

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the March 27, 1992, issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Muzzleloader Hunts Draw 3,000 Applications..... | 1 |
| Coastal Fisheries Conference Scheduled..... | 2 |
| Sheep Society Builds Guzzlers On Black Gap | 3 |
| Deer Fawns, Others Should Be Left Alone..... | 4 |
| Volunteers Record Ancient Rock Art | 5 |
| Boating Accidents Show Need For Safety..... | 6 |
| It's For The Birds | 7 |
| Top 50 Largemouth Bass List | |
| Fishing Report | |

MUZZLELOADER HUNTS DRAW 3,000 APPLICATIONS

AUSTIN--More than 3,000 people applied to hunt deer in the state's first muzzleloader hunts last fall. Of the more than 300 that participated, 43 percent were successful.

Muzzleloader hunts for deer and exotic animals were held at five state parks, Choke Canyon-North Shore, Lost Maples, Seminole Canyon, Enchanted Rock and Guadalupe River. Glenn Boydston, wildlife survey coordinator at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, on March 25 briefed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations Committee on results of these hunts and of a muzzleloader survey from information gathered from these hunters.

The department received 3,320 applications for the 506 available permits, a ratio of 6.6 applications for each available permit. The 337 participants harvested 145 animals, 25 bucks and 120 antlerless deer. (The few exotic animals taken are listed among the totals for antlerless deer.)

Muzzleloader hunts for antlerless deer and spike bucks were held on four areas. Of the 1,594 people applying for 425 slots, 261 hunters harvested 106 animals, 15 spikes and 91 antlerless deer.

Stats from the four areas were:

* Enchanted Rock, 683 applications, 129 permits available, 76 participants, 40 animals harvested

* Guadalupe River, 401 applications, 151 openings, 96 participants, 11 animals harvested

* Lost Maples, 334 applications for 54 available permits, 40 animals harvested

* Seminole Canyon, 176 applications for 91 permits, 49 animals harvested.

At three parks scheduled for either-sex muzzleloader hunts, the department received 1,726 applications for 81 positions. Seventy-six hunters harvested 39 animals, 10 bucks and 29 antlerless deer. Those areas include:

* Choke Canyon-North Shore, 1,250 applications, 56 permits, 52 hunters, 22 animals harvested (three bucks, 19 antlerless deer)

* Lost Maples, 316 applications, 12 permits, 12 hunters, seven animals (two bucks, five antlerless deer)

* Seminole Canyon, 160 applications, 13 positions, 12 hunters, 10 animals (five bucks, five antlerless deer).

LW 3/27/92

COASTAL FISHERIES CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

AUSTIN--Professionals from many facets of coastal fisheries will be on hand to speak to recreational and commercial fishermen during the Coastal Fisheries Conference, scheduled for May 2 at the Texas A&M University-Galveston auditorium.

The conference will take an in-depth look at the status of coastal fisheries resources and issues surrounding their management. Specialists will make presentations on the areas of coastal resource monitoring, marine fisheries research, coastal fisheries management and marine fisheries-based business.

There is a \$15 registration fee and pre-registration is recommended. The fee includes a luncheon and break refreshments. A pre-conference social is planned for the evening of May 1. The cost is \$7.50. The conference will begin with registration at 8 a.m., followed by the general session at 9 a.m. After the luncheon, break-out sessions will allow participants with specific interests to discuss those areas of concern. The conference will end about 4:30 p.m.

'We want to provide a forum for review of the status of coastal fisheries stocks, allow public input on the conditions and management of the fisheries, debate current issues and share ideas on how to better the coastal fisheries of Texas, said Ralph Rayburn, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's coastal fisheries branch chief.

The conference is sponsored by TPWD, Texas A&M-Galveston, the Texas A&M Institute of Marine Life Sciences, the Texas A&M Marine Advisory Service and Sea Grant College Program and the Texas A&M Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

For more information or to register for the conference contact TPWD at 1 800-792-1112, ext. 4863, or (512) 389-4863.

LW 3/27/92

SHEEP SOCIETY BUILDS GUZZLERS ON BLACK GAP

ALPINE--About 70 members of the Texas Bighorn Sheep Society and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel pooled their knowledge and resources to build two water collection devices in mountains on the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area.

The Texas Bighorn Sheep Society donated the materials and most of the labor to build the devices, also called water guzzlers. The project cost the organization about \$25,000.

