's hunter education program.

In the early 1970s, Collins helped organize and write the Agriculture Resource Curriculum (ARC) for the State of Texas. Schools in Broaddus and Whitney were the first to teach the course, which included wildlife conservation and management, boating safety and hunter education.

Gail Thomason, a seventh grade language arts teacher in Harlingen, was honored as Conservation Educator of the Year for her work with Project WILD. Thomason recently was named Project WILD Teacher of the Year by the department.

The Texas Bighorn Society was presented the National Wildlife Federation Chairman's Award as Outstanding Member Club.

The Texas Bighorn Society played a major role in constructing huge brood pens for the department's bighorn sheep restoration project prior to 1985. They added a lot of money to that derived from hunting licenses and stamps and excise tax on hunting equipment, providing materials and much of the labor for the effort that began in the Sierra Diablo mountain range.

Since 1985, the group's members have completed, assisted and/or coordinated several bighorn restoration projects within the animals' historic range. One of their more recent projects with the department involved 30 volunteers who built an artificial water hole to supply up to 800 gallons of water at the high altitudes bighorns prefer in the Beach Mountains north of Van Horn.

The SCOT Conservation Achievement Awards is an educational program designed to recognize and encourage activity directed toward the conservation of Texas' natural resources and the preservation and enhancement of the environment. Recognition is given to exceptional accomplishments by private citizens, government officials, private organizations, industrial firms and corporations. The program is intended to encourage increased interest and activities in the wise management of natural resources and the control of environmental degradation.

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CAPROCK TRAIL RIDE SCHEDULED

QUITAQUE--Riding enthusiasts can try their hand at being a "real cowboy" with two days on horse during the Texas Head Injury Foundation's Memorial Day Weekend Trail Ride on May 23-24.

For a \$135 donation participants can ride almost 70 miles through the Caprock Escarpment in the Texas Panhandle, ending up in Caprock Canyons State Park.

Riders will check in by 6 a.m. May 23 at the Figure 3 Ranch, a few miles from the entrance of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. They will ride two miles to a chuck wagon for a 7 a.m. country breakfast before mounting up again at 8 a.m. for a 40-mile ride to the line camp at Coon Creek, two miles south of where Tule Creek and the Red River converge. There, riders will have supper and get some much needed sleep. On May 24, breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. then it will be time to mount up again for a 25-mile ride to Caprock Canyons State Park and the grand finale.

Those who don't want to ride can join the festivities at the park on the afternoon of May 24. Riders are expected to arrive about 3 p.m. for supper and ceremonies.

"If you have any desires to experience life on the open trail, do not miss this opportunity," said Park Manager Russell S. Sargent. "Just think of the fun and hard work while doing something good for someone else."

The Texas Head Injury Foundation is a nonprofit organization administered by the Amarillo Area for the Elizabeth T Bivins Rehabilitation Complex. All meals and guides for the ride are furnished by the foundation, but participants will need their own horse and bedroll. The foundation will arrange to shuttle vehicles from the ranch to the park if needed.

Caprock Canyons State Park is three miles north of Quitaque off Texas 86 on Ranch Road 1065. The 13,960-acre park includes 100-acre Lake Theo. The park offers picnicking, primitive camping or camping with water and electricity, nature and hiking trails, an equestrian area, showers and the lake has a boat ramp.

Appropriate weekend and daily entrance fees are applicable. Holders of the Texas Conservation Passport receive free entry into the park. For more information on the trail ride contact Glenn Campbell at (806) 655-2286. For information on the park call (806) 455-1492.

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FREE FISHING DAY SET

AUSTIN--A "Free Sportfishing Day" will kick off National Fishing Week by allowing anglers to fish any public waters of Texas without a fishing license all day on June 6, a Saturday.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said the special day, authorized by the Texas Legislature, is intended to promote fishing and encourage people to enjoy the state's fishery resources.

David Palmer, law enforcement director of field operations, said that resident and nonresident recreational fishermen will be allowed to fish without a license, and they also will not be required to have special stamps such as the \$7 saltwater sportfishing or freshwater trout stamps.

National Fishing Week will be observed across the nation June 1-7 with a variety of activities centered on fishing as family recreation. This year's theme, "Take a Friend Fishing," encourages fishermen to invite friends and neighbors to a fishing outing.

