

# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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## BIG GAME AWARD BANQUETS BEING FINALIZED

AUSTIN--Almost 900 entries have been received for the Texas Big Game Awards program as department officials continue to log entries. At the same time, officials with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Wildlife Association, which are co-sponsoring the event, continue making final preparations for the eight regional banquets to honor qualifying entrants.

The deadline for entering this year's event has passed. When all applications are entered, as many as 1,000 entries are expected, said Mike Reagan, Texas Big Game Awards coordinator. Through Feb. 23, 880 entries had been received.

Most of the details for the eight regional banquets are complete, however, some are still being finalized. Regional awards banquets are scheduled for the following areas:

\* Region I - Van Horn, March 27, 7 p.m., 1801 W. Broadway. For advance tickets call 1-800-367-7589.

\* Region II - Amarillo, April 4, 5 p.m., Amarillo Civic Center, 3rd and Buchanan. For information call Mindy Bradley at 1-800-692-1338.

\* Region III - Brownwood, April 18, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., National Guard Armory, intersection of FM 45 and FM 2126. For ticket information call (915) 646-9535.

\* Region IV - Llano, April 24, 1 p.m., Llano Community Center, 1.5 miles west of the Llano Courthouse on RR 152. For information call Jackie Hatfield at (915) 247-5354.

\* Region V - Athens, April 17, time undetermined, Clements Scout Ranch, south of Athens. Contact Rick Hirsch at (903) 675-6130.

\* Region VI - Center, May 1, time undetermined, Eastex Skating Palace, Hwy. 96 North. For information contact the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce at (409) 598-3682.

\* Region VII - El Campo, March 27, 5:30 p.m., El Campo Civic Center, 2350 N. Mechanic. For more information contact Kyle Smith at (409) 543-2713.

\* Region VIII - Kingsville, April 17, 5 p.m., J.K. Northway Coliseum in Dick Kleberg Park, US 77 Bypass in south Kingsville. For information call (512) 592-6438.

A ranked listing will be compiled by region and all qualifying entries will receive a certificate. Landowners who desire to be recognized will receive recognition, too.

The program, now in its second year, was designed to recognize the importance of habitat and wildlife population management as essential to the welfare of wildlife resources and the habitats upon which they depend. Recognition will be regionalized with categories for typical and non-typical white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope. Scoring is based upon Boone and Crockett Club guidelines using net green scores. All animals must be scored by a certified program scorer and entries postmarked no later than Feb. 15.

Minimum entry scores for white-tailed deer vary with each region and range from 125-140 (typical) and 140-155 (non-typical). Mule deer minimum scores are 145 (typical) and 160 (non-typical). Pronghorn antelope must score at least 70.

Last year's initial contest drew 833 entries, including 550 white-tailed deer, 93 mule deer and 25 pronghorn antelope in the scored entry categories and another 165 entries in the first animal category.

Entry into the program is open to wild-reared native white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope that are legally harvested in Texas during the current year's hunting season. The program recognizes the quality of the animal, the hunter, the land manager or owner upon whose property the animal was taken (optional) and hunters harvesting their first animal.

For more information contact TPWD headquarters at 1-800-792-1112 or (512) 389-4800. Sites for next year's banquets are being sought now. If a city is interested, they should contact Charly McTee of TWA at (210) 826-2904.

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### **PARTNERSHIP FORMED TO MANAGE MAXEY HOUSE**

PARIS--A local park support group has entered into an agreement to co-manage the Sam Bell Maxey House State Historical Park. The agreement represents the latest success story for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Partners in Parks program launched on Aug. 28 to keep state parks open through local partnerships.

Friends of the Maxey House Inc. and the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce have entered an agreement with the department for the site, which originally had been scheduled to close in December because of budget limitations.

Under the new agreement, Friends of the Maxey House will assist with public visitation and upkeep of the 125-year-old house. In addition, the chamber's Visitor and Convention Committee will work closely with TPWD's marketing staff to increase public visitation and awareness of the historic structure.

"We are excited by the enthusiasm of these local groups," said Ron Holliday, TPWD's director of public lands. "It's great to have them involved and we look forward to a bright future for the Sam Bell Maxey House."

"This partnership gives the people of Paris and Lamar County the chance to participate in the care of this historic home of Gen. and Mrs. Maxey," said Frances Ellis, president of Friends of the Maxey House.

The site now will stay open for public tours on a regular basis. Current hours of operation from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The partners will meet soon to discuss the hours of operation for the site, which may be expanded under the new management. Tours by reservation can be arranged by contacting Superintendent Rodney Franklin at (903) 785-5716.

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## OPINIONS ASKED OF PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPANTS

AUSTIN--In an effort to provide better service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Fisheries and Wildlife Division will be asking those attending public hearings during March to complete a survey about how the department is doing and how improvements can be made.

Two questions on the survey allow for extended comments, one on how TPWD can improve public hearings and an open-ended question allowing the participant to say anything. Other questions inquire about how the information was presented at the public hearing.

Hunters and fishermen from across Texas can express their opinions about proposed hunting and fishing regulations during the March hearings. The department has scheduled 62 hearings, all to begin at 7 p.m.