Each v-shaped device is designed to catch rain water then funnel the water into a 4,000-gallon storage tank from which the flow is regulated by a float valve.

"The guzzlers were built in an area we think is good desert bighorn sheep habitat and where we plan to release some sheep in the future, said Mike Pittman, Black Gap area manager. "Everything was hauled in by helicopter. Our objective is to get water into sheep country. We have 20 guzzlers on the Black Gap but not in sheep country. These were built on the side of a mountain."

Desert bighorn sheep have not inhabited the Black Gap in several years, but department officials, with the help of Texas Bighorn Society, plan to stock sheep on the area possibly in late summer

"We think the area is excellent sheep habitat. We think they have as good a chance there as any place, and they've done well there before," Pittman said.

The Texas Bighorn Society has been a big help in increasing the number of desert bighorns in the Trans-Pecos since the mid-1980s. The estimated desert bighorn sheep population is 385 animals currently in Texas, but that should increase after this spring's lambing.

"The major thing the Texas Bighorn Society gets involved with is water development projects," said Bob West, regional wildlife director in San Angelo. "They provide materials and labor. They're a tremendous help. After two days of effort, we were in and out and the bills are paid."

LW 3/27/92

DEER FAWNS, OTHERS SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE

AUSTIN--With each spring comes the birth of deer fawns and other newborn wildlife, and also the urge by many Texans to take home these animals for fear that they have been abandoned by their mothers.

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

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

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

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

If someone finds an animal that is wounded or hurt, he should contact the local game warden and/or a rehabilitator who is authorized to handle wildlife, he said.

"Handling fawns is a very bad problem," Palmer said. "Central Texas is one of the worst areas of the state as well as San Antonio. Anywhere you've got deer in subdivisions you'll have this problem. Sometimes in West Texas someone will bring a baby antelope to town. Rarely can a baby antelope survive after this."

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

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

LW 3/27/92

VOLUNTEERS RECORD ANCIENT ROCK ART

EL PASO--The important work of mapping, drawing and documenting some of Texas' most renowned ancient rock art will continue on April 3-5 at Hueco Tanks State Park near here.

A recording team, led by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department instructors, will be made up of Texas Archaeological Society members and other volunteers from Mexico and New Mexico. In November 1991 the 20-member team began the painstaking work of providing a permanent record of original art works that are gradually crumbling away. Historically buffeted by the elements, and lately marred by vandals with spray paint, the outdoor art works are under constant attack by both nature and mankind.

"The rock art at Hueco Tanks is a priceless resource that belongs to the people of Texas and to the world, said Ron Ralph, TPWD resource planner. "This recording project will provide a permanent record of these vanishing treasures for future generations to enjoy and appreciate."

More than 2,000 pictographs are scattered throughout the state park. The rock drawings depict the spiritual ideas and daily activities of various Native American peoples who once lived in the region. Four different time periods are represented, with the oldest dating back about 4,000 years ago. Most of the images are about 1,000 years old.

The recording technique involves the preparation of a one-meter-square grid for each painted or incised rock surface. The individual squares are then mapped with the art contained in each square carefully mapped on graph paper. Finally, black and white and color photographs and, when necessary, painted watercolor copies are made of each art work.

The work of recording Texas' rock art - ranked among the finest in the world began in the 1930's by Forest Kirkland, a Dallas illustrator and watercolorist. With the much-needed help of dedicated volunteers, TPWD staff have begun to expand on Kirkland's work at various department-owned sites across Texas. Hueco Tanks represents one of the most important sites in the state.

TH 3/27/92

BOATING ACCIDENTS SHOW NEED FOR SAFETY

AUSTIN--Boating accidents increased slightly in 1991 but are still way down from five years ago. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens report 59 boating deaths in 1991 compared to 51 deaths in 1990 and 88 deaths in 1987.

"What people need to realize is that most of these tragedies occurred on calm waters under clear skies in the middle of the day," said Capt. Dexter Harris, TPWD boating law administrator. "Many people have the misconception that they only need to be careful at night or in bad weather."

Harris said the most effective thing people can do to prevent accidents is wear life preservers. Life preservers are mandatory for children under 13. While they are not required for adults, many lives might be saved if all boaters wore them.

Department staff also recommends the free boating safety courses offered throughout the state. Graduates get a certificate that may get them a discount on boat insurance, depending on which insurance company they use.