The Mineral Wells Bass Club will sponsor a children's fishing tournament June 6 at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. The park also will have expert demonstrations of fishing techniques, identification of fish, laws and safety.

No fishing license will be required to fish in any state park waters on June 6, but normal entry and facility use fees apply. Camping reservations are recommended.

Lake Mineral Wells State Park is four miles east of Mineral Wells on U.S. Highway 180. For more information call (817) 328-1171

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FRONTIER FESTIVAL TO BRING TEXAS HISTORY ALIVE

JACKSBORO--Fort Richardson State Historical Park will transform into an 1800's trading camp June 5-7, featuring hundreds of trappers and traders, Indians, cavalry and infantry, buffalo hunters, gunfighters and cowboys in pre-1880 dress and equipment.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is hosting this major living history event to show today's Texans what the pioneer life was like in the mid-1880s.

"This is the first time we've had a living history event with this kind of variety. With the Frontier Festival, we're going to show Texans what made the West famous," said Danny Peterson, park superintendent.

The project organizers are Johnny and Donna Hogue, professional living history traders.

"You've got to do your homework - history books, libraries, living experts. You've got to really want to do this to do it right," said Johnny Hogue, a full-time, professional "buckskinner" with the group No Name City.

The Hogues have invited five buckskinner organizations to help stage the Frontier Festival. Membership in these organizations totals about 500 men, women and children who practice the skills, crafts and survival techniques of pre-1840 Texans.

The Hogues tour the state attending what they call Rendezvous, meetings of living history aficionados which occur once or twice per month across Texas. In addition to the Buckskinners, the Hogues have invited a variety of historical reenactment groups, including buffalo hunters, Native Americans and others.

The event runs from 8 a.m. on June 5 to noon on June 7. Admission is \$3 per vehicle, free for holders of either the Texas Conservation or the Parklands Passport.

Fort Richardson State Historical Park is located one mile south of the county courthouse in Jacksboro on U.S. 281, which is also South Main Street. For more information, call the park at (817) 567-3506.

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OUTDOOR NOTEBOOK

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hatcheries recently have stocked several thousand smallmouth bass and red drum fingerlings into Texas waters.

At total of 74,607 smallmouth bass fingerlings were stocked into three water bodies. On April 29, 32,774 were stocked into Lake Georgetown in Williamson County, 29,253 into Lake Whitney in Hill County and 12,580 into Palo Duro Creek in Hansford County.

The upper Laguna Madre received 23,490 fingerlings on May 5.

* * * * *

AUSTIN--Proceeds from this year's Spring Trout Tournament in the Galveston Bay system will be donated to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to support relocation of the department's Seabrook Marine Laboratory.

The Seabrook facility has been the focal point of fishery research and monitoring studies for the Galveston Bay system since 1963, said Lynn Benefield, coastal fisheries regional director in Seabrook. At its present location, the lab has suffered from subsidence, hurricanes, tropical storms and routine flooding because of high, wind-driven tides.

The lab is the home base for five coastal and resource protection biologists, 11 support technical staff and the regional director.

The donation will allow the department to find a new site and acquire land to support the lab's continuing work on higher ground. "Without this generous contribution by the companies involved and the public who supports them, a new marine lab could remain on the drawing board for many years to come," Benefield said.

The tournament, which runs from May 1 through June 30, is sponsored by Marburger's Inc, a Galveston Bay-area sporting goods store, and the Miller Brewing Company and offers \$141,800 in prizes. For more information contact tournament director Jean Moore at (713) 487-8686.

* * * * *

AUSTIN--The Tejas Hunting Retriever Club in Houston and the Texas Game Warden Association has joined forces to sponsor the Fourth Annual Sporting Clays Fun Shoot to benefit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Operation Game Thief program.

Operation Game Thief, established by the 67th Texas Legislature, offers cash rewards to those willing to report information that results in the conviction of those violating game and fish laws. Callers may remain anonymous. The Game Thief hotline is 1-800-792-GAME.

The shoot is scheduled for 9 a.m. on June 6 at the Clear Creek Gun Range. Entry fee is \$40 for adults and \$30 for juniors 16 and under. For more information contact Chris Pratka at (713) 461-4658.

