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# texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

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### STUDY FINDS HIGH SURVIVAL OF RELEASED BASS

AUSTIN -- An extensive study of hooking mortality of smallmouth bass in a California lake appears to indicate that a fair percentage of released bass survive, even after swallowing hooks.

The study was part of an evaluation of catch and release fishing conducted by biologists of the California Department of Fish and Game at Shasta Lake, and the results should have significance for management of largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and Guadalupe bass in Texas, according to officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Captured smallmouths were placed in special holding pens to determine survival rates in one portion of the study. Fishermen interviews also were conducted to determine the variety and sizes of fish caught, what types of bait and gear were used and how many undersized bass were released.

The 20-day post-capture mortality of smallmouths taken by anglers using artificial lures ranged from zero in mid-April to 15 percent in May when the fish were "lip hooked" and released, investigators said.

Hooking mortality rates were higher among fish caught on live baits, either crickets or minnows, according to Dr Bill Harvey, research coordinator for the TPWD's Inland Fisheries Branch. "Approximately 37 percent to 40 percent of all sublegal (under 12 inches long) fish caught using live baits swallowed the hook," Harvey said

Harvey noted that hook size was an important factor in survival of released fish. Mortality was only 19 percent for fish caught on Size 8 hooks, but 47 percent for those caught on larger Size 4 hooks

"One of the surprising findings was that only 42 percent of the sublegal fish that swallowed the hook died within 20 days when the leader was cut and the hook left in place," Harvey said

"The strong correlation between hook size and mortality suggests that more released fish will survive if anglers use the smallest hook size that is effective in catching bass," Harvey continued. "It also showed that cutting the leader rather than attempting to remove a swallowed hook by hand or with pliers is also a positive technique for conservation."

Harvey said the California study's conclusions are valid for all species of "black" bass in all areas. "This, plus the fact that most bass caught and released in Texas are taken with artificial lures, appears to indicate that properly releasing fish is a valid conservation measure and not a waste," he said

Fish survival after release has become an important consideration in recent years because of increasing publicity enjoyed by the catch and

release concept, and also because of more restrictive length and bag limits that have become necessary to maintain stocks of the more popular sport fish species, Harvey said

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CONSERVATION RESERVE GETS  
ADDITIONAL FUNDING

AUSTIN -- The U S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that the federal agency has earmarked funds to support wetland conservation projects under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The CRP is a program administered by the federal Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), offering farmers opportunity to be reimbursed for taking highly-erodible cropland out of production and planting erosion-resistant vegetation. Landowners are required to keep the land out of agricultural production for 10 years. Wetlands were recently added to the lands eligible for CRP participation.

According to a USFWS announcement, the agency will contribute in-kind services or construction funds for wetland restoration.

Ron George, CRP coordinator for the Parks and Wildlife Department, said both the agriculture land and wetland portions of the CRP plan offer significant benefits for wildlife. While CRP lands may not be used for agricultural production, they may be used for recreation, including lease hunting.

Officials remind landowners that the next CRP signup period is July 17-Aug 4 Contact a local ASCS office for more details

JC 7/5/89

TPWD HONORED BY LEAGUE OF ANGLERS AND BOATERS

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Central Power and Light Co (CPL) of Corpus Christi and the Gulf Coast Conservation Association (GCCA) have won the American League of Anglers and Boaters' "Sportfish Restoration Award "

The award, presented during a ceremony on Capitol Hill, was accepted by Dr Gary Matlock, director of the TPWD's Fisheries Division League officials selected the TPWD, CP&L and GCCA in recognition of the work done to renovate the John Wilson Marine Fish Hatchery near Corpus Christi

The \$4 2 million project will make possible the stocking of more than 150 million red drum fingerlings and fry annually The renovation project created 19 acres of new rearing ponds and expanded hatchery capacity

The American League of Anglers and Boaters is a national coalition of more than 30 boating, fishing and conservation organizations

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OFFSHORE FISH TAGGING  
PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

AUSTIN -- With the peak offshore fishing period getting underway, anglers should be aware of several tagging programs being conducted by state and federal agencies