For information on department boating safety courses, call Jack Nasworthy at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4372, or at (512) 389-4372.

TH 3/27/92

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

DALLAS--Nestled in downtown Dallas in the midst of high-rise buildings, honking cars, asphalt roads and neatly manicured lawns is an 8-acre clump of trees that is used as a nesting colony by five species of herons and egrets. The island of wildlife habitat provides a place of refuge for a plethora of wildlife in the surrounding asphalt jungle of man's invention.

The nesting colony of birds, also known as a rookery, is located at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and is one of the oldest heronries in the state. For the past 28 years, birds have congregated yearly and raised their young only feet from man's hustle and bustle.

While the area is protected from threats for now, that has not always been the case.

In the spring of 1988, the heronry was accidentally damaged by a construction crew building a student recreation facility on the university's crowded campus. Upon notification of the construction project, Dr. Ray C. Telfair II, habitat assessment biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, assessed the damage on the site and offered recommendations to enhance the area for wildlife while allowing necessary construction to continue without causing further damage.

Through the cooperation of the department and the university, the story now has a happy ending.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, university president, established an advisory committee of faculty and staff, various conservation groups and the department. The advisory group worked with the medical center's physical plant director, Kirby Vahle, to oversee planning and construction of the recreational facilities and to monitor and control any disturbances that might affect the nesting colony.

The institution placed a high priority on preserving the unique advantage of having the colony located on university property, Vahle said. The committee reviewed plans and made suggestions in the layout of the recreation areas to minimize any potential disturbances to the "off limits" nesting area. Trees and other vegetation were planted and a buffer zone was established to give the birds a sense of security.

Construction of the recreational facility occurred over a period of three winters, and work stopped and started as the birds arrived to nest and departed on their migration south. The colony is flourishing and expanding, and now that the rookery is stabilized, the medical center plans to make further enhancements over the coming years to attract a greater variety of bird species.

Another benefit resulting from the effort was the documentation of the number of bird species using the small area seasonally and returning annually. In addition to the five species of herons and egrets, Dr Dorothy E. Croall and Chris Snook, medical center staff members, found that 14 other bird species nest there and 90 other species use it during spring, fall and winter migration. Several of these species were unexpected and others very rare.

The medical center is located at 5323 Harry Hines Blvd. The birds migrate to the area as early as late February and remain until late September or early October each year

Protecting and managing this rookery is another example of how man and wildlife can coexist.