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Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.534
May 13, 1992

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for May 13:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters and Rattle Traps; crappie are good at night on minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds on red wigglers and Bill's Sponge Baits.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 72 degrees, 6 inches below spillway level; black bass are good in the 2 1/2 to 3 pound range on purple worms with white tails; striper are good to 5 pounds at night on jigs; crappie are beginning to move, fishermen catch up to 7 fish per string on minnows, largest weighing 2 1/2 pounds; white bass are good to 3 pounds at night with some runs during the day on silver spoons; channel catfish are fairly good to 3 pounds on worms and shrimp.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 73 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are good through 5 pounds, 7 ounces on grape worms; striper are good through 21 pounds on live bait with limits daily; crappie are slow; white bass are good early and late on slabs and jigs, limits daily; catfish are good through 5 pounds off shallow points on worms and fresh shrimp.

CANYON: Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on large minnows and Rattle Traps; smallmouth are good to 3 pounds on the same baits; striper are fair to 8 pounds off black goldfish and perch; crappie are good at night under lights on minnows and jiggling spoons; catfish are good to 42 pounds on trotline with goldfish, most rod and reel catfish are good in the 4-6 pound range; walleye are fair to 3 pounds on floating worms 4 feet from the bottom in the mouth of the Guadalupe, about 5 miles above the dam. The boat ramp at Lakeview Lodges is now open. The ramps at the Springs and Tom Creek are also open.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds, good numbers caught on Slug-Gos, spinners and Rattle Traps; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 74 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass are good through 7 1/4 pounds on lizards, cranks and DB#3s without a discernible pattern; crappie are fairly good in number but several are below keeper size on minnows; catfish are fairly good to 31 pounds on jug lines baited with perch.

INKS LAKE: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds on chartreuse worms; striper are fair to 20 pounds on live bait below the dam; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in number but small in size on minnows and shad; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with minnows and shrimp; yellow catfish are good to 16 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch; gar are spawning and plentiful to 5 feet in length on minnows and frayed nylon rope.

LBJ: Water clear, 73 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 6 pounds, 12 ounces on black

Chicken Foot worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on docks with structure on minnows; white bass are good midlake, off points where shad are running, on jigs; catfish are good to 6 pounds in baited holes on stink bait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on buzz baits, Strike King spinners and Jawtec Wacky Craws; crappie are improving on minnows, no limits caught; white bass are good early and late on Rattle Traps; catfish are good through 12 pounds on live perch baited trotlines in the creek channels.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow, some caught in 5-15 feet of water on red wigglers; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good in 6 to 43 foot of water on shrimp, stinkbait and worms.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 19 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds in the upper portion of the lake on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good off the docks and along the banks on minnows; white bass are good off docks with minnows, in good numbers, most fishermen catch limits; catfish are slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, normal level, largemouth bass are good to 40 fish per day to 4 1/2 pounds on chrome topwaters early, strawberry glitter Ringworms and smoke glitter grubs; Guadalupe bass are good to 15 inches on same lures, some limits caught; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair early off points on chrome topwaters; catfish are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on cut bait.

WACO: Water off color, 80 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good on topwaters early and jigs in the middle of the day; catfish are good to 20 pounds on trotlines baited with perch; channel catfish are good to 5 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners; smallmouth are good to 6.5 pounds on spinners; striper are excellent to 18 1/2 pounds with limits on live bait; white bass are good on slabs, spoons and white jigs with limits to 1 1/2 pounds each; crappie are fair in the barges, excellent to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 3 pounds on stinkbait; yellow catfish are good to 38 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 7.18 pounds on Ring Rascals and some caught while schooling on various topwaters; hybrid striper are slowing down but some schooling late in the afternoon; crappie are good with several full strings caught on minnows; white bass are good and are caught with topwaters while schooling; catfish are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on large minnows, shiners, liver and worms.

CADDO: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 9 pounds on worms and topwaters; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds in the Big Green Break on the Louisiana side on minnows; catfish are good at night to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and blood bait; bream are bedding

and hard to catch right now, best baits are crickets.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in number in shallow water but small in size, better fish are suspended at 15 feet on spinners and black Sensations; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string in 10-22 feet of water around bridges and artificial reefs; white bass are fair at night on minnows; channel catfish are good to 7 1/2 pounds drifting shrimp; yellow catfish are good to 32 pounds on shallow set trotlines baited with goldfish.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on black worms with blue tails; crappie are good with limits on jigs and minnows; catfish are good to 15 pounds on nightcrawlers.