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has tagged a variety of fishes that are likely to be encountered offshore, including king mackerel and spotted seatrout

Anglers catching TPWD-tagged fish are asked to report the tag number to one of the agency's offices to receive a report of the fish's origin. A tagged fish is easily recognized by a plastic streamer protruding from the belly

Also, the U S Fish & Wildlife Service recently started a three-year cobia (ling) tagging program through the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to gain more information on the fish's movement and growth

The cobia are tagged on the back just below the dorsal fin. Any fisherman catching a tagged cobia is urged to contact the laboratory by calling collect (601) 872-4202, or by writing to P O Box 7000, Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Another ongoing tag operation is the National Marine Fisheries Service

(NMFS) Cooperative Shark Tagging Program. During 1988, participating fishermen tagged and released 5,873 sharks representing 32 species in the Gulf of Mexico.

NMFS officials said volunteer anglers are needed to tag and release sharks caught in Texas waters. For further information contact the NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Center, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882

Biologist Lee Green of the TPWD said three of the 285 sharks recaptured during 1988 were taken from Texas waters. A blacktip shark tagged off Port Mansfield traveled the longest distance before recapture, swimming some 450 miles into Mexican waters in less than a month.

Hal Osburn, director of coastal fisheries harvest programs, said the shark tagging program has demonstrated that sharks can travel long distances, thus shark stocks in the Gulf must currently be managed as one stock.

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TPWD SETS ALLIGATOR PUBLIC  
HUNTS ON FOUR AREAS

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will conduct public hunts for alligators on four wildlife management areas during the September 1-17 alligator season.

Officials said prospective gator hunters have until 5 p.m. Aug. 1 to submit applications. Applicants selected by drawing will be required to

pay a \$40 fee. An additional \$35 alligator hunter license fee (\$300 for nonresidents) and a \$5 alligator hide tag fee will be assessed at the time of the hunt for each permitted hunter

Last year, 1,164 persons applied for the hunts. The department issued 311 permits, and the 297 participating hunters harvested 141 surplus alligators. This year officials expect to issue approximately 400 permits

Hunts will be held on the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Calhoun County, the J D Murphree WMA in Jefferson County, Mad Island WMA in Matagorda County and the Old River Unit of the Lower Neches WMA in Orange County

For application forms or additional information, contact TPWD headquarters in Austin by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext 4505, or (512) 389-4505

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# TEXAS STATE PARKS

July 3, 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information call

Emily Carter 512/389-4690  
Parks Information Coordinator

## BIRDING IN BENTSEN-RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK

MISSION -- Visitors to Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park this summer may have to share a campsite with feathered families that have been returning to South Texas for generations. Some have journeyed thousands of miles from the tropics just to nest in the subtropical vegetation along the border between the United States and Mexico. Great Kiskadee flycatchers, Altamira orioles, groove-billed ani, white-winged dove and plain chachalacas are among the summer breeding species.

Luckily, human campers get a price reduction this summer -- the birds, of course, stay for free. Mid-week camping fees at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley for sites with water and electricity have been reduced by \$2 from June 1 through Aug 31. The lower camping rates only apply from Sunday evening through Thursday evening. Regular camping fees will be charged on Friday and Saturday nights.

-- MORE --



Campers need not be too concerned about sharing one of the park's 142 campsites with a family of birds. Plenty of cedar elm, hackberry, ebony, anaqua, mesquite and Berlandier ash trees provide shade and privacy for people and food and shelter for the birds.

Subtropical, thorn-woodland vegetation in the park provides one of the few remaining habitats for nesting birds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. In fact, this is one of the most famous bird-watching regions in North America. About 275 species of birds have been sighted in the park's boundaries, including such rarities as the gray hawk, hook-billed kite, rose-throated becard, clay-colored robin and varied buntings. Birders will find a handy field checklist at park headquarters.

But there is more to charm the visitor at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley. A shady picnic area is situated beside a resaca or ox-bow lake. Resacas, like the one at the park, are remnants of former river channels, left behind as the main stream meanders back and forth across its floodplain. Also located on the resaca are a boat ramp, a fish cleaning table, a playground and an open group picnic shelter.