BS 3/27/92

03/11/92

Texas Top 50 Largemouth Bass

| Rank | Weight (lbs) | Length (inches) | Water Body | Date Caught | Angler |
|------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 18.18 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 01/24/92 | Barry StClair |
| 2 | 17.67 | 27.50 | Lake Fork | 11/26/86 | Mark Stevenson |
| 3 | 17.64 | | Lake Fork | 04/01/89 | Stan Moss |
| 4 | 17.63 | 26.25 | Lake Fork | 08/29/90 | Jerry L. New |
| 5 | 17.29 | | Lake Fork | 02/14/88 | Larry Barnes |
| 6 | 17.08 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 02/26/91 | Troy Coates |
| 7 | 16.90 | 27.66 | Pinkston | 02/16/86 | Earl Crawford |
| 8 | 16.77 | | Mill Creek | 03/01/90 | Herchel Brickey |
| 9 | 16.75 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 03/08/90 | Stephen R. Trepkus |
| 10 | 16.59 | 26.00 | Lake Fork | 05/15/87 | Guy Witherspoon |
| 11 | 16.54 | 25.00 | Lake Fork | 02/27/91 | Bill Reed |
| 12 | 16.17 | 26.00 | Gibbons Creek | 01/15/88 | Troy Johnson |
| 13 | 16.06 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 03/09/88 | Tom Hallum |
| 14 | 16.04 | 25.75 | Lake Fork | 02/29/92 | Gaspar Cardinale |
| 15 | 16.02 | 26.75 | Possum Kingdom | 10/13/89 | Scott Tongate |
| 16 | 16.00 | 27.50 | Lake Fork | 07/03/89 | John Stanley |
| 17 | 15.95 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 03/27/91 | Wendall Atkinson |
| 18 | 15.88 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 02/17/90 | Jim Taylor |
| 19 | 15.65 | 27.50 | Lake Fork | 05/28/91 | Rex Thompson |
| 20 | 15.61 | 26.13 | Lake Fork | 05/08/91 | Jim Gore |
| 21 | 15.58 | 27.00 | Amistad | 03/11/89 | Jay Hiler |
| 22 | 15.53 | 27.00 | Lake Fork | 04/19/87 | Dennis Canada |
| 23 | 15.51 | | Lake Fork | 09/23/91 | Boyd Walker |
| 24 | 15.50 | 25.75 | Echo (private) | 02/07/81 | John Alexander Jr |
| 25 | 15.46 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 02/27/92 | Bob Lancaster |
| 26 | 15.41 | 25.00 | Lake Fork | 02/27/91 | Dennis Bassinger |
| 27 | 15.38 | 28.50 | Lake Fork | 03/17/89 | Harold Stanley |
| 28 | 15.38 | 26.00 | Lake Fork | 08/18/90 | Bill Howell |
| 29 | 15.38 | 26.25 | Possum Kingdom | 02/14/91 | Don Allison |
| 30 | 15.34 | 27.00 | Lake Fork | 09/28/91 | John W. Alumbaugh |
| 31 | 15.23 | 27.50 | Welsh | 12/23/83 | Bill Ockerhausen |
| 32 | 15.20 | 25.00 | Houston County | 02/27/88 | Terry Walling |
| 33 | 15.20 | 26.25 | Amistad | 03/03/90 | Lendall Prevatt |
| 34 | 15.20 | 25.00 | Lake Fork | 03/15/90 | Scott Cupit |
| 35 | 15.16 | 26.50 | Lake Fork | 02/08/89 | Bill R. Lozano |
| 36 | 15.15 | | Lake Fork | 08/26/90 | Frank High |
| 37 | 15.12 | 27.80 | Jacksonville | 04/03/86 | Melvin Berry |
| 38 | 15.12 | 24.00 | Falcon | 05/01/91 | Scotty Deaton |
| 39 | 15.08 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 03/31/91 | David Wilson |
| 40 | 15.02 | 26.25 | Lake Fork | 07/17/91 | Scott Abish |
| 41 | 14.92 | 26.50 | Lake Fork | 09/11/90 | Bruce Gauthier |
| 42 | 14.91 | 24.50 | Lake Fork | 02/11/90 | Cal Wheeler |
| 43 | 14.91 | 26.50 | Lake Fork | 08/12/90 | Joseph Marra |
| 44 | 14.88 | 27.00 | Lake Fork | 05/28/88 | Arthur Keenom |
| 45 | 14.85 | 28.25 | Lake Fork | 08/28/91 | Charles Thompson |
| 46 | 14.83 | 25.50 | Lake Fork | 03/11/88 | Robby Bickley |
| 47 | 14.80 | 25.00 | Lake Fork | 02/28/88 | M.L. George |
| 48 | 14.74 | 25.00 | Lake Fork | 03/21/90 | Rick McRay |
| 49 | 14.66 | 26.00 | Choke Canyon | 05/25/91 | Sterling M. Kelly |
| 50 | 14.65 | 25.25 | Lake Fork | 03/07/92 | Steve Riddlehoover |

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for March 26:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, winds strong midweek, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 7 1/2 pounds on jigs and spinners; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 7 pounds on Bill's Punch Baits.

BELTON: Lake level is still 18 inches above spillway; bass are good in the new timber to 5 pounds on spinners and buzz baits; hybrid striper and white bass are good behind the dam and in the lake on slabs and jigging spoons; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water murky, 68 degrees, 6 inches over spillway level; black bass are fair in number to 4 pounds on lures; striper are fair in the 2-3 pound range at night under lights; crappie are fair with many undersized fish in 8 feet of water on minnows and flea flies; white bass are fair at night under lights on slabs, spoons and minnows; catfish are fair in the 10-12 pound range on trotlines as well as rod and reel baited with perch.

BUCHANAN: Water murky, 65 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good through 7 pounds, 9 ounces on dark worms; striper are good through 8 pounds on live bait with limits daily; crappie are slow; white bass are good around Garrett Island under birds, limits daily; catfish are fair through 8 pounds on fresh shad.

