

NON-CIRCULATING
texas parks & wildlife news
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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COMMISSION APPROVES STATE PARK REDUCTIONS

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously on Aug. 27 to approve the department's 1993 operating budget, which included a revised staff plan to sharply curtail use at seven parks, reduce operations at 18 others and extend funding for 90 days.

"No park will completely close," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "Even if all options are exhausted during the 90-day grace period, the seven sites going off line still will be accessible to the public on some basis, such as access for school groups by reservation."

Sansom stressed that every effort will be made between now and Dec. 1 to work with local communities to find alternative ways to keep the affected parks open. The nine-member commission, which is appointed by the governor to oversee the department, admonished staff that performance in seeking creative management alternatives will be expected.

"We'll support you on this budget, but we expect some real performance from you and your staff as you work with the affected local communities in the next 90 days," said Commission Chairman Ygnacio Garza of Brownsville, speaking to Sansom just before the commission vote.

The vote followed hours of testimony from 55 citizens and 13 state legislators in packed hearings on Aug. 26 and 27, almost all of it from those who oppose park cutbacks. However, most legislators agreed in principle with the department's goal to operate efficiently and set priorities.

"The silver lining in this is that local communities such as Crowell and Quanah in my district are coming forward with better ways to utilize state parks like Big Spring and Copper Breaks," said Texas Sen. Steve Carriker of Roby in northwest Texas.

Employees whose positions are being eliminated will have the option to seek jobs elsewhere in the department. Early on, TPWD had purposefully established a policy to cut Austin administrative budgets first before looking to the field.

The revised budget will still redirect \$1.1 million to other park priorities, the same amount as in the original proposal. It also will trim another \$420,000 from the Austin administration budget to offset the cost of continuing to operate the parks originally proposed for closure.

TPWD executives reemphasized that the main purpose of the public lands redirection is not to close facilities, but to free funds to improve the majority of state park sites. Reallocated funds will be used to open and expand other park facilities and to expand interpretative programs to better educate and entertain visitors.

Urgently needed state park improvements are impossible without some kind of budget reshuffling. Since 1988, 12 new state parks have created a major new cost burden, park visitation has dramatically increased and fixed park costs such as utilities have gone up significantly. Small yearly increases in the department's public lands budget during this period have not been enough to keep pace with rising costs, and services and facilities at many parks have steadily deteriorated.

Faced with the reality that the department cannot operate all current facilities at present levels, the commission validated the staff decision to close some sites in order to maintain overall park system quality. However, staff acknowledge that they have learned a painful lesson regarding the way the original redirection announcement was made.

"I take personal responsibility for this entire episode and have expressed that in my conversations with state and community leaders," Sansom said.

In his opening remarks on Aug. 26, Garza clarified the intent of the commission, saying, "It is not our philosophy to forsake rural Texas for urban centers. Many of our new initiatives are still off the beaten path, such as the Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area, and we realize that many urban dwellers want to get away to our rural areas and parks.

"Neither are we forsaking Texas history. In my previous tenure as mayor of Brownsville, I recognized the value of historic tourism and the importance of supporting historic sites with local money and volunteers.

"By and large, what happens to these seven sites now will depend on the partnerships we build with the local communities."

The following is a list of state parks facing reductions:

Slated to go off line Dec. 1.

PARK

Magoffin Home
 Starr Family Home
 Fort Lancaster
 Eisenhower Birthplace
 Cassells-Boykin
 Confederate Reunion Grounds
 Old Fort Parker

COUNTY

El Paso
 Harrison
 Crockett
 Grayson
 Angelina
 Limestone
 Limestone

Weekend operation only:

Navarro House
 Sebastopol House
 Fort McKavett
 Fanthorp Inn
 Caddoan Mounds
 Sam Bell Maxey House
 Governor Hogg Shrine
 Jim Hogg

Bexar
 Guadalupe
 Menard
 Grimes
 Cherokee
 Lamar
 Wood
 Cherokee

Operations reductions, but no change in operating hours:

Fulton Mansion	Aransas
Franklin Mountains	El Paso
Lake Whitney	Hill
Bryan Beach	Brazoria
Sabine Pass Battleground	Jefferson
Fannin Battleground	Goliad

Other changes:

Monahans Sandhills (<i>day use only</i>)	Ward/Winkler
Lake Somerville/Nails Creek Unit (<i>reduced camping</i>)	Lee
Texas State Railroad (<i>cut nine runs in August</i>)	Anderson/Cherokee
Landmark Inn (<i>five-day operations</i>)	Medina

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HATCHERY PROPOSAL PACKETS ISSUED

AUSTIN--Representatives from the Parks & Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Inc., Operation Share A Lone Star Lunker, Inc., and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released request for proposal packets to representatives from 18 cities on Aug. 24 during a special meeting in Tyler. Packages were mailed to 27 other interested parties that did not attend the meeting.

The cities have indicated an interest in submitting a proposal to the Parks and Wildlife Foundation for consideration in site selection for a state of the art Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center to be constructed.

Estimated at \$10 million to \$12 million, the "super hatchery" will facilitate research while emphasizing the production of Florida largemouth bass for stocking public waters in Texas.

Designed to be an educational interpretive center featuring aquaria and other exhibits, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center will focus on management and conservation of Texas' freshwater fisheries resource. A Fishing Hall of Fame and historical museum to be included in the project are expected to attract numerous visitors, providing even more educational opportunities for people of all ages.

The Board of Trustees of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation must receive all proposals by Sept. 30 with site selection by mid-November at the latest, said Edwin L. Cox Jr., chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation, a tax-exempt entity established to develop and secure private resources for special, worthy projects within the scope of interest to the Foundation. Cox emphasized that the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center was a joint venture spearheaded by the two private enterprises, separate from the TPWD.

"Gene McCarty, chief of the department's fish hatcheries branch, and his staff are merely serving as the technical advisors for the project specifications," Cox said. "The site selection will be made on the merit of the proposals received from various cities by the Foundation Board of Trustees."

McCarty and his staff provided the expert input for the request for proposal criteria, detailing the site requirements, including location needs, water quality standards, terrain, soil type and utility infrastructures which will be necessary to support the hatchery operation. All cities are invited to take advantage of a two-hour work session that the staff will grant to each city desiring technical assistance in interpreting the request for proposal information.