FORK: Water clear, 10 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 10 pounds in 18 feet or less of water on topwaters and Zara Spooks, Rattle Traps; crappie are fairly good off points and over the moss on jigs and minnows; catfish are good to 54 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

JOE POOL: Water a little off color, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 4-6 pound range on minnows and lizards; crappie are good to 1 pound on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 12 pounds on trotline with live bait.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on topwaters, Tiny Torpedoes, Crazy Shad, Slug-Gos, Fliptail Floating Lizards; crappie are fair in 18 to 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps, some schooling activity; catfish are good to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers and cut bait.

LAVON: Water clear, 72 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners in 4-6 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are very good with several limits caught on minnows and jigs in 6 feet of water; white bass are good with several limits on slabs and spoons; catfish are good to 5 pounds on jug lines and trotlines also caught in shallow water on minnows.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 70-80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on Rattlin' Rogues, spinners and worms; crappie are good around bridges and in baited holes on minnows; catfish are excellent to 30 pounds on trotlines baited with perch; channel catfish are excellent on trotline and rod and reel baited with liver and bloodbait; blue catfish are excellent on perch baited trotlines.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on 8-inch black worms; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows; catfish are good to 8 pounds on Canadian crawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds on shrimp and cheese baits.

MURVAUL: Water clear, 68 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 8 pounds, 10 ounces on worms; crappie are slow around 1971 bridge and around boat piers on

small minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 35 pounds on trotline baited with bream; channel catfish are fairly good on trotlines baited with cut shad and small bream.

PALESTINE: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on worms and topwaters early and late; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds with limits caught on minnows; white bass are good with evening schooling, fish are caught on slabs; catfish are good to 12 pounds on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers and catapas.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 22 pounds late in the afternoon on liver, dough bait and live bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 72 degree, normal level; black bass are fair to good through 4 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good with many undersized fish caught on minnows in 12-14 feet of water; white bass are very good with many limits caught on slabs; catfish are very good through 2 pounds on shrimp.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on red shad worms or lizards and grasshopper colored lizards or worms in 8-15 feet of water; crappie are picking up with limits on minnows; white bass are good all over the lake on slabs and Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 20 pounds on trotlines baited with shad or cut bait.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on worms and spinners; white bass are good to 25 fish per string, many limits in the 1- to 1 3/4-pound range on Rattle Traps and trailers; catfish are fairly good to 12 pounds on cut bait.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on spinners in shallow water; striper are slow; crappie are good through 2 pounds with many limits caught on minnows; white bass are excellent in number on minnow spoons; catfish are good to 47 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

TEXOMA: Water fairly clear, 67 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on worms, Slug-Gos, lizards and Zara Spooks; striper are excellent to 16 pounds on live bait; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows in shallow water; white bass are excellent to 3 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad and spoons; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds in shad and shrimp in shallow water; blue catfish are good to 50 pounds on cut bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water slightly stained on the south end, clear on the north, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 pounds, 11 ounces in the shallows on Craw Worms, jerk baits and spinners; crappie are fair to good to 2 pounds on minnows in the brush tops and around the stumps; white bass are poor in the main lake and good below the dam; catfish are fair to 12 pounds in shallow water on crawfish, shad, nightcrawlers and chicken livers; bream are fair on crickets and red wigglers.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow in fairly good size range, fish are scattered; white bass are good; crappie are good on minnows;

catfish are good to 2 pounds on minnows and commercial catfish bait, frozen shad.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on June Bugs, colored worms, black lizards and pumpkin seed worms with green metal flakes; crappie are good between 2-6 p.m. on minnows and chartreuse jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 13 pounds, 14 ounces on trotlines baited with live bait.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, normal level; black bass are fair in the 3-7 pound range; striper are slow; white bass are slowing down; catfish are slowing down also.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on topwaters on Jerkin' Sams; striper are slow; crappie are very good on minnows and small jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair.