CANYON: Water clear, 59 degrees, 21 feet above normal; black bass are good to 8 pounds on minnows and white spinners in 2-30 feet of water; catfish are good to 40 pounds on trotlines baited with goldfish and perch all over the lake; channel catfish are good to 10 pounds on rod and reel using worms, shrimp and minnows in Tom's Creek; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair up river from the mouth to Rebecca Creek.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, 68 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are poor; striper are good to 8 pounds on cranks and jigs; crappie are poor; white bass are good with some limits, mostly males, on blue jigs; channel catfish are good to 3 pounds on worms and stinkbait; yellow catfish are good to 8 pounds on live perch.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 68 degrees, 10 inches above normal level; black bass were good over the weekend to 8 pounds on waterdogs, spinners and minnows; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string to 3 pounds each on minnows; catfish are fairly good on jug lines as well as rod and reel on live bait and frozen shrimp.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, 2 foot low; black bass are fairly good with several over 21 inches on plastic worms, buzz baits, Rattle Traps and cranks; crappie are slow; catfish are very good to 3 pounds.

INKS LAKE: Water murky, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair on chartreuse baits, spinners and worms; striper are fair to 9 pounds on live shad and chartreuse Blakemore Roadrunners; crappie are fair on live minnows from the pier; white bass are good

below the dam on minnows, live shad and chartreuse Tom's Minners; catfish are fair to 4 pounds with string on minnows and shrimp.

LBJ: Water clear, 66 degrees, lake full; black bass are good through 8 pounds, 11 ounces on chartreuse Ring Worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are good in Llano arm of lake trolling deep diving plugs; catfish are good through 5 pounds in baited holes with stinkbait.

LIMESTONE: Water murky to muddy, normal level; black bass are improving on spinners and Jawtech lizards; crappie are fairly good in number in shallow water in cattails on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in the 5-7 pound range on live bait in the creek channels.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear in lower half, some murkiness around banks, 58 degrees, 20 feet above normal level; black bass are good in the trees and in shallow water to 3 pounds on worms and cranks; striper are good to 5 pounds on live bait and trolling DB#3s with Tony Accetta Spoons trailers; crappie are fair to 13 fish per string on minnows in shallow creeks, around submerged brush and under bridges; white bass are good on slabs, spoons and minnows; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 3-5 pound range in shallow to 7 feet of water on Rattle Traps, minnows and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 12 1/2 pounds on worms, stinkbait and bloodbait in water under 26 feet in depth.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 63 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; largemouth bass are good to 7 pounds, 2 ounces with several in the 5 to 6 pound range on chartreuse spinners, orange-bellied cranks and smoke glitter grubs; Guadalupe bass are good to 2 pounds on same baits; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 10 feet of water around brush on chartreuse crappie jigs; white bass are fair on smoke grubs in coves; catfish are slow.

WACO: Water muddy, 68 degrees, 10 feet above normal level; black bass are slow; striper, crappie and white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 59 degrees, 11 feet above normal and dropping 1 foot per day; large mouth bass are fair to 6 pounds on Rattle Traps, grubs, spinners and Mann Shadows; smallmouth bass are slow; striper are fair in shallow water to 16 pounds on shad and Redfins in shallow water; crappie are fair with short strings to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to good to 1 1/4 pounds in the rivers on spoons, minnows, shiners and jigs; catfish are slow.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear, 62 degrees, 2 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 8.87 pounds with a good number of keeper sized fish on pumpkin seed colored lizards, worms and Craw Worms; striper are good to 3 pounds on spoons; crappie are good under the bridge to 2 1/2 pounds with some limits caught on minnows; white bass are schooling, and are mixed with the hybrids; catfish are slow; redear sunfish are beginning to move, most are hand sized, on earth

worms and crickets.

BOB SANDLIN: Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 12 pounds on green worms in 4-12 feet of water; crappie are good to 14 inches on minnows and jigs in up to 25 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair on trotlines on bloodbait and shrimp in 8-12 feet of water.

CADDO: Water clear in spots, 1 foot high; black bass are good to 6 pounds on purple worms; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows from the Louisiana side; white bass are good to 1 1/2 pounds trolling Roostertails; catfish are fair to 2 1/2 pounds at night on minnows with set hooks and trotlines.

CEDAR CREEK: Water slightly murky, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are fairly slow to 7.98 pounds on worms and minnows in 3 feet of water; all other fishing has been slow.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 11 pounds, 7 ounces on jigs and pigs and black and blue lizards; crappie are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs in 18 feet or less of water around the bank; catfish are good to 34 pounds in shallow water on minnows.