Hearings are scheduled for:

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Abilene	March 1	New Taylor Co. Courthouse, Comm. Courtroom
Alpine	March 2	Brewster Co. Courthouse Annex
Amarillo	March 4	Potter Co. Courthouse, Comm. Courtroom
Anahuac	March 1	Whites Park Pavilion, south side of I-10 at exit 61
*Anderson	March 1 & 8	Grimes Co. Courthouse Annex
Angleton	March 4	Old Brazoria Co. Courthouse, Comm. Court, 3rd floor
Austin	March 1	TPWD headquarters, 4200 Smith School Rd.
Bastrop	March 2	Bastrop Co. Courthouse Annex
Bay City	March 3	Matagorda Co. Courthouse, Rm #300, 2nd floor
Beaumont	March 2	Jefferson Co. Courthouse, Jury Panel Room
Big Spring	March 2	Howard Co. Courthouse, Comm. Courtroom
*Brenham	March 2 & 9	Washington Co. Courthouse
Brownsville	March 5	Cameron Co. Courthouse, Jury Courtroom
Brownwood	March 3	Brown Co. Courthouse
*Bryan	March 3 & 10	Brazos Co. Courthouse
Cedar Hill	March 3	City Hall, City Council Chambers
Centerville	March 1	Leon Co. Courthouse
Columbus	March 4	Colorado Co. Courthouse
*Conroe	March 5 & 12	Montgomery Co. Courthouse Annex

Corpus Christi	March 5	Corpus Christi State Univ. Corpus Christi Hall, Room 117, 6300 Ocean Dr.
Cotulla	March 4	LaSalle Co. Courthouse, District Courtroom
Crockett	March 3	Houston Co. Courthouse
Edinburg	March 2	Hidalgo Co. Courthouse, 92nd District Courtroom
Edna	March 2	Jackson Co. Courthouse
El Campo	March 3	Wharton Co. Annex Building, JP Courtroom
El Paso (MST)	March 3	1200 Golden Key Circle, Conference Room
Fairfield	March 3	Freestone Co. Courthouse
Fort Stockton	March 1	Small Community Building
Franklin	March 4	Robertson Co. Courthouse, District Courtroom
Fredericksburg	March 4	Gillespie Co. Courthouse
Galveston	March 3	Galveston Co. Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room
Greenville	March 1	Criminal Justice Center, 2700 Johnson
Hallettsville	March 1	Lavaca Co. Courthouse
Henderson	March 4	Rusk Co. Courthouse, County Courtroom
Houston	March 1	Harris Co. Courthouse, Civil Courtroom, 301 Fannin
*Huntsville	March 4 & 11	Walker Co. Courthouse
Jasper	March 4	Jasper Co. Courthouse, District Courtroom
Kaufman	March 1	Kaufman Co. Courthouse, County Courtroom
Kingsville	March 3	Kleberg Co. Courthouse, County Courtroom
Kountze	March 4	Hardin Co. Courthouse
Laredo	March 1	Laredo Civic Center, 2400 San Bernado
Livingston	March 5	Polk Co. Courthouse
Lubbock	March 3	Lubbock Co. Courthouse, Comm. Courtroom
Lufkin	March 1	Angelina Co. Courthouse, District Courtroom
Marshall	March 3	Harrison Co. Courthouse, County Courtroom
Nacogdoches	March 3	Nacogdoches Co. Courthouse, District Courtroom
New Boston	March 1	Bowie Co. Courthouse
Odessa	March 4	Ector Co. Courthouse, Room 215
Orange	March 3	Orange Co. Courthouse, 128th District Courtroom
Paris	March 2	Lamar Co. Courthouse
Quitman	March 2	Wood Co. Courthouse, Comm. Courtroom
Raymondville	March 4	Willacy Co. Courthouse, Library Annex

Rockport	March 4	Aransas Co. Courthouse
Rusk	March 1	Cherokee Co. Courthouse, County Courtroom
San Antonio	March 3	Texas A&M Engineering Service, 9350 S. Presa
San Angelo	March 3	JP Courtroom, 122 W. Harris
Sherman	March 2	Grayson Co. Courthouse
Tyler	March 1	Smith Co. Courthouse, Central Jury Room
Uvalde	March 2	Uvalde Civic Center, 300 E. Main
Victoria	March 4	Victoria Mall, "The Meeting Place"
Waco	March 2	McLennan Co. Courthouse, Comm. Courtroom, 10th and Washington
Wichita Falls	March 1	Field & Stream Room, 2005 NW Parkway

The five sites with an asterisk (\*) will have two meetings because of an administrative error. The public may attend either or both hearings to give their comments.

If unable to attend one of these meetings, the public may comment on proposed regulations by writing to TPWD, Phil Evans, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas, 78744, or by calling the department at 1-800-792-1112 or (512) 389-4800.

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## LAKE SURVEYS AND NOTES

AUSTIN--To best determine the state of Texas' fishery, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fisheries crews conduct net and electrofishing samples during spring and fall. Below are the results from some of the fall samples as well as other notes about some of the state's public reservoirs.

Electrofishing surveys are used by the department to collect information on fish inhabiting shallow water areas, such as largemouth bass, shad and sunfish. On each lake, four to eight permanent sites are sampled annually by running the shocking gear for 15 minutes at each site, said Mike Costello, district management biologist from Mathis.

Catch rates - the number of fish per species collected per hour of shocking - are used to estimate relative abundance and population structure indices. Trends in catch rates and population structures between years tend to reflect changes in fish populations. Length, weight and age data collected from each fish are used to estimate growth rates and the relative well-being of the fish.

### **CHOKE CANYON RESERVOIR**

The largemouth bass catch rate was 135 fish per hour, nearly identical to 1991's catch rate of 137 per hour. Both years were much higher than 1990's 82 fish per hour. This year's bass ranged from 2 inches to 22 inches.

Costello credits the increases to very large year classes from an increase in water levels from 1991-92. As the lake filled to capacity in early 1992, the catch rates doubled from 1991 to 1992 for fish less than 8 inches. The bass are reaching 14 inches between their second and third year. The statewide average is between the third and fourth year.

Of the bass longer than 8 inches, 47 percent were longer than 12 inches, 20 percent were longer than 14 inches and 12 percent were longer than 15 inches. Costello said this reflects a healthy population, with large numbers of fish consistently reaching the legal size.