SHELDON: Water clearing, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on minnows and worms; crappie are poor; catfish are fair in the 3-4 pound range on minnows and cut bait.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 77 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair in number to 6 pounds on spinners and worms; striper are fair to 9 pounds on jigs and deep running Redfins; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on shiners and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 48 pounds on troline with live bait; bream are good on crickets and red wigglers.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 67 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on black or purple Power Worms; striper are slowing down, a few in the 4-5 pound range caught; crappie are fairly good up the Devil's River, fair in the rest of the lake on minnows and slabs; white bass are running all over the lake on Rattle Traps and slabs, minnows are good at night; catfish at are fair to good in the 3-5 pound range.

BRAUNIC: Water murky, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 6 1/2 pounds on red cranks, worms and spoons; striper are very good in the 6-12 pound range on crawfish; channel catfish are fair in the 2 1/2 pound range on shrimp, shad and chicken livers; redfish are good to 19 pounds on spoons and cranks.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 80 degrees, 12 inches above normal level; black bass are slow to 6 1/2 pounds on artificials; striper are slow to 6 pounds on artificials, chicken livers and shad; catfish are good in number but most are in the 2-3 pound range; redfish are fair to 17 pounds on crawfish, shad and artificials.

CHOKO: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 10 pounds in 10-15 feet of water on top of humps, tank dams and along road beds; main lake points also producing bass on plastic worms and deep diving cranks in deep water; some bass were caught in 3-8 feet of water on spinners and lures; best area is south shore flats, the dam area and Four Fingers; topwaters are good early around Mason and Calliham Points; striper are slow; crappie are slow, some were caught on live minnows around 99 bridge; white bass are slow; catfish are fair with a good number caught, most are small.

COLETO CREEK: Water murky, 77

degrees at the dam, 81 degrees at Dike 2; black bass are fair above the Coletto Creek bridge; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows at the pier; catfish are good to 5 pounds on bloodbait and stinkbait.

FALCON: Water clear, 74 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are slow but improving to 10 pounds, 14 ounces on white spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are picking up on slabs and spoons; catfish are excellent to 6 pounds on shrimp.

TEXANA: Water muddy, 79 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds in the jungle area on dark worms; crappie are fair under 111 bridge on minnows, no limits; catfish are fair in the 1-5 pound range on crawfish.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 33 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds, 12 ounces on plastic worms; striper are fair to 7 pounds on cut shad; crappie are slowing down; white bass are good to 1 1/2 pounds on the surface early; blue catfish are good to 10 pounds on trotlines with cut bait.

GRANBURY: Water dirty following rains, few fishermen out.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 70 degrees surface, normal level; black bass are good through 6 1/2 pounds on spinners and minnows in shallow water; crappie are excellent to 3 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good trolling Countdown Rapalas; blue catfish are good to 13 1/2 pounds on jug lines baited with shrimp; walleye are picking up; bluegill sunfish are excellent to 1/2 pound on red wigglers and night crawlers.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water muddy, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good through 9.82 pounds on spinners; striper are poor; crappie are poor; white bass are poor; catfish are fairly poor.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 63 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good to 5 pounds on minnows; striper are good to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows; crappie are good to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows in 6 feet of water; white bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on Tule Creek and in the main lake; catfish are slow in the 3-5 pound range on minnows; walleye are slow to 5 1/2 pounds on worms.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are hitting minnows and jigs, many limits caught; white bass are good on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 23 pounds on minnows and perch-baited trotlines; walleye are slow.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 71 degrees, lake full; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on spinners and worms; crappie are fair at night on minnows; white bass are good in number by trolling white jigs and silver spoons; catfish are good to 16 pounds on trotlines with goldfish. O.H.IVIE: Surface water clear, 71.5 degrees surface, 59 degrees bottom in main body, lake full; black bass are fair in 12-17 inch range on a variety of lures; crappie are good on minnows in 3-12 feet of water; channel and blue catfish are good with strings to

24 fish in the 2-5-pound range on Hafner's stinkbait and Catfish Charlie.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on topwaters and plastic worms; striper are fair to 10 pounds on slabs; crappie are good to 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are fairly good to 1 1/2 pounds on topwaters, fish are schooling on the surface; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on perch and minnows.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 18 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fairly slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fairly good to 10 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch and crawfish.

SPENCE: Water clear, 64 degrees, 6 feet down; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners in 6 feet of water; striper are good to 14 1/2 pounds on live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are slow, a few caught while trolling in front of the dam; catfish are good to 3 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp, shad and bass minnows.