Two nature trails lead park visitors along a self-guided learning trip through the unusual vegetation along the river's corridor. The Singing Chaparral Trail is an easy one-mile walk. For the more adventurous, the Rio Grande Hiking Trail leads 18 miles to a point overlooking the international border. Brochure

guides are available at the park headquarters

It's been 469 years since the first Europeans came to the border region of the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley park. Spain's first attempt to colonize the valley's fertile soil was made in the 1520s at Peñitas, only seven miles northwest of the park's location.

Texas independence in 1836 created a boundary dispute with Mexico; when the United States annexed Texas in 1845, the unsettled border dispute touched off the Mexican War.

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley park lands lie near the route of an old military supply road dating to that era. Other supplies were transported up the river, and past the park's location, by the steamboat partners Richard King and Mifflin Kenedy.

After hostilities ended, King and Kenedy established giant cattle ranches near Corpus Christi. But, from the banks of the Rio Grande in Hidalgo County near the park, great Texas cattle drives moved thousands of Longhorns north along the Chisholm and Shawnee trails. Cattle ranching dominated the Lower Rio Grande Valley for half a century.

In 1915 the first commercial citrus orchard in Texas was begun near the town of Mission. Today most of this fertile valley is devoted to neat, orderly rows of orange or grapefruit trees, onions and other vegetables. There is little left in the Rio Grande Valley of the native vegetation that once supported a wondrous array of tropical animals.

In 1944, Lloyd M. and Edna Ruth (Dolly) Bentsen, and Elmer C. and Marie J. Bentsen donated land to the state that became Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park.

The state park, the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area, the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and the National Audubon Society's Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary near Brownsville are among the few protected parcels of native habitat remaining on the Rio Grande.

Reservations are recommended for overnight camping and a \$2 per vehicle entrance fee is charged. Reduced fees from Sunday to Thursday are \$4 for water only campsites and \$8 for campsites with water, electricity and sewer hook-ups.

To get to the park, drive west on U.S. Highway 83 about 6.5 miles from McAllen. Exit onto Loop 374 and continue west another 1.5 miles, then turn south on FM 2062 about 2.5 miles to the park entrance. Call 512-585-1107 for park information and to make camping reservations.

From the Rio Grande Hiking Trail overlook, visitors may see tracks of secretive ocelots or jaguarundis, or they may see green jays, pauragues, or red-billed pigeons flitting among the subtropical vegetation. Protection for these species can be counted among the legacy of the Bentsen family at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park.

-- END --

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for July 6:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 88 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 3 1/2 pounds on cranks and dark worms in 15 feet of water; crappie are very slow; catfish slow; North and South Shores were crowded over the holiday.

BELTON: Water clear, 83 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 3 pounds on buzz baits in 5-10 feet of water; hybrid striper good to 8 pounds on shad in 32 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass good to 12 fish per string on chrome topwaters; nothing on the bottom; channel catfish good to 9 pounds on Legal Limit dough bait and dip bait to 14 fish per string; yellow catfish slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear, 1 foot below spillway level, black bass slow; striper hybrid have been fairly good in the 7-8 pound range around McArtney Island on live shad; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 80 degrees, 3 feet low; black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on dark worms; striper fair to 13 pounds on live shad and some topwaters; crappie slow; white bass fair around Garrett Island early on topwaters and slabs; catfish good to 2 1/2 pounds on stink bait in baited holes; yellow catfish fair to 40 pounds on trotline baited with live bait.

CANYON: Water clear, 80 degrees, 1 foot below normal level, black bass fair to 6 pounds on Zara Spooks early and late; worms are good during the middle of the day; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows to 15 fish per string in 18-20 feet of water; white bass good at night under lights to 20 fish per string on minnows in 30 feet of water on the lower end of the lake; catfish good to 4 1/2 pounds on nightcrawlers and shrimp with rod and reel.