Cities will be expected to submit their proposals for consideration to the Parks and Wildlife Foundation by 5 p.m. on Sept. 30 by certified mail or in person. The sealed proposals will be opened Oct. 1 by representatives of the two private enterprises, a technical advisor from TPWD and a certified public accountant from a big five accounting firm. Once opened, the comprehensive evaluation process will begin with the winning bidder notified no later than Nov. 15.

Among the Texas cities requesting bid information were Newton, Daingerfield, Paris, Marshall, Pittsburg, Breckenridge, College Station, Grandbury, Mount Vernon, Fort Worth, Lake Whitney, Palestine, Cisco, Sulphur Springs, Fredericksburg, Longview, Graham, Huntsville, San Angelo, Brackettville, Livingston, Bastrop, Refugio, Orange, Beaumont, Quitman, Lufkin, Athens, Kilgore, Belton, Tyler, Gresham, Nacogdoches, Ore City, Woodville and Corsicana.

Other cities desiring request for proposal information may contact Anne Jones, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, at (512) 389-4702 in Austin.

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EASTERN GOOSE BAG LIMIT INCREASED

AUSTIN--Hunters in the eastern portion of Texas can legally take 10 light geese (snow, blue and Ross') daily during the 1992-93 season, double the allotted bag limit from the previous year

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted late season migratory game bird hunting dates and bag limits during a public hearing Aug. 27 here.

The commission set the light goose season east of U.S. 81 for Oct. 31-Feb. 14. The dark goose season will be Oct. 31-Jan. 10. The daily bag limit for dark geese is one Canada or black brant and one white-fronted goose. An extended Canada goose season continues from Jan. 11-17 during which time the limit is two Canada geese daily.

The goose season west of U.S. 81 will be Oct. 17-Jan. 31. The daily bag limit is five, not to include more than three dark geese.

Bob Jessen, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's waterfowl program leader, told commissioners the mid-continent snow goose population is in excess of two million, half a million above management goal objectives. He said Canadian officials are reporting that snow geese are overeating the habitat on their northern breeding grounds.

This spring's breeding duck population in the U.S. and Canada increased from 1991 with seven of the 10 major species showing increases. Only mallard, gadwall and redhead ducks, however, showed significant increases. With these numbers, federal officials said duck populations have not improved enough to warrant any major changes in last year's regulations.

Hunters in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit (western portion of the state) may hunt ducks Nov. 21-Jan. 10. The rest of the state will be open to duck hunting Nov. 14-29 and Dec. 26-Jan. 17

The daily bag limit statewide is three ducks in the aggregate, including no more than two mallards (only one may be a female), two wood ducks, one redhead, one mottled duck and one pintail. The season is closed on canvasbacks.

Hunting dates for mergansers and coots are the same as ducks. The daily bag limit is five mergansers in the aggregate, including no more than one hooded merganser. The coot daily bag limit is 15.

Mallard numbers are up 10 percent from 1991 but remain 17 percent below the 1955-91 long-term average. Blue-winged teal increased 15 percent to 4.3 million in 1992 and are now 4 percent above the long-term average. Northern pintails increased 16 percent from 1.8 million in 1991, which was a record low year.

Sandhill crane hunting dates also were approved. Zone A will be Nov. 14-Feb. 14; Zone B, Dec. 5-Feb. 14; and Zone C, Jan. 2-Feb. 7. Daily bag limit in all three zones is three. To hunt sandhill cranes in Texas, a special permit must be obtained free of charge from TPWD. For more information call 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4403, or (512) 389-4403.

Other late season migratory game bird dates include woodcock, Nov. 28-Jan. 31 (daily bag of five); and common snipe, Oct. 24-Feb. 7 (daily bag of eight).

Possession limit for all these birds is twice the daily bag limit. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Before approving late season migratory game bird hunting regulations, Commissioner Lee Bass of Dallas instructed staff to check with Central Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials about the possibility of creating a north zone and coastal zone for waterfowl hunting in the eastern portion of the state for next year.

LW 9/4/92

EXPO OFFERS MANY EVENTS FOR YOUTHS

AUSTIN--Many of the scheduled activities for the first Texas Wildlife Expo '92 are geared toward young people, who are the future of hunting and conservation in the U.S.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which is presenting the Expo, is in the process of finalizing events and seminars at the Expo, scheduled for 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 3. A banquet and celebrity skeet shoot is scheduled for Oct. 2.

A critical goal for the department is to promote outdoor recreation to the next generation of Texans. It also is designed to create public awareness of hunting's importance to Texas and wildlife management, focus public attention on the contributions hunters have made to preserve the abundant wildlife resources of Texas, inform a new generation of Texans about the history of hunting in the state and underscore the critical role of hunting in wildlife management and conservation.

Four youth shooting events, using primary and modern firearms, are scheduled to acquaint youths with the shooting sports, said Steve Hall, events coordinator.

A sporting clays field, sponsored by Winchester, will allow anyone under 17 years old to shoot a 12-gauge or 20-gauge shotgun. Other shooting events will allow youths to shoot compound or long bows (Lone Star Bowhunters Association), pellet rifles and pistols (Crosman Airguns) and a .50-caliber muzzleloader without loaded projectiles (Thompson/Center Arms). Participants will shoot silhouettes and targets.

Hall said before each event there will be a safety primer for the participants. A station with a safety officer will review the fundamentals of safe gun or bow handling before each youth actually gets to shoot. Eye protection will be provided and each youth will be furnished with a pair of hearing protectors.

There are three sound benefits of shooting firearms, Hall said. It is a lifetime sport, it develops physical skills such as hand/eye coordination and it's fun. Shooting and hunting also contribute greatly to conservation and wildlife management by supporting department programs through the sale of hunting licenses and stamps.

Shooters and hunters contributed \$21.6 million to Texas wildlife and habitat management last year, 16 percent of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's budget, he said. Since 1937, all sporting arms and ammunition excise taxes collected have been used by states' fish and wildlife management agency to acquire wildlife habitat, conduct research and promote responsible hunting through education.

The Expo is designed to salute those people. "It's time for people to come together and say thanks," he said. "We want to expose non-hunters to those contributions hunters have made and to the wildlife management success story. Non-hunters and hunters can have a fun day and come together to celebrate conservation."