### **LAKE CORPUS CHRISTI**

Corpus Christi had the highest bass catch rates of any lake in the area with 151 per hour, an almost three-fold increase from 1991's catch rate of 58 fish per hour, said Mike Reed, TPWD fisheries biologist from Mathis. The increase was primarily because of a large year class in 1992. The catch rate of the young of the year fish in 1992 was seven times that of 1991.

Fish collected ranged from two inches to 22 inches. Of the fish that were longer than 8 inches, 57 percent were longer than 12 inches, 27 percent were longer than 14 inches and 15 percent were longer than 15 inches, he said. Largemouth bass grew to seven inches in one year and reached 14 inches in three years.

### **LAKE MEREDITH**

Meredith, near Amarillo, was one of the first lakes to have experimental regulations several years ago. After years of intensive evaluations, Joe Kraai, TPWD biologist in Canyon, said he believes the regulations have been successful.

Prior to 1985, there was no length or bag limit on crappie. An experimental 10-inch minimum length limit and 25 fish daily bag limit were imposed Sept. 1, 1985. In the past seven years, the crappie harvest increased from 9,000 fish weighing 7,000 pounds in 1986 to 75,000 fish weighing almost 60,000 pounds in 1991. The number of crappie released that year was more than 62,000, an indication that a large number of small fish are still available to grow to legal size, Kraai said.

In 1987, a 16-inch minimum length limit was imposed for walleye. Previous to 1987, there was no minimum length and a 10-fish daily bag limit. In 1988, the bag limit was reduced to five per day. Three years later, the number of walleye kept and released increased from 2,000 to 39,800.

"Granted most fish were too small to keep; it takes four years for walleye to reach 16 inches in Meredith, he said. "The regulation has done its first job of rebuilding the population."

Black bass regulations were first changed in 1986, going from a 10-inch minimum length and 10 fish daily bag to a 12-inch minimum and five fish bag limit. The length limit was raised to 14 inches in 1988.

Smallmouth bass responded dramatically. The rate of caught and released fish increased from 4,300 in 1988 to more than 51,000 in 1991. Only 918 smallmouth bass were kept in 1991, Kraai said.

Largemouth bass have been slower to respond. The rate of largemouth bass caught and released has increased from about 500 in 1988 to 4,300 in 1991. It takes four to five years for a largemouth bass to reach 14 inches in Meredith, he said.

During the spring of 1986, about 46,500 of several species of fish were harvested from Meredith, weighing almost 39,000 pounds. In 1991, fishermen harvested more than 102,300 fish weighing about 94,000 pounds.

#### **PAMPA CITY LAKE**

The City of Pampa and TPWD have entered into a cooperative management program for the lake. Last summer, the city renovated the lake and added a boat ramp and fishing pier. Since then, the department has begun an intensive management program for fishing at the lake.

"Our goal is to make the lake a premier community fishing spot for the entire area to enjoy," said Charlie Munger, TPWD fisheries biologist in Canyon.



TPWD crews stocked about 70 small largemouth bass, 60 yellow perch and 350 6-inch to 8-inch channel catfish in the 7-acre lake. The lake will be stocked again this spring with largemouth bass and yellow perch. More channel catfish may be stocked in the fall.

In addition, the lake twice was stocked with rainbow trout for winter fishing, Munger said. The cost of the fish was shared by the department and the City of Pampa. Pampa paid for the first load of trout and TPWD matched it with a second load.

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### **WHITE BASS SEASON APPROACHING**

AUSTIN--Warming temperatures have Texas fishermen ready to get back on the water. White bass will soon begin spawning in the state's reservoirs, rivers and streams, if they haven't already begun.

White bass and crappie begin their spawning movements earlier than other freshwater game fish, said Mike Reed, fisheries biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at Mathis. Their pre-spawn migrations usually concentrate them in areas where they are very accessible to anglers.

"White bass are a very active, schooling fish. During most of the year, they feed actively in early morning and late evening. However, they can be found pursuing small prey fish at any time of day or night," he said. "They are especially aggressive during their spawning run."

Mature adult white bass begin moving upstream from reservoirs and lower river reaches into tributaries in the early spring. Females reach spawning areas a month or so later than the males.

Reed said spawning occurs at mid-water or near the surface over gravel, rock or sand in moderate to swift current. No nest is prepared. The eggs are small; a females can produce as many as one million during one spawning season. The eggs settle to the bottom where they become attached to rocks and hatch in about two days. The fry then drift with the current, ending up in the reservoir or downstream reaches of the larger rivers.

There is a statewide 10-inch minimum length limit on white bass. The bag limit is 25 per day, 50 in possession. Some water bodies have a 12-inch minimum length limit, so anglers should check their fishing guide to be sure.

For more information on white bass, TPWD has a free publication, "The White Bass in Texas," available to the public. The brochure discusses the distribution and biology of white bass in Texas as well as listing some locations and methods to catch the fish.

To receive the publication, contact TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4998, or (512) 389-4998.

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### **WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS CO-AUTHOR BOOK CHAPTERS**

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologists Don Wilson and Ron George recently served as authors or co-authors in nationwide Wildlife Management Institute books on wild turkeys and mourning doves.

Wilson co-authored a chapter called "Rio Grande Turkey" in the book, "The Wild Turkey-Biology and Management." The 461-page book contains about 400 black and white photographs and 40 color photographs. The book is designed to help biologists and sportsmen better understand and enjoy turkeys.

George wrote a chapter titled "Hunting in the Southwest" in a book called, "Ecology and Management of the Mourning Dove." This 567-page book includes about 400 photographs and 100 tables and provides in-depth information on the biology, life history, population, characteristics, behavior and research on the mourning dove.