COLORADO BEND: Water murky, 72 degrees, river full, black bass poor; striper poor; white bass poor; crappie poor; catfish fair in the 1-4 pound range on worms; yellow catfish fair to 7 pounds on worms and live perch.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 6 pounds, many slot sized fish on Ringworms and spinners; spoons crappie slow; catfish slow. Good numbers of fishermen were out over the July 4 holiday.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear, 80 degrees, about normal level, black bass good to 11 pounds, 11 ounces on cranks, live bait and Jitterbugs, a 11 1/4 black bass was landed at 6 a.m. July 4 on a Jitterbug; crappie good on minnows with near limits; catfish are fairly good on wide variety of baits.

INKS LAKE: Water fairly clear, 75 degrees, normal level, black bass are fairly good to 4 1/2 pounds early and late around moss beds on yellow and frog colored topwaters; striper good to 28 pounds trolling a Bomber Magnum near the bridge; crappie slow; white bass are not schooling, fishing is spotty; some caught catfish are fairly good to 4 1/2 at night from campsites on minnows, shrimp and chicken livers. Parks and wildlife fisheries crews have made two stockings of Florida Bass fingerlings this past week.

LBJ: Water clear, 81 degrees, lake full, black bass fair to 7 pounds, 1 ounce on DB#3s; striper slow; crappie fair on minnows; white bass fair in the Llano and Colorado arms of the lake; catfish good to 5 pounds in baited holes with stink bait.

LIMESTONE: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to good to 7 pounds on spinners, buzz baits and worms; crappie fair on minnows in 10-12 feet of water; white bass good with some limits on Rat-L-Traps and deep diving cranks; channel catfish good to 8 pounds on trotline baited with shad and perch; a 14 pound yellow catfish landed on a trotline baited with live perch.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 82 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie fairly good to 20 fish per string on minnows in 10-12 feet of water; white bass are fairly good with some schooling late, best baits are spoons; catfish fairly good to 11 1/2 pounds in shallow water.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass slow; hybrid striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string

around marinas on jigs and minnows; white bass good to 25 fish per string on jigs around marinas at night; catfish good on trotline to 20 fish per string on shrimp, liver and Catfish Charly.

TRAVIS: Water clear. 82 degrees. 13 feet low; black bass fair to 3 3/4 pounds primarily on chrome Crazy Shad the first two hours of daylight, also fish are hitting firecracker and strawberry glitter ringworms. no limits; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slower; no surface schooling activities; catfish good during the day with live crawfish; trotlines are fairly good using shrimp and blood bait.

WACO: Water off color. 85 degrees. 6 inches above normal level black bass good to 5 pounds on spinners buzz baits and some plastic worms in water up to 7 feet deep; striper slow; crappie slow to fair to 7 fish per string on minnows; white bass slow; catfish fair to 10 pounds on trotline baited with shad and also from the bank on stink bait. Good numbers of boaters on the lake over the long holiday weekend.

WHITNEY: Water clear. 77 degrees normal level black bass fair; striper good on shad to 21 1/2 pounds with limits in the 5-10 pound range in 30 feet of water in the main part of the lake; crappie slow; white bass fair with a few limits on Fleaflyies and Critter Gitters catfish good on worms, perch and shrimp; yellow catfish good to 40 pounds blue catfish to 35 pounds and channel catfish slow. All boat ramps, parks and marinas are open and were crowded over the July 4th holiday.

#### NORTHEAST

ATHENS: Water clear. 80 degrees 2-inch overflow; black bass fair to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters early and late, worms fairly good in the middle of the day in 12-17 feet of water; the copper bladed Lunker Lure is particularly good early and late in 6 feet of water; crappie good to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows with many limits in 20 feet of water in the brush; white bass slow; catfish good to 12 pounds on trotline baited with goldfish, minnows and shrimp. Redear and bluegill sunfish are plentiful on worms and gray crickets

BOB SANDLIN: Water stained in upper end, clearer near the dam, 73 degrees, 6 inches above normal level. black bass slow to 4 1/2 pounds on Craw Worms and blue tailed Ringworms in 6-8 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 18 pounds on chicken hearts and livers

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear to murky. 80 degrees normal level black bass picking up but most are small in the grass and weed beds on Tiny Torpedoes Skipjacks and buzz baits hybrid striper slow; crappie are picking up to 13 fish per string on minnows and jigs white bass are good to 2 pounds with limits on Rat-L-Traps Sidewinders and slabs on the surface, some in 12-15 feet of water; catfish have been fairly good on live perch, shrimp and shad but the water is very hot and most fish are dying on the lines.