Other events for youths of all ages include:

- * Snakes - by Heart of Texas and South Texas Snakehandlers, learn about poisonous and non-poisonous snakes.
- * Tree Stand/Tower Stand Educational Displays - by API Outdoors and Game Tamer, learn the proper hunting techniques; youth will learn proper methods of safely climbing and retreating from several styles of elevated stands.
- * Birds of Prey - by Last Chance Forever Inc. and John Karger, learn about birds of prey, a static display of actual birds and a flight demonstration.
- * Sporting Dog Demonstrations - by various sporting breed clubs and field trial and training experts, witness use, handling, training and field demonstrations.
- * Live Animal Exhibition - by various exhibitors, learn more about wild animals, regulations regarding ownership, habits, behaviors, rehabilitation efforts, animal damage and management programs.

The banquet will reward essay contest winners in grades seven through college and poster contest winners from kindergarten through 12th grade. Winners will receive a lifetime hunting and fishing license valued at \$800. Top winners of the first Texas Big Game Awards program also will be honored.

The Expo will be on the grounds of TPWD headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, in Austin. Entrance is free. All parking is off campus and a free shuttle will be available from the Internal Revenue Service parking lot at I-35 and Ben White in South Austin. For more information contact TPWD at 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4472, or (512) 389-4472.

Major sponsors for the Expo are Coors and Chevron. Sponsors include Bliss-Murski, Bushlan, Crosman, GSD&M, McBride's Guns Inc., Mossy Oak, Remington Arms, Winchester/Olin, Browning-Ferris Industries, Hill Country Wholesale Inc., Keystone Steel & Wire, Lone Star Bowhunters Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Parker Drilling Co., Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas, Temple-Inland, Texas Bighorn Society, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Wine Alliance and Thompson/Center Arms Co.

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MATCHING FUNDS GRANTED FOR PARKS, BOAT RAMPS

AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved \$7,193,682 in park grants for 23 Texas communities and \$284,730 for three applicants during a public hearing Aug. 27

Applications requesting \$11,614,893 in matching funds were submitted by 48 sponsors seeking grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Texas Local Parks, Recreation and Open Space Program Fund.

Both funding sources were established to assist states, cities, towns, counties and other local governments in defraying the costs of purchasing park lands and developing outdoor recreation facilities.

Grant money is earmarked for the acquisition and/or development of local parks in the following communities:

Alton	Municipal Park	\$331,120
Arlington	Rush Creek Park	\$500,000
Austin	Dick Nichols Park	\$456,531
Baytown	Goose Creek Greenbelt	\$500,000
Cedar Park	Community Park	\$410,900
Chandler	Winchester Park II	\$171,600
Colleyville	Mill Creek Park	\$472,750
Dallas	Emerald Lake/Fox Hollow Park	\$500,000
Dallas	Lemmon Lake Park	\$106,925
Galveston	R.A. Apffel Park II	\$319,250
Guadalupe County	Redwood Community Park	\$ 72,810
Harlingen	Wood/Arroyo Park	\$500,000
Jacksonville	Love's Lookout Park	\$166,475
Lakeway	Lakeway Park	\$420,000
Lufkin	Azalea Fitness Trail	\$453,500
McKinney	Stonebridge Park	\$253,000
Pearsall	Baseball Complex	\$203,374
Presidio	Daly Park	\$ 72,000
Rockport	Aransas Co. Tiger Field Park	\$159,395
Royse City	Lake Park	\$ 99,200

San Saba	Mill Pond Park	\$398,188
Sealy	Bus./Pro. Women's Park	\$269,165
Wharton	Municipal Pool and Park	\$357,499

The department received three applications asking for help in funding construction of new boat ramps.

Currently, no federal funds are available for new construction projects. The commission approved the three applications on the contingency that the department receives an anticipated \$11 million in Wallop-Breaux money from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November

Applications approved for boat ramp funds are:

- * Hynes Bay off Bay Street in Austwell, sponsored by Refugio County, \$62,550.
- * Lake Travis at Gloster Bend, sponsored by Lower Colorado River Authority, \$75,000.
- * Intracoastal Waterway in Port O'Connor sponsored by Calhoun County, \$147,180.

LW 9/4/92

ENDANGERED SPECIES FORUM TO DRAW STATE LEADERS

NEW BRAUNFELS--Top executives from five state and three federal agencies will discuss the future of endangered species and the Texas environment at an all-day forum on Sept. 8 here.

Issues expected to draw attention include the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan in Central Texas, the issue of water rights and the Edwards Aquifer in San Antonio, a Texas Air Control Board proposal to sell air pollution rights and the issue of private landowner rights and the Endangered Species Act.

All of this is unfolding against the backdrop of the act's impending re-authorization, which had been set for congressional action earlier this year, but was postponed until after the presidential election. Most observers now expect Congress to consider re-authorizing or modifying the act in Spring 1993.

A nonprofit Endangered Species Act support group, the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES), has invited top government leaders at environmental agencies to make public their plans and views regarding endangered species issues at the forum. Scheduled to appear are Andrew Sansom of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Garry Mauro of the Texas General Land Office, Peggy Garner of the Texas Water Commission, Craig Pedersen of the Texas Water Development Board, Kirk Watson of the Texas Air Control Board, Ron Bertsch of the U.S. Forest Service, Norman Bade of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and Sam Hamilton of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Never before have so many environmental decision makers in Texas government been brought together for this kind of public forum, said Dr Gary Garrett, TOES president. "Hopefully, people will come away with a better knowledge of where our government is heading with endangered species in Texas and how it's going to affect their lives and what sort of legacy we will leave future generations."

The meeting will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the New Braunfels Civic Center at 380 Seguin Street (downtown). Registration is \$18 per person. Registration funds will allow TOES to continue conducting endangered species public education, providing grants for research and species restoration and maintaining a listing of endangered plants and animals in Texas.

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STATE PARKS SHELTER HUNDREDS OF HURRICANE EVACUEES

AUSTIN- Texas state parks offered free overnight camping facilities to about 860 evacuees fleeing the rage of Hurricane Andrew, a substantial number since the American Red Cross sheltered a total of about 2,500 refugees in Texas.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens and park employees coordinated the relief services through the Texas Emergency Management Plan.