The books may be ordered directly from Stackpole Books, Cameron and Kelker Streets, Harrisburg, Penn. 17107 "The Wildlife Turkey-Biology and Management" retails for \$59.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling. "Ecology and Management of the Mourning Dove" retails for \$44.95, but is available for the next few months at a pre-publication price of \$39.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling.

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## **FRONTIER HISTORY TO COME ALIVE AT FORT MCKAVETT**

AUSTIN--Fort McKavett State Historical Park near San Angelo will bring history to life March 20 with the sounds of rifles, cannons and the jingling of riding gear as the park hosts its 10th annual Frontier Fort Reenactment.

The event will transform the site into a working Texas frontier fort of the 1870s. Dozens of living history reenactors from across Texas will authentically portray U.S. cavalry, infantry and artillery soldiers, laundresses, officer's wives, Texas Rangers, frontier families, wagon and mule teams and more.

"Both adults and children always seem to have a great time at this event," said David Bischofhausen, park manager. "The reenactors are a friendly yet professional bunch who strive for authenticity while trying to make sure the public is entertained."

Visitors will be able to step back into the past as history unfolds around them. Activities will include booming artillery demonstrations, horseback drills by the cavalry, infantry weapons demonstrations, authentic clothing and equipment displays and other scheduled and continuous events interpreting life at a bustling, frontier Army post in the 1870s.

Major living history organizations at the event will include the Fort Concho Living History Units from San Angelo, the Fourth U.S. Cavalry (Memorial) from Lubbock, Albany and Breckenridge, employees and volunteers from Fort Davis National Historic Site, the 1880 Saddletramps from San Antonio and others.

Overlooking the headwaters of the San Saba River valley, Fort McKavett was established in 1852 to protect settlers from Indian raids and to provide protection for travelers on the upper El Paso Road, an important artery to the California gold fields. At its peak around 1875, the post housed more than 400 troops, who stayed busy with routine patrols, escort duties and the occasional "hot pursuit" of marauding Indians.

Today's historical park features 20 restored buildings, including officer's quarters, barracks, hospital, school house, bakery and headquarters, along with the ruins of several older structures. Visitors can follow a self-guided trail to the military lime kiln and "Government Springs."

The event will be a great, low-cost, weekend getaway for families from Austin, San Antonio, San Angelo and other nearby communities. The cost is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12 and free for children under 6 and for individual holders of the Texas Conservation Passport. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For the park, it will be an important opportunity to build needed public awareness after its recent budget reductions. Fort McKavett lost two park rangers and went from being open seven days per week to five after statewide department budget reshuffling last summer.

"Lots of people heard the original cutback announcement and some may even think we are now closed. The irony is that we need public awareness and support now more than ever," said Bischofhausen.

"We hope everyone will come out and see what Gen. Sherman once called 'the prettiest post in Texas.'"

The park is a morning's drive from both San Antonio and Austin, located about 23 miles west of Menard on Highway 190. From San Antonio, take I-10 west, through Junction and take FM 1674 north to the park. From Austin, take U.S. 290 west, connect with I-10 west, through Junction and take FM 1674 north to the site.

For more information, call the park Wednesday through Sunday at (915) 396-2358.

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### **TRIAL LAWYERS HELP WITH CHILDREN'S FISHING EVENT**

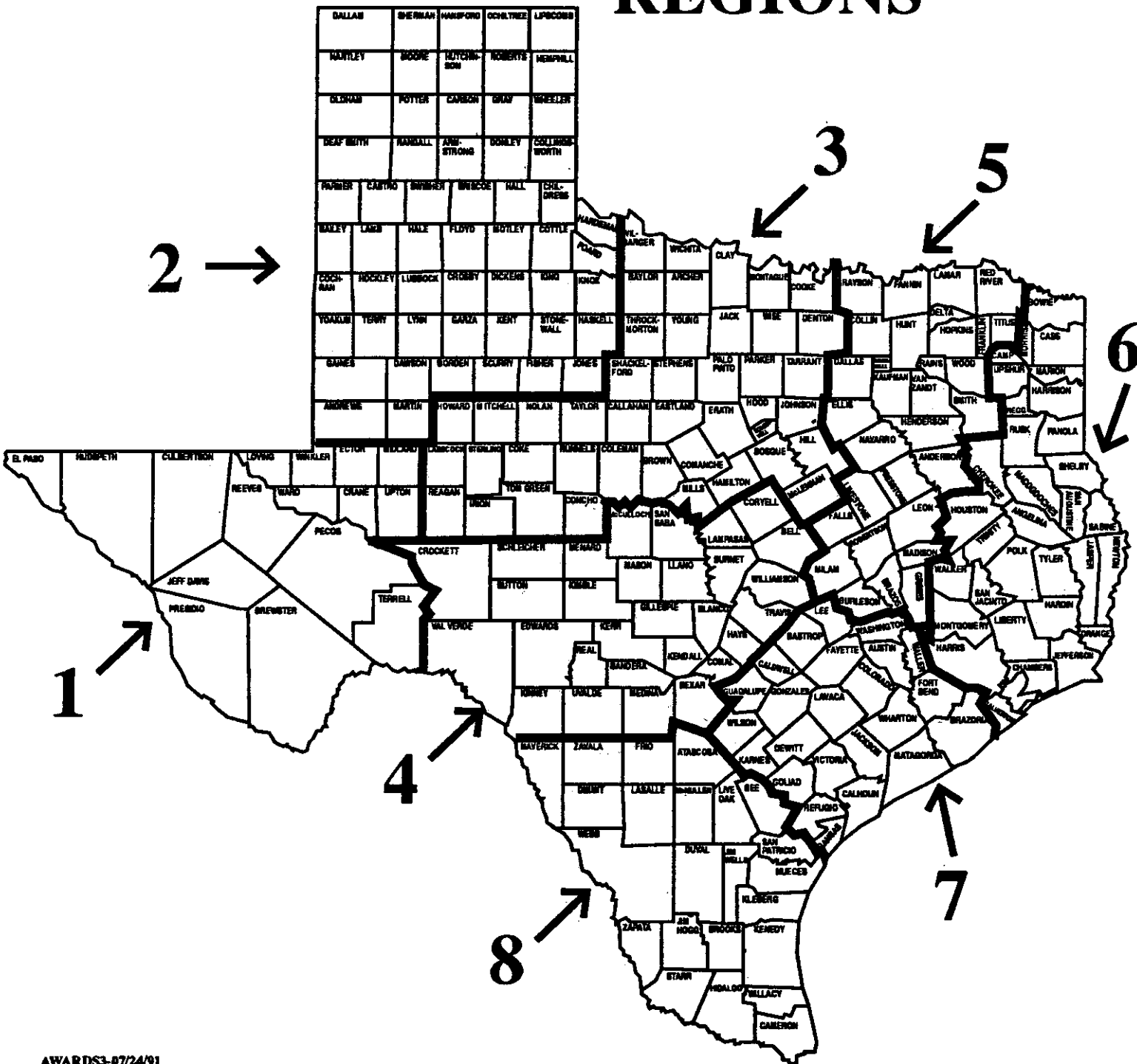
SEGUIN--More than 100 people participated in a children's rainbow trout fishing derby at the newly acquired Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Seguin Fish Hatchery on Jan. 23.