CADDO: Water clear. 18 inches high. black bass good to 3 1/4 pounds on Beetlespins and worms in 6 feet of water; striper good to 4 pounds trolling Roostertails in Government Ditch, crappie fair to 1 1/4 pounds on minnows with limits white bass fair to 1 1/2 pounds on Roostertails catfish good to 2 pounds on trotline baited with minnows

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear. 81 degrees normal level. black bass fair to 7 pounds on white buzz baits around the weed beds hybrid striper good to 9 pounds 3 ounces drifting live bream in 18-22 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass good early and late on the surface with chartreuse Bangtails and L'il Georges yellow catfish good in 15 feet of water on trotline baited with goldfish and bream; channel catfish are good to 5 1/4 pounds on nightcrawlers

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water clear. 79 degrees normal level. black bass are good to 7 1/2 pounds on Bloodline worms in 18 feet of water around 2 p.m. crappie good with full strings on jigs and minnows in 38 feet of water for larger crappie strings of smaller crappie are caught in 20-25 feet of water on jigs and minnows catfish are good in the 7-15 pound range in 8-12 feet of water on large minnows liver and shrimp, some full strings

FORK: Water clear. 82 degrees 6 inches low; black bass good to

16 pounds on dark worms, a 11 1/2 pound and a 10 pounder were caught on Monday in 15-25 feet of water. best time for fishing is just before dark; crappie fair with limits on minnows. catfish fair to 15 pounds on minnows

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear. 80 degrees. 6 inches above normal level. black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds on wide assortment of topwaters such as Chuggers Billy Bass Lures, Bang-O-Lures Rapalas and Jitterbugs; crappie slow; white bass fair on jigs to 10 fish per string; catfish fair on trotline baited with live bait to 18 pounds. Bream fishing has been good on crickets and worms to 3/4 pounds; fair numbers of chain pickerel to 3 1/2 pounds on spinners and worms

LAVON: Water clear. 80 degrees. 9 feet above normal level. black bass fair only; striper slow; crappie are very good early and late and at night under lights on minnows. some limits; white bass are good to 2 pounds on the points with spinners and spoons; channel catfish are good to 4 1/2 pounds on shad baited trotlines around willows. Launching ramps are closed but lake is open to those who have boats on the water.

LEWISVILLE: Lake is closed due to high water; no reopening date has been announced.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear. 78 degrees. normal level. black bass and all fishing slow; great numbers of people on the lake over the July 4th holiday.

MONTICELLO: Water clear. 90 degrees. normal level. black bass slow to 8 1/2 pounds on DB#3s in deep water; crappie slow; catfish good to 10 pounds in the deep end on nightcrawlers and shrimp.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear. 84 degrees. normal level. black bass slow, mostly undersized, crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish excellent to 12 pounds on shrimp mainly.

MURVAUL: Water clear to murky following a 2-inch rain. 68 degrees. 8 inches high; black bass good to 7 pounds on worms. red shad worms, white spinners and buzz baits; crappie slow near Highway 71 bridge; catfish good to 5 pounds on trotline as well as rod and reel on worms, chicken hearts and livers. Bream are good on crickets and worms.

NACOGDOCHES: Water cloudy. 80 degrees. 1 foot above normal. Fishing has been fairly good.

PALESTINE: Water clear in lake, creeks still a little murky. 4 inches above normal level. black bass fair to 5 1/2 pounds on worms, spinners and topwaters early and late; striper fairly good with deep diving baits and live brim to 7 pounds. a few full strings crappie slow. a few at night on minnows. white bass fairly good to 2 pound on Rat-L-Traps spoons. some topwater surfacing; catfish good to 14 pounds on rod and reel as well as trotlines baited with nightcrawlers, blood bait and catalpa worms.