"We are only too happy to be able to do our part for these folks," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "This is a service of the TPWD public lands division not known to many people outside the department, and I think it's a tremendous, common-sense use of state facilities for people in need."

Most of the evacuee relief involved state parks in east and southeast Texas such as Martin Dies, Jr., Lake Livingston, Rusk/Palestine and Huntsville. In TPWD's East Texas region, more than 600 refugees from as far away as Florida took advantage of the free camping offer

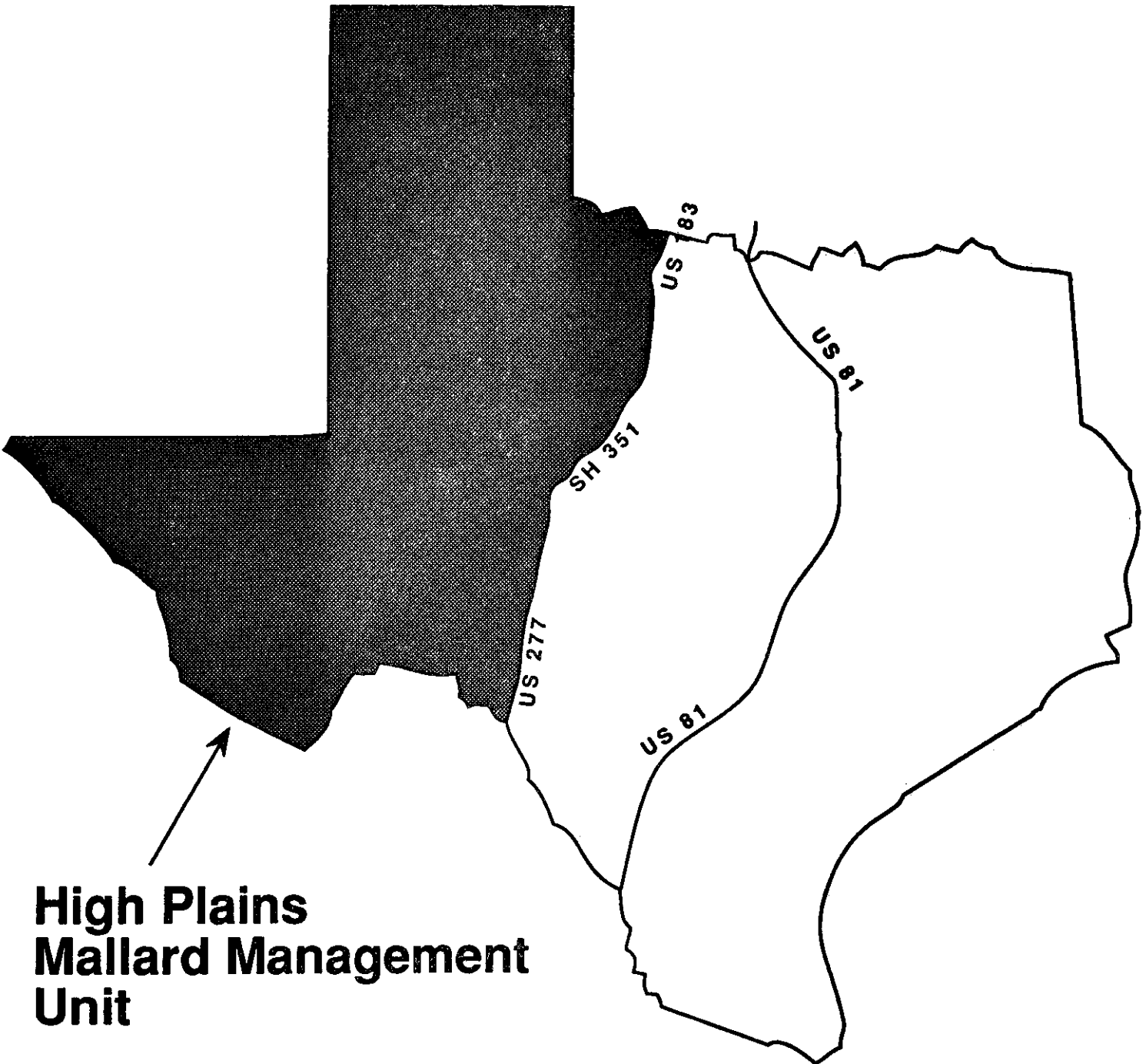
"I enjoyed it because I was happy to help someone else when I didn't need help," said Sharon Alford, a park clerk at Martin Dies, Jr State Park near Jasper. "I think they all had a lot of fun in spite of the serious situation. In fact, most of them said they'd be coming back to camp with us later."

Alford said her park hosted 363 evacuees free of charge, mostly Texas residents who had been directed by local authorities to evacuate coastal communities like Port Neches, Port Arthur and Orange. She said most of the evacuees came towing motor homes, though about 30 stayed free in the park's screened-in shelters.

She said the great majority of them stayed the night of Aug. 25, the day the hurricane made landfall, then returned home Aug. 26. During their stay, some evacuees played cards or passed the time in conversation while others stayed glued to radios and televisions until the storm passed.