The Trial Lawyers of Texas, which provided the money for TPWD to lease the former private hatchery, co-sponsored the event with the department. Of the 122 people attending the event, 85 were children. They tried their skill and luck at 500 rainbow trout that were stocked by staff from the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery, said Steve Magnelia, TPWD fisheries biologist from San Marcos.

The department's inland fisheries management crew from the San Marcos office provided rods, reels, bait and fishing tips. TPWD angler recognition awards and rainbow trout catch and release pins were given to all of the participants, he said.

# TEXAS BIG GAME AWARDS PROGRAM

## WHITE-TAILED DEER REGIONS



AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Feb. 24:

#### CENTRAL

**BASTROP:** Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on Rattle Traps and worms; crappie are good at night on live minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds on punch baits and Bill's Spoons Bait.

**BELTON:** Water clear, 52 degrees, 9 feet above normal level; black bass are slow to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good with many limits on fleaflies, jigs and minnows; white bass are good on jigging spoons with many limits; catfish are slow.

**BROWNWOOD:** Water clear, 68 degrees, 2 feet below spillway; black bass are fair to 5 1/2 pounds on spoons; striper are fair in the 2-4 pound range on slabs and spoons; crappie are fair to 10 keepers per string on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair along with hybrid striper; catfish are good to 4 pounds on cut bait and shad; yellow catfish are fair to 19 1/2 pounds on trotlines baited with large minnows.

**BUCHANAN:** Water clear, 54 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 5 pounds, 9 ounces on DB#3s; striper are fair to 9 pounds on live shad; crappie are beginning to hit around docks with structure, the largest weighed 3 1/2 pounds; white bass are good from Tow to Colorado Bend State Park; catfish are good to 10 pounds on trotline with cut shad.

**CANYON:** Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on large minnows and Pico Perch; striper are fair to 6 pounds trolling extra large minnows and Phantom Lures; crappie are good to 2 pounds on medium and small minnows from the new fishing pier; white bass are good near the rapids, mostly males which are caught on slabs and spoons and while jigging silver spoons and medium sized minnows; catfish are fair to 25 pounds on trotlines and to 8 pounds on rod and reel baited goldfish, shrimp, worms and chicken livers.

**COLORADO BEND:** Water slightly murky, normal level; fishing has been slow and few fishermen out.

**FAYETTE:** Water clear, 64 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are excellent to 9 pounds, 6 ounces on spinners early and cranks, worms, water dogs and minnows; crappie are fair to 2 pounds in creek beds in 7 feet of water; catfish are fair to 22 pounds on slabs, minnows and chicken livers.

**GIBBONS CREEK:** Water clear, normal level; black bass are slow but should be good by the weekend; crappie are fair to 12 fish per string on minnows; catfish are fair only, few catfishermen out.

**LBJ:** Water clear, 56 degrees, lake full; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 3 ounces on Carolina rigged dark worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair with some limits caught on docks with structure; white bass are good up the Llano River on jigs; catfish are good in baited holes with stinkbait.

**LIMESTONE:** Water murky, 51-53 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow due to lack of fishermen; crappie are slow; channel catfish are fair to 10 pounds on trotlines

baited with perch in the creek channels.

**NAVARRO MILLS:** Water slightly murky, 60 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass and all fishing slow due to high winds; some crappie fishing below the dam on minnows.

**SQUAW CREEK:** Water clear, 60 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to 4 pounds on worms, silver spoons and spinners; smallmouth bass are good to 4 pounds in 5 to 8 feet of water on cranks and minnows; striper are fair on yellow Bombers in 5 feet of water; crappie are slow; white bass are fair on spinners and cranks in deep waters around brush; catfish are good in 15 to 30 feet of water with stink bait and shrimp.

**STILLHOUSE:** Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 18 inches on worms and minnows; crappie are good in 14 to 20 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 23 inches on home made dough bait and minnows.

**WACO:** Water murky, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are slow; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows in 15 feet of water; white bass are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on small Rapalas and small grubs; catfish are slow.