PURTIS CREEK: Water fairly clear. normal level. black bass good to 4 pounds on Lunker Lures and dark worms. crappie good in the 2 pound range early and late on minnows and crickets. catfish good to 9 pounds in the afternoons on worms.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear. 80 degrees. normal level. black bass fair to 2 1/2 pounds on spinners and worms in 6-8 feet of water early; striper good to 9 1/2 pounds on bream and shad; crappie fair to 3/4 pounds on minnows; white bass excellent to 2 pounds with many limits on minnows, slabs and Lil Georges. catfish are excellent to 3 pounds on shrimp, live bait and blood bait in 18 feet of water, with limits.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear. 82 degrees. 2 feet low but rising; black bass slow but limits caught early this week on dark jigs, spinners and worms in 6-15 feet of water in the brush; white bass good with many limits caught on slabs Lil Georges, Rat-L-Traps. crappie slow; catfish slow with some catches to 18 pounds on trotline baited with perch.

TAWAKONI: Water clear. 84 degrees. spillway level. black bass good to 7 pounds around docks on chartreuse spinners. striper good to 14 pounds. 5 ounces on live bait and jigs. crappie slow; white bass are beginning to school in the afternoon, yellow catfish are good to 44 1/2 pounds on live bait; channel catfish good to 6 pounds with limits.

TEXOMA: Water murky. 81 degrees. 7 feet above normal level and

dropping; black bass fair to 5 pounds on cranks, buzz baits, spinners and Rat-L-Traps in 10-15 feet of water; striper are excellent to 20 pounds on live bait and topwaters with great numbers of limits; crappie slow; white bass fair with strings to 6 fish while mixed in with striper; catfish are excellent to 50 pounds, many from the bank in new water over the grass  
WELSH: Water clear, 90 degrees, 6 inches above normal level, black bass are very good to 7 1/2 pounds on worms in 12-20 feet of water off points in main lake; crappie are fair with a few reports in 18 feet of water on Tube Jigs; catfish are very good to 10 1/4 pounds on trotlines baited with bream, catfish are good to 4 pounds on rod and reel baited with shrimp and shad. Bream fishing is spotty to 1 pound on red wigglers and Eurolarvae in 12 feet of water.

#### SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 6 inches above normal level, black bass are fair to good to 6 pounds most are throwbacks on 4 inch smoke worms as well as blue, black and plum colored worms Rat-L-Traps and topwaters in 3-25 feet of water; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish good on rod and reel as well as trotline with the largest yellow catfish weighing 29 pounds on rod and reel with live bait; good numbers of channel catfish to 2 pounds on nightcrawlers stink baits and shrimp; bream excellent in number.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 10 pounds in good numbers on a wide range of baits including worms minnows and large shiners; striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on minnows at the spillway and around the marina, white bass good with limits in the same area on minnows; catfish good to 45 pounds with a trotline baited with live bait.

RAYBURN: Water off color, 85 degrees, 2 feet above conservation pool level, black bass are good in 30 feet of water on jigs early and around the moss beds on jigs, worms and cranks; worms are good during the middle of the day; all other fishing slow due to influx of new water.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 78 degrees, 1 foot above normal level, black bass fairly good to 4 pounds on topwaters, worms and Rogues; striper fair to 24 pounds near the dam on large Redfins; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish fair to 4 pounds on live bait.

#### SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 83 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass good to 3 pounds on topwaters early and late, worms are good in the middle of the day, striper are improving to 25 pounds in deep water off ledges in 60-70 feet of water between markers 15 and 22 with some limits of smaller fish; crappie fair up the Pecos River; white bass good around the dam; catfish fair in 30-50 feet of water suspended about 20 feet from the bottom.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 85 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass slow; striper fair to 3 1/2 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, chicken liver and jigs; catfish good to 4 pounds on chicken liver and shad, redfish are excellent to 21 pounds on crawdads, spoons and tilapia from the barge; corvina slow.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 82 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 6 pounds on plastic worms and cranks; striper fair to 4 pounds on silver spoons in 22 feet of water; catfish good to 20 pounds on shrimp and cut bait; redfish good to 10 pounds on silver spoons and green grubs; corvina also good to 10 pounds on silver spoons and green grubs.