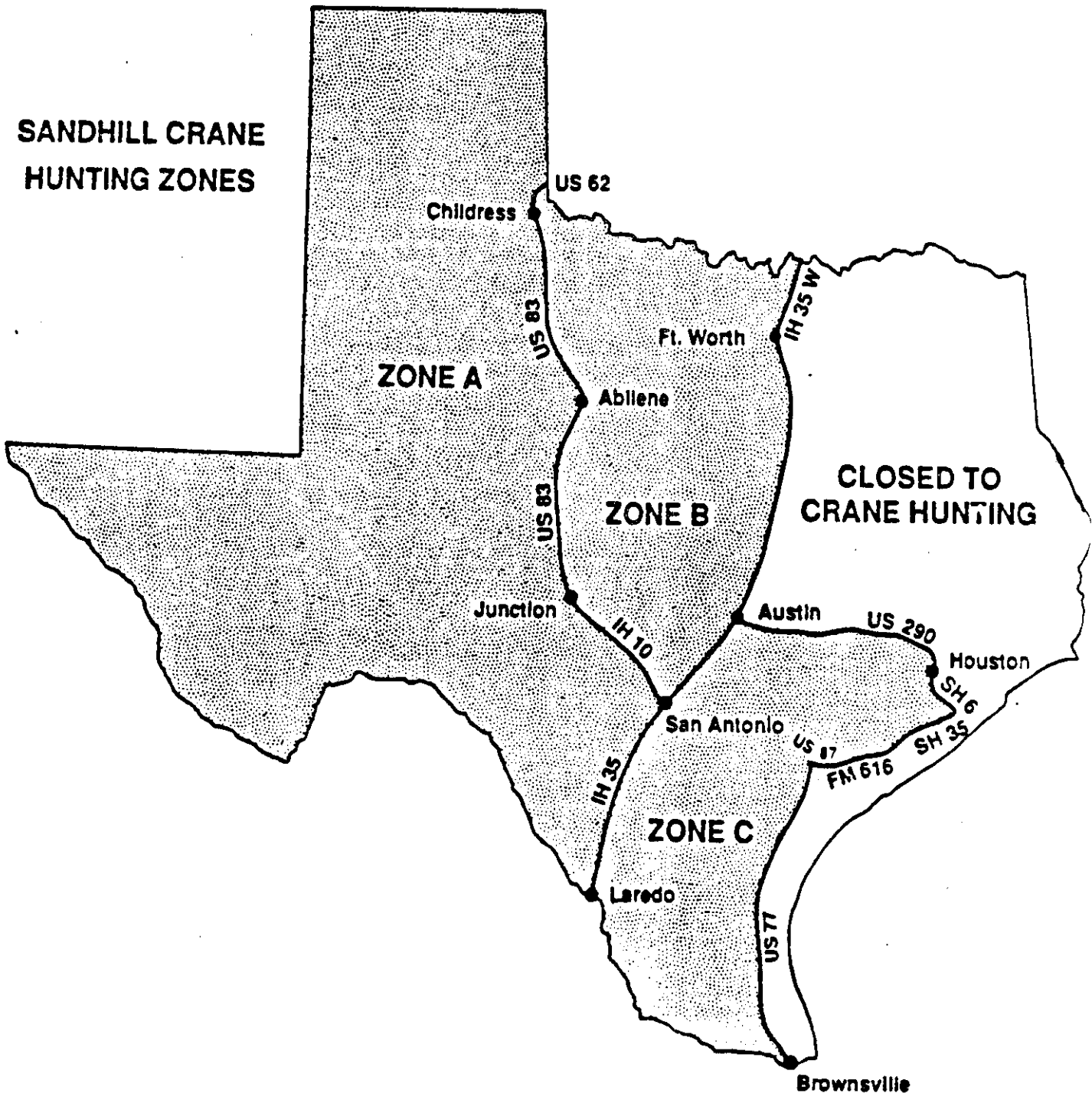
TH 9/4/92

DUCK, COOT, & GOOSE HUNTING ZONES



**High Plains
Mallard Management
Unit**

**SANDHILL CRANE
HUNTING ZONES**



Paul Hope/Tex Parks and Wildlife Dept
512, 389-4570

OUTDOOR CALENDAR 1992-93

Sep 1-Nov 9--North zone, mourning dove season
Sep 1-Nov 9-- Rail and gallinule seasons, all of Texas
Sep 1-Oct 31--Central Zone, mourning dove season
Sep 5-6,12-13--Whitewing dove season, Rio Grande
Sep 12-20--Teal duck season, all of Texas
Sep 10-30--Alligator season, Southeast Texas, permit only
Sep 20-Nov 12--South zone, mourning dove season
Oct 1-Nov 1--Archery season, deer and turkey
Oct 1-Feb 28--Javelina season, most of Texas
Oct 2-3--Wildlife Expo 92, TPWD Headquarters, Austin
Oct 3-11--Antelope season, TransPecos, Permian, Panhandle
Oct 1-Jan 15--Squirrel season, East Texas
Oct 17-18--Prairie chicken season, North Texas only
Oct 17-Jan 31--Goose season, west of US Hwy 81
Oct 24-Feb 7-- Common snipe or Jacksnipe season
Oct 31-Feb 28--Quail season, statewide
Oct 31-Feb 28--Pheasant season, coastal
Oct 31-Feb 28--Chachalaca season, South Texas/Rio Grande
Oct 31-Feb 14--Eastern light goose season
Oct 31-Jan 17--Eastern dark goose season
Nov 7-Jan 3--White-tail deer, turkey seasons most of Texas
Nov 7-Nov 15--White-tail deer season, Hunt County
Nov 7-Jan 17--Aoudad season, 8 Panhandle counties only
Nov 8--Mourning dove season closes in special whitewing areas
Nov 14--Nov 29--Eastern duck season, first segment
Nov 14-Feb 14--Sandhill crane season, Zone A
Nov 14-Jan 10--White-tail deer, turkey seasons, South Texas
Nov 21-Dec 6--White-tail deer season, 4 Panhandle counties
Nov 21-Jan 10--Duck and coot season, High Plains
Nov 21-Dec 6--Mule deer season, Texas Panhandle
Nov 28--Dec 13--Mule deer season, Trans-Pecos
Nov 28--Jan 31--Woodcock season
Dec 5-Feb 14--Sandhill crane season, Zone B
Dec 12-27--Pheasant season, Panhandle
Dec 26--Jan 17--Eastern duck season, final segment
1993
Jan 2-10--Central zone winter season, mourning Dove
Jan 2-17--South zone winter season, mourning dove
Jan 2-Feb 7--Sandhill crane season, Zone C
Jan 16-31--Late white-tail doe season, South Texas only
Apr 3-May 2--Rio Grande turkey season, most of Texas
Apr 3-18--Eastern turkey season, East Texas
May 1-31--Squirrel season, East Texas

Note This calendar contains the duck,coot and goose seasons as set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife commission Aug 27, 1992

Paul Hope, Fishing Report No.550
Sept 2, 1992

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Sept. 2:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on topwaters and jerk worms; crappie are fair at night on live minnows in 25 feet of water; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on red wigglers.