**WHITNEY:** Water clear, 48-52 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are fair in the 4-8 pound range on Rattle Traps and spinners in 12 to 20 feet of water; smallmouth are fair to 5 pounds on spinners, Rattle Traps and slugs; striper are fair to 10 pounds on jigs and live bait; crappie are good in the 1 pound range in the boat houses and barges and from the bank on minnows in the late afternoon; white bass are slow; channel catfish are fair on minnows and perch to 4 pounds; blue catfish are fair to 7 pounds on minnows and perch.

#### NORTHEAST

**ATHENS:** Water clear, 52 degrees, 1 inch above normal level; black bass are good through 9.18 pounds on Poe's Cranks and pig and jig combinations; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are slow; bream are still fairly slow on worms.

**BRIDGEPORT:** Water murky, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows and jigs; white bass are good on a wide variety of baits; catfish are slow.

**CADDO:** Water clear, 40 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass are good to 3 1/4 pounds on purple worms; crappie are fair to 1 pound on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 1 1/2 pounds at night on trotlines and throw lines on cut bait, shrimp and minnows.

**CEDAR CREEK:** Water off color in the upper end, fairly clear in the lower end, 52 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on black and blue jigs; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are good on minnows around docks with brush in 7-10 feet of water; white bass are slow, some caught drifting minnows in open water; catfish have slowed down but some caught on chicken parts.

**CYPRESS SPRINGS:** Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 11 pounds, 4 ounces on Hellbenders; crappie are good with limits caught on minnows; catfish are good to 25 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

**FAIRFIELD:** Water clear, 75

degrees, 2 inches above normal level; black bass are good through 6 pounds on Bass Assassins; hybrid striper are slow to 8 pounds on shad and Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 12 pounds on bloodbait; redfish are fair to 18 pounds on DB#3s with trailer spoons.

**FORK:** Water clear, 54 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are good through 11.28 pounds on Slug-Gos; crappie are fair to 20 fish per string on minnows in 38 feet of water; catfish are slow.

**GRAPEVINE:** Water stained, 50 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on chartreuse spinners and black and blue jigs in shallow water near creek channels; crappie are fair on chartreuse tube jigs and minnows around boat stalls in 15 feet of water; white bass are good on L'il Georges and half ounce Critter Gitter jigs and slabs in the Denton Creek area; catfish are fair to 6 pounds on shrimp and cut bait on rod and reel as well as trotlines around creek channels in Denton and Marshall Creeks.

**JOE POOL:** Water clear, 45-50 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 8 pounds on minnows, shad and spinners; crappie are very good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 10 pounds on fresh shad and shad gizzards.

**LAKE O THE PINES:** Water clear, 53 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fair to 6 1/4 pounds on black and blue jig and pig combinations, Slug-Gos and spinners; crappie are fair in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are fair the creek channels with small cranks; catfish have been good to 7 1/2 pounds on nightcrawlers with trotlines.

**LEWISVILLE:** Water stained, 53 degrees, 1 foot high; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are fair to good on minnows in 22 feet of water; white bass are beginning to move up the river; catfish are slow.

**MONTICELLO:** Water clear, 75 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 10 1/2 pounds on black jig and pig combinations; crappie are slow; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on shrimp and Canadian Crawlers.

**MURVAUL:** Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 14 pounds, 14 ounces, a new lake record caught on spinners; crappie are good with several limits caught under 1971 bridge on minnows; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on trotlines baited with cut shad.

**PALESTINE:** Water murky in the creeks, clear in the main lake, 60 degrees, 9 inches high; black bass are good to 7 pounds, 7 ounces on minnows and jigs; crappie are good to 2 1/2 pounds on minnows with a few limits caught; white bass are good on cranks and spoons up the river and in the creeks; catfish are fair to 15 pounds on bloodbait and cut bait.

**PURTIS CREEK:** Water clear, 52 degrees, 6 inches high; black bass are good to 8 pounds on plastic worms; crappie are fair in number to 2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are good to 10 pounds on bloodbait and shrimp.

**RAY HUBBARD:** Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; striper are fair near the power plant; catfish are fair to 6 pounds.

**RAY ROBERTS:** Water clear, 48 degrees, normal level; black bass

are good to 7 pounds on 4 inch chartreuse Slug-Gos; crappie are good in the brush piles on minnows, good catches around 922 bridge; white bass are slow in lake, white bass are fair below the dam and around the spillway; catfish are good to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with shrimp.

**RICHLAND-CHAMBERS:** Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds in 4-8 feet of water on spinners and jigs; catfish have been good in the 40 pound range

**TAWAKONI:** Water clear, 52 degrees, 4 inches high; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on spinners; striped are slow; crappie are fair in number to 1 pound each on jigs and minnows white bass are slow; catfish are good through 89 pounds on bloodbait and worms.

**TEXOMA:** Water clear in main lake, murky up river, 43 degrees, 2 feet high; black bass are good through 5 1/2 pounds on cranks; striped are good to 13 pounds on live bait, Sassy Shad and trolling deep diving Redfins; crappie are fair on minnows; white bass are slow; catfish are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on cut shad with a rod and reel.

**WRIGHT PATMAN:** Water murky on south end, clear on the north end near the dam; 50 degrees, 18 inches above seasonal normal; black bass are slow to fair to 5 pounds, 2 ounces on spinners and jig and pig combinations; crappie are slow to 1 pound on minnows at the edges of rivers and creeks; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 15 pounds on live shad, perch, cut bait, stinkbait, chicken livers and nightcrawlers on trotlines and rod and reel; sunfish are poor.

#### SOUTHEAST

**CONROE:** Water fairly clear, 56 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6.77 pounds on worms and cranks in shallow water; crappie are slowing down, some caught around 1097 bridge and around boat sheds; white bass are good in deep water around humps on jigs; catfish are slow due to lack of fishermen, some trotlines fishermen are coming out; bream are slow.