FAIRFIELD: Water fairly clear, 65-70 degrees, 10 inches above normal level; black bass are good to 8 pounds on Slug-Gos; hybrid striper are good to 15 pounds on shad; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 12 pounds on natural baits; redfish are good to 20 pounds on cranks.

FORK: Water clear, 62 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 11.62 pounds on Craw Worms; crappie are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; catfish are slow.

JOE POOL: Water fairly clear, 55-60 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on minnows, spinners and plastic worms; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and in creeks off the lakes; white bass are slow on minnows; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on chicken blood, shad and shrimp.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on plastic worms; striper are slow; crappie are good in the moss beds off the piers on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 25 pounds.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds, 10 1/2 ounces on 8-inch black worms; crappie are fair to minnows in 15 feet of water in the open water at the road bridge; channel catfish are good to 8 pounds; yellow catfish are good to 54 pounds on rod and reel with large minnows.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 54 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MURVAUL: Water clearing, some dinginess, 59 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 12 pounds, 1 ounce on cranks and worms, also a couple of 9-pounders and several in the 5-6 pound range caught; crappie are good under 1971 bridge, in coves and under boat houses on minnows; catfish are fair to 45 pounds on trotline baited with small minnows.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 6 inches high; black bass are good to 9 pounds on jigs; striper are fair to 7 pounds on cranks, slab spoons; crappie are good to 2

pounds on minnows with a few limits; white bass are good to 2 1/2 pounds on cranks, spoons and spinners; blue catfish are good to 36 pounds on trotlines with cut bait and chicken blood; channel catfish are fairly slow.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 66 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 12 pounds on purple worms and some spinners; crappie are good on minnows late in the afternoon in shallow water; catfish are slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds average on a variety of lures and minnows; striper are slow; crappie are very good to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on Rattlin' Spots and chrome Lil Georges; catfish are good to 1 1/2 pounds on shrimp and bloodbait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water murky, 56 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on white and chartreuse spinners; crappie are slow, males are in but females haven't arrived; white bass are good 25 fish per string on chartreuse slabs; catfish are slow.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water fairly good, a little off color, 59 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass and all fishing has been slow due to high winds.

TAWAKONI: Water muddy, 64 degrees, normal level; 10 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are poor; crappie are good on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 3 pounds on slabs; catfish are good to 8 pounds on shrimp and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear in spots, murky otherwise, 53 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on pigs and jigs, cranks and spinners; striper are good to excellent to 19 1/2 pounds on Sassy Shad and deep diving Redfins; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs and under covered structures in 7 to 20 feet of water; white bass are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on Sassy Shad and Rattle Traps; catfish are slow.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water muddy on the south end, stained on the north end, 60 degrees, 7 1/2 feet above seasonal normal and slowly falling; black bass are good on the north end to 5 pounds, 12 ounces and fair everywhere else in shallow water on spinners, jigs and pigs, lizards and Craw Worms; crappie are poor to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair below the dam, poor in the lake on Lil Georges; catfish are fair on trotlines baited with live shad, cut shad, minnows and liver; pole fishing is poor; weather and lake conditions are fairly poor.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water has a little color, 4 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to good to 7.01 pounds with several in the 4-5 pound range on worms and Craw Worms in shallow water; crappie are good under the bridge on minnows and jigs in shallow water; white bass are fair on jigs; catfish are good to 3 pounds on stinkbait and minnows.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water a little off color, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds, 12 ounces on black and silver Craw Worms; crappie are good off the piers in 10 feet of water in midafternoon and at dark; white

bass are slow; catfish are slow; sunfish are fairly good off the piers on worms or nightcrawlers.

LIVINGSTON: Water is fairly clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 4-6 pound range on light colored spinners and buzz baits; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows mainly in 4-5 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 30 pounds on trotlines baited live bait; blue catfish are good to 10 pounds on shad and cut bait.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 62 degrees, 8 feet above normal level; black bass are fair to 8 1/2 pounds on worms, spinners and minnows; striper are fair near the dam; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good in the 40-50 pound range and good numbers of 2 pound blue catfish caught on old Joe's frozen Bloodworm Bait.