BELTON: Water clear, 86 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 7 pounds on twitch baits, Ring Rascals, buzz baits and spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are excellent on jigging spoons and topwaters in the Temple Lake Park and sand flat areas; catfish are good to 7 pounds on stinkbait.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, rain falling midweek, 78 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fairly slow to 3 3/4 pounds on topwaters and cranks, some in the 2 1/2 pound range also caught on worms; striper are fairly good during the day but better at night under lights, some schooling, best baits are silver spoons and slabs; crappie are fair to 10 fish per string on minnows and jigs in 12-15 feet of water around structure; white bass are good at night under lights on jigs and minnows; catfish are fairly good to 18 1/2 pounds on live perch with rod and reel; some channel catfish from 2 1/2 to 4 pounds were caught from the dock.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 84 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 3 pounds, 5 ounces on chartreuse Ringworms; striper are fair to 10 pounds on Tads Jigs with downriggers; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds in deep baited holes on stinkbait.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 88-89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good in number, several over 21 inches with the largest weighing 6 1/2 pounds on worms early, with bass assassins and Gets are good around the weed beds, good schooling action from 10 a.m. on with Boy Howdies and PopRs and Getzits; crappie are slow; catfish are slow; blue gill are very good on worms.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 10 1/4 pounds on carolina rigged worms in 10 feet of water; crappie are fairly good in size to 15 fish per string on minnows in 12 feet of water; catfish are excellent to 30 pounds on jug lines.

LBJ: Water clear in main lake, Llano arm murky, a 12 foot rise hit the lake midday Tuesday, 85 degrees, lake full; black bass are holding around points with structure, loudly colored baits are best in 6-8 feet of water; striper are good behind Inks Dam on upper end of lake with live bait; crappie are slow; white bass are fair around main lake on slabs and spoons; catfish are good to 6 pounds in Llano arm of lake.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 85 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass are fair to 6.38 pounds on Jawtec Ribbed Wigglers; crappie are fair early and late in 20 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good early and late on slabs, spoons and Rattle Traps; catfish are fair to 6 pounds in 10 feet of water with live perch.

SOMERVILLE: Water is a little off color, 82 degrees, 1 foot above normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on jig and pig with limits; striper are slow; crappie are good on the lake and a the marinas on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on lake minnows and trolling Tony Accetta spoons; catfish are good to 4 pounds on home made stink baits.

SQUAW CREEK: Water clear, with 4-5 feet visibility, 90 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fairly good to 4 pounds on spinners, Rattle Traps and plastic worms in shallow water; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good to 5 pounds in 20-60 feet of water on Mr. Whiskers Stink Bait.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 75 degrees; black bass are good to 17 1/2 inches or 3 pounds each on minnows; striper are fairly slow; crappie are good early on minnows; white bass are fair early; catfish are good on hotdogs soaked in Big Red.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 84 degrees, 4 1/2 feet low; largemouth bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on chrome topwaters, chartreuse spinners and salt and pepper Ringworms; Guadalupe bass are good to 16 plus inches on same lures; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are spotty; catfish are good to 7 1/2 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotline.

WACO: Water off color, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 1 pound on slabs; catfish are slow.

WHITNEY: Water clear, 81 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds on worms and spinners in shallow water; striper are fair to good to 10 pounds in 20-30 feet of water on live bait; white bass are slow to good, mostly small, to 1 pound on slabs and spoons; catfish are excellent to 4 1/2 pounds; yellow catfish are good to 30 pounds on cut bait with rod and rod and on trotline.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water fairly clear, 89 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are good to 9 3/4 pounds on carolina rigged worms in 20 feet of water; crappie are good in number on minnows; catfish are slow; bream are excellent on worms and crickets.

BRIDGEPORT: Water a little murky, normal level; black bass are fairly good 4 pounds on Power Worms; striper are fairly slow to 12 inches; crappie are excellent on minnows with many limits in 8 to 17 feet of water; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on minnows and worms.

CADDO: Water a little murky due to rains, 70 degrees, 6 inches below normal level; black bass are good in number with many caught just above the minimum size on worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are fairly good.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 84 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are slow; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are; fair with strings to 15 fish in 20-22 feet of water in the stump fields and around bridge pilings and artificial reefs; white bass are best by slabbing at 22-25 feet of water on the knolls with silver slabs and L'il Georges; channel catfish are good to 8 pounds on jug lines baited with bream and nightcrawlers; yellow catfish are good to 47

pounds on trotlines baited with bream.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 14 pounds on jigs; and Craw Worms; crappie are good in 25 feet of water on minnows; catfish are good to 14 pounds in 4 feet of water on minnows and nightcrawlers.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 90-95 degrees, 4 inches low; black bass are good to 4 pounds on purple worms; hybrid striper are slow to 10 pounds on shad; catfish are slow to 8 pounds on bloodbait; redbass are fair to 23 pounds on cranks, a possible lake record.

FORK: Water clear, 81 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on Mud Bug cranks; crappie are good with some limits on minnows in 28 feet of water; catfish are slow.

GRAPEVINE: Water clear, 83 degrees, 1.27 feet low; black bass are good in number but most are too small to keep on topwaters and 6 inch black and blue worms as well as purple worms with white tails; hybrid striper are slow; crappie are good 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and black silver flaked jigs in 15 to 20 feet of water around the marinas; white bass are fair on main lake points with slabs and spoons late in the day, topwaters are good early; catfish are very good to 30 pounds on trotlines baited with live bait in the major creeks.

JOE POOL: Upper end of Mountain Creek area is murky, Walnut Creek on the lower end is clear, 85-89 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on minnows and crawfish; crappie are good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair to 12 1/2 pounds on minnows; catfish are good to 10 pounds on minnows, bloodbait and shad gizzards.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 1/4 pounds on black neon Ring Rascal worms, buzz baits and Rattle Traps; white bass are slow; crappie are fair in 15 to 20 feet of water on minnows around the timberline; catfish are fairly good to 7 1/2 pounds on nightcrawlers with rod and reel as well as trotline.

MONTICELLO: Water clear, 89 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 10 pounds on Cranapple worms and Tequila Sensations in 8 to 15 feet of water; crappie are good on minnows; white bass are good; catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds on plastic worms; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows and jigs; white bass are slow; catfish are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on stinkbait and shrimp.