**HOUSTON COUNTY:** Water clear, 54 degrees normal level; black bass are fair to 10 pounds on water dogs; crappie are good with near limits caught near Piney Point on minnows; white bass are fairly good at the islands on minnows; catfish are slow.

**LIVINGSTON:** Water a little off color, 62 degrees, 8 inches high; black bass are good with many limits over 5 pounds on pig and jig combinations, chartreuse spinners, Rattle Traps and minnows; striped and white bass are good up the river; crappie are excellent on minnows and jigs in 12-15 inches of water near the shoreline; catfish are slow, some caught on rod and reel near the banks.

**RAYBURN:** Water clear, 58-60 degrees, 6 inches below normal level; black bass are spotty to 7 1/2 pounds on diving baits and worms; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

**TOLEDO BEND:** Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds in shallow water on spinners, Rattle Traps, jigs, Rogues, Craw Worms and jig and pork combinations around the points; striped are fair to 13 1/2 pounds on live bait near generators; crappie are slow, some to 2 pounds on shiners in 15

to 21 feet of water; catfish are slow to 6 pounds on live bait; bream are slow.

#### SOUTH

**AMISTAD:** Water clear, 55 degrees, 2 feet above normal level; black bass are good in number on dark worms; striped are slow and small; crappie are slow; white bass are moving up the Pecos and Devils Rivers; catfish are slow to fair.

**BRAUNIG:** Water murky, 61 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9 1/2 pounds on cranks and DB#3s at the jetties; striped are fair to 3.8 pounds on chicken liver and cranks; catfish are good to 5 pounds on chicken liver, shad and nightcrawlers; blue catfish are fair in the 3 to 18 pound range on chicken livers, shrimp and shad; redfish are good to 20 pounds on crawfish, shrimp, nightcrawlers, shad, perch and liver.

**CALAVERAS:** Water murky, 64 degrees, normal level; black bass are good 6 1/2 pounds on worms; striped are slow to 6 1/4 pounds on shad and artificials; catfish are fair to 1 pound on shad and nightcrawlers; redfish are improving to 7 pounds on artificials and shad; corvina are slow to 10 pounds on shad.

**CHOKE:** Water clear, 60 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 11 pounds on floating lizards, Timber Doodle spoons in 1-3 feet of water, spinners, topwaters, buzz baits, Rattlin' Thinlins, black and chartreuse, red shad and plum worms are good in 3-8 feet of water at Mason Point, Calliham Point, Greyhound Point, Three Fingers and Possum Creek; striped are slow; crappie are fair around 99 bridge in the river channel, in Possum Creek around the willow trees and at South Shore on live minnows and white jigs; white bass are good in the river at Tilden, in back of San Miguel and Tips Creeks and in the Nueces River near the airport on live minnows, white Roadrunners, jigs, grubs and black and chrome cranks; catfish are fair and are moving into 2-5 feet of water along South Shore shoreline and up the east side of Calliham Point on cheese bait and chicken liver under corks; jug line and trotline fishing have improved to 43 pounds on cut bait and shad in 20 feet of water. Jim Lubojacky of San Antonio caught a 14 pound, 6 ounces bass this week, the second largest bass ever caught, in 3 feet of water around the river north of Greyhound on a 10 inch Big Wag.

**COLETO CREEK:** Water clear, 57 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds in Perdido Creek and at Dike 2; striped are excellent on spoons; crappie are slow; catfish re good on minnows and trotlines on minnows.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Water clear, 60 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on black lizards in 3 feet of water; striped are fair to 9 pounds off state park pier on white Bananahead jigs; crappie are good with strings to 12 fish in the back of coves on minnows; some crappie caught off state park pier on minnows; white bass are good up the river on L'il Cleos and white Roadrunners; blue catfish are good to 14 pounds on soap baited trotlines; good numbers of pan sized catfish have been caught from the pier and around shorelines on shrimp and prepared cheese baits.

**FALCON:** Water clear, 68 degrees, 6

inches low; black bass are excellent to 13 pounds on blue flake Power Worms in 3 to 10 feet of water; striped are fairly good to 15 1/2 pounds on cranks; crappie are slow; white bass are good to 2 pounds on Knocker spoons; catfish are good to 7 pounds on shrimp in 5-6 feet of water.

**MEDINA:** Water clear, 58 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 4 pounds on Power Worms; striped are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair in number, mostly males, on chrome slabs and Roadrunners; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers, trotline fishing is fair to 8 pounds on live perch.

**TEXANA:** Water muddy, 63 degrees, normal level; black bass are very poor; crappie, white bass, striped are poor; blue catfish are good to 35 pounds on trotlines baited with live shad; blue catfish are fairly good in the 1-3 pound range on cutbait.

#### WEST

**ARROWHEAD:** Water a little off color, 45 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are slow; striped are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 20 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on stinkbait.

**FORT PHANTOM HILL:** Water murky, 52 degrees, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on pig and jig combinations; striped are slow to 12 pounds on silver side minnows; crappie are fair but small to 15 fish per string on jigs; white bass are slow on silver side minnows or shad; catfish are fairly slow.

**GRANBURY:** Water clearing, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on Roadrunners and cranks; striped are good at the warm water outlet on live bait and below the dam on large jigs; crappie are fair around boat docks on minnows; white bass are fair up the river on minnows and slabs; catfish are good in heavy brush in 30-50 feet of water on Mister Whiskers Cheese Bait.

**GREENBELT:** Water clear, 43 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 3 pounds on minnows in 8 feet of water; crappie are good on minnows in 8-30 feet of water around brush piles; white bass are good on slabs in 30 feet of water; catfish are slow; walleye are slow to 4 1/2 pounds on minnows from the dam.