SHELDON: Water murky, 62 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on minnows; a set of certified scales are now available in area headquarters, courtesy of Industrial Scales of Houston.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 62 degrees, 6 inches high; black bass are fair to 11 pounds, 9 ounces on Rattle Traps, spinners, Craw Worms and worms in 2 to 15 feet of water; striper are good near the dam to 16 pounds on live bait; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds on crappie jigs and shiners; catfish are fair to 15 pounds with live bait and trotlines. Rumors are flying that a new lake record bass of 15 pounds, 9 ounces has been caught in the Blue Lake area near Zwolle, La.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 59 degrees, 5 feet above conservation level and falling; black bass are good to 8 pounds on worms, spinners or cranks in 10 to 15 feet of water; striper are slow, a few were caught around the dam and at the submerged springs; crappie are slow; white bass are good up the Pecos on minnows or white slabs; catfish are scattered and are beginning to move into the 30-60 foot depths.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 68 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on plastic worms; hybrid striper are good but most are undersized on chicken liver, some keepers caught; catfish are good in the 3-4 pound range on shrimp, worms and chicken livers; blue catfish are good to 8 pounds on cut bait; redfish are fairly good through 18 pounds trolling Tony Accetta gold and red spoons.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 62 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 6.4 pounds on artificials, worms and Rattle Traps; striper are fair to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on shad and minnows; channel catfish are good to 2 pounds; blue catfish are good to 6 pounds on shad, crawfish, cheesebait and live perch; redfish are fair in number to 14 pounds on spoons.

CHOKO: Water clear, 73 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair in 1-3 feet of water on chartreuse spinners, most bass are suspended in 10-20 feet of water, others are suspended in 6-10 feet of water in the old mesquite trees; the main lake points, tank dams and humps are good areas to fish; deep diving crawfish colored cranks, spinners and Rattle Traps work very well on the suspended bass;

very little action on bass in 3-8 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are slow with a few caught along the river at 99 bridge and Mason Point on live minnows, best fishing is at night or early morning; white bass are slow, some scattered fish were caught from Mason point to San Miguel Creek; catfish are good with limits to 2 pounds average in 3-10 feet of water on cheese bait under a cork with 4-6 feet of line; catfish are also concentrating where the birds are roosting, the Frio River at 99 bridge and at Elm Creek, Possum Creek and along the south shore flats. A good number of catfish to 50 pounds were caught on live bait and cut bait up river.

COLETO CREEK: Water murky in places, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair with some keepers caught on buzz baits and spinners; striper are good with some keepers to 18 inches caught on jigs and spoons at Dike 2; crappie are poor; catfish are good to 47 pounds on trotlines with live bait; many in the 3-4 pound range were caught on shrimp and chicken livers.

FALCON: Water clear, 70 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to good to 10 pounds, 2 ounces on cranks; striper are good but most are undersized, best bait is a Knocker Spoon; crappie are slow; white bass are good in number but most are small, best bait is a Knocker Spoon; catfish are good to 8 pounds on shrimp baited rod and reel.

MEDINA: Water clear, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on medium diving cranks; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on minnows or small jigs one crank off the bottom; catfish are fair to 27 pounds on perch or nightcrawlers.

TEXANA: Water muddy in main lake, jungle area has 6-inch visibility, Navidad River and Sandies Creek have about 1-foot visibility; black bass are good to 5 pounds in the jungle on white spinners; crappie and white bass are fairly good up creeks on minnows; catfish are slow on trotlines.

WEST

MILLER CREEK: Water stained, 62 degrees, 3 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on a variety of lures; striper are good to 7 pounds by trolling deep running Bombers; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows; white bass are fair only; catfish are fairly good to 10 pounds on trotline baited with live goldfish.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water a little murky but clear, normal level; black bass are slow; fishing has been slow due to high winds; some crappie were caught around boat docks; a 40-pound yellow catfish was caught on trotline last week.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 47 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are very slow; white bass are good on minnows and trolling; catfish are slow; walleye are beginning to move, a 7-pounder was caught early this week up the river.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 65 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are good to 7 3/4 pounds on spinners and worms; crappie are fair to 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass are beginning to hit trolling baits; catfish are good on shrimp to 18 pounds.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear, 59 degrees

surface, 54.7 degrees bottom, normal level; black bass are good in number on a jigs, spinners, cranks, Rattle Traps, buzz baits and dark worms, live minnows, most keepers were caught in 15 to 20 feet of water and others in 3-12 feet of water, topwater activity is still slow; crappie are good on minnows, Roadrunner Jigs with spinners and white and yellow jigs in 3 to 6 feet of water; channel and blue catfish are fair in number with up to 12 fish per string in the 1-4 pound range on Catfish Charlie, live minnows and nightcrawlers in 5-40 feet of water in the main channels of the Concho River, Cat and Grape Creeks.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water murky, 53 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in the 3-5 pound range in the shallows with Slug-Gos in black and gray; striper are good in the 15 to 18 pound range in 30 feet of water on live bait; crappie are good with full strings caught on minnows in 6 feet of water; white bass are good on Lil Georges; catfish are fair on rod and reel with worms and cut bait; trotline fishing is slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 59 degrees, 30 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are slow; all fishing slow due to high winds.