MURVAUL: Water clear; 81 degrees; 10 inches low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds, 2 ounces on dark worms, good numbers of small bass have been caught; crappie are fair in number on minnows; catfish are good on trotlines and rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers, a 43 pound yellow catfish was caught on a trotline baited with small perch.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass are fair to 5 3/4 pounds on worms; striper are slow; crappie are good to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are good with a few limits while schooling on cranks and spoons; catfish are good to 23 pounds on rods and reels as well as trotlines baited with bloodbait, catalpa worms.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds on Power Worms; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 8 pounds on dough bait.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are very good to 5 pounds on plastic worms; striper good to 12 pounds drifting shrimp; crappie are fairly good to 2 pounds on minnows in 10 feet of water; white bass are slowing down but good strings have been caught on slabs and spoons; catfish are very good in number on bloodbait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear with 2 foot visibility, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 1/4 pounds on red shad Power Worms; white bass are good while schooling near the dam, best baits are topwaters, many limits caught; catfish are fair to 33 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 81-82 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are fairly good to 8 pounds on cranks and worms; crappie are fair to 8 fish per string on minnows in deep water; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 84 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds with worms on the points; striper are slow; crappie are fair on minnows and jigs from the boat docks; white bass are excellent to 2 1/2 pounds on slabs and jigs; catfish are excellent to 12 1/2 pounds on bloodbait and worms.

TEXOMA: Water clear, 80 degrees 1 foot low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks, spinners and Zara Spooks; striper are fair to 8 pounds on topwaters, slabs and live bait; crappie are fair to 4 fish per string on minnows around boat houses; white bass are good to 3 pounds on slabs, topwaters and live bait; catfish are good to 22 pounds on shrimp, liver and cut bait.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water discolored on the south end, clear on the north, 81 degrees, 1 foot below normal level; black bass are poor to 4 pounds, 2 ounces on Craw Worms, worms, jigs, Rattle Traps, spinners and buzz baits; crappie are fair to 1 1/4 pounds on the north end of the lake on minnows and jigs; white bass are fair in number while schooling in the creeks and river channels on L'il George and Rattle Traps; catfish are fair to 10 pounds on trotlines and poles and lines with stinkbait, chicken liver, catalpa worms and nightcrawlers; bream are fair in the main lake and good below the dam on crickets and nightcrawlers.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 86 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are spotty to 8.20 pounds on worms and cranks; white bass are moving around and are scattered, most are caught trolling over the humps; crappie are good under the bridge on minnows, many small fish caught; catfish are fair to good, but many small fish have been caught.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 65 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 8 1/4 pounds on black Ring Worms in 5 feet of water; crappie are fairly good with near limits near the islands in 14 feet of water on minnows; white bass are good with limits on the north side with minnows; catfish are fair to 5 pounds on rod and reel baited with minnows.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 78 degrees, 2 inches below pool; black bass are fairly good with several limits to 6 1/2 pounds; on pumpkin seed worms, spinners and cranks mostly in the creeks; striper are picking up to 19 pounds on live bait at night and trolling Hellbenders and spoons during the day; crappie are beginning to move back into the creeks, good numbers of throwbacks have been caught on minnows in 8 feet of water; white bass are good, the new minimum size is 12 inches for white bass; catfish are slow, a few caught along the river channel with flatheads to 50 pounds on live bait; channel catfish are fair to 6 pounds on shad; blue catfish are fair to 12 pounds on cut bait.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3 1/2 feet below normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds on spinners, topwaters; crappie are slow; striper are slow; catfish are slow.

SHELDON: Water cloudy, 81 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass are fair in number but most are undersized and are caught on minnows and artificials; crappie are poor; catfish are fair to 2 pounds on liver and dough bait.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 83.5 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass are slow to 5 pounds on worms and jigs, some topwater activity around points and mossbeds in 10-12 feet of water; striper are fair to 12 pounds around the generators on deep running Redfins and a few caught on topwaters, some schooling; crappie are improving, some good sized strings caught all week on crappie jigs strolling in 10-12 feet of water; catfish are slow to 20 pounds on live bait; blue and channel catfish are fairly slow; bream slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to good early and late to 3 pounds on spinners and buzz baits and worms; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair to 1 pound on slabs, spoons and minnows at night; channel catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds in 12 to 45 feet of water on cheese baits; yellow catfish are fair in number on live perch.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are slow; hybrid striper are fair to 5 pounds on Rattle Traps; catfish are good to 15 pounds on chicken liver; redfish are good to 24 1/4 pound from the bank on tilapia by the Dead Tree point.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 94 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on artificials; striper are slow to 6 pounds on chicken livers; catfish are good to 1 1/2 pounds on shad, chicken livers and cheese baits; redfish are slow to 17 pounds on live perch and artificials; corvina have slowed down, some to 15 1/2 pounds on perch, shad and artificials.

CHOKE: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are good with good numbers of limits averaging 12-14 pounds are caught on a variety of baits in 5 feet of water around grass beds; topwaters, floating Rattle Traps and plastic worms have been good around the grass; bass are holding on the humps in 10-15 feet of water, the best baits are deep diving cranks; Four Fingers, Calliham and Mason points are very

good; striper are slow; crappie are fair, a few caught on minnows at night and early off Mason Point and along the river channel by Highway 99; catfish are good with limits over 14 inches on cheese baits.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good to 16 inches on topwater and worms early and late; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are good to 18 pounds early on bloodbait.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water clear, 86 degrees, 3 inches low; black bass are slow to 2 1/2 pounds on white willow leaf spinners and black Zara Spooks; striper are fair to 7 1/2 pounds trolling chrome Bombers near the buoy marker lines; crappie are fair off state park pier on minnows; white bass are fair all over the lake on chrome slabs and white Tiny Traps; blue and channel catfish are good to 12 pounds on trotlines set in the coves north of KOA and baited with shad and soap; yellow catfish are slow. A few bluewing teal are showing up on the north end of the lake. Good numbers of mourning dove and bob white quail have been spotted in the area.

FALCON: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 9-10 pound range on worms in 10-12 feet of water; striper are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good to 4 pounds on shrimp; white bass are good slabs and spoons, Cleos and L'il Georges.

MEDINA: Water clear, 1 inch above normal level; black bass are good to 4 pounds on chrome topwaters early and Power Worms later in the day; striper are slow; crappie are slow; white bass are fair but no limits caught on L'il Georges; catfish are good to 6 pounds on rod and reel baited with nightcrawlers and shrimp, catfish are fair to 12 pounds on trotlines baited with live perch.