STAMFORD: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly good in shallow water on worms; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows, good numbers of limits caught; white bass are fairly good in the trees and stumps on slabs and spoons; catfish are fair in number and small in size.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 74 degrees, normal level and rising; black bass are slow in the 4-5 pound range on spinners and Rattle Traps; crappie are good in 20 feet of water on minnows and Kastmasters; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 26 pounds on trotlines with live perch and gold fish; blue catfish are good to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with shad.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 69 degrees at 12 feet; black bass are good in the 4-8 pound range on spinners, Rattle Traps, large minnows and worms; crappie are good in 15 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 52 pounds with drop lines and live bait.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has been fairly good but nothing great; no specks caught in the upper lake; some good sized redfish caught on dead shrimp, small crabs and cut mullet south of Stewart's Island and in Hickory Cove and Old River Cove; good numbers of black drum and croaker caught south of the islands; some flounder and sheepshead landed; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Limits of trout, flounder and redfish from the causeway bridge to the reef; jetty fishing has been fairly rough; most fish are keepers, few throwbacks; flounder are good on fresh shrimp and mud minnows; specks and redfish are hitting Wildfire Tiger touts and Wildfire Tiger Swimming Worms; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Fishing has been good with the best speck fishing in a couple of years; limits of trout caught in all the bays; specks to 9 pound plus from the Gulf Coast Pier from the surf; scattered redfish and flounder, good sized gafftops; offshore fishermen are catching Spanish mackerel, ling, bonito, dolphin and some tuna; live bait shrimp plentiful;

fishing should continue to be good; winds have been moderate.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishermen are catching limits of red snapper in the 5-10 pound range about 40 miles off shore; fishing has been good.

PORT OCONNOR: Few fishermen out due to high winds; quite a few small trout and only a few redfish caught around Boggy Bayou and at the jetties; fishing has been fairly slow; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 per quart.

MATAGORDA: Limits of redfish and trout caught along the south shoreline of West Matagorda Bay on strawberry Hogies and Storm Thundersticks; limits of specks caught at the Palacios wells; limits of trout caught in Oyster Lake; flounder are everywhere in East and West Bay the 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 pound range; limits of trout under the birds in East Matagorda Bay; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

PALACIOS: Low tides and high southeast winds have kept most fishermen at home; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; a few redfish, trout and flounder caught on live bait.

ROCKPORT: Good numbers of trout caught on small croakers in Aransas Bay and in Redfish Bay around Ransom, Dagger and Stedman Islands; redfish are good scattered and are caught on Cacohe minnows on the outside beach of Traylor Island, near Mud Island and Allan's Bight; live bait shrimp are available at \$7.50 to \$8 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Trout are good along the Intracoastal Canal, bay fishing has been good all over, fishing around the islands and flats also has been good; drift fishing has been good on live bait; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$4.31 per pint and \$7.54 per quart. Offshore fishermen are catching good numbers of blacktip shark, each trip bringing at least one over 100 pounds; amberjack and snapper are plentiful about 30-35 miles offshore; fairly good numbers of trigger fish and sharp nosed shark have been caught in the same area; some black drum also caught in the 30-mile range and blackfin are fairly good to 22 pounds each.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water is fairly muddy due to high winds; a few drum caught along the causeway; few fishermen out; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout and flounder are caught in the East Cut; good numbers of small redfish caught on the flats; good sized trout caught in the Saucer Area in 3 to 5 feet of water; some shrimp available at \$12 per quart; north bay is off color.

SOUTH PADRE: Good numbers of specks on the west side, Mexiquita flats had limits of specks, limits of specks caught off the Long Bar; some big trout caught by waders, a 12-pound, 9-ounce trout caught at Holley Beach; some redfish and black drum caught at Gas Well Flats and Three Islands; offshore fishermen are catching all the bonito they want along with jackfish and a few kingfish; far offshore fishermen are catching wahoo and blackfin tuna, no billfish yet; some snapper caught offshore, fishing is good but not excellent; winds have been fairly high; surf fishermen are catching whiting, pompano and good numbers of small shark; pier fishermen are catching whiting, grunt, sandtrout and croaker during the day; night pier

fishermen are catching trout to 22 inches, most are in the 16- to 17-inch range. Live bait shrimp are plentiful at \$10 per quart.

PH 5/13/92