STAMFORD: Water muddy due to high winds, normal level; all fishing has been slow due to high winds.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 58-60 degrees, lake full; black bass are good in number on crappie minnows; crappie are good on minnows in 20-25 feet of water; white bass are good on minnows; blue catfish are good in the 6-11 pound range on perch.

WHITE RIVER: Water clear, 56 degrees at 12 feet, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners and cranks; crappie are fair on small minnows in 14 feet of water over brush, only 2 out of a dozen are big enough to keep; catfish are good to 3 pounds on live bait; walleye are fair to 4 pounds on cranks in shallow water, most fish are males.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish and scattered flounder caught along the Louisiana shore and south of the islands; best baits have been dead shrimp; no live bait shrimp are available. Rains have been light and the weather has been fairly mild and good for fishing.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish and flounder are fairly good and decent sized at Blue Buck point and in the flats on the Louisiana side; best baits are dead shrimp and mud minnows; mud minnows are plentiful at \$2.50 per dozen.

GALVESTON: Fishing has slowed down; scattered trout and flounder caught in the bays; whiting are good along the beach front along with oversized redfish; good numbers of black drum have been caught in the channels around the jetties and at San Luis Pass; live bait shrimp available at \$8.50 to \$10 per quart; good catches of snapper made by offshore fishermen.

FREEPORT: Limits of snapper to 23 pounds, most are in the 2-4 pound range, a few amberjack, some warsaw to 196 pounds, vermilion snapper and trigger fish landed; fishing has been good; fishing is best more than 35 miles offshore because of fresh water.

PORT OCONNOR: Good numbers of redfish, trout and big drum caught

at the jetties on live shrimp, crab and dead shrimp; good numbers of big drum and gafftop caught in the hole off Bird Island; trout are good by the Cedars and Cattle Pens; some drum caught at Salura Bayou; a few trout and redfish caught in Pringle Lake; water still fresh in the area; a few live bait shrimp are available at \$8.50 per quart.

MATAGORDA: Good numbers of flounder in the 2-3 pound range caught in East Bay, West Bay and in the Intracoastal Canal, best baits are strawberry Hogies in clear water, in murky water mud minnows and live shrimp are best; the river is still muddy and fresh; bait camps are closed; live bait shrimp sparse.

PALACIOS: A few trout caught around Palacios Bayou on strawberry Hogies Swimming Shad with white tails; reports of good redfish catches around Green's Bayou on strawberry and clear Hogies; water conditions are beginning to improve but winds have been strong; some live bait available on weekends.

ROCKPORT: Fishing has been fairly good; weekend fishing was a little slow; trout to 19-22 inches caught early this week in Estes Flats and around Traylor Island on Slimy Slugs and Kelley Wigglers, dark colors were best; redfish are good but most are undersized; live bait shrimp is plentiful at \$7.50 to \$8 per quart.

PORT ARANSAS: Offshore fishing has been with good numbers of amberjack and snapper; waters a little rough offshore.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish and large trout have been caught in the Portland reefs; trout and flounder and a few drum were caught along the causeway and at Indian Point; live bait shrimp are available at 15 cents each.

SOUTH PADRE: Bays are producing good numbers of trout and redfish, with several trout over 5 pounds on live bait mostly; water still muddy and plenty of brown tide; jetties producing sheepshead and flounder; good numbers of black drum caught in the Brownsville Ship Channel on sea lice and crabs; pier fishermen are catching good numbers of whiting and sand trout, at night pier fishermen are catching good numbers of flounder and specks; most trout and redfish caught around Long Bar or Submarine Bar or South of Three Islands on the East Side. Good numbers of bonito and jack fish have been caught while trolling 7-8 miles off shore. Snapper boats are doing very well with many limits.

PH 3/25/92