TEXANA: Water clear, normal level; black bass are good in Sandies Creek and in the Navidad River to 4 pounds on plastic Craw Worms with good numbers of undersized fish; crappie are fair on minnows; catfish are very slow.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on buzz baits and worms; striper are poor; crappie are poor; white bass are good on Rattle Traps; catfish are poor.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 94 feet; black bass are slow; striper slow; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 80 degrees, lake rising slowly; black bass are fair to 2 1/2 pounds on artificials; crappie and white bass are very good on minnows, limits of both caught; catfish are good to 22 pounds on shrimp and perch in 40 feet of water; walleye are slow to 5 pounds on artificials.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 7 pounds, 7 ounces on worms; crappie are fair on minnows in deep water; white bass are good trolling and on minnows; catfish are very good on chicken livers.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear in main lake, upper end murky, 78 degrees, normal level; largemouth bass are good to 20 inches in 12 to 20 feet of water on dark worms, especially in the Spring Branch area; smallmouth bass are fair to

15 inches along bluffs and ridges in 15 to 25 feet of water on worms and diving baits; crappie are fair in the 1/2 to 1 pound range along brushy ridges in 15 to 20 feet of water on minnows; channel and blue catfish are good in baited holes on roadbeds in 12 to 15 feet of water; yellow catfish are slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 76 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on spinners and topwaters, black Ring Tailed worms with chartreuse tails, Slug-Gos; striper are good to 8 pounds on slabs and live bait; crappie are fair around tree stumps on minnows; white bass are good on jigs and few topwaters and L'il Cleos; catfish are good on trotlines with cut bait in 8-10 feet of water on shad.

SPENCE: Water clear, 27 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on dark worms mostly; striper are good but most are in the 18 to 22 inch range and are caught by trolling Hellbenders and jigs; crappie are slow; white bass are slow; catfish are good on trotlines up the river, catfish are slow in the lake.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Depending on fishing skills, fishing has been fairly good or fairly slow; some good redfish, trout and flounder caught in Hickory Cove, Coffee Ground Cove, East Pass and south of Stewart's Island; some drum and croaker also caught; Sabine River is up and murky; live bait shrimp are not always available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Reds and specks are running pretty good at the jetties; around the causeway bridge reds, specks are good and flounder are beginning to improve; fish are hitting mud minnows, dead shrimp and chartreuse baits; live bait shrimp and mud minnows are scarce. Surf fishermen are catching good numbers of redfish but most are oversized. Specks are good on the south reef.

GALVESTON: Good numbers of specks caught in East Bay along the marsh line; some redfish caught in the same area; fair numbers of flounder to 9 3/4 pounds caught off 61st street pier in the gulf; most flounder are caught at the edge of the marshes at San Luis Pass and at the jetties; good numbers of oversized redfish caught in the surf and at San Luis Pass; good numbers of snapper to 15 pounds and kingfish to 35 pounds caught offshore; live bait shrimp available at \$10 to \$12 per quart.

FREEPORT: Offshore fishermen have caught good numbers of red snapper to 5 pounds average and kingfish to 40 pounds, limits are fairly common on both species; some dolphin to 25 pounds; weather has been good since the hurricane, no more than four foot seas; boats going out regularly; gafftop, trout and redfish have been good in the river at Freeport.

PORT OCONNOR: Numbers of fishermen are down this week; trout limits caught by 8:30 a.m. around Mitchell's cut in the flats; fishermen are catching trout and redfish at the Cedars and Cattle Pens are still catching fish; The winning fishermen at a weekend tournament had 83.27 pounds for a limit of redfish and trout, while the second place was 82.66 pounds. Surf fishing has been very good; offshore fishermen catching limits of snapper around the first wells; trout caught at Bill Day Reef, in the old Oil Field Cut, Pringle

Lake, Conte Lake and Boggy Bayou; live bait shrimp available.

PALACIOS: Some redfish and trout keepers caught along the south shore line of West Matagorda Peninsula; trout to 22 inches caught on Hogies Swimming Jacks with strawberry metal flake and white tails; good numbers of trout taken at the wells in Matagorda Bay on live shrimp; trout showing up around the Baptist Encampment and at the turning basin, most are caught on live bait; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart. Good numbers of trout caught in the surf when the water is fishable. Carancahua Bay and Keller's Bay are both fairly slow.

ROCKPORT: Fairly good numbers of redfish from just below keeper to over sized, fish are plentiful and limits are easy drifting the flats with cacohoe minnows or with mullet in the pot holes; trout are plentiful around the reefs with live croaker, majority are in the 18 to 20 inch range; Cedar Bayou surf has good numbers of redfish and trout; the area also has good numbers of sting rays.

PORT ARANSAS: Fishing has been fairly slow; weather is nice midweek; live bait shrimp available but not plentiful. Offshore fishermen competing in the Dean Hawn tournament over the weekend caught blue and white marlin, sailfish, wahoo and tuna, fish were tagged and released; party boats are catching sow snapper to 18 pounds each. Private charters are catching kingfish and sow snappers; bay fishermen are catching redfish and trout; live bait shrimp are scarce.

CORPUS CHRISTI: From Corpus Christi to Baffin Bay, some keeper trout caught just out of the Intracoastal, the flats have good numbers of redfish, most are oversized; surf fishing has been good for redfish in the keeper range; live bait shrimp available at 12 cents each. Back bay fishermen are catching trout along the causeway on live shrimp or finger mullet; some redfish and big trout caught on Portland Reef; good numbers of drum and redfish caught at White Point; live bait shrimp available at 15 cents each. PORT MANSFIELD: Fishing has been a little tough this week; winds have been fairly strong; some fishing early but winds hit about 10:30 a.m.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout fairly good along the Intracoastal from Marker 67 to 25 on live shrimp; good numbers with some limits of flounder at Marker 49 and along shacks at Three Islands; redfish are good in shallow water at Stover's Point northwest of Cullen House and along Sandbar east of Three Islands; Some kingfish and good numbers of bonito caught off shore; wahoo and an occasional sailfish at Sponge as well as East Bank; good numbers of sandtrout and large whiting caught in the surf along with a few golden croaker and pompano; fishing pier fishermen are catching large strings of trout and whiting during the day, specks are good to 22 inches at night from the pier; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.