CHOKE: Water clear, 8 feet low; black bass have been good from 4-7 pounds on topwaters and worms; striper slow; crappie fair but scattered in 15 feet of water around the brush on minnows, white bass slow; catfish are excellent to 12 pounds on rod and reel baited with cheese baits.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 80 degrees, near the dam, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 6 pounds early and late on plastic worms and spinners; striper slow; crappie fair around the piers and in the brush, most fish are fairly small; catfish good to 3 pounds in baited holes on chicken blood and chicken liver.

FALCON: Water clear, 14 feet low; black bass fairly good to 6 1/2 pounds on worms and buzz baits; striper good to 15 pounds near

the dam on Jigging Spoons and trolling jigs with pearl worm trailers and spoons. crappie slow: white bass fairly good around state park on Jigging Spoons: catfish are good to 4 pounds on frozen shrimp.

TEXANA: Water murky in main lake, clear in the jungle area, 87 degrees normal level black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on buzz baits around the moss beds. no full strings: striper slow: white bass fair up the Sandies Creeks, white bass mostly small crappie fair on minnows, no limits, catfish good to 20 pounds on trotline baited with live perch.

#### WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, 75 degrees, lake full, black bass fair to 4 pounds on Ringworms: striper good to 7 pounds on shad baits with chartreuse glitter: crappie poor: white bass excellent minnows in 3-4 feet of water: catfish excellent to 3 pounds on punch bait.

BAYLOR: Water clear, normal level black bass good to 7 pounds, 10 ounces on white spinners, worms and water dogs: crappie slow: catfish fairly good on waterdogs, stink bait and minnows.

GRANBURY: Water murky, 72 degrees, normal level, black bass good to 6 pounds on Fat Getzits in 10-12 feet of water: striper slow: crappie slow: white bass slow: catfish good to 8 pounds on trotline and rod and reel baited with shrimp and commercial catfish baits

GREENBELT: Water clear, 80 degrees, normal level largemouth bass fair to 6 pounds on spinners buzz baits and Rapalas, smallmouth bass slow: crappie very good all over lake: white bass good trolling, minnows to 1 pound, catfish good to 13 pounds on trotline baited with live bait and liver: walleye good to 9 pounds on jigs, spinners and buzz baits in Carroll Creek and Kelly Creek, most fish are in the 3-7 pound range.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, normal level black bass slow: striper fairly good in the 3-7 pound range on small perch and silver spoons crappie slow on minnows white bass slow: catfish slow on trotline.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 78 degrees normal level black bass slow: striper fairly good to 10 pounds on chartreuse Poppers: crappie slow: white bass fairly good in number to 4 1/2 pounds on chartreuse Bombers walleye good to 8 1/2 pounds on shiners yellow catfish good to 12 pounds on live perch.

MEREDITH: Water clear 74 degrees normal level black bass fairly good to 8 1/2 pounds on cranks worms and live bait: smallmouth bass good to 6 1/4 pounds on cranks and live minnows: crappie good to 2 1/2 pounds in deep water on minnows in 25-30 feet of water: white bass picking up with some limits catfish good to 36 pounds on trotline with live bait: another 18 1/2 pound yellow catfish was caught on rod and reel channel and blue catfish are good to 28 pounds many in the 4-6 pound range on shrimp, nightcrawlers and minnows

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 75 degrees 5 feet low: black bass good to 9 pounds 14 ounces on dark worms, fish was caught landed and returned to the water by Lee Womack of Odessa, crappie slow: white bass fair at night on minnows catfish have been good in number but small in size on worms.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear 82 degrees lake full black bass slow but improving to 5 pounds on worms and spinners striper slow: crappie spotty with minnows, white bass spotty, some are fairly good sized on jigs and slabs in 15-20 feet of water: catfish are fair to 6 pounds on trotlines baited with perch in the sloughs

PROCTOR: Water muddy, 8 feet above normal level, black bass and all fishing are slow due to high water: water level is dropping slowly: many of the parks and ramps are still covered but some ramps are open.