**HUBBARD CREEK:** Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 10.3 pounds in the shallows; crappie are good with full strings caught on minnows in 12 to 15 feet of water up the creeks; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

**MEREDITH:** Water clear, 38 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; all fishing slow due to weather and cold temperatures.

**O.H.IVIE:** Main lake clear, upper end clear to murky, 50 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to excellent to 21 inches or 6 1/2 pounds in 8 to 30 feet of water on cranks, spinners and jigs on points and ledges at the 20 foot mark; smallmouth bass are good to 16 1/2 inches on cranks and jigs in 20-30 feet of water along ridges and rocky bluffs; crappie are excellent to 1 3/4 pounds with many limits caught in 15 to 20 feet of water on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on spoons and jigs over feeding schools in open water;

channel catfish are fair to good to 6 pounds in baited holes; yellow catfish are fair to good to 10 pounds on trotlines up the river.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear in main lake, some dingy water in upper part, 48 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are slow; striper are fair at best, fish are hard to find trolling and downrigging, some caught on trotlines with goldfish; crappie are fairly slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair in the upper lake area on trotlines.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 40 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass are fairly good to 9 pounds on jigs; striper are picking up; crappie are fairly good on jigs and minnows in shallow water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

SPENCE: Water clear, 52 degrees, 26 feet low; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on buzz baits and spinners in creeks; striper are very good with limits in the 4-6 pound range, the largest for the week weighed 11 1/4 pounds and was caught on slabs; crappie are slow, a few caught around bridges on minnows; white bass are fair in number but good in size, whites are mixed in with striper under birds, best bait is a slab; catfish are fairly good in the 2-4 pound range on trotlines in shallow water with cut bait.

STAMFORD: Water murky due to winds; 48 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on plastic worms; striper are slow; crappie are fair to good to 14 inches on jigs; catfish are fair to 27 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

#### COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Fishing has improved some with a few catches of redfish, scattered flounder, some trout in Hickory Cove and south of Sydnese Island; no live bait shrimp available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: South reef has been producing near limits, some muddy water; some flounder caught near causeway bridge; some redfish caught on dead shrimp; no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Drum are beginning to show up at the jetties and in the ship channel; many are too big to keep; some trout in East and West Bays to 6 1/4 pounds on live bait and touts; scattered flounder caught in the bays; whiting are slowing down along the beach front; sheepshead to 5 pounds caught at the jetties; live bait shrimp available hither and yon.

FREEPORT: Specks are good in number in the 3-4 pound range on Arbogast Jumping Minnows; live bait shrimp available. Offshore fishermen are catching limits of snappers in the 2-4 pound range on ice fish and squid, the largest weighed 24 pounds; warsaw to 45 pounds; amberjack from 17 to 30 pounds; some kingfish landed; some beeliners to 22 inches.

MATAGORDA: Fairly good numbers of trout caught in the Shell Island area on strawberry Swimming Jacks with pink tails; redfish have been slow, some over 30 inches caught on mullet as well as strawberry Hogies under small corks; some good sized trout caught in the new turning basin on live shrimp and night glow swimming shad; live bait shrimp is available; river is looking fairly good.

PALACIOS: Good numbers of redfish and some trout caught on the south shoreline of Matagorda Peninsula

on quarter ounce gold spoons and strawberry Hogies Swimming Shad with white tails; fishing has been slow due to fresh water; conditions should be good in late week if no more rains; no live bait shrimp available.

ROCKPORT: Redfish have been good in Copano, Aransas and Redfish Bays; trout beginning to show up in Copano Bay in the 15 to 20 inch range on live bait and cacohoe minnows; big drum caught off Copano Pier, most oversized; live bait shrimp available and some small crab also available.

PORT ARANSAS: Fishing has been fairly slow even though the weather was beautiful midweek; a few trout caught in Redfish Bay on live shrimp; a few trout caught behind Hog Island; some redfish showing up in South Bay; some big drum caught around Markers 43 and 13 in the ship channel; live bait shrimp are plentiful at \$7.50 per quart. Offshore head boats are catching 300 pounds of snapper per trip. This week included a 72-pound mako shark; also grouper and amberjack caught.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Good numbers of trout limits caught behind the second power line near white's point; drum are running and are caught around the power lines, most are in the 5-6 pound range however, there are several oversized fish; good numbers of specks caught under the lights at night around the Causeway; specks are caught on live shrimp; drum are caught on sea lice and crabs; live bait shrimp plentiful at 15 cents each.

PORT MANSFIELD: Drum run is going on at the East Cut, best bait is a live crab or dead shrimp; the King Ranch shoreline is producing half to full limits of trout to 4 pounds each on live shrimp or red touts; Landcut had fewer fish, but a fair number of trout in the 6 pound class are caught in the mouth of the Landcut, some reds also caught in the same area; on the east side, south of the East Cut, fishermen caught a few trout; the Saucer had mixed trout and redfish; West Side of the bay 4 miles south of Port Mansfield has been producing redfish on cut bait and red touts; live bait shrimp available at \$12 per quart; offshore fishermen had rough seas; larger boats were able to get out and got limits of snapper around North Rocks;

SOUTH PADRE: Big drum are running, the best run in probably 10 years; fish are caught from the jetties and the fishing pier and in the Brownsville Ship Channel, some drum are in the 40 to 60 pound range; limits of large sheepshead caught at the jetties, the largest weighed 10 pounds; surf fishing is producing whiting to 18 inches; bay fishing has been good for redfish, mostly in the 21-22 inch range; trout has been excellent to 3 pounds behind three islands, most in 16-18 inches; limits of snapper caught when boats can get out; pier fishermen are catching sand trout during the day and flounder, sheepshead, drum and specks at night; live bait shrimp are plentiful.

PH 2/24/93