SPENCE: Water clear, 80 degrees 29 feet low: black bass fair to 4 pounds on topwater plugs: striper fair to 16 pounds on Hellbenders and jigs trolling and some on top: crappie slow: white bass fair to 1 1/2 pounds on the top with Pico Pops or Rat-L-Traps, catfish slow.

STAMFORD: Water clear, 78 degrees, normal level black bass fair to 4 pounds on electric shad and Rat-L-Traps: striper slow: crappie slow: catfish good to 6 pounds on live bait.



TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 6 inches low; black bass good to 10 pounds; most in the 4-5 pound range, on Rat-L-Traps and plastic worms; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fair in the 2-4 pound range on minnows; catfish good in the 13-20 pound range on goldfish and shad baited trotlines

## COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Some redfish to 26 inches in good numbers caught along the roads; some sheepshead along the roads; some flounder; no great numbers of fishermen, the area has had 20 inches of rain during the month with 14 inches in the last week; water is high everywhere; North Sabine Lake is fresh.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Redfish to 7 7/8 pounds or 27 1/2 inches long, caught on a brown Gillraker worm with a fire tail other redfish caught on red shad colored worms, fresh dead shrimp; best redfishing is in 4 feet of water; flounder fishing has been good on mud minnows along the Texas bank; freshwater doesn't seem to be hurting the fishing; specks fairly good but most are undersized, some limits on mud minnows fishermen must catch 50 specks to get a limit of 10 keepers no live bait shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Galveston area still getting rain most every afternoon with some winds; the water has never cleared completely; some scattered trout in West and East Bay to 7 pounds, 13 ounces on live shrimp; redfish are scattered, some around jetties within the upper part of the slot; some jackfish; an 84-pound tarpon landed at the jetties, beach front producing a few scattered trout but mostly gafftops, big sting rays caught by fishermen in the Texas City saltwater tournament; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart; few people fishing.

PALACIOS: Redfish limits caught from Matagorda Peninsula, Carancahua River and Carancahua Bay with oversized fish returned to the water; best baits are fresh dead shrimp and gold spoons, specks have been schooling occasionally in shallow bays most fish are in the 14-16 inch range on live bait and various artificials; unusually large flounder in the 2-4 pound range caught along shoreline wading and fishing from piers; some jackfish caught in Matagorda Bay; live bait shrimp available in the \$8-\$9 per quart range; fishing pressure has been fairly heavy over the July 4th holiday.

PORT OCONNOR: Redfish have been fair at the jetties with few fishermen, trout plentiful to 22 inches many just above keeper size, on live bait mostly; live bait plentiful at \$8 50 per quart, \$5 per pint; good numbers of shark to 175 pounds at the pass offshore fishermen are producing good numbers of fish; snapper, kingfish, bonito, dolphin are plentiful Seas are 1-2 feet, clear; best fishing weather all year.

PORT ARANSAS: Good numbers of trout to 19 inches a few redfish, some flounder, whiting; live bait shrimp plentiful at \$7 50 per quart. Blue crabs are in short supply Horace Caldwell Pier fishing has been fairly slow with a few specks on speck rigs a few small sand shark, a few small blacktip shark and many gafftops

CORPUS CHRISTI: Some trout to 8 fish per boat in the 16-18 inch range near the mouth of Corpus Christi Bay near the Intracoastal. Oso Pier fishermen had good weather over the July 4 holiday weekend, fishermen caught a good many keepers but the average was about 5 undersized trout to a single keeper on live and dead bait; a few undersized redfish, Bob Hall Pier fishermen have catching redfish in the 25-27 inch range, some oversized redfish; some trout in the 2-3 pound range with a few to 6 pounds on live shrimp; some whiting and pompano, bluefish and Spanish mackerel, a few tarpon hooked but none landed, a few small blacktip and bonnetnose shark to 3 feet; water is clearing and some seaweed is washing up on beaches

SOUTH PADRE: Redfish have been fair; trout fishing has been very good with some limits primarily on live shrimp; trout caught along the channel from Port Isabel to the Three Islands area; some redfish to 7 1/2 pounds in South Bay; live bait shrimp available at \$10 per quart.